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LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD BASED ON THE THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

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Joe Newhouse

Oklahoma
Senator, SD-025 (R)

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Lifetime
Freedom
Score

OK Legislative Scorecard 2024

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	Vote
1. SB1122 Funding Government Schools (passed 37 to 4 on 5/28/2024). Outlines the allocation and budgeting of \$5.9 billion for the public school system for FY 2024-25. Estimated cost per household: -\$3,871.00/year.			YES ✗
2. SB1192 "Food Insecurity" Grants (passed 37 to 4 on 5/28/2024). Directs the transfer of \$8.1 million to the Department of Human Services for additional "food insecurity" grants.			NONE ?
3. SB1334 "Fertility Preservation" Coverage Mandate (passed 29 to 8 on 5/22/2024). Requires health benefit plans to provide coverage for "standard fertility preservation services" for individuals diagnosed with cancer and who are within reproductive age, when a medically necessary treatment may cause infertility.			NONE ?
4. HB3156 Prohibiting Ranked-choice Voting (passed 37 to 8 on 4/24/2024). Prohibits the use of ranked-choice voting to conduct any election and nullifies any existing or future adoption of a voting system in conflict with this measure.			YES ★
5. HB3959 Taxpayer Money for Major Sports Leagues (passed 35 to 9 on 4/24/2024). Creates the Major Sports Leagues Rebate Program Act, which allows professional sports teams in the state to receive up to \$10 million per year in cash incentive payments.			YES ✗
6. SJR34 Judicial Checks and Balances (passed 32 to 14 on 3/12/2024). Would, if approved by voters, amend the Oklahoma Constitution by granting the Governor the power to nominate and appoint all judicial officers with the advice and consent of the Senate.			YES ★

Scorecard Votes: 50%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Funding Government Schools

SB1122 outlines the FY 2024-25 budget for the public school system.

Education is not the role of government—rather, it is the responsibility of a child's parents or family. This bill only continues the government's monopoly over K-12 education, which seeks to turn every student into a government-school student. The best "school choice," by far, is for parents to choose not to place their child's education in the hands of the state. Educational and economic freedom cannot be achieved by forcing other citizens to furnish their hard-earned tax dollars to fund all that now entails a compulsory, failing, and government-run K-12 school system.

2. "Food Insecurity" Grants

SB1192 directs \$8.1 million for additional "food insecurity" grants.

Providing "food insecurity" grants is not the legitimate object of government. There exists no "right to food" apart from a person working to provide it themselves or having received it privately and voluntarily from someone else. Taxation in the name of "social welfare" is neither just nor charitable. It causes more debt, dependency, and poverty. States must reject the notion of "food security," which the UN's Agenda 2030 "Zero Hunger" initiative describes as a "precondition for ... the right to food," based on Article 25 of the socialist Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

3. "Fertility Preservation" Coverage Mandate

SB1334 requires health benefit plans to provide coverage for "standard fertility preservation services" for certain individuals diagnosed with cancer.

"Standard fertility preservation services" involve "oocyte cryopreservation." They are simply the first steps of the exact same process used during the life-destroying practices of in vitro fertilization (IVF) and other assisted reproductive technologies, through which the vast majority of embryos conceived outside the womb are aborted or indefinitely frozen, resulting in the killing or cryo-incarceration of millions of preborn children. The care of human life—not its destruction—is the greatest responsibility of government. Oklahoma ought to forbid abortion and cryo-orphaning entirely, upholding the sanctity of life for every person. The right to life is the most fundamental, God-given, and "unalienable" right asserted in the Declaration of Independence and protected by the Fifth and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

4. Prohibiting Ranked-choice Voting

HB3156 prohibits the use of ranked-choice voting to conduct any election and nullifies any existing or future adoption of a voting system in conflict with this measure.

All attempts to enact ranked-choice voting should be opposed. This complicated, multiple-round, and unconstitutional method weakens election integrity by allowing a candidate to potentially win without genuine support from a plurality of voters. The scheme's ballot casting procedures cause voter disenfranchisement by undermining each citizen's right to vote and could deny them from being able to select the one and only candidate of their choice.

5. Taxpayer Money for Major Sports Leagues

HB3959 allows professional sports teams in the state to receive up to \$10 million per year in cash incentive payments.

Government has absolutely no business subsidizing professional sports. Privately-owned billion-dollar organizations, such as the Oklahoma City Thunder, can and should be expected to compete and operate in a free market. "Economic development" is merely a cliché or code word used by cronies to coerce taxpayers into paying proliferate amounts of money to fund corporate-sponsored spending bills outside the limited purpose and scope of government. Not surprisingly, this bill is dependent on 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.

6. Judicial Checks and Balances

SJR34 would, if approved by voters, amend the Oklahoma Constitution by granting the Governor the power to nominate and appoint judicial officers with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The 15-member Judicial Nominating Commission, which includes six publicly unelected members of the Oklahoma Bar Association, functions as a nepotism scheme to circumvent representative government "of, by, and for the people." Article IV, Section 4, of the U.S. Constitution guarantees "to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government," meaning government limited to the "rule of law," with a separation of powers among members of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches, each of whom derives their civil authority from the people. Yet, Oklahoma's judicial system is only as good as it applies "the supreme Law of the Land." Our federal system of checks and balances was designed so that no person may legitimately be appointed to any non-elected public office apart from having been nominated in good faith by, or confirmed with the consent of, at least one of the elected bodies of government.