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LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

BASED ON THE THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

The Legislative Scorecard is a nationwide, nonpartisan educational program of The John Birch Society intended to inform voters about legislators' voting records. It does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are chosen for their constitutional implications and taxpayer costs.



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James Michael Woodard

North Carolina
Senator, SD-022 (D)

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17
Lifetime
Freedom
Score

NC Legislative Scorecard 2024

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	Vote
1. S920 Income Tax Cap (Passed 30 to 19 on 12/2/2024).	Proposes a constitutional amendment to limit the state's income tax rate to a maximum of 5%, down from the current cap of 7%.	NO	✗
2. S921 Voter ID (Passed 30 to 19 on 12/2/2024).	Proposes a constitutional amendment requiring all voters, not just those voting in person, to present photographic identification before voting.	NO	✗
3. H151 Con-Con: Term Limits (Passed 29 to 20 on 12/2/2024).	Would create an application by the General Assembly to the U.S. Congress for a federal constitutional convention for the purpose of proposing a U.S. constitutional amendment to impose term limits on members of Congress.	NO	★
4. H690 Central Bank Digital Currency Ban (Passed 27 to 17 on 9/9/2024).	Prohibits state agencies and the General Court of Justice from accepting payments in central bank digital currency (CBDC) or participating in any Federal Reserve CBDC tests.	NO	✗
5. H237 Masks and Protests (Passed 30 to 14 on 6/27/2024).	Updates mask-wearing laws, strengthens penalties for concealed-identity crimes and demonstration-related offenses, and protects religious institutions from unequal emergency restrictions.	NO	✗
6. H823 School Choice Expansion (Passed 28 to 15 on 5/2/2024).	Expands access to school-choice opportunity scholarships by removing the public-school enrollment requirement and allowing eligibility based solely on state residency.	NO	★
Estimated cost per household: -\$119.00/year.			

Scorecard Votes: 33%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Income Tax Cap

S920 proposes a constitutional amendment to limit the state's income tax rate to a maximum of 5%, down from the current cap of 7%.

The North Carolina State Senate passed S920 on December 2, 2024 by a vote of 30 to 19. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because the income tax is an immoral, anti-constitutional act of government-imposed theft that takes from citizens the wages they have rightfully earned. It disparages the principles of the Bill of Rights and 14th Amendment, which were intended to safeguard "private property" and guarantee "equal protection of the laws" for all Americans.

2. Voter ID

S921 proposes a constitutional amendment requiring all voters, not just those voting in person, to present photographic identification before voting.

The North Carolina State Senate passed SB921 on December 2, 2024 by a vote of 30 to 19. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because voter ID laws are essential for preserving the integrity of our election process. Article IV, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution guarantees that "citizens" of the United States "shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities," including the right to vote as outlined in the 26th Amendment.

3. Con-Con: Term Limits

H151 would create an application by the General Assembly to the U.S. Congress for a federal constitutional convention for the purpose of proposing a U.S. constitutional amendment to impose term limits on members of Congress.

The North Carolina State Senate passed H151 on December 2, 2024 by a vote of 29 to 20. We have assigned pluses to the nays because efforts to call an Article V convention should be resisted. The states should act immediately to nullify all unconstitutional federal laws, rather than risk a constitutional convention. Article V of the U.S. Constitution was designed to correct potential errors or defects in the Constitution, not the failure of elected officials to uphold their oath of office.

4. Central Bank Digital Currency Ban

H690 prohibits state agencies and the General Court of Justice from accepting payments in central bank digital currency (CBDC) or participating in Federal Reserve CBDC tests.

The North Carolina State House of Representatives overrode the governor's veto on September 9, 2024 by a vote of 27 to 17. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because Article I, Sections 8 and 10 of the U.S. Constitution state that only Congress has the power to coin money. States should take steps to return to the gold standard and embrace the use of real money. A digital currency can be easily tracked, allowing the government to monitor all financial transactions.

5. Masks and Protests

H237 revises public mask-wearing laws by removing the health and safety exemption and imposes harsher penalties for crimes committed while wearing a mask or concealing identity. It ensures religious institutions are not subjected to stricter emergency restrictions than other entities like businesses. The bill increases penalties for obstructing roads or hindering emergency vehicles during demonstrations.

The North Carolina State Senate overrode the Governor's veto on June 27, 2024 by a vote of 30 to 14. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this legislation is an important step toward preserving First Amendment-protected rights and ensuring the restoration of law and order.

6. School Choice Expansion

H823 expands access to school-choice opportunity scholarships by removing the public-school enrollment requirement and allowing eligibility based solely on state residency. Scholarship amounts range from 45% to 100% of average per-student funding, depending on household income, with income verification required only for awards exceeding 45%.

The North Carolina State Senate passed H823 on May 2, 2024 by a vote of 28 to 15. We have assigned pluses to the nays because all government money comes with strings attached. Public money for private school might sound good in theory, but they expand government involvement into all aspects of education — including homeschools and religious schools — and can potentially affect rules and curriculum. Additionally, this legislation grossly prioritizes certain people and schools over others. We encourage all parents to get their children out of the government school system and instead pursue sound alternatives such as homeschooling and patriotic private schools, such as *FreedomProject Academy*, that don't accept government funds.