



# Steve Tharinger

House of Representatives District  
HD-024B

Democrat

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View Online

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

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

**1. HB2384 Traffic Cameras (Passed 55 to 38 on 3/5/2024).** **Yes**  
Expands automated traffic camera use for violations such as speeding and red-light running. Key changes include permanent authorization for large cities, speed enforcement in work zones, and reduced fines for low-income violators. **✗**

**2. SB6058 Foreign Carbon Market (Passed 57 to 39 on 2/29/2024).** **Yes**  
Links Washington's carbon market with California and Quebec, expanding the cap-and-invest program to reduce emissions, regulate compliance, and stabilize allowance costs. **✗**

**3. SB2646 2nd Amendment and Mental Health (Passed 84 to 11 on 2/27/2024).** **Yes**  
Strengthens firearm bans for individuals with mental health issues. **✗**

**4. SB6095 Secretary of Health (Passed 59 to 37 on 2/27/2024).** **Yes**  
Grants the secretary of health and his designees the authority to issue standing orders or prescriptions for medications, vaccines, and medical devices to address public-health threats, such as diseases or emergencies. **✗**

**5. HB2368 Assisting Illegal Migrants (Passed 61 to 35 on 2/13/2024).** **Yes**  
Directs the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to support refugees and immigrants in Washington by managing the Refugee Resettlement Plan, offering services such as cash, medical assistance, employment help, and English instruction. **✗**

**6. HB1541 Diversity Mandate (Passed 83 to 14 on 2/6/2024).** **Yes**  
Requires new state entities to include three members from "underrepresented populations," report on diversity and impacts, and undergo annual Office of Equity reviews to enhance "inclusivity" and "reduce barriers." **✗**



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

**Rep. Steve Tharinger**

**Lifetime Score: 0%**

**WA Scorecard 2024**

**2023-2024 Regular Session Score**

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 Washington Legislature in 2024 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. Traffic Cameras

HB2384 expands automated traffic camera use for violations such as speeding and red-light running. Changes include authorization for large cities, speed enforcement in work zones, and reduced fines for low-income violators.

The Washington State House of Representatives passed HB2384 on March 5, 2024 by a vote of 55 to 38. We have assigned pluses to the nays because traffic cameras undermine due process by removing human interaction and presuming guilt before innocence—principles protected by the U.S. Constitution. These cameras infringe upon the Fourth Amendment, which protects individuals from unreasonable searches and seizures, and unfairly grant leniency to some while denying it to others.

## 2. Foreign Carbon Market

SB6058 enables linking Washington's carbon market with California and Quebec, expanding the state's cap-and-invest program, which requires industries to cut emissions or buy allowances.

The Washington State House of Representatives passed SB6058 on February 29, 2024 by a vote of 57 to 39. We have assigned pluses to the nays because linking Washington's carbon market with California and Quebec expands the state's cap-and-invest program, increasing government regulations that infringe on state and national sovereignty. This bill uses taxpayer funds to embrace the United Nations' Agenda 2030, which is unconstitutional and prioritizes international agendas over U.S. sovereignty, further entrenching government intervention in the private sector.

## 3. 2nd Amendment and Mental Health

SB2646 strengthens firearm bans for individuals with mental health issues, requiring courts to prohibit possession and mandate surrender for those with dismissed felony charges due to incompetency or violent mental-health histories. Prohibition orders must be reported to authorities, and firearm rights cannot be restored under active-risk or surrender orders.

The Washington State House of Representatives passed SB2646 on February 27, 2024 by a vote of 84 to 11. We have assigned pluses to the nays because the fundamental right of the American people to keep and bear arms is protected by the U.S. Constitution, particularly in the 2nd, 9th, and 10th Amendments, and should not be infringed.

## 4. Secretary of Health

SB6095 grants the secretary of health and his designees the authority to issue standing orders or prescriptions for medications, vaccines, and medical devices to address public-health threats, such as diseases or emergencies.

The Washington State House of Representatives passed SB6095 on February 27, 2024 by a vote of 59 to 37. We have assigned pluses to the nays because granting broad authority to the unelected secretary of health violates a republican form of government as required under Article IV, Section 4, of the U.S. Constitution. Personal healthcare decisions should remain free from government control, as forcing medical procedures or vaccinations infringes on God-given rights protected by the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment.

## 5. Assisting Illegal Migrants

HB2368 directs the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to support refugees and immigrants in Washington by managing the Refugee Resettlement Plan, offering services such as cash, medical assistance, employment help, and English instruction. It also enables DSHS to assist migrants ineligible for federal programs through community organization contracts and "equitable" funding.

The Washington State House of Representatives passed HB2368 on February 13, 2024 by a vote of 61 to 35. We have assigned pluses to the nays because individuals who enter the United States illegally should not be granted sanctuary or residency in Washington, nor should they be eligible for state benefits funded by taxpayers. Furthermore, medical assistance and social welfare are not legitimate government functions.

## 6. Diversity Mandate

HB1541 requires new state entities to include at least three members from underrepresented populations with relevant "lived experience." "Underrepresented populations" are defined as those facing "barriers" like "socioeconomic challenges." Entities must report on diversity, participation impacts, and stipends, with the Office of Equity reviewing these reports annually to recommend ways to improve "inclusivity" and "reduce barriers."

The Washington State House of Representatives passed HB1541 on February 6, 2024 by a vote of 83 to 14. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this legislation essentially forbids agencies from picking the best candidates available for positions while pitting Americans against each other. The Declaration of Independence states, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." We must resist government actions that seek to divide us.