

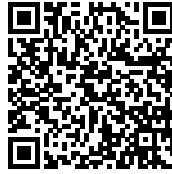


# Vernon Sykes

**Senate** District SD-028  
**Democrat**

Contact: (614) 466-7041

Senate Building 1 Capitol Square Ground Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215



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This legislator voted constitutionally on **0%** of the votes shown below.

★ Pro-liberty

✗ Anti-liberty

? Did not Vote

**Vote**

**1. HB68 Ban on Sex Mutilation of Children** (passed 24 to 8 on 12/13/2023). Would protect minor children from “gender reassignment” surgeries and “cross-sex hormone or puberty-blocking” drugs. **No** ✗

**2. SB75 Tax-Funded Joint Economic Development Districts** (passed 29 to 1 on 10/11/2023). Would create Joint Economic Development Districts (JEDD) comprised of multiple local governments with the power to extend and levy an income tax to promote “economic development or redevelopment,” “create or preserve jobs,” and “improve the economic welfare.” **Yes** ✗

**3. SR215 Opposing a 'Right to Abortion' in the Ohio Constitution** (adopted 23 to 7 on 10/11/2023). Urged citizens to vote against a statewide ballot initiative that proposed amending the Ohio Constitution by establishing an individual ‘right to abortion.’ **No** ✗

**4. SJR2 Supermajority Vote for State Constitutional Amendments** (adopted 26 to 7 on 5/10/2023). Proposed an amendment to the Ohio Constitution that would have required any future constitutional amendment to be approved by at least 60% of the voters. **No** ✗

**5. SB58 Prohibiting Firearms Liability Insurance Mandates** (passed 24 to 7 on 4/26/2023). Would prohibit firearm liability insurance requirements or fees in the State of Ohio. **No** ✗

**6. SB54 New African Immigrants Grant and Gift Fund** (passed 31 to 0 on 3/29/2023). Would form the New African Immigrants Grant and Gift Fund in the state treasury. **Yes** ✗



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

**Sen. Vernon Sykes**

**Lifetime Score: 0%**

**OH Scorecard 2023**

**2023 Regular Session Score 0%**

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 Ohio 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.



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### The Constitution

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



# Bill Descriptions for the Votes that Affect You

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## 1. Ban on Sex Mutilation of Children

HB68 would protect minor children from “gender reassignment” surgeries and “cross-sex hormone or puberty-blocking” drugs.

No person has a right to abuse a child using the pretext of LGBTQ+ ideology. Sex mutilation against minor children violates their unalienable right to life and limb, as it absurdly attempts to erase their biological characteristics with fictional “gender” constructs. According to the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, the States have a duty to protect the humanity of all people—male and female—who, as the Declaration of Independence affirms, are created by God and form the basis of individual and family self-government.

## 2. Tax-Funded Joint Economic Development Districts

SB75 would create Joint Economic Development Districts (JEDD) comprised of multiple local governments with the power to extend and levy an income tax to promote “economic development or redevelopment,” “create or preserve jobs,” and “improve the economic welfare.”

“Economic development” is simply a cliché or code word used to coerce taxpayers into subsidizing various types of crony, corporate-sponsored projects conceived outside the limited purpose and scope of government. Unsurprisingly, this bill is wholly dependent upon the income tax, which itself is an immoral, anti-constitutional act of government-imposed theft that takes from citizens the wages they have rightfully earned. Ohio ought not to disparage its citizens of their property rights or income. The U.S. Constitution’s Bill of Rights and 14th Amendment condemn undue deprivations of a person’s “property.”

## 3. Opposing a 'Right to Abortion' in the Ohio Constitution

SR215 urged citizens to vote against a statewide ballot initiative that proposed amending the Ohio Constitution by establishing an individual ‘right to abortion.’

The care of human life—not its destruction—is the greatest responsibility of government. Ohio ought to forbid the practice of abortion entirely and secure the right to life for every preborn child. The right to life is the most fundamental, God-given, and unalienable right asserted in the Declaration of Independence and protected by the Fifth and 14th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

## 4. Supermajority Vote for State Constitutional Amendments

SJR2 proposed an amendment to the Ohio Constitution that would have required any future constitutional amendment to be approved by at least 60% of the voters.

A supermajority of the electorate—not the current threshold of only more than 50 percent of voters—should be required to approve of any legitimate changes to the Ohio Constitution. While the American Founders believed that government derives its just powers from the consent of the governed, they understood that a simple majority is insufficient to protecting the individual rights and liberty of the people from the “dangers of democracy,” which threaten to result in a “tyranny of the majority” or an “elective despotism.” This explains why the U.S. Constitution, in Article IV, Section 4, explicitly guarantees to “every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government.” It provides that government be limited to the ‘rule of law,’ as opposed to mere ‘majority rule’ in a democracy.

## 5. Prohibiting Firearms Liability Insurance Mandates

SB58 would prohibit firearm liability insurance requirements or fees in the State of Ohio.

Not only are ‘no-fault’ government-imposed insurance mandates inherently unconstitutional, but requiring the purchase of “firearm liability insurance,” or the payment of a fee for the possession of a firearm, amounts to a direct violation of the U.S. Constitution’s Second Amendment, which guarantees that “the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” The Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment prevent “any State” from depriving or denying “any person” of their “life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.”

## 6. New African Immigrants Grant and Gift Fund

SB54 would form the New African Immigrants Grant and Gift Fund in the state treasury.

Neither the mission nor the duties of the New African Immigrants Commission are the legitimate objects of government. Ohio has no business authorizing a statutory mandate to “advocate for the self-sufficiency of sub-Saharan African people,” which only divides its residents on account of national origin or ethnicity. Instead of unconstitutionally and unethically engaging in identity politics by discriminatorily seeking to “apply for and accept grants and gifts” on behalf of sub-Saharan African migrants or refugees, the State should focus first and foremost on securing the basic constitutional rights of its citizens. The Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment were intended to promote the “general Welfare” of all Americans and demand that each state provide to every person within its jurisdiction the “equal protection of the laws.”