

UT Scorecard 2023

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 Utah State Legislature 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.



Daniel W. Thatcher

Senate District SD-011

Republican

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This legislator did not cast a sufficient number of votes to score this report.

★ Pro-liberty

✗ Anti-liberty

? Did not Vote

Vote

1. HB219 Federal Firearm Enforcement Limitation Act (passed 20 to 6 on 3/3/2023). Prohibits state and local agencies from “implementing, enforcing, assisting, or cooperating in the enforcement of a federal regulation on firearms, firearm accessories, or ammunition.”

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2. SB258 State-Sponsored Preschool for All (passed 26 to 0 on 3/3/2023). Expands the Utah Preparing Students Today for a Rewarding Tomorrow (UPSTART) program participation to all preschool children and residential certificate preschool providers.

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3. HB467 Closing Abortion Clinics (passed 22 to 6 on 3/2/2023). Prevents an abortion clinic from being licensed after May 2, 2023, and from operating on or after January 1, 2024, or when their license expires.

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4. SB217 CHIP "Benefits" for Illegal Aliens (passed 25 to 3 on 3/2/2023). Creates new Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) “benefits” for non-citizen children aged 18 or younger who are not lawfully present in United States.

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5. SB291 Prohibiting Instant Run-Off Voting in Municipal General Elections (failed 12 to 13 on 2/28/2023). Would bar the use of instant run-off voting in municipal general elections.

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6. SB16 Ban on Sex Mutilation Against Minors (passed 20 to 8 on 1/27/2023). Bans “transgender medical treatments and procedures” against minor children.

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UT Scorecard 2023

1. Federal Firearm Enforcement Limitation Act

HB219, the “Federal Firearm Enforcement Limitation Act,” prohibits state and local agencies from “implementing, enforcing, assisting, or cooperating in the enforcement of a federal regulation on firearms, firearm accessories, or ammunition.”

Despite containing significant exceptions or loopholes, this bill declares that the state will not enforce certain federal firearms regulations, while recognizing its commitment to securing “the right of individual Utah citizens to keep and bear arms” from “unconstitutional government interference.” Whenever the federal government assumes power to impose firearms restrictions in blatant violation of the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment, nullification of such acts by the several States is the proper remedy.

2. State-Sponsored Preschool for All

SB258 expands the Utah Preparing Students Today for a Rewarding Tomorrow (UPSTART) program participation to all preschool children and residential certificate preschool providers.

This bill threatens educational freedom by attempting to displace traditional private and home education options in favor of a state-sponsored, universal preschool program. By means of curriculum controls and dependency on taxpayer funds, UPSTART effectively turns all participating preschools into government preschools. Moreover, education is not the role of government; a child's education is the responsibility of—and a fundamental right of choice retained by—his or her parents. Forcing the citizens of Utah to hand over more of their hard-earned tax dollars to further support a compulsory, government-run, and failing K-12 school system violates their individual liberties guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

3. Closing Abortion Clinics

HB467 prevents an abortion clinic from being licensed after May 2, 2023, and from operating on or after January 1, 2024, or when their license expires.

The care of human life—not its destruction—is the greatest responsibility of government. Utah 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. CHIP "Benefits" for Illegal Aliens

SB217 creates new Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) “benefits” for non-citizen children aged 18 or younger who are not lawfully present in United States.

Persons who enter the United States illegally—which, by definition, is a crime—ought not to be permitted sanctuary or residency in Utah, let alone be considered eligible for CHIP “benefits.” Besides, neither health care nor social welfare is the legitimate object of government. CHIP, like Medicaid and other so-called federal and state-level ‘entitlement’ programs, relies on the unjust use and taxation of the American citizen’s income, a violation of not only Article 1, Section 8, of the U.S. Constitution, but the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment.

5. Prohibiting Instant Run-Off Voting in Municipal General Elections

SB291 would bar the use of instant run-off voting in municipal general elections.

The Municipal Alternate Voting Methods Pilot Project, which enacted instant-runoff voting (IRV) or ranked-choice voting (RCV) in Utah, should be repealed. The various “alternative voting methods” under the IRV/RCV model are complicated, multiple-round, and unconstitutional processes that weaken election integrity by allowing a candidate to potentially win without genuine support from a plurality of voters. These schemes’ ballot casting requirements cause voter disenfranchisement by undermining each citizen’s right to vote, and could deny them from being able to select the one and only candidate of their choice.

6. Ban on Sex Mutilation Against Minors

SB16 bans “transgender medical treatments and procedures” against minor children.

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.