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LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD BASED ON THE THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

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Merleyn Bell

Oklahoma

Representative, HD-045 (D)

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Lifetime
Freedom
Score

OK Legislative Scorecard 2021-2022

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

★ Constitutional	✗ Unconstitutional	? Did not Vote	Vote
1. HB3046 Prohibit the Private Funding of Elections Act (Passed 79 to 19 on 3/9/2022).	Prohibits governments from accepting funds to be used for conducting elections.		NO ✗
2. SB615 Bathroom Bill (Passed 69 to 14 on 5/19/2022).	Requires individuals to use restrooms or changing areas based on their sex.		NONE ?
3. HJR1056 Repeal Con-Con Expiration Date (Passed 66 to 19 on 3/23/2022).	Repealed the expiration date of a previously-passed resolution applying Oklahoma for an Article V convention.		NO ★
4. HB2984 Gun Rights - Nullification (Passed 78 to 15 on 3/7/2022).	Strengthened a previously-enacted nullification bill against unconstitutional gun laws, giving state authorities the ability to enforce it.		NO ✗
5. SB368 Religious Freedom Act (Passed 72 to 20 on 4/20/2021).	Prohibits governmental declaration of religious institutions as nonessential.		NO ✗
6. SJR23 Con-Con (Passed 62 to 26 on 4/20/2021).	Applies for a Convention of States under Article V for proposing amendments to U.S. Constitution.		NO ★

Scorecard Votes: 40%

Why do these votes matter?

1. Prohibit the Private Funding of Elections Act

HB3046 prohibits governments from accepting funds to be used for conducting elections in the state and requires elections be paid for with public funds.

The Oklahoma State House passed HB3046 on March 9, 2022 by a vote of 79 to 18. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because strengthening our election laws are crucial in the preservation of our election process and election integrity. Article IV, Section 2, of the U.S. Constitution provides that “citizens” of the United States “shall be entitled to all privileges and immunities,” such as the “right of citizens of the United States” to vote as prescribed in the 26th Amendment. Tightening election laws preserve the integrity of the election process and keeping outside money out of elections will prevent outside influence of outcomes.

2. Bathroom Bill

SB615 requires individuals to use restrooms or changing areas based on their sex.

The Oklahoma State House of Representatives passed SB615 on May 19, 2022 by a vote of 69 to 14. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because the left has been promoting woke radical Marxist ideas for years; that you can decide to be any gender you want to be. They believe that people can choose their pronouns and that they can be transgender. Scientifically and biblically, there are two genders and we should not conform to the woke culture of the radical left.

3. Repeal Con-Con Expiration Date

HJR1056 repealed the expiration date of a previously-passed resolution allowing Oklahoma to send a delegation to a “gathering of states” to create guidelines for a BBA and/or COS Article V convention.

The Oklahoma State House of Representatives passed HJR1056 on March 23, 2022 by a vote of 66 to 19. We have assigned pluses to the nays because the state’s application for a constitutional convention dangerously permits what Article V of the U.S. Constitution describes as a “Convention for proposing Amendments” or second constitutional convention. This legislation removes the expiration date for their application for constitutional convention, which is dangerously irresponsible.

4. Gun Rights - Nullification

HB2984 strengthened a previously-enacted nullification bill against unconstitutional gun laws, giving state authorities the ability to enforce it.

The Oklahoma State House of Representatives passed HB2984 on March 7, 2022 by a vote of 78 to 15. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because the fundamental right of the American people to keep and bear arms is protected by the U.S. Constitution, particularly in the 2nd, 9th, and 10th Amendments, and should not be infringed in any situation. Furthermore, under Article VI of the U.S. Constitution, states have a duty to nullify unconstitutional infringements by the federal government.

5. Religious Freedom Act

SB368 prohibits governmental declaration of religious institutions as nonessential.

The Oklahoma State House of Representatives passed SB368 on April 20, 2021 by a vote of 72 to 20. We have assigned the pluses to the ayes because no law shall prohibit free exercise of religion and the right to peacefully assemble. These rights are protected by both the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and no situation or event in the United States shall lead to the suspension of those rights.

6. Con-Con

SJR23 applies for a Convention of States under Article V for proposing amendments to U.S. Constitution.

The Oklahoma State House of Representatives passed SJR23 on April 20, 2021 by a vote of 62 to 26. We have assigned pluses to the nays because a so-called “Convention of the States” would not be of “limited” purpose. This dangerously permits what Article V of the U.S. Constitution describes as a “Convention for proposing Amendments” or second constitutional convention. Notably, Article V of the U.S. Constitution was designed to correct structural deficiencies in the federal government, not the behavior of its elected officials. SJR23 should be opposed in favor of less risky, more precise, and immediate solutions that would restore power back to the states and to the people, such as clear-cut proposals in Congress to repeal bad amendments or state nullification of specific unauthorized federal laws.