

# FREEDOM INDEX.US

## 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.



### Does Your Legislator Vote for Freedom?

Scan to view Derek Merrin's voting history.  
[freedomindex.us/9577/](https://freedomindex.us/9577/)

### View the Freedom Toolbox

Scan to learn more about the Freedom Index, view legislative alerts, and deepen your understanding of the U.S. Constitution and America's founding principles. Visit [freedomindex.us/tools](https://freedomindex.us/tools)



## Derek Merrin

Ohio

Representative, HD-042 (R)

[freedomindex.us/9577/](https://freedomindex.us/9577/)

89

Lifetime  
Freedom  
Score

## OH Legislative Scorecard 2024

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	Vote
1. <b>HB258 Increased Penalties for the "Tobacco 21" Prohibition</b> (passed 83 to 8 on 1/10/2024). Increases the fines imposed, in addition to any jail term or other sanctions, for repeated violations of the federal prohibition against selling tobacco products to persons under the age of 21.			YES ✗
2. <b>HB1 Ban on Non-Citizen Campaign Contributions</b> (passed 64 to 31 on 5/30/2024). Bans all foreign nationals, including permanent U.S. resident "green card" holders, from making contributions or expenditures regarding ballot issues or candidates.			YES ★
3. <b>SB104 Single-Sex Restrooms in Schools</b> (passed 60 to 31 on 6/26/2024). Requires that public schools and institutions of higher education shall not permit a person to use a restroom, locker room, changing room, or shower room that is designated for the opposite sex.			YES ★
4. <b>HR469 Halting the EPA's "Final Rule" on Carbon Emissions</b> (adopted 69 to 28 on 6/26/2024). Urges Congress to prevent the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from implementing its April 2024 "Final Rule" limiting carbon emissions for coal and natural gas-fired power plants.			YES ★
5. <b>SB58 Second Amendment Financial Privacy Act</b> (passed 63 to 27 on 12/11/2024). Forbids financial institutions from using a merchant category code to identify firearms retailers and prevents government entities from keeping any list of privately owned firearms or firearms owners.			YES ★
6. <b>SB75 Tax-Funded Joint Economic Development Districts</b> (failed 40 to 55 on 12/18/2024). Would create Joint Economic Development Districts (JEDD) comprised of multiple local governments with the power to extend and levy an income tax.			NO ★

Scorecard Votes: 83%

# Why do these votes matter?

---

## 1. Increased Penalties for the "Tobacco 21" Prohibition

HB258 increases the fines imposed for repeated violations of the federal prohibition against selling tobacco products to persons under the age of 21.

"Public health," including anti-tobacco initiatives, is not the role of government. This bill is just another government overreach that restricts personal freedoms and harms local businesses. It follows the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's unconstitutional and erroneous minimum-age requirements that deny to adult citizens younger than 21 years of age—who are eligible to vote and enlist in the military—their right to purchase tobacco. An individual's non-injurious personal decisions over what they choose to eat, drink, or consume should not be criminalized. The Constitution's Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment were intended to protect individual rights and free-market enterprise against such arbitrary and discriminatory acts.

---

## 2. Ban on Non-Citizen Campaign Contributions

HB1 bans all foreign nationals, including permanent U.S. resident "green card" holders, from making contributions or expenditures regarding ballot issues or candidates.

U.S. citizens should determine U.S. elections—not foreign money or influence. The "right of Representation in the Legislature" belongs to the American people alone, who owe true faith and allegiance to the Constitution and are not subject to any foreign power. Lawmakers in Ohio should exercise their authority under Article I, Section 4, of the Constitution, as well as the 14th and 26th Amendments, to protect American elections from foreign interference and ensure equal protection of "the right of citizens of the United States to vote."

---

## 3. Single-Sex Restrooms in Schools

SB104, the "Protect All Students Act," requires that public schools and institutions of higher education shall not permit a person to use a restroom or locker room that is designated for the opposite sex.

Every person has a right—which the government has a duty to uphold—to protect both themselves and their children from obscene, indecent, or profane activity. These rights are retained under the 9th and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

## 4. Halting the EPA's "Final Rule" on Carbon Emissions

HR469 urges Congress to pass legislation to prevent the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from implementing its April 2024 "Final Rule" limiting carbon emissions for coal and natural gas-fired power plants.

The federal government has no authority under Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution to engage in environmental policy. Not only should the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency be abolished, but Americans should reject the hoax of "climate change," which seeks to codify extreme provisions of the United Nations' Agenda 2030 into law. Its "green" agenda for a "decarbonized economy" is nothing other than a fanatical attempt by globalist elites to expand their taxing power and authority, encroaching on the property rights of Americans enshrined in the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment. Ohio must protect its access to natural resources and energy reliability by saving new and existing power plants from the unconstitutional war on fossil fuels.

---

## 5. Second Amendment Financial Privacy Act

SB58 forbids financial institutions from using a merchant category code to identify firearms retailers and prevents government entities from keeping any list of privately owned firearms or firearms owners.

This bill prohibits the unlawful use of credit card payment information to track firearms purchases. Recent adoption of a new merchant category code for "gun and ammunition shops" by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO)—a globalist collaborative linked to the United Nations—aids unconstitutional efforts by the federal government to conduct mass surveillance, which, in part, is intended to create a national gun-owner database and confiscate firearms from law-abiding citizens. States should interpose between and nullify the actions of private or public entities that frustrate, if not blatantly violate, the Second and Fourth Amendment-protected rights of the American people.

---

## 6. Tax-Funded Joint Economic Development Districts

SB75 would create Joint Economic Development Districts (JEDD) comprised of multiple local governments with the power to extend and levy an income tax to promote "economic development or redevelopment," "create or preserve jobs," and "improve the economic welfare."

"Economic development" is used to coerce taxpayers into subsidizing various types of crony, corporate-sponsored projects outside the limited purpose and scope of government. This bill is dependent upon the income tax, which itself is an immoral, anti-constitutional act of government-imposed theft that takes from citizens the wages they have rightfully earned. Ohio ought not to disparage its citizens of their property rights or income. The U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights and 14th Amendment condemn undue deprivations of a person's "property."