



Philip Cortez

House of Representatives District HD-117

Democrat

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

CPH: Estimated cost per household.

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

1. HB2837 Firearm Merchant Codes (Passed 89 to 56 on 5/3/2023). Prohibits a person or entity from surveilling, reporting, or tracking the purchase of firearms, ammunition, and accessories through the use of certain credit card merchant category codes. **No** ✗

2. DEI Ban (Passed 83 to 60 on 5/19/2023). Bans diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives at colleges and public institutions of higher education. **No** ✗

3. SB1070 ERIC Withdrawal (Passed 85 to 61 on 5/23/2023). Withdraws Texas from Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC). **No** ✗

4. HB4217 Eminent Domain (Passed 125 to 11 on 5/11/2023). Allows public utility agencies in some counties, through condemnation, to acquire land, easements, and property within its service area for the agency's use and benefit. **Yes** ✗

5. HB1058 Subsidized Housing (Passed 122 to 15 on 5/25/2023). Enacts an insurance premium tax credit for certain housing developments. **Yes** ✗

6. HB4363 Future Texas Teacher Scholarship (Passed 119 to 19 on 5/25/2023). Establishes the Future Texas Teachers Scholarship Program for certain students at public institutions of higher education. **Yes** ✗



TEXAS LEGISLATIVE **SCORECARD** BASED ON THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

Rep. Philip Cortez
Lifetime Score: **11%**

TX 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 Texas 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

1. Firearm Merchant Codes

HB2837 prohibits a person or entity from surveilling, reporting, or tracking the purchase of firearms, ammunition, and accessories through the use of certain credit card merchant category codes.

The Texas State House of Representatives passed HB2837 on May 3, 2023 by a vote of 89 to 56. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because the workaround by credit card companies to track ammunition and firearm purchases violates several constitutionally-protected rights, including the First, Second, and Fourth Amendments. This is a large invasion of privacy, opens the door for illegal searches, and potentially deters people from making firearm purchases.

2. DEI Ban

SB17 bans diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives at colleges and public institutions of higher education.

The Texas State House of Representatives passed SB17 on May 19, 2023 by a vote of 83 to 60. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because the goal of DEI is to pit Americans against each other. Reverse racism is still racism. Instead of pushing for equality, which is what the Constitution stands for, DEI programs in school push for equity, which is rooted in communism and is part of the Marxist agenda.

3. ERIC Withdrawal

SB1070 withdraws Texas from Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).

The Texas State House of Representatives passed SB1070 on May 23, 2023 by a vote of 85 to 61. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because ERIC is a George Soros-funded program that states have no business being involved with. ERIC collects private election data handed over by the states and is not transparent in how it manages that data. Instead of cleaning up the voter rolls, they inflate voter rolls significantly via private voter data.

4. Eminent Domain

HB4217 allows public utility agencies in some counties, through condemnation, to acquire land, easements, and property within its service area for the agency's use and benefit for various purposes, including water supply, sanitary sewer, storm drainage, flood control, and other projects or objectives pursued by the agency.

The Texas State House of Representatives passed HB4217 on May 11, 2023 by a vote of 125 to 11. We have assigned pluses to the nays because the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution states, "nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation." The government cannot constitutionally take property from someone and trust that the government will compensate properly.

5. Subsidized Housing

HB1058 enacts an insurance premium tax credit for certain housing developments. The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) would grant credits to eligible developments according to department-set criteria. The credits for a development must not surpass the total federal tax credit received by the development's owner over ten years. The annual credit limit is \$25 million, including unallocated prior-year credits and any recaptured or returned credits.

The Texas State House of Representatives passed HB1058 on May 25, 2023 by a vote of 122 to 15. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this is government interfering in the free market, and this government subsidized housing benefits only a specific part of the population. This is also another step towards socialism as subsidized housing is a misuse of taxpayer dollars.

6. Future Texas Teacher Scholarship

HB4363 establishes the Future Texas Teachers Scholarship Program for certain students at public institutions of higher education.

The Texas State House of Representatives passed HB4363 on May 25, 2023 by a vote of 119 to 19. We have assigned pluses to the nays because taxpayers should not be on the hook for funding an individual's education or providing scholarships. Government should not interfere in personal matters such as education, and allocating funds based on certain criteria infringes upon personal freedom and violates the 14th Amendment.