



# Paul Torkelson

House of Representatives District  
HD-016B

Republican

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View Online


This legislator voted constitutionally on **80%** of the votes shown below.


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


**1. SF40 Unemployment Expansion (Passed 127 to 7 on 1/23/23).** **Yes**  
Makes additional unemployment benefits available from the Minnesota unemployment insurance trust fund for miners. 

**2. HF2 Paid Family Leave (Passed 68 to 62 on 5/17/23).** **--**  
Establishes a state-run insurance program to provide Minnesota workers with up to 12 weeks of paid family leave and up to an additional 12 weeks of paid medical leave per year. 

**3. HF7 Renewable Energy (Passed 70 to 60 on 1/26/23).** Sets unreasonable Renewable Energy Standards (RES) modifications. **No** 

**4. HF1440 Homeless Prevention (Passed 73 to 50 on 3/16/23).** **No**  
Allocates \$50,000,000 from the general fund to the Housing Finance Agency for the family homeless prevention and assistance program. 

**5. HF3 Voting Changes (Passed 70 to 57 on 4/13/23).** Establishes automatic voter registration and allows voters to receive ballots automatically for each election. **No** 

**6. HF1 Protect Reproductive Options Act (Passed 69 to 65 on 1/19/23).** Enacts that every individual possesses a fundamental right to autonomously make decisions regarding their reproductive health, including abortion. **No** 



## MINNESOTA LEGISLATIVE **SCORECARD** BASED ON THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

**Rep. Paul Torkelson** **MN Scorecard 2023**  
**Lifetime Score: 78%** **2023-2024 Regular Session Score 80%**

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 Minnesota 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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# Bill Descriptions for the Votes that Affect You

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## 1. Unemployment Expansion

SF40 makes additional unemployment benefits available from the Minnesota Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund. These benefits are specifically for applicants who were laid off due to lack of work between April 3, 2022 and March 4, 2023 and worked in the mining industry.

The Minnesota State House of Representatives passed SF40 on January 23, 2023 by a vote of 127 to 7. We have assigned pluses to the nays because it is not the government's responsibility under the constitution to provide safety nets for those who are struggling. Even so, providing additional unemployment benefits exclusively to individuals who were laid off from the mining industry during a specific timeframe discriminates against other unemployed individuals who were not employed in the mining industry during that period.

## 2. Paid Family Leave

HF2 establishes a state-run insurance program to provide Minnesota workers with up to 12 weeks of paid family leave and up to an additional 12 weeks of paid medical leave per year.

The Minnesota State House of Representatives passed HF2 on May 17, 2023 by a vote of 69 to 62. We have assigned pluses to the nays because insurance should be offered by the private sector, not government. Expanding paid family leave is just another step towards socialism, since this program places the cost on taxpayers.

## 3. Renewable Energy

HF7 sets Renewable Energy Standards (RES) modifications, increases the proportion of a utility's retail electric sales that are to be generated from renewable energy to 55 percent in 2035. The bill establishes a carbon-free resource standard for all covered electric utilities that starts at 80% in 2030 and increases by steps to 100 percent by 2040.

The Minnesota State House of Representatives passed HF7 on January 26, 2023 by a vote of 70 to 60. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this expands government by pushing for interventions infringing on individual freedoms and economic liberties. Tax dollars should not go toward complying with any aspect of Agenda 2030. Additionally, this legislation creates more government interference in the free-market economy and advances the

## 4. Homeless Prevention

HF1440 allocates \$50,000,000 from the general fund to the Housing Finance Agency for the family homeless prevention and assistance program.

The Minnesota State House of Representatives passed HF1440 on March 16, 2023 by a vote of 73 to 50. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this is a large expansion of government, and such allocation of funds constitutes government spending that exceeds the state's authority.

## 5. Voting Changes

HF3 establishes automatic voter registration for eligible individuals when they apply for or renew a Minnesota driver's license, medical assistance, or other benefits through designated agencies. Additionally, it enables individuals aged 16 or 17 to submit voter registration applications, with privacy measures until they turn 18 and are registered. Furthermore, it introduces a permanent absentee ballot request list, allowing voters to receive ballots automatically for each election, replacing the need for repeated absentee ballot applications. These sections also detail mailing timelines for ballots and update forms accordingly, while making information about individuals on the permanent absentee voting list public.

The Minnesota State House of Representatives passed HF3 on April 13, 2023 by a vote of 70 to 57. We have assigned pluses to the nays because automatic voter registration may increase the risk of voter fraud and compromise the integrity of elections. Individuals should take the initiative to register to vote, as it is a civic responsibility, but automatic registration can lead to inaccuracies in voter rolls. Additionally, having ballots sent in the mail for every election opens the door for even more fraud.

## 6. Protect Reproductive Options Act

HF1 enacts that every individual possesses a fundamental right to autonomously make decisions regarding their reproductive health, including the fundamental right to utilize or decline reproductive healthcare and that every individual who becomes pregnant retains a fundamental right to either proceed with the pregnancy and childbirth or to seek an abortion, and to independently determine how to exercise this inherent right.

The Minnesota State House of Representatives passed HF1 on January 19, 2023 by a vote of 69 to 65. We have assigned pluses to the nays because states should do the opposite and act to ban abortion and guarantee the right to life for all persons. The right to life is the most fundamental, God-given, and unalienable right asserted in the Declaration of Independence and protected by the 5th and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

Marxist climate change agenda. Businesses should have the freedom to conduct business without the government meddling in their affairs.