



Ben Watson

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Republican


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This legislator voted constitutionally on **67%** of the votes shown below.


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


1. HB1018 2nd Amendment Protection (Passed 33 to 19 on 3/26/2024). Prohibits financial institutions from using codes that identify firearms retailers or transactions. 

2. HB872 Student Loan Forgiveness (Passed 47 to 2 on 3/26/2024). Expands the service cancelable loan program for medical professionals in "underserved" rural areas of Georgia to include dental students. 

3. SB355 Ranked-Choice Voting Ban (Passed 31 to 19 on 1/26/2024). Prohibits the use of ranked-choice voting in all state elections. 

4. HB206 Georgia Green New Deal (Passed 43 to 9 on 3/26/2024). Known as the "Georgia Green New Deal," this bill changes commercial property assessment rules to include conservation and energy improvements, allows authorities to issue bonds and grants, and sets up financing procedures without using other public funds. 

5. HB1105 Immigration Enforcement (Passed 34 to 19 on 3/21/2024). Outlines documentation for verifying immigration status, requires local law enforcement to cooperate with federal authorities, imposes penalties for non-compliance, and bans "sanctuary" policies. 

6. SB390 American Library Association (Passed 33 to 20 on 2/29/2024). Restricts taxpayer and private funds from being used to support the American Library Association (ALA) and its affiliates. 



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

Sen. Ben Watson

GA Scorecard 2024

Lifetime Score: 50%

2023-2024 Regular Session Score 64%

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 2024 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. 2nd Amendment Protection

HB1018 enhances protections for individuals and businesses involved in the sale and purchase of firearms. It prohibits financial institutions from using codes that identify firearms retailers or transactions, thereby preventing discrimination against these businesses. The bill also stipulates that no person or government entity can maintain a registry of firearms or their owners.

The Georgia State Senate passed HB1018 on March 26, 2024 by a vote of 33 to 19. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because the workaround by banks and credit card companies to track ammunition and firearm purchases violates several constitutionally protected rights, including those guaranteed by the First, Second, and Fourth Amendments. This legislation prevents a significant invasion of privacy, reduces the risk of illegal searches, and prevents potential deterrence of lawful firearm purchases.

2. Student Loan Forgiveness

HB872 expands the service cancelable loan program for medical professionals in underserved rural areas of Georgia to include dental students, provided they agree to practice in designated underserved areas. Allocates grants for rural hospitals and other healthcare entities to support recruitment efforts.

The Georgia State Senate passed HB872 on March 26, 2024 by a vote of 47 to 2. We have assigned pluses to the nays because government should not subsidize or issue taxpayer-funded loans, nor should it interfere with private enterprise. This bill expands the size of government, picks winners and losers, and creates a dependency on government assistance, undermining the free market. When the government meddles in areas it shouldn't, individuals and businesses lose control and freedom, especially when they end up owing money back to the government.

3. Ranked-Choice Voting Ban

SB355 prohibits the use of ranked-choice voting in all state elections.

The Georgia State Senate passed SB355 on January 26, 2024 by a vote of 31 to 19. We have assigned pluses to the nays because ranked choice voting undermines the electorate's ability to choose the best candidate in elections, threatens election integrity, and is designed to elect moderate-to-leftist politicians, which generally means they do not wholeheartedly adhere to the Constitution.

4. Georgia Green New Deal

HB206, named the "Georgia Green New Deal," revises rules for assessing commercial properties to include conservation, energy, and resiliency improvements. The bill allows authorities to issue bonds and provide loans or grants for green improvements. It enables municipalities and counties to partner with authorities, ensuring that financing is sourced solely from assessments, not other public funds.

The Georgia State Senate passed HB206 on March 26, 2024 by a vote of 43 to 9. We assigned pluses to the nays because this bill increases government interference in the free market by favoring certain businesses. It also advances the United Nations' Agenda 2030, which threatens individual freedom and private property under the guise of addressing climate change. HB206 unconstitutionally exceeds government authority and infringes on property rights by imposing mandated improvements and financing mechanisms, contradicting principles of limited government, free markets, and individual rights.

5. Immigration Enforcement

HB1105 outlines documentation for verifying immigration status, requires local law enforcement to cooperate with federal authorities, and imposes penalties for non-compliance. It bans "sanctuary" policies, mandates reporting on non-citizen inmates, and requires honoring immigration detainer notices.

The Georgia State Senate passed HB1105 on March 21, 2024 by a vote of 34 to 19. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this bill is vital for maintaining the rule of law and preserving the integrity of our immigration system, which are crucial to protecting national sovereignty. Uncontrolled immigration is used by those seeking to fundamentally transform the United States by altering the country's demographics and voting patterns.

6. American Library Association

SB390 restricts taxpayer and private funds from being used to support the American Library Association (ALA). It prohibits the use of these funds on ALA materials or services, with few exceptions, dissolves the State Board for the Certification of Librarians, transferring its duties to the Georgia Council of Public Libraries, and bars the ALA from bidding on state contracts.

The Georgia State Senate passed SB390 on February 29, 2024 by a vote of 33 to 20. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because the American Library Association and its leadership openly promote Marxist and communist ideologies, which are fundamentally opposed to the principles of individual liberty, limited government, and free markets that are at the core of our constitutional Republic. Taxpayer dollars should not be used to fund the ALA.