



# Donald Cook

House of Representatives District  
HD-049

Republican

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View Online

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

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

**1. HB950 Workers' Rights (Passed 102 to 99 on 5/3/2023).** No  
Amends the Pennsylvania Constitution to protect the right to organize and collectively bargain for wages, hours, working conditions, economic welfare and safety at work.

**2. HB714 Gun Background Checks (Passed 109 to 92 on 5/22/23).** No  
Removes the exemption for certain private gun sales from background check requirements.

**3. HB1500 Minimum Wage (Passed 103 to 100 on 6/20/23).** No  
Proposes a new minimum wage schedule.

**4. HB450 Government Grants (Passed 166 to 37 on 6/6/23).** Yes  
Aims to aid municipalities in revitalizing downtown commercial areas by supporting eligible applicants.

**5. HB664 WIC Advisory Board (Passed 155 to 48 on 6/12/23).** No  
Establishes a Women, Infants, and Children State Advisory Board to advise the Department of Health on the Pennsylvania Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

**6. HB1032 Solar for School Grant (Passed 134 to 69 on 6/29/23).** No  
Establishes the Solar for Schools Grant Program within the Department of Community and Economic Development.



## PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATIVE

# SCORECARD

BASED ON THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

**Rep. Donald Cook**

**PA Scorecard 2023**

**Lifetime Score: 92%**

**2023-2024 Regular Session Score 83%**

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

This is our third 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

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# Bill Descriptions for the Votes that Affect You

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## 1. Workers' Rights

HB950 proposes to amend Article 1 of the Pennsylvania Constitution to add a new Section 30, entitled Worker's Rights. The new section would protect the right to organize and collectively bargain for wages, hours, working conditions, economic welfare and safety at work. It would provide that no law shall be passed that interferes with, negates or diminishes these rights of employees.

The Pennsylvania State House of Representatives passed HB950 on May 3, 2023 by a vote of 102 to 99. We have assigned pluses to the nays because collective bargaining interferes with individual liberties, and compelling individuals to negotiate collectively infringes upon their right to freely associate or negotiate on an individual basis.

## 2. Gun Background Checks

HB714 removes the exemption for certain private gun sales from background check requirements. Currently, only specific firearms are subject to private sale background checks. The bill seeks to extend these checks to all private firearm sales, aligning them with the requirements for licensed firearm dealers.

The Pennsylvania State House of Representatives passed HB714 on May 22, 2023 by a vote of 109 to 92. We have assigned pluses to the nays because background checks, as a general requirement for firearm purchases, are a significant infringement on our Constitutional rights, particularly the Second Amendment, which states, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." Background checks are a violation of that right.

## 3. Minimum Wage

HB1500 proposes a new minimum wage schedule, setting rates as follows: \$11.00/hour on January 1, 2024; \$13.00/hour on January 1, 2025; and \$15.00/hour on January 1, 2026. From January 1, 2027, onwards, the minimum wage would adjust annually based on the CPI-U for the Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland area, rounded to the nearest 5 cents.

The Pennsylvania State House of Representatives passed HB1500 on June 20, 2023 by a vote of 103 to 100. We have assigned pluses to the nays because setting a minimum wage goes beyond the government's constitutional role. Minimum wages distort the free market and interfere with the principles of

## 4. Government Grants

HB450 aims to aid municipalities in revitalizing downtown commercial areas by supporting eligible applicants like local governments, nonprofit organizations, and business improvement districts. The bill permits various activities, including main street designation, planning grants, façade improvement grants, operational grants, anchor building grants, downtown reinvestment grants, and regional main street coordination designation.

The Pennsylvania State House of Representatives passed HB450 on June 6, 2023 by a vote of 166 to 47. We have assigned pluses to the nays because the government should not issue grants for multiple reasons, including the fact that government grants involve picking winners and losers, and they expand the size of government. Government grants interfere in commerce when they should let the free market work.

## 5. WIC Advisory Board

HB664 establishes a Women, Infants, and Children State Advisory Board to advise the Department of Health on the Pennsylvania Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, also known as the WIC program. This board is to advise the Department of Health on ways to increase enrollment and participation in the WIC program.

The Pennsylvania State House of Representatives passed HB664 on June 12, 2023 by a vote of 155 to 48. We have assigned pluses to the nays because the USDA's WIC program is unconstitutional, and this bill works to expand its enrollment. WIC selectively benefits specific members of society, effectively picking winners and losers. The U.S. Constitution does not authorize social welfare programs and states should not be buying into it.

## 6. Solar for Schools Grant

HB1032 establishes the Solar for Schools Grant Program within the Department of Community and Economic Development. This program offers competitive grants to eligible entities, including various educational institutions, for expenses related to solar energy projects for school facilities.

The Pennsylvania State House of Representatives passed HB1032 on June 29, 2023 by a vote of 134 to 69. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this narrative aligns with the UN's Agenda 2030 and the liberal-Marxist climate change agenda. This legislation increases government interference in the market by utilizing taxpayer money to expand government, creating a taxpayer-funded grant program where bureaucrats will choose winners and losers.

supply and demand in a free-market capitalist country.