

# Rodger M. Smitherman

Senate District SD-018  
Democrat

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View Online

This legislator voted constitutionally on **50%** of the votes shown below.

★ Pro-liberty      ✗ Anti-liberty      ? Did not Vote      **Vote**

**1. HB327 Carbon Storage (Passed 30 to 0 on 5/2/2024).** Regulates carbon dioxide storage in Alabama, giving surface owners' rights to underground "pore space" and authorizing state agencies to oversee and lease storage sites. **✗**

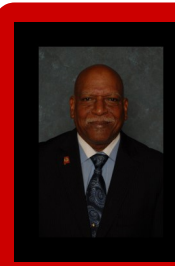
**2. SB297 Real Money (Passed 34 to 0 on 4/30/2024).** Amends state tax law to exempt net capital gains from the exchange of precious metal bullion from state income taxes. **★**

**3. SB281 Firearm Merchant Codes (Passed 32 to 0 on 4/23/2024).** Bans government firearm registries and prohibits financial institutions from using special codes to track or reject firearm-related transactions. **★**

**4. HB129 Education Savings Accounts (Passed 23 to 9 on 3/7/2024).** Creates a refundable tax credit for parents to cover educational expenses through Education Savings Accounts (ESAs). **★**

**5. SB129 DEI Ban (Passed 26 to 7 on 2/22/2024).** Prohibits public entities in Alabama from maintaining diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) offices or sponsoring DEI programs. **✗**

**6. SB1 Election Integrity (Passed 26 to 8 on 2/13/2024).** Mandates standard forms for absentee ballot requests, prohibits pre-filing or exchanging payments, and imposes criminal penalties for violations. **✗**



## ALABAMA LEGISLATIVE **SCORECARD** BASED ON THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

**Sen. Rodger M. Smitherman**

**AL Scorecard 2024**

**Lifetime Score: 38%**

**2024 Regular Session Score 50%**

The Legislative Scorecard is a nationwide educational program of The John Birch Society. Its purpose is to create an informed electorate on how state legislators are voting. The Scorecard is nonpartisan; it does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are selected for their constitutional implications and cost to the taxpayers.

**Please share this Scorecard in your district to inform people about your legislator's record on key votes.**

U.S. Constitution, Amendment I --- 11 C.F.R. §114(4)(c)(4) --- 616 F.2d 45 (2d Cir. 1980)

The following scorecard lists several key votes in the Alabama Legislature in 2024 and ranks state representatives and senators based on their fidelity to (U.S.) constitutional and limited-government principles.



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# Bill Descriptions for the Votes that Affect You

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## 1. Carbon Storage

HB327 sets regulations for storing carbon dioxide underground in Alabama. It defines "pore space" as underground areas for storage and gives surface property owners rights to the pore space beneath their land, unless sold separately. The bill gives the State Oil and Gas Board authority to oversee storage facility operations and establishes funds to monitor active and closed sites. It also allows the Commissioner of Conservation and Natural Resources to lease pore space for carbon storage.

The Alabama State Senate passed HB327 on May 2, 2024 by a vote of 30 to 0. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this expands government by pushing for interventions infringing on individual freedoms and economic liberties. Tax dollars should not go toward complying with any aspect of Agenda 2030, as it is not constitutional. This legislation prioritizes international interests over national sovereignty and control. Government's involvement in mandating compensation and regulating carbon sequestration and storage infringes on private property rights protected under the Constitution.

## 2. Real Money

SB297 amends state tax law to exempt net capital gains from the exchange of precious metal bullion from state income taxes.

The Alabama State Senate passed SB297 on April 30, 2024 by a vote of 34 to 0. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this bill strengthens monetary values in Alabama and is a strong step toward restoring constitutional money and the gold standard.

## 3. Firearm Merchant Code

SB281 bans government firearm registries and prohibits financial institutions from using special codes to track or reject firearm-related transactions.

The Alabama State Senate passed SB281 on April 23, 2024 by a vote of 32 to 0. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because the workaround by credit card companies to track ammunition and firearm purchases violates several constitutionally-protected rights, including the First, Second, and Fourth Amendments. This is a large invasion of privacy, opens the door for illegal searches, and potentially deters people from making firearm purchases.

## 4. Education Savings Accounts

HB129 creates a refundable tax credit for parents to cover educational expenses through Education Savings Accounts (ESAs), prioritizing low-income and disabled students, with credits capped at \$7,000 for participating schools and \$2,000 for others.

The Alabama State Senate passed HB129 on March 7, 2024 by a vote of 23 to 9. We have assigned pluses to the nays because all government money comes with strings attached. ESAs 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 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*, where government funds are not involved.

## 5. DEI Ban

SB129 prohibits public entities in Alabama from maintaining diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) offices or sponsoring DEI programs. It also restricts the promotion of divisive concepts, such as ideas that imply racial superiority or collective guilt based on race or gender. Public institutions of higher education are required to designate restrooms based on biological sex.

The Alabama State Senate passed SB129 on February 22, 2024 by a vote of 26 to 7. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because the goal of DEI is to pit Americans against each other. Reverse racism is still racism. Instead of pushing for equality, which is what the Constitution stands for, DEI programs in school push for equity, which is rooted in communism and is part of the Marxist agenda.

## 6. Election Integrity

SB1 eliminates handwritten requests for absentee ballots and requiring the use of a standard form. It prohibits anyone from pre-filling applications for others and bans payments or gifts in exchange for handling absentee ballot applications. Violations carry criminal penalties, including felony charges.

The Alabama State Senate passed SB1 on February 13, 2024 by a vote of 26 to 8. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because strengthening our election laws is crucial in the preservation of our election process and election integrity.