

KY Scorecard 2023

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

This is our second state-level Scorecard; the selected votes may not be reflective of legislators' overall records. Their cumulative scores will change as we add more votes. Please check regularly for updates.



John Schickel

Senate District SD-011

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. HB5 Eliminating the 'Bourbon Barrel Tax' (passed 23 to 14 on 3/30/2023). Phases out state and local property taxes on the production of "distilled spirits stored or aging in barrels" beginning in 2026 and eliminating them by 2043. | | | Yes |
| 2. SB150 Parental Rights in Education (passed 29 to 8 on 3/29/2023). Limits the authority of public schools in relation to parental rights, a student's use of pronouns, medical or mental health services, and instructional content on human sexuality. | | | Yes |
| 3. HB153 Prohibiting Enforcement of Federal Firearms Restrictions (passed 27 to 9 on 3/15/2023). Prohibits state and local agencies from enforcing any "federal law, executive order, rule, or regulation that is enacted, adopted, or becomes effective on or after January 1, 2021." | | | Yes |
| 4. SB115 Protecting Children from Lewd or Lascivious Conduct (passed 26 to 6 on 3/10/2023). Would make engaging in a "live sexually explicit performance" on public property or in a location where it could be viewed by a minor child a criminal offense. | | | Yes |
| 5. SB4 Saving Kentucky's Coal Power Plants (passed 25 to 8 on 3/2/2023). Prevents a utility company from shutting down a "fossil fuel-fired electric generating unit" without demonstrating that it would result in reliability and resilience of the electric grid as well as cost savings for customers. | | | No |
| 6. SB64 "Electronic Money" in the Uniform Commercial Code (passed 34 to 0 on 2/28/2023). Would change Kentucky's definition of "money" to include "electronic money," as provided by the Uniform Commercial Code. | | | Yes |



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1. Eliminating the 'Bourbon Barrel Tax'

HB5 phases out state and local property taxes on the production of "distilled spirits stored or aging in barrels" beginning in 2026 and eliminating them by 2043.

The 'Bourbon Barrel Tax' is a form of wealth transfer legislation based on property confiscation. Property should not be taxed at any level against anyone—especially Kentucky's \$9 billion signature industry that generates new jobs, higher wages, and better opportunities. Property taxes, like income taxes, are immoral and anti-constitutional acts of government-imposed theft. Since property is tied to ownership, only when a person or business is secure in the possession of their property can they freely exercise self-government. Every attack on private property is, therefore, an attack on individual liberty. The U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights and 14th Amendment were written to safeguard "private property" and prevent "any State" from depriving "any person" of "property, without due process of law." Moreover, neither education nor public health is the role of government, and taxing property to fund them is even more egregious.

2. Parental Rights in Education

SB150 limits the authority of public schools in relation to parental rights, a student's use of pronouns, medical or mental health services, and instructional content on human sexuality.

The upbringing, education, and care of children belongs to parents, not the government. Parental rights, as with all other fundamental rights, are guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution's Bill of Rights and 14th Amendment.

3. Prohibiting Enforcement of Federal Firearms Restrictions

HB153 prohibits state and local agencies from enforcing any "federal law, executive order, rule, or regulation that is enacted, adopted, or becomes effective on or after January 1, 2021."

This bill prevents the state from enforcing certain federal firearms regulations, helping to restore the rights of law-abiding citizens. The U.S. Constitution's Second Amendment expressly declares that "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." Whenever the federal government assumes power to impose firearms restrictions in blatant violation of the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment, nullification of such acts by the several States is the proper remedy.

4. Protecting Children from Lewd or Lascivious Conduct

SB115 would make engaging in a "live sexually explicit performance" on public property or in a location where it could be viewed by a minor child a criminal offense.

The citizens of Kentucky have the right—which the State has a duty to uphold—to protect both themselves and their children from obscene, indecent, or profane activity. This right of the people is retained under the 9th and 10th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

5. Saving Kentucky's Coal Power Plants

SB4 prevents a utility company from shutting down a "fossil fuel-fired electric generating unit" without demonstrating that it would result in reliability and resilience of the electric grid as well as cost savings for customers.

This bill assists with efforts to save Kentucky's coal power plants amid an unconstitutional war on fossil fuels that seeks to deny local citizens their right to access the natural energy resources in the Bluegrass State. Rather than submit to the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for "sustainable development," which threatens to reduce our standards of living and compromise the integrity of our utility infrastructure, Kentucky should act to stop the "climate change" grift and reject all attempts by power-hungry globalist elites to further regulate the use of coal or other fossil fuels. The Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment were intended to serve as a bulwark against undue interference with free-market enterprise.

6. "Electronic Money" in the Uniform Commercial Code

SB64 would change Kentucky's definition of "money" to include "electronic money," as provided by the Uniform Commercial Code.

This bill would end free-market-based cryptocurrencies and pave the way for an exclusively government-controlled Central Bank Digital Currency—a significant danger to civil liberties. In fact, this bill was pushed by the Uniform Law Commission, an influential 'Deep State' globalist organization that promotes uniform state laws in America, particularly those "consistent with U.S. laws and international obligations," so as to pursue integration with other countries. Nevertheless, the power to "coin money," let alone authorize or adopt the use of "electronic money," is among the powers denied to the States in Article 1, Section 10, of the U.S. Constitution.
