



John Velis

Senate District SD-HAMPDE
Democrat

Contact: (617) 722-1415
24 Beacon St, Boston, MA 02133



[View Online](#)

This legislator voted constitutionally on **17%** of the votes shown below.

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

1. H5163 Mandatory Police Interview of Gun Owners (passed 37 to 1 on 8/1/2022). Removes the “good reason” provision from Massachusetts’s license-to-carry (LTC) statute, but keeps the requirement of mandatory in-person police interviews for residents who possess or carry firearms. **Yes** ✗

2. H5090 State-Sponsored Abortion and Sex Mutilation (passed 39 to 1 on 7/26/2022). Orders the expanded public provision, facilitation, and promotion of “reproductive health care and gender-affirming care” activities, such as abortion and surgical treatment of “gender dysphoria.” **Yes** ✗

3. S2924 Universal Voter Registration and Permanent Mail-In Ballots (passed 37 to 3 on 6/9/2022). Adopts, as the “VOTES Act,” several changes to state election law, including permanent early voting by mail and reinforcement of automatic voter registration. **Yes** ✗

4. H4805 Driver's Licenses for Illegal Aliens (passed 32 to 8 on 6/9/2022). Makes applicants without “proof of lawful presence” eligible for a Massachusetts driver’s license.” **No** ★

5. S5 Income Tax Increase on High-Wage Earners (passed 38 to 2 on 6/9/2021). Proposed to amend the Massachusetts Constitution to authorize an additional income tax of 4%—an 80% increase—on taxpayers who earn more than \$1 million annually. **Yes** ✗

6. S9 Next Generation "Environmental Justice" Roadmap (passed 39 to 1 on 3/15/2021). Acts as the “Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy,” setting a statewide target of “net-zero” emissions by 2050 and directing a “clean energy equity workforce” for “environmental justice populations.” **Yes** ✗



MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATIVE

SCORECARD

BASED ON THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

Sen. John Velis

MA Scorecard 2021-2022

Lifetime Score: 17%

2021-2022 Regular Session Score 17%

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 Massachusetts General Court in 2021 and 2022 and ranks state representatives and senators based on their fidelity to (U.S.) constitutional and limited-government principles.

This is our first 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.



Get Alerts

Scan to view and subscribe to legislative action alerts.

The Constitution

Learn more about the U.S. Constitution and our founding principles.



Bill Descriptions for the Votes that Affect You

1. Mandatory Police Interviews of Gun Owners

H5163 removes the “good reason” provision from Massachusetts’s license-to-carry (LTC) statute in response to the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Bruen*, but keeps the requirement of mandatory in-person police interviews for residents who possess or carry firearms.

The 2nd Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees that the fundamental right of the American people to keep and bear arms “shall not be infringed.” Moreover, the 4th Amendment requires that this right not be violated by means of warrantless inquiry or delay.

2. State-Sponsored Abortion and Sex Mutilation

H5090 orders the expanded public provision, facilitation, and promotion of “reproductive health care and gender-affirming care” activities, such as abortion and surgical treatment of “gender dysphoria.”

Massachusetts should act to ban abortion and sex mutilation, which violate the unalienable right to life and limb endowed by God to every person—male or female. States have a duty to not only secure this most sacred right, as guaranteed by both the 5th and 14th Amendments of the U.S. Constitution, but to also reject the notion that “health care” is in any manner the legitimate object of government.

3. Universal Voter Registration and Permanent Mail-In Ballots

S2924, also known as the “VOTES Act,” adopts several changes to state election law, including permanent early voting by mail, reinforcement of automatic voter registration, and municipal discretion over the staffing of both non-local poll workers and local police officers.

This bill’s universal voter registration and unsolicited vote-by-mail application schemes enable electoral fraud, which disenfranchises eligible voters. States should instead exercise their authority, under Article 1, Section 4, of the U.S. Constitution, to implement free, fair, and secure elections, protecting the right of American citizens to vote.

4. Driver's Licenses for Illegal Aliens

H4805 makes applicants without “proof of lawful presence” eligible for a Massachusetts driver’s license and requires that motor vehicle registrars “shall not inquire about or create a record of an applicant’s citizenship or immigration status.”

Persons unlawfully present in the United States ought not to be permitted sanctuary or residency in Massachusetts, let alone be considered eligible for a state-issued form of identification or licensure. According to Article 1, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution, Congress has the authority to establish a uniform rule of naturalization. Rather than pursue unconstitutional “sanctuary policy,” states should use their powers reserved under the 10th Amendment to address the crisis of illegal immigration and provide for their own public safety.

5. Income Tax Increase on High-Wage Earners

S5 proposed to amend the Massachusetts Constitution to authorize an additional income tax of 4%—an 80% increase—on taxpayers who earn more than \$1 million annually.

The income tax is an immoral, anti-constitutional act of government-imposed theft that takes from citizens the wages they have rightfully earned. It disparages the principles of both the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment, which were intended to safeguard “private property” and guarantee “equal protection of the laws” for all Americans.

6. Next-Generation "Environmental Justice" Roadmap

S9, the “Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy,” among other provisions, sets a statewide target of “net-zero” emissions by 2050, establishes the Massachusetts Climate Policy Commission, and directs a “clean energy equity workforce” for “environmental justice populations.”

This bill—modeled after the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group III report—is a back-end, globalist-led effort to codify international treaty language on “environmental justice” into state law. Nevertheless, there is no constitutional authority for federal, state, or local government to pursue such policy, particularly in the name of “climate change.” Unjust encroachments on Americans’ private property or undue interference with their free-market enterprise is protected against by the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment.