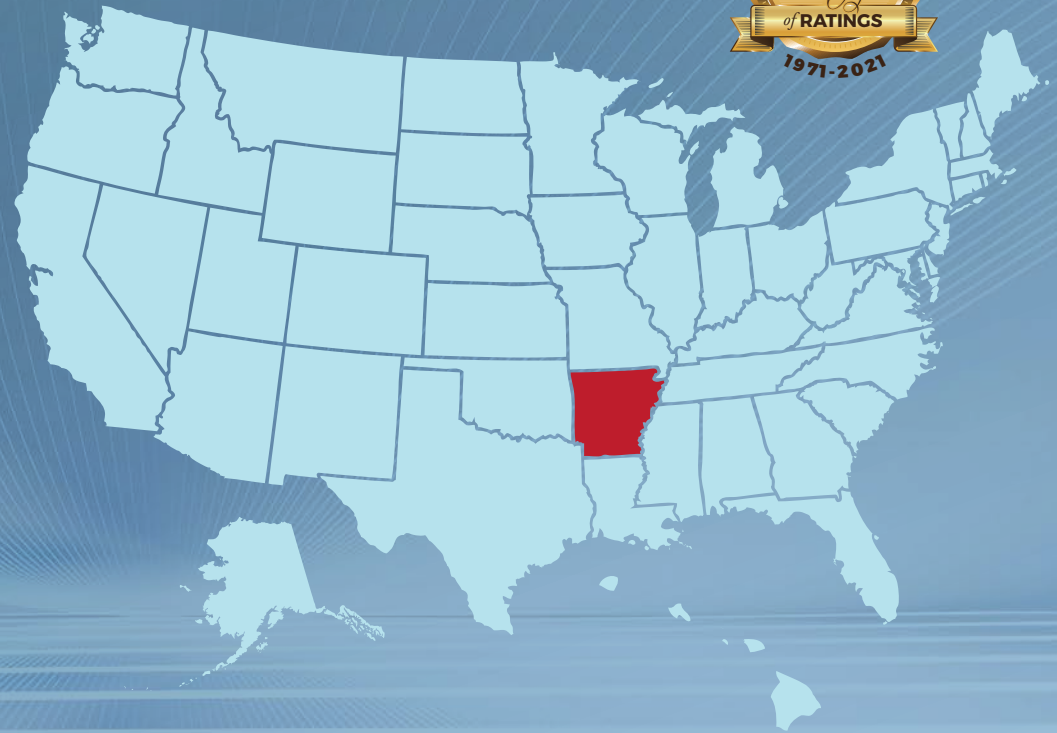




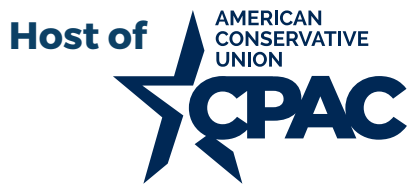
AMERICAN CONSERVATIVE
UNION FOUNDATION
**CENTER FOR
LEGISLATIVE
ACCOUNTABILITY**



RATINGS of ARKANSAS 2020



The nation's gold standard to hold nearly 8,000 lawmakers accountable for their voting records.



 conservative.org/ratings

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The American Conservative Union Foundation's Center for Legislative Accountability is proud to present our *Ratings of Arkansas* for 2020. Like our *Ratings of Congress*, ACU Foundation's *Ratings of the States* are meant to reflect how elected officials view the role of government in an individual's life. We begin with our philosophy (conservatism is the political philosophy that sovereignty resides in the person) and then apply the proper role of government (its essential role is to defend Life, Liberty and Property).

The Left has stormed our nation's corridors of power to take control over the lives of every American. Now, they have set their sights on the states, freedom's last line of defense.

President Lincoln once said, "America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves." The Left's agenda dismantles the vision of our founders when they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

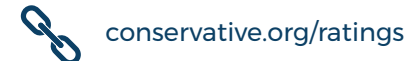
We hope these Ratings will empower each and every American to hold their officials accountable and to rally behind the conservative champions who defend our freedoms in statehouses around the country.



Matt Schlapp
Chairman
American Conservative Union Foundation



AMERICAN CONSERVATIVE
UNION FOUNDATION
**CENTER FOR
LEGISLATIVE
ACCOUNTABILITY**





ABOUT THE CENTER FOR LEGISLATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY

The Center for Legislative Accountability (CLA), an initiative of the American Conservative Union Foundation (ACUF), is the premier organization for holding lawmakers accountable. The CLA produces the longest-running conservative congressional scorecard and our state program is the only one in the nation that scores all 8,000 lawmakers in the 50 states across every policy area. In addition to ACUF's Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC), the largest gathering of conservatives in the world, the CLA develops conservative policy solutions and educates everyday citizens and activists on the proper role of government. In 1971, ACUF launched its *Ratings of Congress* to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the voting records of every Member of Congress.

The Ratings quickly became considered the "gold standard" and over the following decades have been utilized by activists, voters, academics and elected officials to determine which lawmakers best adhere to conservative principles. In 2011, these Ratings were expanded into state legislatures as part of a five-state pilot program. By 2015, *Ratings of the States* grew to include all 50 states and all 99 legislative chambers.

Today, the CLA annually analyzes over 105,000 pieces of legislation to issue scores for all of America's federal and state lawmakers and presents awards to lawmakers who score 80% or better in recognition of their conservative voting records.

ACUF

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Chairman

Randy Neugebauer
Treasurer

Adam Laxalt
Secretary

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Executive Director

Board Members

Veronica Birkenstock

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Dr. M. Zuhdi Jasser

KT McFarland

Jim McLaughlin

Priscilla
O'Shaughnessy

Ron Robinson

Mike Rose

Tim Ryan

Peter Samuelson

Terry Schilling

Matt Smith

Bill Walton

Thomas Winter



METHODOLOGY

The CLA's Ratings of Congress and the States illustrate how elected officials view the role of government in an individual's life. When determining a position on a particular issue, the CLA begins by defining conservatism: the political philosophy that sovereignty resides in the person. Then, we apply the founders' belief that the proper role of government is to protect Life, Liberty and Property.

In order to depict how closely a lawmaker adheres to conservative principles, the CLA selects from the full spectrum of issues relating to the economy, culture, national security and government integrity. Some key areas include taxation, spending, education, labor, licensure, regulation, environment, life, free speech, Second Amendment rights, foreign aid, defense priorities and global organizations, including the United Nations. All congressional and state analyses are conducted after the adjournment of a legislative session to ensure that no issue is neglected.

Each lawmaker is evaluated on a zero to 100 scale, with a score of 100 representing a voting record that is perfectly aligned with conservative principles. Officials who earn a score of 90% or higher are presented with the CLA's highest honor, the Award for Conservative Excellence, while those who earn a score of 80% or higher, but less than 90%, are presented with the Award for Conservative Achievement. Additionally, any lawmaker who earns a score of 10% or lower qualifies for the ACUF's Coalition of the Radical Left.

ANNUAL METRICS


ANALYZE
105,000
BILLS


SELECT
2,000
BILLS


RATE
8,000
ELECTED
OFFICIALS

To determine legislative rankings, the CLA annually evaluates over 105,000 bills that were introduced in Congress and every convening state legislature running from January 1 to December 31. Of those bills, the CLA ultimately selects roughly 2,000 pieces of legislation that best illustrate how elected officials view the role of government in an individual's life. The CLA calculates individual scores for a total of nearly 8,000 federal and state lawmakers based on over 157,000 votes cast on the 2,000 bills selected. The CLA provides a score for each legislative chamber, which is based upon the average scores of all members within that respective chamber. A legislature's overall score is calculated by averaging each state's two legislative chambers together in order to better reflect the differences in political power between the chambers. (The exception being Nebraska, the nation's only unicameral legislature comprising a single legislative chamber, on which the state's overall score is based.)



AMERICAN CONSERVATIVE
 UNION FOUNDATION
**CENTER FOR
 LEGISLATIVE
 ACCOUNTABILITY**

Fred McGrath
Director

Luke Schneider
Deputy Director

Francis Finnegan
Data Manager

Thomas Bradbury
Policy Analyst

Zoe Reese
Operations Associate

Larry Hart
Senior Policy Fellow

Danielle Moore
Policy Fellow

Mariela Muro
Policy Fellow



2020 WINNERS & LOSERS

90-100% AWARD FOR CONSERVATIVE EXCELLENCE

No change since last year*

SENATE

BALLINGER, BOB

GARNER, TRENT

1 since last year*

HOUSE

DOTSON, JIM

GONZALES, JUSTIN

McCOLLUM, AUSTIN

≤ 10% COALITION OF THE RADICAL LEFT

No change since last year*

SENATE

n/a

No change since last year*

HOUSE

n/a

80-89% AWARD FOR CONSERVATIVE ACHIEVEMENT

No change since last year*

SENATE

CALDWELL, RONALD

JOHNSON, MARK

DAVIS, BREANNE

RICE, TERRY

FLIPPO, SCOTT

STUBBLEFIELD, GARY

HILL, RICKY

8 since last year*

HOUSE

BECK, RICK

GATES, MICKEY

MILLER, JOSH

SULLIVAN, DAN

BENTLEY, MARY

HODGES, GRANT

PETTY, REBECCA

TOSH, DWIGHT

BERRY, STAN

JEAN, LANE

PILKINGTON, AARON

WARREN, LES

CAPP, SARAH

LADYMAN, JACK

RICHMOND, MARCUS

CAVENAUGH, FRANCES

LOWERY, MARK

SMITH, BRANDT

EAVES, LES

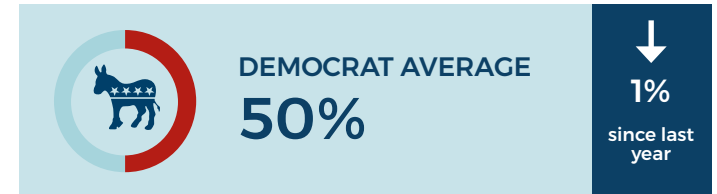
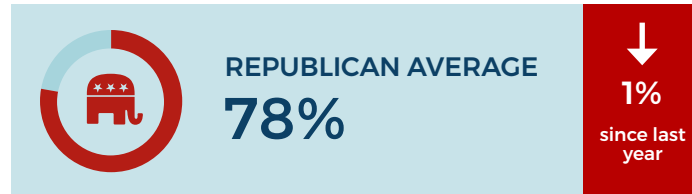
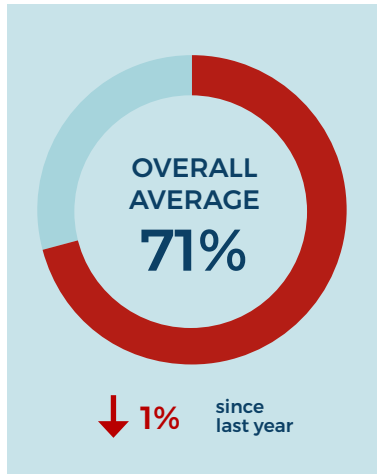
LUNDSTRUM, ROBIN

SORVILLO, JAMES

*Compared to number of qualifying lawmakers in the previous session
 Republicans in ALL CAPS, Democrats in initial caps, asterisk indicates Independents/Libertarians/other



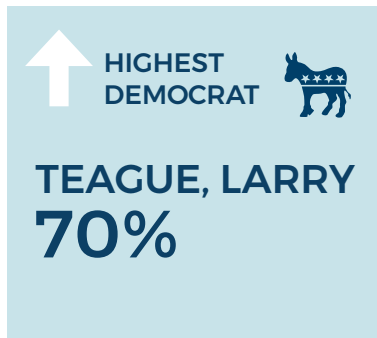
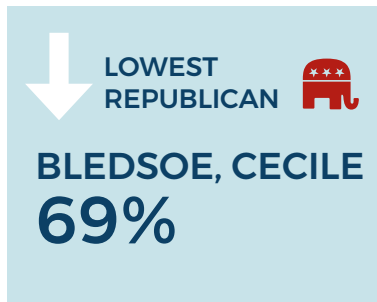
ARKANSAS SENATE STATISTICS



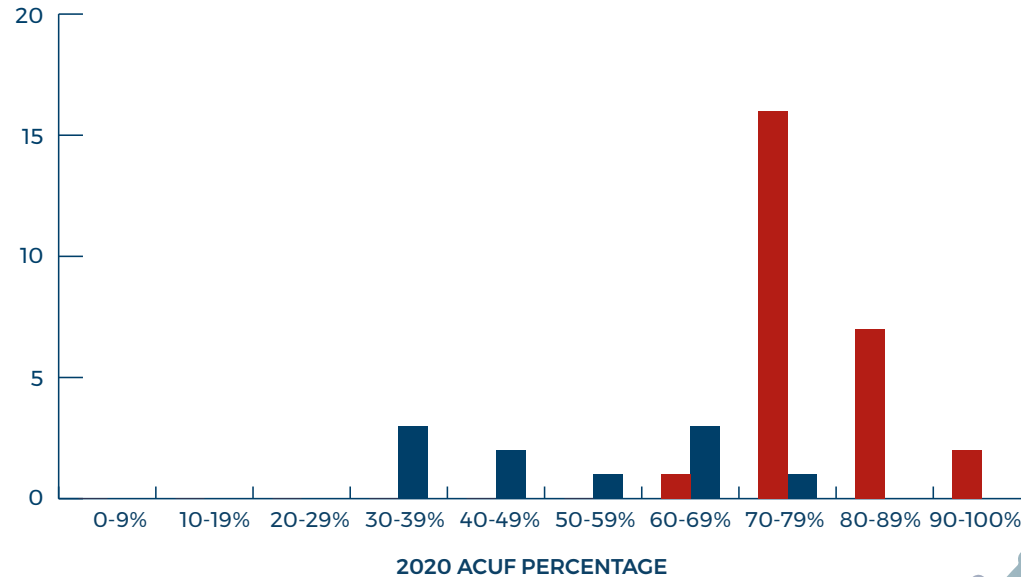
ARKANSAS SENATE CONSERVATIVE RATINGS

RED = REPUBLICANS
26 TOTAL IN SENATE

BLUE = DEMOCRATS
9 TOTAL IN SENATE



OF STATE SENATORS



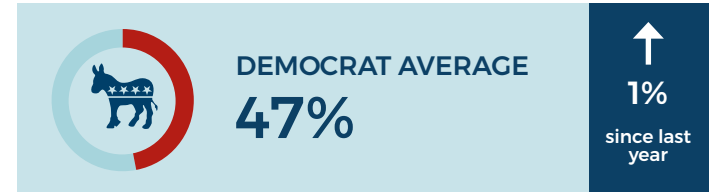
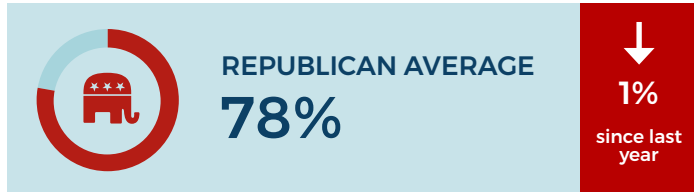
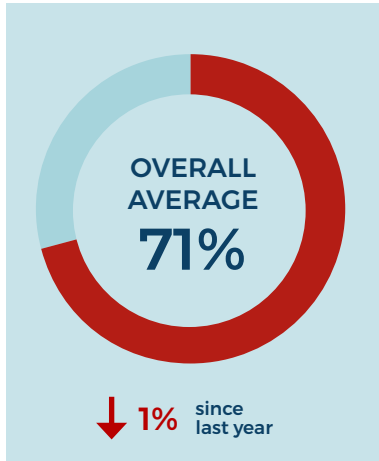


ARKANSAS SENATE VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

- 1. SB 2 (Special Session) Strengthening Legislative Oversight of a New COVID-19 Rainy Day Fund.** The Hickey (ACUF Lifetime 72%) amendment (S1) to the COVID-19 relief bill would help ensure that the legislature may exercise responsible oversight of funds appropriated to combat the Chinese coronavirus. Under the amendment, moneys within the newly created COVID-19 Rainy Day Fund may only be released and used upon a majority vote of the Review Subcommittee of the Joint Budget Committee (when the legislature is in session). When the legislature is out of session, a majority vote of the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review Subcommittee of the Legislative Council would be required. These requirements would be an improvement on the existing bill, which requires a vote of merely two lawmakers in political leadership from both the Senate and House. ACU supports strengthening fiscal responsibility by ensuring that the legislative branch maintains the "power of the purse" through oversight of the budget and supported this amendment. The Senate defeated the amendment on March 26, 2020 by a vote of 13-17.
 - 2. SB 2 (Special Session) Strengthening Financial Preparedness by Dedicating Surplus Revenues to a New COVID-19 Rainy Day Fund.** This bill strengthens the ability of government to responsibly and effectively manage the state's response to the economic downturn brought on by the Chinese coronavirus (COVID-19) by creating the COVID-19 Rainy Day Fund (the fund). Under the bill, \$173.6 million in surplus tax revenue is transferred to the fund as opposed to being wasted on other unnecessary government initiatives. The bill directs the money to be used to provide funding for General Assembly appropriations (such as funding state agencies) and to offset general revenue reductions as a result of the outbreak. The bill permits the fund to exist only if the legislature maintains discretion over every release of the funds. ACU recognizes the creation of this rainy day fund corresponds with Governor Hutchinson's \$353.1 million in cuts to the budget for the anticipated loss in tax revenues through the end of fiscal year 2020. ACU supports safeguarding scarce taxpayer resources during times of economic downturn, supports this measure as an alternative to funding government activities that are not vital during the economic downturn and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 27, 2020 by a vote of 35-0 and the bill was signed into law.
 - 3. SR 4 Raising Income Taxes by Delaying Scheduled Cuts.** This resolution would permit Rep. Love (ACUF Lifetime 20%) to interrupt the fiscal session to introduce a non-appropriations bill that would effectively raise income taxes. Under the proposal, the tax cuts passed into law under SB 211 of 2019 (which ACUF scored) would each be delayed by two years. As a result, taxpayers in the state's top bracket would pay the 6.9% rate until 2022 and 6.6% until 2023, rather than the scheduled 6.6% starting in 2020 and 5.9% in 2021. ACU recognizes that the tax cuts under SB 211 were passed after two consecutive sessions of tax cuts for middle- and lower-income taxpayers which have saved them roughly \$150 million annually. ACU believes it is absurd to raise taxes during an economic downturn, believes that tax increases should be a measure of last resort and opposed this resolution. The Senate defeated the resolution on April 8, 2020 by a vote of 5-27.
 - 4. SB 20 Expanding Cronyism by Increasing Funding for Corporate Welfare Spending.** This bill expands cronyism by awarding millions of dollars in taxpayer funds to select businesses favored by government. Included in the massive appropriation bill are hundreds of millions of dollars in handouts to select companies which move to or expand operations in Arkansas and maintain employment objectives directed by government. In contrast, a mere fraction of the bill's appropriation funds vital infrastructure needs like water treatment, telecommunications and sewer systems. ACU supports a broadly applied tax code with the lowest possible rates for everyone. ACU opposes cronyism, believes scarce taxpayer resources should be used to carry out the essential roles of government rather than handed out to select businesses favored by government and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 15, 2020 by a vote of 29-4 and the bill was signed into law.
-



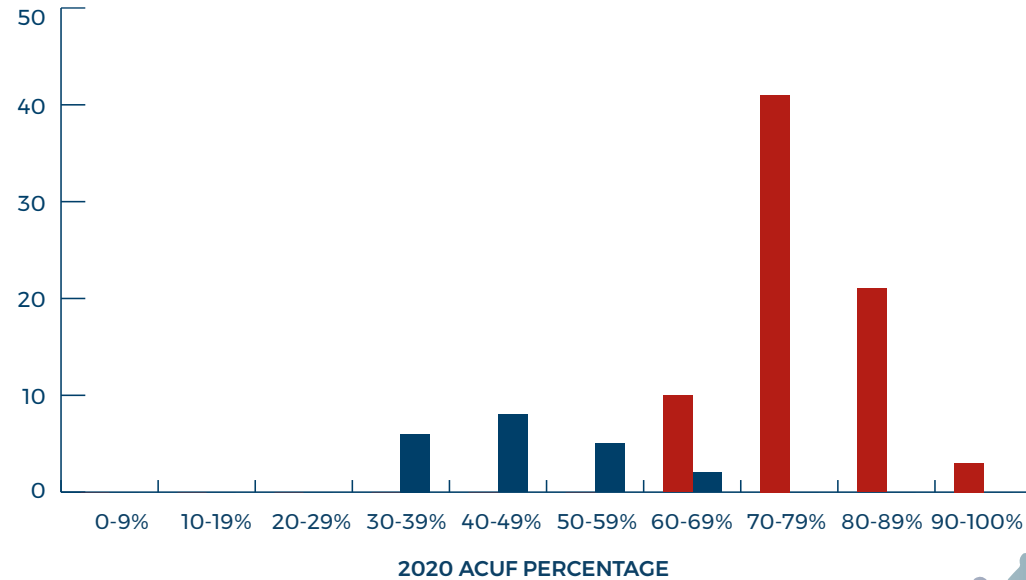
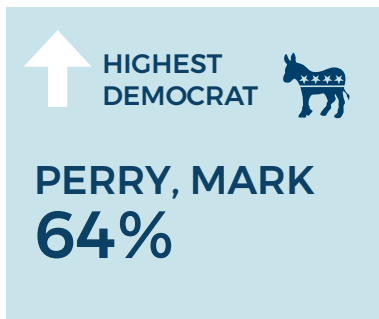
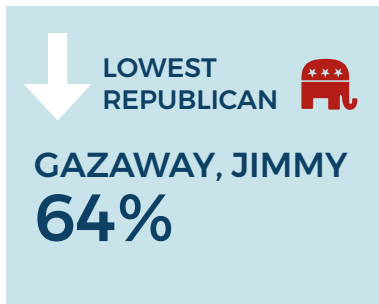
ARKANSAS HOUSE STATISTICS



ARKANSAS HOUSE CONSERVATIVE RATINGS

RED = REPUBLICANS
77 TOTAL IN HOUSE

BLUE = DEMOCRATS
26 TOTAL IN HOUSE





ARKANSAS HOUSE VOTE DETAIL

	Party	Dist.	2020 %	2018 %	LIFETIME AVG	2020 Votes		2019 Votes																																														
						+	-	SB 2 (Special Session)	SB 20	HB 1036	HB 1321	SB 149	SB 156	SB 211	SB 181	HB 1413	SB 170	HB 1419	HJR 1018	HB 1407	SB 298	HB 1251	SB 308	HB 1439	HB 1590	HB 1751	HB 1523	HB 1565	HB 1309	HB 1568	HB 1775	SB 2	HB 1820	HB 1850	HB 1508	SB 492	HB 1752	HB 1753	SB 99	SB 278	SB 541	HB 1928	SB 576	HB 1435	SB 602	SB 411								
Magie, Stephen	D	72	57%	37%	34%	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	X	X	X	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-		
MAYBERRY, JULIE	R	27	77%	72%	71%	+	-	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	+	X	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	X	X	X	-	+	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	X	-	-	+	+	+	+	
McCOLLUM, AUSTIN	R	95	97%	88%	92%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
McCullough, Tippi	D	33	32%	n/a	32%	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	X	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
McGREW, RICHARD	R	22	n/a†	n/a	n/a	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
McKENZIE, GAYLA	R	92	68%	n/a	68%	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	X	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+			
McNAIR, RON	R	98	73%	59%	68%	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	+	X	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	X	X	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
MEEKS, STEPHEN	R	67	76%	69%	82%	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	+	X	+	+	+	+	X	-	+	+	-	-	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
MILLER, JOSH	R	66	81%	85%	86%	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		
Murdock, Reginald	D	48	n/a†	n/a	10%	+	-	-	+	-	X	-	+	+	+	X	-	-	-	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Nicks, Milton	D	50	57%	28%	39%	+	-	-	+	-	X	+	+	+	X	+	+	-	-	+	X	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
PAYTON, JOHN	R	64	79%	78%	85%	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
PENZO, CLINT	R	88	78%	68%	73%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Perry, Mark	D	42	64%	n/a	32%	+	-	X	+	X	X	+	+	+	+	+	X	-	-	+	+	+	X	-	+	+	-	X	-	X	+	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
PETTY, REBECCA	R	94	84%	70%	78%	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
PILKINGTON, AARON	R	69	89%	88%	88%	+	-	+	+	X	X	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Richardson, Jay	D	78	47%	n/a	47%	+	-	-	+	X	X	X	X	+	+	-	-	X	+	+	+	+	X	-	+	+	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Richey, Chris	D	12	57%	21%	32%	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	X	X	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
RICHMOND, MARCUS	R	21	83%	86%	84%	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	+	+	-	X	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
RUSHING, LAURIE	R	26	71%	76%	72%	+	-	+	X	+	+	X	X	+	+	X	X	-	+	+	+	+	-	X	X	X	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
RYE, JOHNNY	R	54	79%	62%	70%	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Scott, Jamie	D	37	41%	n/a	41%	+	-	-	+	-	X	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	X	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
SHEPHERD, MATTHEW	R	6	n/a†	74%	70%	+	-	X	X	+	X	+	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

+ = Member voted with ACU's position † = Legislator did not vote on enough of the selected bills and as a result did not receive a rating for the 2020 session. Two-thirds of the selected bills must be voted on to receive a score.
 - = Member voted against ACU's position R = Republican D = Democrat I = Independent
 x = Member was absent for vote

NOTE: To view details of the 2019 bills, see [ACUF's 2019 Ratings of Arkansas](#). Because Arkansas conducts special sessions in alternating years when fewer bills are considered, ACUF assesses the votes cast in the regular session and the special session together in order to calculate legislators' scores.



ARKANSAS HOUSE VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

- 1. SB 2 (Special Session) Strengthening Financial Preparedness by Dedicating Surplus Revenues to a New COVID-19 Rainy Day Fund.** This bill strengthens the ability of government to responsibly and effectively manage the state's response to the economic downturn brought on by the Chinese coronavirus (COVID-19) by creating the COVID-19 Rainy Day Fund (the fund). Under the bill, \$173.6 million in surplus tax revenue is transferred to the fund as opposed to being wasted on other unnecessary government initiatives. The bill directs the money to be used to provide funding for General Assembly appropriations (such as funding state agencies) and to offset general revenue reductions as a result of the outbreak. The bill permits the fund to exist only if the legislature maintains discretion over every release of the funds. ACU recognizes the creation of this rainy day fund corresponds with Governor Hutchinson's \$353.1 million in cuts to the budget for the anticipated loss in tax revenues through the end of fiscal year 2020. ACU supports safeguarding scarce taxpayer resources during times of economic downturn, supports this measure as an alternative to funding government activities that are not vital during the economic downturn and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on March 28, 2020 by a vote of 100-0 and the bill was signed into law.
- 2. SB 20 Expanding Cronyism by Increasing Funding for Corporate Welfare Spending.** This bill expands cronyism by awarding millions of dollars in taxpayer funds to select businesses favored by government. Included in the massive appropriation bill are hundreds of millions of dollars in handouts to select companies which move to or expand operations in Arkansas and maintain employment objectives directed by government. In contrast, a mere fraction of the bill's appropriation funds vital infrastructure needs like water treatment, telecommunications and sewer systems. ACU supports a broadly applied tax code with the lowest possible rates for everyone. ACU opposes cronyism, believes scarce taxpayer resources should be used to carry out the essential roles of government rather than handed out to select businesses favored by government and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on April 16, 2020 by a vote of 93-6 and the bill was signed into law.