



Chad Caldwell

Oklahoma

Representative, HD-040 (R)

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76
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Score

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OK Legislative Scorecard 2025

Based on the Principles of 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.

★ Constitutional ✗ Unconstitutional ? Did not Vote

Vote

1. **SB176 Year-round "Contraceptive" Coverage** (passed 65 to 25 on 5/22/2025). Requires health benefit plans that offer coverage for FDA-approved "contraceptive drugs" to cover an initial three-month supply and then a recurrent six-month supply.

NO



2. **SB269 Carbon Capture** (passed 73 to 12 on 5/1/2025). Gives the Oklahoma Corporation Commission exclusive jurisdiction over Class VI CO2 injection wells and related storage units.

YES



3. **HB2299 Article V Convention: Delegates** (passed 51 to 37 on 3/25/2025). Would set forth guidelines to regulate the conduct of delegates to a "convention for proposing amendments" held under Article V of the U.S. Constitution.

YES



4. **HB1197 Constitutional Money** (passed 77 to 15 on 3/24/2025). Would enable Oklahoma residents to use a transaction card to make purchases with gold and silver from a state-approved bullion depository.

YES



5. **HB1082 Equal Shared Parenting** (passed 92 to 1 on 3/24/2025). Creates a rebuttable presumption in child-custody cases that "joint custody and equally shared parenting time is in the best interest of the child."

NONE



6. **HB1689 Punishing Retail Theft** (passed 54 to 33 on 3/12/2025). Would make it unlawful to remove a shopping cart from a retail establishment with the intent to deprive the owner of its use, and punish offenders with a fine and/or imprisonment.

YES



Scorecard Votes: 60%



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\$290,880

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of May 29, 2026

Why do these votes matter?

1. Year-round "Contraceptive" Coverage

SB176 requires health benefit plans that offer coverage for FDA-approved "contraceptive drugs" to cover a recurrent six-month supply.

This bill permits year-round insurance coverage for at-home abortions. Hormonal birth-control drugs, which include the "morning-after" pill (e.g., Plan B), function not only as "contraceptives," but as abortifacients. Abortion is murder, and no person has a right to kill a preborn child. Since the care of human life—not its destruction—is the greatest responsibility of government, Oklahoma ought to abolish abortion entirely. The right to life is the most fundamental, God-given, and "unalienable" right mentioned in the Declaration of Independence and secured by the Fifth and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

2. Carbon Capture

SB269 gives the Oklahoma Corporation Commission exclusive jurisdiction over Class VI CO2 injection wells and related storage units.

Carbon capture in the United States is closely connected to the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for "sustainable development," which seeks to codify extreme "environmental justice" measures into state law. Its push for a "decarbonized" economy is nothing other than an attempt by globalist elites to increase their taxing power and authority. The abuse of eminent domain for carbon capture encroaches upon constitutionally protected property rights. Oklahomans should reject the hoax of "climate change" and put an end to the global war on farmers and ranchers.

3. Article V Convention: Delegates

HB2299 would set forth guidelines to regulate the conduct of delegates to an Article V Convention.

Efforts to call an Article V convention must be resisted. A constitutional convention (Con-Con) would have the power to make major changes to the U.S. Constitution, or even completely rewrite it. Instead of risking the danger of a "runaway convention," which could destroy many of the Constitution's limitations on government power, legislators should uphold their oath of office. The problem is not the Constitution, but lawmakers' failure to follow it. Article V was designed to correct potential errors or defects in the Constitution, not to "misconstrue or abuse its powers." We must use Article VI to enforce the Constitution, rather than use Article V to alter or abolish it.

4. Constitutional Money

HB1197 would enable Oklahoma residents to use a transaction card to make purchases with gold and silver from a state-approved bullion depository.

This bill brings Oklahoma closer to restoring sound money and adhering to the U.S. Constitution's monetary provisions. Article I, Section 10 of the Constitution says that "No State shall ... make any Thing but gold and silver Coin a Tender in Payment of Debts." States can and need to act now to protect Americans' financial freedom and privacy by both ending the Federal Reserve's unconstitutional monopoly on money and thwarting government plans to impose a Central Bank Digital Currency.

5. Equal Shared Parenting

HB1082 creates a rebuttable presumption in child-custody cases that "joint custody and equally shared parenting time is in the best interest of the child."

"Equal shared parenting," also known as the 50/50 custody regime, is detrimental to both children and families. It is the rotten fruit of "no-fault divorce," which only incentivizes the breaking of the marital covenant by allowing persons to commit serious acts of injury against their spouses and children (e.g., adultery or abandonment) with impunity. "Equal shared parenting," another deceptive misnomer, proceeds from the same false premise that innocent parties have no right to their day in court, further denying victims due process of law. In addition, it is part of the "best interest of the child" legislation that seeks to rewrite U.S. family law based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Nevertheless, no child should have to suffer the mental, emotional, and physical effects of being forced to live two separate lives in two separate homes. Marriage is—and will always be—the God-ordained arrangement for "co-parenting." Indeed, the Judgment of Solomon testifies to the wisdom and precedent of awarding sole custody to the true parent who justly refuses to "divide" the child.

6. Punishing Retail Theft

HB1689 would make it unlawful to remove a shopping cart from a retail establishment with the intent to deprive the owner of its use, and punish offenders with a fine and/or imprisonment.

Retail theft (i.e., shoplifting) needs to be illegal and punished as a crime. No one has the right to the property of someone else, regardless of value or price tag. Stealing less does not make one less a thief. As justice is the overall purpose of government, civil society necessitates enforcing the basic moral principle that "You shall not steal." Prohibiting acts of petty theft deters higher crimes, such as felony theft, and, most importantly, results in safer, more trustworthy, and cleaner communities.