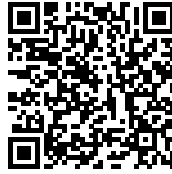




Ben Watson

Senate District SD-001
Republican


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This legislator voted constitutionally on **60%** of the votes shown below.


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

1. SB67 Second Amendment Preservation Act (Passed 31 to 21 on 2/21/2023). Would have nullified a wide range of past, present, and future unconstitutional firearm restrictions contained in “federal acts, laws, executive orders, administrative orders, court orders, rules, and regulations.” **Yes** 

2. SB1 Proof of Vaccine (Passed 31 to 21 on 2/7/2023). Removes the automatic repealer on the prohibition on state and local governments from requiring proof of COVID vaccination for government services. **Yes** 

3. SB140 Sex Changes for Minors (Passed 31 to 21 on 3/21/2023). Prohibits certain surgical procedures for the treatment of gender dysphoria in minors from being performed in hospitals and other licensed healthcare facilities and prohibits certain surgical procedures for the treatment of gender dysphoria in minors. **Yes** 

4. HB86 Zoos & Aquariums (Passed 52 to 2 on 3/27/2023). Exempts purchases of tangible personal property used in the expansion or renovation of a qualified aquarium or zoo from state and local income taxes. **✗**

5. HB128 Minority Business (Passed 44 to 1 on 3/23/2023). Amends Georgia's official code to boost the participation of minority, women-owned, and veteran-owned businesses in state procurement contracts, covering various areas. **--** 

6. SB233 Georgia Promise Scholarship Act (Passed 33 to 23 on 3/6/2023). Would have created a school-voucher program, in which the government gives parents “public funds” (i.e., government money) to get their children out of government-run public or charter schools and instead place them in private school or to homeschool them. **✗**



GEORGIA LEGISLATIVE **SCORECARD** BASED ON THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

Sen. Ben Watson
Lifetime Score: 44%

GA Scorecard 2023
2023-2024 Regular Session Score

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 Georgia Legislature in 2023 and ranks state representatives and senators based on their fidelity to (U.S.) constitutional and limited-government principles.



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The Constitution

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Bill Descriptions for the Votes that Affect You

1. Second Amendment Preservation Act

SB67 would have nullified a wide range of past, present, and future unconstitutional firearm restrictions contained in “federal acts, laws, executive orders, administrative orders, court orders, rules, and regulations.”

The Georgia State Senate passed SB67 on February 21, 2023 by a vote of 31 to 21. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because states have the right to nullify any law, rule, or executive order that violates the U.S. Constitution. In this case, SB67 is addressing law that violates the Second Amendment of the United States and Article I, Section I, Paragraph 8 of the Georgia State Constitution.

2. Proof of Vaccine

SB1 removes the automatic repealer on the prohibition on state and local governments from requiring proof of COVID vaccination for government services.

The Georgia State Senate passed SB1 on February 7, 2023 by a vote of 31 to 21. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because an individual’s personal health care decisions should not be the object of government, nor be under its federal, state, or local jurisdictions in the United States. Forcing an individual to receive a vaccination or partake in any medical procedure would be a violation of their fundamental rights, freedoms, privileges, or immunities protected by the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

3. Sex Changes for Minors

SB140 prohibits certain surgical procedures for the treatment of gender dysphoria in minors from being performed in hospitals and other licensed healthcare facilities and prohibits certain surgical procedures for the treatment of gender dysphoria in minors.

The Georgia State Senate passed SB140 on March 21, 2023 by a vote of 31 to 21. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because Marxists and Leftists are pushing their woke agenda — telling everyone that one can choose their own gender and decide what their pronouns are. They are pushing this on younger generations, which is pure indoctrination.

4. Zoos & Aquariums

HB86 exempts purchases of tangible personal property used in the expansion or renovation of a qualified aquarium or zoo from state and local income taxes. The exemption applies from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2027, or until the aggregate caps of \$4.5 million of state taxes in the case of aquariums or \$800,000 of state and local taxes in the case of zoos is reached.

The Georgia State Senate passed HB86 on March 27, 2023 by a vote of 52 to 2. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this is exactly what the government shouldn't be doing — picking winners and losers. Government should not intervene in the marketplace by selectively granting tax incentives to specific industries.

5. Minority Business

HB128 amends Georgia's official code to boost the participation of minority, women-owned, and veteran-owned businesses in state procurement contracts, covering various areas. It involves defining terms, providing tax deductions for eligible small business subcontractors, allowing certain tax return disclosures, and creating certification procedures for these businesses.

The Georgia State Senate passed HB128 on March 23, 2023 by a vote of 44 to 1. We have assigned pluses to the nays because offering tax breaks and changing standards for individuals based on minority status, gender, or ethnicity is reverse discrimination and embraces division and wokeness. Taxpayers should not be on the hook for funding discriminatory acts. Government should not interfere in personal matters and business, and allocating funds based on certain criteria infringes upon personal freedom and violates the 14th Amendment.

6. Georgia Promise Scholarship Act

SB233 would have created a school-voucher program, in which the government gives parents “public funds” (i.e., government money) to get their children out of government-run public or charter schools and instead place them in private school or to homeschool them.

The Georgia State Senate passed SB233 on March 3, 2023 by a vote of 33 to 23. We have assigned pluses to the nays because all government money comes with strings attached. School vouchers 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. 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, where government funds are not involved.