

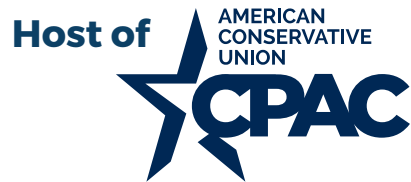
AMERICAN CONSERVATIVE
UNION FOUNDATION
**CENTER FOR
LEGISLATIVE
ACCOUNTABILITY**



RATINGS of RHODE ISLAND 2020



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



 ratings.conservative.org

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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 Rhode Island* 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



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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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Ron Robinson

Mike Rose

Tim Ryan

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
Communications

Francis Finnegan
Data Manager

Thomas Bradbury
Deputy Director

Zoe Reese
Operations Associate

Larry Hart
Senior Policy Fellow

Bryan Axler
Intern

Nathan Owens
Intern

Dominic Scavuzzo
Intern



2020 WINNERS & LOSERS

90-100% AWARD FOR CONSERVATIVE EXCELLENCE

No change since last year*

SENATE

n/a

4 since last year*

HOUSE

CHIPPENDALE, MICHAEL

FILIPPI, BLAKE

NARDONE, GEORGE

PLACE, DAVID

≤ 10% COALITION OF THE RADICAL LEFT

10 since last year*

SENATE

Euer, Dawn

Pearson, Ryan

12 since last year*

HOUSE

n/a

80-89% AWARD FOR CONSERVATIVE ACHIEVEMENT

1 since last year*

SENATE

MORGAN, ELAINE

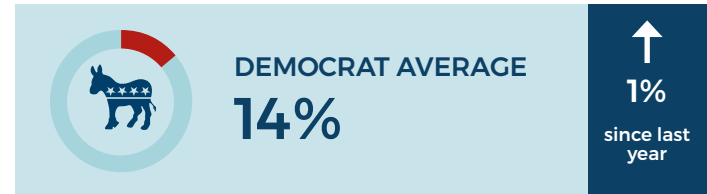
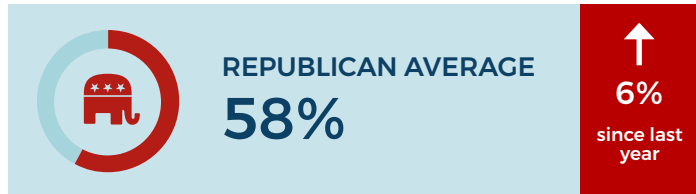
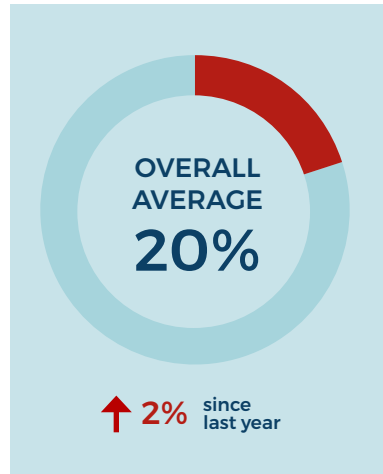
1 since last year*

HOUSE

ROBERTS, SHERRY

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

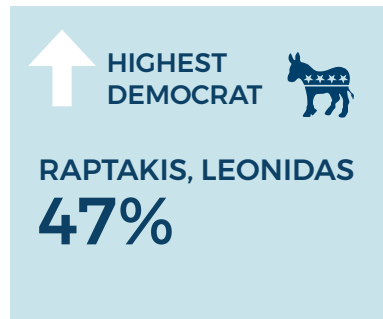
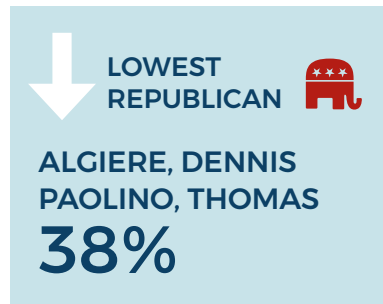
RHODE ISLAND SENATE STATISTICS



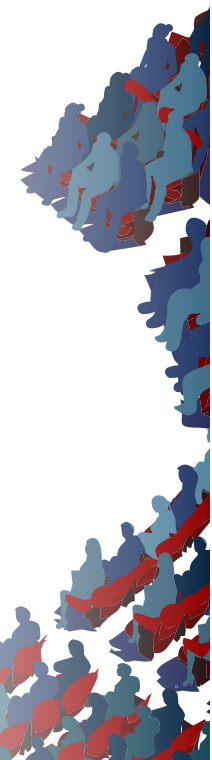
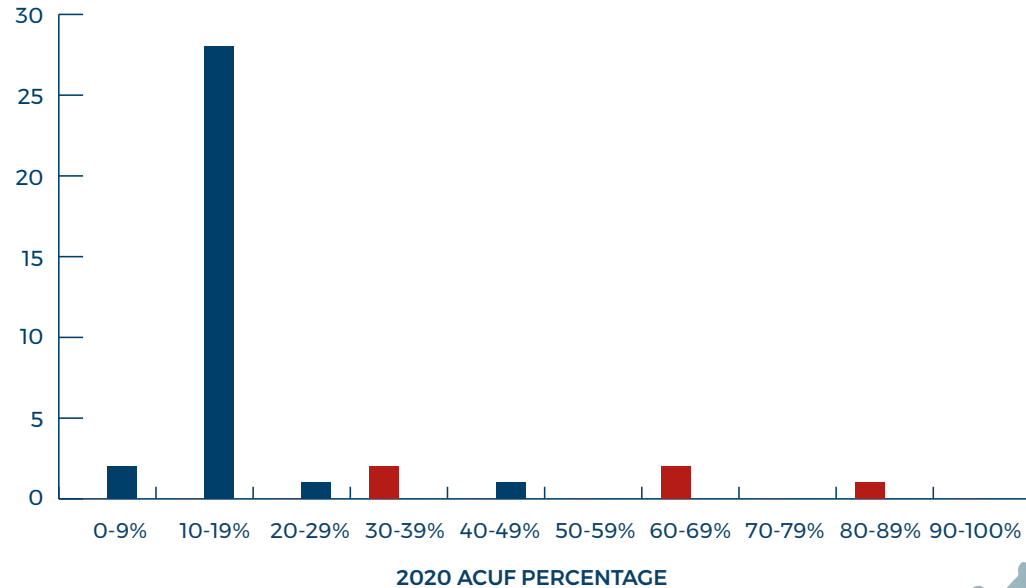
RHODE ISLAND SENATE CONSERVATIVE RATINGS

 **RED = REPUBLICANS**
5 TOTAL IN SENATE

 **BLUE = DEMOCRATS**
33 TOTAL IN SENATE




OF STATE SENATORS





RHODE ISLAND SENATE SCORES

RHODE ISLAND SENATE VOTE DETAIL

	Party	Dist.	2020 %	2019 %	LIFETIME AVG	SB 2003	SB 2004	SB 2087	SB 2125	SB 2134	SB 2147 (Morgan Amd)	SB 2147	SB 2179	SB 2270	SB 2300	SB 2326	SB 2519	SB 2824	HB 7103	HB 7170	HB 7171	HB 7449
ALGIERE, DENNIS	R	38	38%	38%	28%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	X
Archambault, Stephen	D	22	14%	17%	13%	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Bell, Samuel	D	5	29%	12%	21%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-
Cano, Sandra	D	8	12%	13%	12%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Cicccone, Frank	D	7	14%	14%	13%	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Conley, William	D	18	13%	10%	10%	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Coyne, Cynthia	D	32	12%	9%	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Crowley, Elizabeth	D	16	n/a†	18%	11%	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	X	+	X	-	X	+	-	-	X	-
DE LA CRUZ, JESSICA	R	23	63%	61%	62%	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	X	+	+	+	+	+
Dipalma, Louis	D	12	12%	12%	13%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Euer, Dawn	D	13	7%	9%	14%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-
Felag, Walter	D	10	14%	18%	13%	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Gallo, Hanna	D	27	12%	4%	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Goldin, Gayle	D	3	13%	12%	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	X
Goodwin, Maryellen	D	1	12%	12%	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Lawson, Valarie	D	14	12%	13%	12%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Lombardi, Frank	D	26	12%	7%	9%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-

+ = 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

- SB 2003 Restricting Consumer Choice by Banning Single-Use Plastic Bags.
- SB 2004 Infringing Second Amendment Rights through Additional Firearm Mandates.
- SB 2087 Infringing Contracting Rights Through a Ban on Noncompete Agreements in the Broadcast News Industry.
- SB 2125 Preserving Obamacare Insurance Mandates.
- SB 2134 Mandating Landlord Acceptance of Government Welfare Vouchers.
- SB 2147 (Morgan Amd.) Protecting Small Businesses from the Minimum Wage Hike.
- SB 2147 Increasing Unemployment by Hiking the Minimum Wage to \$11.50.
- SB 2179 Increasing Taxpayer Costs by Imposing New Teacher Staffing Mandates.
- SB 2270 Establishing a Joint Committee Focused on Deregulation.
- SB 2300 Harassing Students Entering the Workforce by Mandating Labor "Training" Programs.
- SB 2326 Further Socializing Film Production Costs.
- SB 2519 Enriching Union Bosses Through New Nurse Staffing Mandates at Nursing Homes.
- SB 2824 Reducing Employment Barriers for Reformed Individuals with Prior Criminal Convictions.
- HB 7103 Worsening the State Firearm Application Mandate Through an Additional Burden.
- HB 7170 Averting Fiscal Responsibility and Raiding the Rainy-Day Fund.
- HB 7171 Further Fueling Out-of-Control Government Spending through a \$3.7 Billion Increase in the State Budget.
- HB 7449 Imposing Significant New Costs on Localities Through an Unreasonable Workers' Compensation Cancer Presumption.



RHODE ISLAND SENATE VOTE DETAIL

	Party	Dist.	2020 %	2019 %	LIFETIME AVG	SB 2003	SB 2004	SB 2087	SB 2125	SB 2134	SB 2147 (Morgan Amd.)	SB 2147	SB 2179	SB 2270	SB 2300	SB 2326	SB 2519	SB 2824	HB 7103	HB 7170	HB 7171	HB 7449
Lombardo, Frank	D	25	12%	24%	13%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Mccaffrey, Michael	D	29	12%	9%	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Mckenney, Mark	D	30	12%	18%	15%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Metts, Harold	D	6	12%	12%	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Miller, Joshua	D	28	12%	9%	9%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
MORGAN, ELAINE	R	34	86%	64%	67%	-	+	X	X	X	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+
Murray, Melissa	D	24	14%	12%	13%	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Nesselbush, Donna	D	15	18%	18%	18%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-
PAOLINO, THOMAS	R	17	38%	42%	43%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	X	+	-	+	+	-
Pearson, Ryan	D	19	7%	13%	14%	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Picard, Roger	D	20	13%	n/a	14%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	+	X	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Prata, Erin	D	31	13%	n/a	13%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	X	-
Quezada, Ana	D	2	13%	9%	14%	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Raptakis, Leonidas	D	33	47%	25%	25%	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	+
ROGERS, GORDON	R	21	65%	55%	60%	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+
Ruggerio, Dominick	D	4	12%	12%	11%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Satchell, Adam	D	9	15%	7%	12%	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	+	X	-	X	+	-	-	-	-
Seveney, James	D	11	12%	9%	14%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Sheehan, James	D	36	13%	16%	12%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	X	+	-	-	-	-
Sosnowski, V. Susan	D	37	12%	15%	12%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-
Valverde, Bridget	D	35	14%	9%	12%	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-

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RHODE ISLAND SENATE VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

- 1. SB 2003 Restricting Consumer Choice by Banning Single-Use Plastic Bags.** This bill restricts consumer choice and drives up costs for consumers and businesses alike by banning most retail businesses from providing single-use plastic bags. ACU opposes advancing a Leftist environmental agenda at the expense of businesses and consumers, believes government should instead enforce anti-littering ordinances rather than infringe individual liberties and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on February 26, 2020 by a vote of 37-0. (The bill failed to advance in the House.)
- 2. SB 2004 Infringing Second Amendment Rights through Additional Firearm Mandates.** This bill imposes multiple mandates that obstruct law-abiding individuals from exercising their Second Amendment rights. Firstly, the bill bans all firearms that do not have a unique serial number engraved or cased in metal alloy on the frame or receiver. As a result, hobbyists who build their own firearms are now forced to register their firearm with the government and obtain and affix a state-issued serial number. Secondly, the bill now makes it unlawful to manufacture a firearm using a 3D printing process. Anyone found violating this measure concerning so-called "ghost guns" carries the potential for up to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000. ACU recognizes that this bill will do nothing to prevent dangerous criminals from obtaining, manufacturing, or using firearms unlawfully. ACU supports the founders' belief in the Second Amendment, opposes unnecessary gun control measures that do not improve public safety and infringe the right of law-abiding individuals to manufacturer, keep and bear arms and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 17, 2020 by a vote of 34-4 and the bill was signed into law.
- 3. SB 2087 Infringing Contracting Rights Through a Ban on Noncompete Agreements in the Broadcast News Industry.** This bill violates contracting rights by prohibiting broadcast industry employees and employers in the state from freely contracting through "noncompete agreements" (i.e., contracts in which an employee agrees not to compete with an employer either during or for some time after employment). The bill subjects employers who violate this prohibition to civil actions for damages. ACU supports the right of employers and employees to freely contract, opposes this government interference in the marketplace and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on February 11, 2020 by a vote of 31-0. (The bill failed to advance in the House.)
- 4. SB 2125 Preserving Obamacare Insurance Mandates.** This bill would prevent consumers from obtaining cheaper health care policies by codifying an Obamacare provision which prevents insurers from considering gender when assessing premium rates charged to consumers. ACU has long opposed Obamacare, which has sent health care costs skyrocketing, and its mandates which prevent individuals from obtaining more affordable health care by selecting the plan that best fits their needs and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on February 11, 2020 by a vote of 30-0. (The bill failed to advance in the House.)
- 5. SB 2134 Mandating Landlord Acceptance of Government Welfare Vouchers.** This bill would infringe property rights and subject housing providers to new avenues of litigation by imposing additional new restrictions on property owners. Under the bill, landlords would be forced to participate in government welfare programs such as the Section 8 Housing Voucher Program by prohibiting them from basing rental decisions on "source of income." ACU opposes subjecting property owners to lawsuit abuse, opposes this mandate which forces them to participate in programs such as Section 8, which require additional property inspections and limit a property owner's ability to recover compensation for damages to property, and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on February 11, 2020 by a vote of 31-0. (The bill failed to advance in the House.)
- 6. SB 2147 (Morgan Amd.) Protecting Small Businesses from the Minimum Wage Hike.** The Morgan (ACUF Lifetime 80%) amendment to a bill increasing the minimum wage would help protect small businesses by exempting employers with less than 50 workers from the proposed minimum wage hike. ACU opposes these artificial wages that hurt those who need help with employment the most, such as students and inexperienced workers, and are especially detrimental to small businesses and supported this amendment as a step in the right direction. The Senate failed to adopt the amendment on February 5, 2020 by a vote of 6-30.
- 7. SB 2147 Increasing Unemployment by Hiking the Minimum Wage to \$11.50.** This bill increases the minimum wage in Rhode Island by 9.5% from \$10.50 to \$11.50 per hour starting October 1, 2020. ACU opposes these artificial wages that hurt those who need help with employment the most, such as students and inexperienced workers, and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on February 5, 2020 by a vote of 30-6 and the bill was signed into law.



-
8. **SB 2179 Increasing Taxpayer Costs by Imposing New Teacher Staffing Mandates.** This bill would drain scarce local school resources in order to boost union membership. Specifically, the bill would force schools within the state to have a maximum class size of 20 students in every kindergarten through second grade classroom. ACU opposes weakening the ability of local schools to utilize their resources most effectively to improve educational outcomes, opposes this measure which enriches the greedy union bosses of the Rhode Island Federation of Teachers and Health Professionals (RIFTHP) and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 4, 2020 by a vote of 33-3. (The bill failed to advance in the House.)
-
9. **SB 2270 Establishing a Joint Committee Focused on Deregulation.** This bill advances regulatory relief by creating a joint committee made up of 6 members of both political parties and of both legislative chambers to review existing statutes, regulations, and executive orders. The members are from both political parties and are to compile suggestions of archaic and non-business-friendly regulations for repeal. ACU opposes government overreach and unnecessary regulations which serve no beneficial purpose and supports efforts to repeal such regulations and supported this bill as a step in the right direction. The Senate passed the bill on February 25, 2020 by a vote of 37-0. (The bill failed to advance in the House.)
-
10. **SB 2300 Harassing Students Entering the Workforce by Mandating Labor “Training” Programs.** This bill forces students who wish to work part-time jobs when school is not in session to complete a “workers’ rights training program”. The program, which is mandatory for students 14 years of age and older, must include training on worker rights, workplace health and safety, and workers’ compensation. ACU recognizes this program will likely provide the Left and labor unions a new mechanism to harass and indoctrinate students. ACU opposes this Leftist scheme which adds yet another barrier to employment for students wishing to gain valuable work experience and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 4, 2020 by a vote of 33-2. (The bill failed to advance in the House.)
-
11. **SB 2326 Further Socializing Film Production Costs.** This bill further socializes film production costs by expanding the lucrative 30% motion picture production company tax credit to now include films that do not even occur in the state of Rhode Island. Under the bill, a new provision is added that just requires a production company to incur at least \$10 million in state-certified production costs. ACU supports a tax code that is broadly applied with as low of rates possible for everyone. ACU opposes this measure which expands cronyism and shifts tax burdens to other individuals and industries not favored by government and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 3, 2020 by a vote of 35-3 and the bill was signed into law.
-
12. **SB 2519 Enriching Union Bosses Through New Nurse Staffing Mandates at Nursing Homes.** This bill is designed to force nursing homes to hire more members of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) by imposing extreme minimum staffing mandates. Under the bill, at least 4.1 hours of direct nursing care must be provided to each resident, including 2.8 hours by certified nurse assistants. The bill also imposes pages of other mandates and reporting requirements. The bill imposes fines on assisted living facilities that fail to comply, as well as exposes them to lawsuit abuse by authorizing treble (triple) damages. ACU supports efforts to improve quality of care by permitting assisted living facilities to develop staffing plans according to the needs of patients and residents rather than one-size fits all government-mandated staffing levels that are designed to enrich the greedy union bosses of the SEIU and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on July 16, 2020 by a vote of 31-2. (The bill failed to advance in the House.)
-
13. **SB 2824 Reducing Employment Barriers for Reformed Individuals with Prior Criminal Convictions.** This bill expands employment opportunities for reformed individuals with past criminal convictions by combatting the excessive powers of anti-competitive licensing entities. Under the bill, state licensing boards and commissions could no longer use a person’s criminal history to deny an occupational license unless the person’s previous conviction was directly related to the occupation in which they are seeking licensure. ACUF’s Nolan Center for Justice is a national leader in criminal justice reform and works to cut crime, reduce taxpayer costs, protect victims, define the proper scope of government, and safely reduce incarceration rates. ACU opposes the proliferation of licensing requirements which are primarily designed to restrict competition, supports efforts to lower recidivism by reducing barriers to the workforce and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on July 13, 2020 by a vote of 36-1 and the bill was signed into law.
-



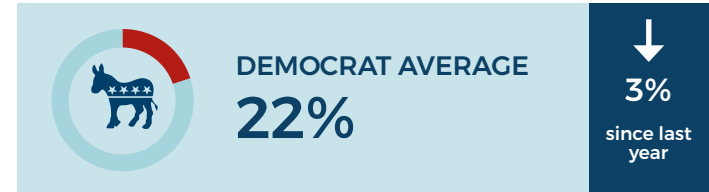
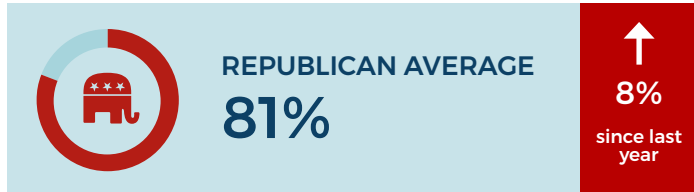
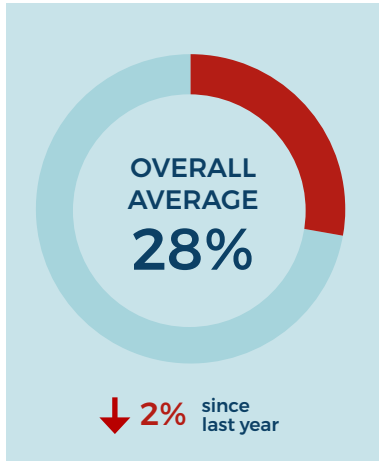
14. **HB 7103 Worsening the State Firearm Application Mandate Through an Additional Burden.** This bill continues Rhode Island's march to a gun registry by worsening the state's firearm application mandate. Under federal law, firearm purchases must be approved through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Rhode Island has an additional mandate which forces firearm sellers to notify the state police and send them the purchasers' application. This bill now mandates that firearm sellers also notify the local police department of where the purchaser resides. ACU recognizes these sort of legislative barriers do nothing to stop criminals from engaging in additional criminal behavior; they just add additional burdens to lawful firearm sellers and purchasers. ACU supports the founders' belief in the Second Amendment and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on July 13, 2020 by a vote of 33-4 and the bill was signed into law.

 15. **HB 7170 Averting Fiscal Responsibility and Raiding the Rainy-Day Fund.** This supplemental budget bill further fuels out-of-control government spending as the state copes with the financial fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill depletes the rainy-day fund by \$120 million and instead of making any fiscally responsible cuts, authorizes an additional \$1.82 billion in spending. ACU opposes reckless fiscal policy which results in higher taxes in the future to make up for increased government spending and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 18, 2020 by a vote of 31-7 and the bill was signed into law.

 16. **HB 7171 Further Fueling Out-of-Control Government Spending through a \$3.7 Billion Increase in the State Budget.** This fiscally reckless budget bill spends \$13.1 billion, an increase of \$3.7 billion (39%) over the prior year. Even after utilizing one-time federal funds in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the bill still results in an estimated \$500 million budget deficit. The bill includes significant increases in spending for countless Leftist initiatives ranging from "affordable" housing to "free" community college. ACU finds this deficit spending bill absurd and can't fathom how lawmakers could justify advancing this reckless measure which will inevitably lead to tax hikes and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on December 18, 2020 by a vote of 31-5 and the bill was signed into law.

 17. **HB 7449 Imposing Significant New Costs on Localities Through an Unreasonable Workers' Compensation Cancer Presumption.** This bill places significant new financial liabilities on localities by amending workers compensation law to establish an unreasonable new presumption concerning firefighters and cancer development. Specifically, the bill creates a "conclusive presumption" (i.e. irrebuttable) that a firefighter's cancer contraction is job-related. The bill only contains three narrowly tailored exemptions to the presumption and fails to account for any previous exposure an employee may have had in their previous work or personal life. ACU recognizes the tremendous work performed by our first responders and believes medical conditions that are a direct result of their duties should be compensated. ACU opposes this measure which abuses workers' compensation by prohibiting the consideration of other circumstances surrounding an employees' previous employment or personal life and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on July 16, 2020 by a vote of 32-4 and the bill was signed into law.
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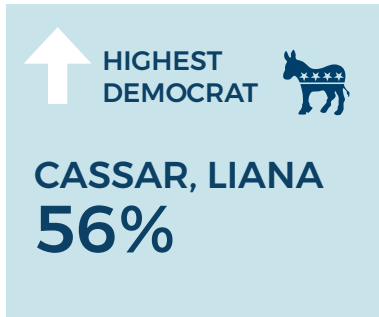
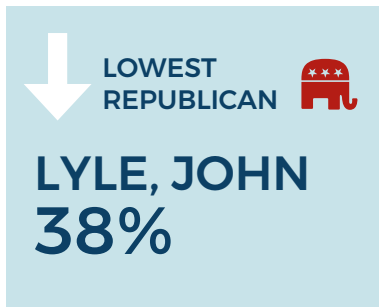
RHODE ISLAND HOUSE STATISTICS



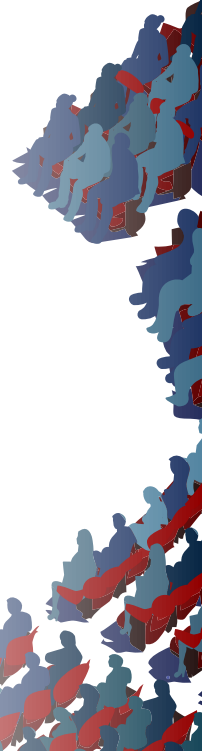
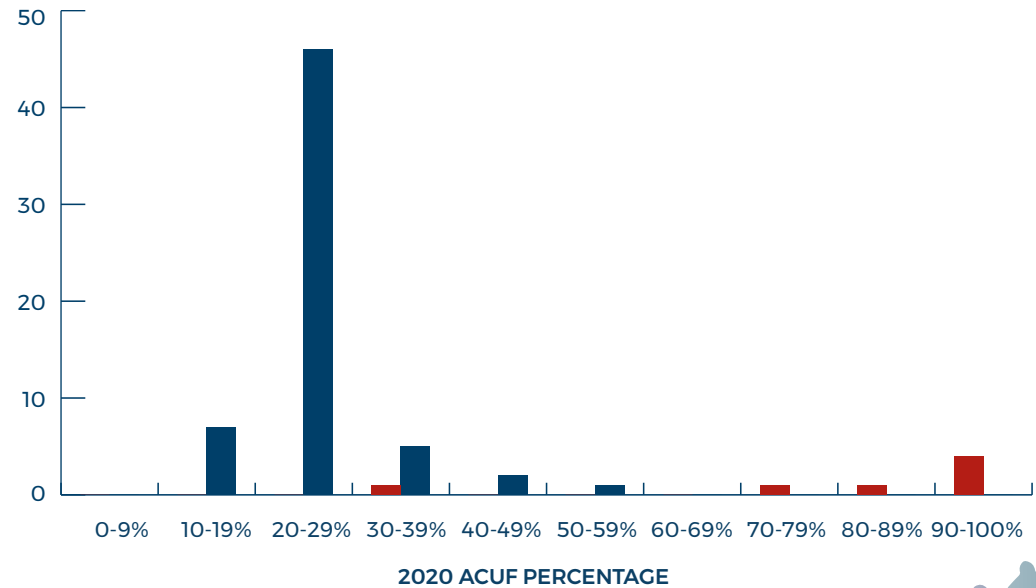
RHODE ISLAND HOUSE CONSERVATIVE RATINGS

 **RED = REPUBLICANS**
9 TOTAL IN HOUSE

 **BLUE = DEMOCRATS**
66 TOTAL IN HOUSE




OF STATE REPS





RHODE ISLAND HOUSE SCORES

RHODE ISLAND HOUSE VOTE DETAIL

	Party	Dist.	2020 %	2019 %	LIFETIME AVG	SB 2004	SB 2147	SB 2326	SB 2824	HB 7103	HB 7170	HB 7171 (Filippi Amd.)	HB 7171	HB 7266	HB 7449
Abney, Marvin	D	73	20%	22%	24%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Ackerman, Mia	D	45	20%	22%	22%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Ajello, Edith	D	1	20%	28%	24%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Almeida, Joseph	D	12	40%	29%	27%	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-
Alzate, Karen	D	60	20%	22%	21%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Amore, Gregg	D	65	25%	22%	23%	X	-	X	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Azzinaro, Samuel	D	37	20%	28%	24%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Barros, Jean	D	59	25%	n/a	23%	-	X	-	+	X	-	-	-	+	-
Bennett, David	D	20	20%	22%	23%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Blazejewski, Christopher	D	2	20%	24%	22%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Caldwell, Justine	D	30	20%	22%	21%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Canario, Dennis	D	71	14%	18%	22%	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	+	X
Carson, Lauren	D	75	20%	35%	24%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Casey, Stephen	D	50	30%	29%	27%	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	-
Casimiro, Julie	D	31	20%	22%	26%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Cassar, Liana	D	66	56%	28%	42%	-	-	X	+	+	+	-	-	+	+
CHIPPENDALE, MICHAEL	R	40	90%	72%	80%	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Cortvriend, Terri	D	72	20%	24%	22%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Corvese, Arthur	D	55	20%	28%	26%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Costantino, Gregory	D	44	13%	23%	25%	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	+	X
Craven, Robert	D	32	20%	20%	23%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Diaz, Grace	D	11	29%	29%	26%	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
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- SB 2004 Infringing Second Amendment Rights through Additional Firearm Mandates.
- SB 2147 Increasing Unemployment by Hiking the Minimum Wage to \$11.50.
- SB 2326 Further Socializing Film Production Costs.
- SB 2824 Reducing Employment Barriers for Reformed Individuals with Prior Criminal Convictions.

- HB 7103 Worsening the State Firearm Application Mandate Through an Additional Burden.
- HB 7170 Averting Fiscal Responsibility and Raiding the Rainy-Day Fund.
- HB 7171 (Filippi Amd.) Strengthening Election Integrity Through Voter-ID for Absentee Ballot Voting.
- HB 7171 Further Fueling Out-of-Control Government Spending through a \$3.7 Billion Increase in the State Budget.

- HB 7266 Granting Terminally Ill Patients the "Right to Try" Experimental Treatments.
- HB 7449 Imposing Significant New Costs on Localities Through an Unreasonable Workers' Compensation Cancer Presumption.



RHODE ISLAND HOUSE VOTE DETAIL

	Party	Dist.	2020 %	2019 %	LIFETIME AVG	SB 2004	SB 2147	SB 2326	SB 2824	HB 7103	HB 7170	HB 7171 (Filippi Amd.)	HB 7171	HB 7266	HB 7449
Donovan, Susan	D	69	11%	22%	23%	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	+	-
Edwards, John	D	70	20%	25%	22%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Fellela, Deborah	D	43	20%	28%	25%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
FILIPPI, BLAKE	R	36	90%	83%	77%	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Fogarty, Kathleen	D	35	22%	25%	22%	-	X	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Giraldo, Joshua	D	56	13%	n/a	13%	-	X	-	+	-	-	-	-	X	-
Handy, Arthur	D	18	22%	22%	22%	-	-	-	+	-	-	X	-	+	-
Hawkins, Bernard	D	53	20%	28%	24%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Hull, Raymond	D	6	29%	47%	30%	X	-	-	+	X	-	X	-	+	-
Jackson, James	D	26	25%	25%	25%	-	-	-	+	-	-	X	X	+	-
Jacquard, Robert	D	17	20%	24%	24%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Johnston, Raymond	D	61	20%	28%	24%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Kazarian, Katherine	D	63	20%	22%	22%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Kennedy, Brian	D	38	20%	29%	24%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Kislak, Rebecca	D	4	20%	28%	24%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Knight, Jason	D	67	20%	22%	27%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Lima, Charlene	D	14	14%	24%	23%	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	+	X
Lombardi, John	D	8	30%	33%	30%	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-
LYLE, JOHN	R	46	38%	28%	33%	-	-	-	+	-	+	X	X	+	-
Marszalkowski, Alex	D	52	20%	22%	26%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Mattiello, Nicholas	D	15	20%	28%	24%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Mcentee, Carol	D	33	20%	22%	24%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Mckiernan, Daniel	D	7	20%	29%	24%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Mclaughlin, James	D	57	22%	29%	34%	-	-	-	+	-	-	X	-	+	-
Mcnamara, Joseph	D	19	20%	22%	23%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Mendez, Mario	D	13	n/a†	22%	22%	-	-	-	X	-	-	X	X	+	X
Messier, Mary	D	62	33%	22%	28%	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	X
Millea, Christopher	D	16	30%	24%	27%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-
Morin, Michael	D	49	n/a†	n/a	24%	-	X	-	+	X	-	X	-	X	-

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RHODE ISLAND HOUSE VOTE DETAIL

	Party	Dist.	2020 %	2019 %	LIFETIME AVG	SB 2004	SB 2147	SB 2326	SB 2824	HB 7103	HB 7170	HB 7171 (Filippi Amd.)	HB 7171	HB 7266	HB 7449
NARDONE, GEORGE	R	28	90%	72%	81%	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
NEWBERRY, BRIAN	R	48	71%	53%	66%	X	+	-	X	-	+	+	+	+	X
Noret, Thomas	D	25	20%	28%	24%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
O'Brien, William	D	54	20%	28%	25%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Phillips, Robert	D	51	20%	35%	34%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
PLACE, DAVID	R	47	100%	72%	86%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
PRICE, JUSTIN	R	39	n/a†	73%	76%	+	X	+	+	+	X	X	X	+	-
QUATTROCCHI, ROBERT	R	41	n/a†	n/a	86%	X	+	X	+	+	+	X	X	+	+
Ranglin-Vassell, Marcia	D	5	25%	n/a	26%	-	-	-	+	-	-	X	X	+	-
ROBERTS, SHERRY	R	29	89%	82%	78%	+	+	-	X	+	+	+	+	+	+
Ruggiero, Deborah	D	74	20%	25%	24%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Serodio, Joe	D	64	20%	28%	24%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Serpa, Patricia	D	27	13%	28%	23%	-	X	-	+	-	-	-	-	X	-
Shanley, Evan	D	24	30%	22%	30%	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-
Shekarchi, K. Joseph	D	23	20%	22%	23%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Slater, Scott	D	10	20%	22%	25%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Solomon, Joseph	D	22	20%	28%	24%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Speakman, June	D	68	20%	22%	21%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-
Tanzi, Teresa	D	34	n/a†	n/a	22%	X	X	X	+	+	+	-	-	X	-
Tobon, Carlos	D	58	13%	13%	21%	-	-	-	+	-	-	X	-	X	-
Ucci, Stephen	D	42	n/a†	23%	24%	-	-	-	+	X	X	X	X	+	-
Vella-Wilkinson, Camille	D	21	44%	28%	35%	+	-	X	+	+	-	-	-	+	-
Walsh, Moira	D	3	n/a†	29%	33%	-	-	-	X	-	+	X	X	+	X
Williams, Anastasia	D	9	20%	24%	23%	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-

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 - = Member voted against ACU's position R = Republican D = Democrat I = Independent
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- SB 2004 Infringing Second Amendment Rights through Additional Firearm Mandates.
- SB 2147 Increasing Unemployment by Hiking the Minimum Wage to \$11.50.
- SB 2326 Further Socializing Film Production Costs.
- SB 2824 Reducing Employment Barriers for Reformed Individuals with Prior Criminal Convictions.
- HB 7103 Worsening the State Firearm Application Mandate Through an Additional Burden.
- HB 7170 Averting Fiscal Responsibility and Raiding the Rainy-Day Fund.
- HB 7171 (Filippi Amd.) Strengthening Election Integrity Through Voter-ID for Absentee Ballot Voting.
- HB 7171 Further Fueling Out-of-Control Government Spending through a \$3.7 Billion Increase in the State Budget.
- HB 7266 Granting Terminally Ill Patients the "Right to Try" Experimental Treatments.
- HB 7449 Imposing Significant New Costs on Localities Through an Unreasonable Workers' Compensation Cancer Presumption.



RHODE ISLAND HOUSE VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

- 1. SB 2004 Infringing Second Amendment Rights through Additional Firearm Mandates.** This bill imposes multiple mandates that obstruct law-abiding individuals from exercising their Second Amendment rights. Firstly, the bill bans all firearms that do not have a unique serial number engraved or cased in metal alloy on the frame or receiver. As a result, hobbyists who build their own firearms are now forced to register their firearm with the government and obtain and affix a state-issued serial number. Secondly, the bill now makes it unlawful to manufacturer a firearm using a 3D printing process. Anyone found violating this measure concerning so-called “ghost guns” carries the potential for up to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000. ACU recognizes that this bill will do nothing to prevent dangerous criminals from obtaining, manufacturing, or using firearms unlawfully. ACU supports the founders’ belief in the Second Amendment, opposes unnecessary gun control measures that do not improve public safety and infringe the right of law-abiding individuals to manufacturer, keep and bear arms and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on March 12, 2020 by a vote of 62-7 and the bill was signed into law.
- 2. SB 2147 Increasing Unemployment by Hiking the Minimum Wage to \$11.50.** This bill increases the minimum wage in Rhode Island by 9.5% from \$10.50 to \$11.50 per hour starting October 1, 2020. ACU opposes these artificial wages that hurt those who need help with employment the most, such as students and inexperienced workers, and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on March 4, 2020 by a vote of 61-7 and the bill was signed into law.
- 3. SB 2326 Further Socializing Film Production Costs.** This bill further socializes film production costs by expanding the lucrative 30% motion picture production company tax credit to now include films that do not even occur in the state of Rhode Island. Under the bill, a new provision is added that just requires a production company to incur at least \$10 million in state-certified production costs. ACU supports a tax code that is broadly applied with as low of rates possible for everyone. ACU opposes this measure which expands cronyism and shifts tax burdens to other individuals and industries not favored by government and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on March 12, 2020 by a vote of 67-2 and the bill was signed into law.
- 4. SB 2824 Reducing Employment Barriers for Reformed Individuals with Prior Criminal Convictions.** This bill expands employment opportunities for reformed individuals with past criminal convictions by combatting the excessive powers of anti-competitive licensing entities. Under the bill, state licensing boards and commissions could no longer use a person’s criminal history to deny an occupational license unless the person’s previous conviction was directly related to the occupation in which they are seeking licensure. ACUF’s Nolan Center for Justice is a national leader in criminal justice reform and works to cut crime, reduce taxpayer costs, protect victims, define the proper scope of government, and safely reduce incarceration rates. ACU opposes the proliferation of licensing requirements which are primarily designed to restrict competition, supports efforts to lower recidivism by reducing barriers to the workforce and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on July 16, 2020 by a vote of 67-0 and the bill was signed into law.
- 5. HB 7103 Worsening the State Firearm Application Mandate Through an Additional Burden.** This bill continues Rhode Island’s march to a gun registry by worsening the state’s firearm application mandate. Under federal law, firearm purchases must be approved through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Rhode Island has an additional mandate which forces firearm sellers to notify the state police and send them the purchasers’ application. This bill now mandates that firearm sellers also notify the local police department of where the purchaser resides. ACU recognizes these sort of legislative barriers do nothing to stop criminals from engaging in additional criminal behavior; they just add additional burdens to lawful firearm sellers and purchasers. ACU supports the founders’ belief in the Second Amendment and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on June 17, 2020 by a vote of 59-12 and the bill was signed into law.
- 6. HB 7170 Averting Fiscal Responsibility and Raiding the Rainy-Day Fund.** This supplemental budget bill further fuels out-of-control government spending as the state copes with the financial fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill depletes the rainy-day fund by \$120 million and instead of making any fiscally responsible cuts, authorizes an additional \$1.82 billion in spending. ACU opposes reckless fiscal policy which results in higher taxes in the future to make up for increased government spending and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on June 18, 2020 by a vote of 60-13 and the bill was signed into law.



7. **HB 7171 (Filippi Amd.) Strengthening Election Integrity Through Voter-ID for Absentee Ballot Voting.** The Filippi (ACUF Lifetime 74%) amendment to the appropriations bill would strengthen election integrity by requiring voters to provide a voter-ID when voting by mail. Accepted forms of identification would include "a copy of the elector's driver's license, military identification or other government issued identification; or a statement of disclosure providing a unique identification number assigned to any of the specified forms of identification." ACU supports efforts to strengthen election integrity and ensure that all legal ballots are counted, and that no illegal ballot is counted, which disenfranchises eligible voters. ACU supports this measure which strengthens the integrity of elections and supported this amendment. The House failed to adopt the amendment on December 16, 2020 by a vote of 9-51.

 8. **HB 7171 Further Fueling Out-of-Control Government Spending through a \$3.7 Billion Increase in the State Budget.** This fiscally reckless budget bill spends \$13.1 billion, an increase of \$3.7 billion (39%) over the prior year. Even after utilizing one-time federal funds in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the bill still results in an estimated \$500 million budget deficit. The bill includes significant increases in spending for countless Leftist initiatives ranging from "affordable" housing to "free" community college. ACU finds this deficit spending bill absurd and can't fathom how lawmakers could justify advancing this reckless measure which will inevitably lead to tax hikes and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on December 16, 2020 by a vote of 60-6 and the bill was signed into law.

 9. **HB 7266 Granting Terminally Ill Patients the "Right to Try" Experimental Treatments.** This bill provides terminally ill patients the right to try certain investigational drugs that have not yet fully completed all the clinical trials of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or been approved by the FDA for sale. ACU believes it is absurd to deny terminally ill patients the right to try potentially lifesaving drugs and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on March 5, 2020 by a vote of 70-0. (The bill failed to advance in the Senate.)

 10. **HB 7449 Imposing Significant New Costs on Localities Through an Unreasonable Workers' Compensation Cancer Presumption.** This bill places significant new financial liabilities on localities by amending workers compensation law to establish an unreasonable new presumption concerning firefighters and cancer development. Specifically, the bill creates a "conclusive presumption" (i.e. irrebuttable) that a firefighter's cancer contraction is job-related. The bill only contains three narrowly tailored exemptions to the presumption and fails to account for any previous exposure an employee may have had in their previous work or personal life. ACU recognizes the tremendous work performed by our first responders and believes medical conditions that are a direct result of their duties should be compensated. ACU opposes this measure which abuses workers' compensation by prohibiting the consideration of other circumstances surrounding an employees' previous employment or personal life and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on July 16, 2020 by a vote of 61-7 and the bill was signed into law.
-