

Scorecard 117-1

The Congressional Scorecard is a nationwide educational program of The John Birch Society. Its purpose is to create an informed electorate on how members of Congress 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.

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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 117th Congress (January 3, 2021 – January 3, 2023) and ranks congressmen based on his or her fidelity to constitutional and limited-government principles.

Federal Debt Equals \$287,859 per Taxpaying Household, as of December 15, 2021.



Ron Johnson

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Republican

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This legislator voted constitutionally on **83%** of the votes shown below.

CPH: Estimated cost per household.

Constitutional	Unconstitutional	Did not Vote	CPH	Vote
1. Senator Rand Paul's (R-Ky.) amendment to S.Con.Res.5 Deficit Reduction (Rejected 29 to 71 on 2/4/2021). Would reduce federal spending by \$67.4 billion in fiscal 2022 alone, and by a total of \$7.2 trillion over 10 years.			\$+511	Yes
2. House Resolution 24 Trump Impeachment (Acquitted 43 to 57 on 2/13/2021). The Senate may not constitutionally convict a private citizen, and Trump did not commit any crime. See U.S. Const., Art. II, Sec. 4.				No
3. HR 1799 Paycheck Protection Program Extension (Passed 92 to 7 on 3/25/2021). Extends the Treasury Department's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) from March 31 to June 30, 2021 despite no constitutional authorization. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8.			\$114	Yes
4. S 1260 Research and Development Package (Passed 68 to 32 on 6/8/2021). Unconstitutionally authorizes \$250 billion over five years for federal funding of research and development programs. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8.			\$1,894	No
5. HR 1319 Coronavirus Appropriations (Passed 220 to 211 on 3/10/2021). Spends \$1.9 trillion on unconstitutional programs in the name of coronavirus relief. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8.			\$14,106	No
6. HR 3684 Infrastructure (Passed 69 to 30 on 8/10/2021). Spends \$1.2 trillion on wasteful projects and socialized programs. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8.			\$9,091	No



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The Constitution

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1. Deficit Reduction

During consideration of the Budget Resolution for fiscal 2021 (S. Con. Res. 5), Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) offered a substitute amendment. It “requires that for every on-budget dollar the federal government spends in Fiscal Year 2021, it spends three pennies fewer each year for the next five years.” This would have reduced spending by \$67.4 billion in fiscal 2022 alone, and by a total of \$7.2 trillion over 10 years.

Runaway, deficit-laden federal spending, most of which is unconstitutional, must be brought under control, and Paul’s proposal would have been a step in the right direction.

2. Trump Impeachment

The article of impeachment (“Incitement of Insurrection”) against President Donald Trump, contained in House Resolution 24, alleges that Trump engaged in “high Crimes and Misdemeanors by inciting violence against the Government of the United States.”

The Senate may not constitutionally convict a private citizen, which is what Trump was at the time of this vote, and also because he had not committed any crime — much less “high Crimes and Misdemeanors” (the constitutional standard for impeachment) — by exercising his right to free speech regarding the election results and political activism. Also, to interpret his “fight like hell” remark as a call to violence is ludicrous. In the same speech, Trump stated, “I know that everyone here will soon be marching over to the Capitol building to peacefully and patriotically make your voices heard.”

3. Paycheck Protection Program Extension

H.R. 1799 would extend the authorization for the Treasury Department’s Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) from March 31 to June 30, 2021. The PPP provides Small Business Administration-backed loans to businesses of 500 employees or less struggling as a result of the draconian COVID-19 lockdowns issued by governors across the country beginning in 2020 and extending into 2021. PPP loans do not have to be paid back so long as employers only use the funds for legitimate business expenses.

The Constitution does not authorize the federal government to bail out or lend funds to business.

4. Research and Development Package

S. 1260, the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act, would authorize \$250 billion over five years for federal funding of scientific research and development programs.

The Constitution does not authorize Congress to fund research and development programs.

5. Coronavirus Appropriations

H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, would spend \$1.9 trillion on unconstitutional programs in the name of coronavirus relief.

Congress is failing to address its fiscally irresponsible budgeting and appropriating process that yielded annual federal deficits of \$3.1 trillion in fiscal 2020 and an expected \$3.0 trillion in 2021. Moreover, virtually all of the coronavirus aid provisions, including direct checks, federal unemployment benefits, and subsidization of the economy, are unconstitutional.

6. Infrastructure

H.R. 3684 spends a total of \$1.2 trillion. While labeled an “infrastructure” bill, only \$110 billion (9%) would go toward roads, bridges, and other traditional infrastructure. Among many other provisions, the bill creates a mileage tax pilot program, orders states to create carbon reduction programs, defines “gender identity” as a protected class, and spends over \$50 billion on countering “climate change.” Congress is failing to address its fiscally irresponsible budgeting and appropriating process. Moreover, virtually all of the bill’s provisions are unconstitutional, having no basis under Article I, Section 8.