



CENTER FOR LEGISLATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY



RATINGS of RHODE ISLAND 2021



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

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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 2021. 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.

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Ron Robinson
Mike Rose
Tim Ryan

Terry Schilling
Matt Smith
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.)



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Fred McGrath, *Director*
 Francis Finnegan,
Data Manager

Zoe Reese, *Operations Associate*
 Larry Hart, *Senior Policy Fellow*
 Bryan Axler, *Policy Fellow*



2021 WINNERS & LOSERS

90-100% AWARD FOR CONSERVATIVE EXCELLENCE

No change since last year*

SENATE

N/A

3 since last year*

HOUSE

PLACE, DAVID

80-89% AWARD FOR CONSERVATIVE ACHIEVEMENT

No change since last year*

SENATE

MORGAN, ELAINE

3 since last year*

HOUSE

NARDONE, GEORGE

PRICE, JUSTIN

QUATTROCCHI, ROBERT

ROBERTS, SHERRY

≤ 10% COALITION OF THE RADICAL LEFT

17 since last year*

SENATE

Cano, Sandra

Coyne, Cynthia

DiMario, Alana

DiPalma, Louis

Euer, Dawn

Gallo, Hanna

Goldin, Gayle

Goodwin, Maryellen

Kallman, Meghan

Lawson, Valarie

McCaffrey, Michael

Miller, Joshua

Murray, Melissa

Pearson, Ryan

Quezada, Ana

Ruggerio, Dominick

Seveney, James

Sosnowski, V. Susan

Valverde, Bridget

33 since last year*

HOUSE

Abney, Marvin

Alzate, Karen

Amore, Gregg

Barros, Jean Philippe

Batista, Jose

Biah, Nathan

Blazewski, Christopher

Caldwell, Justine

Carson, Lauren

Cassar, Liana

Cortvriend, Terri

Craven, Robert

Diaz, Grace

Donovan, Susan

Edwards, John

Felix, Leonela

Fellela, Deborah

Fogarty, Kathleen

Giraldo, Joshua

Handy, Arthur

Hull, Raymond

Kazarian, Katherine

McEntee, Carol

McNamara, Joseph

Messier, Mary

Potter, Brandon

Ruggiero, Deborah

Serpa, Patricia

Shallcross Smith, Mary

Shanley, Evan

Shekarchi, K. Joseph

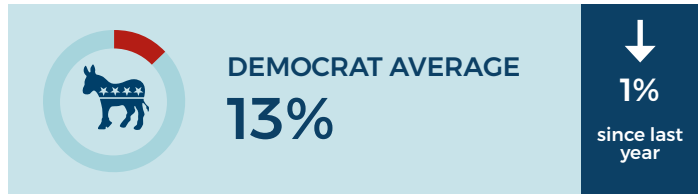
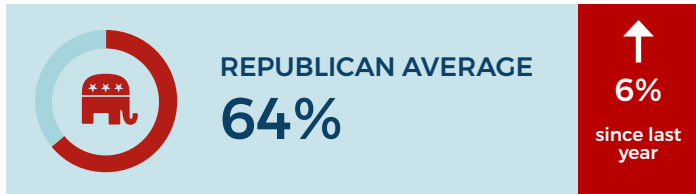
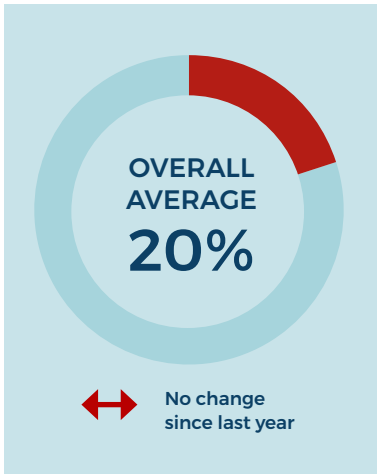
Slater, Scott

Tanzi, Teresa

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



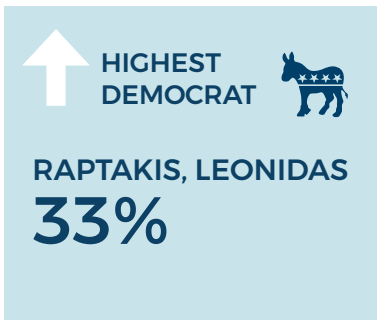
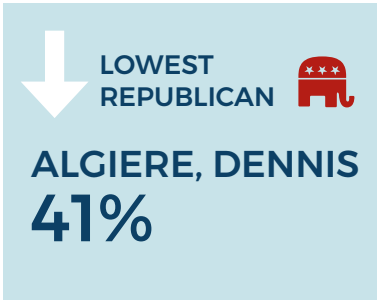
RHODE ISLAND SENATE STATISTICS



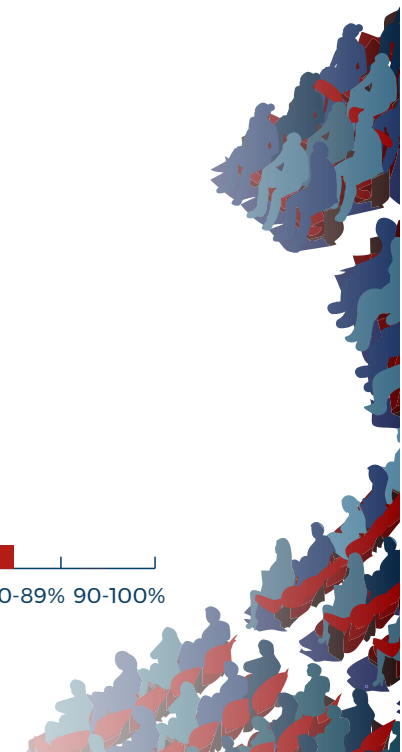
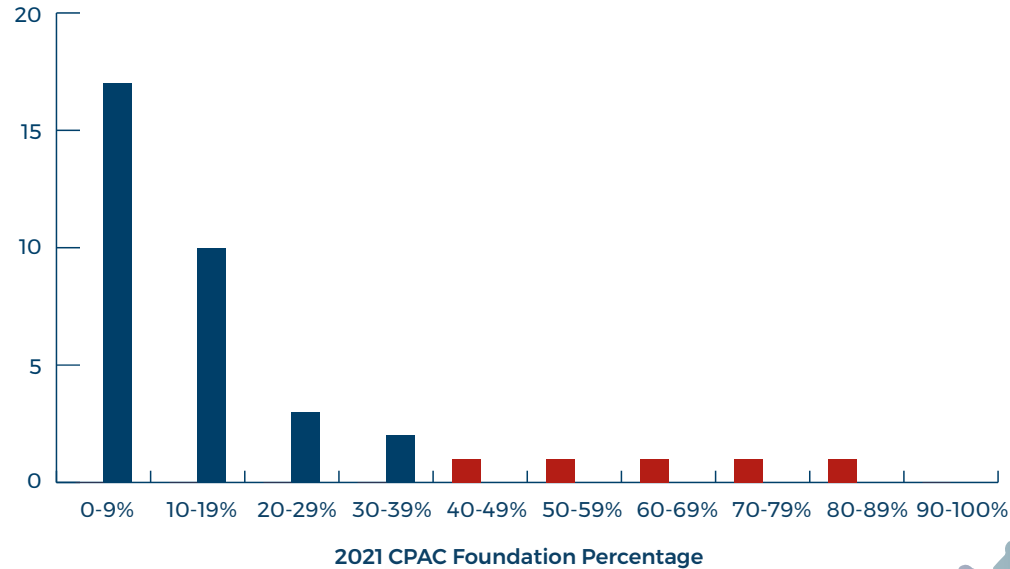
RHODE ISLAND SENATE CONSERVATIVE RATINGS

RED = REPUBLICANS
5 TOTAL IN SENATE

BLUE = DEMOCRATS
33 TOTAL IN SENATE



OF STATE SENATORS





RHODE ISLAND SENATE VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

1. **SB 1 Increasing Unemployment by Raising the Minimum Wage to \$15 an Hour by 2025.** ACU opposes these artificial wages that hurts those needing employment the most, such as students and inexperienced workers, and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on February 10, 2021 by a vote of 30-7 and the bill was signed into law.
2. **SB 3 Hiking Health Insurance Premiums by Prohibiting Policies from Varying Rates Based on Gender.** ACU opposes this advancement to a single-payer system and opposes health insurance mandates that ultimately drive up the cost of health insurance for everyone and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 22, 2021 by a vote of 34-1 and the bill was signed into law.
3. **SB 13 Reducing School Choice by Placing a Moratorium on Charter Schools.** ACU supports improving educational outcomes and reducing taxpayer costs by responsibly expanding school choice and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on February 10, 2021 by a vote of 30-6. (The bill failed to advance in the House.)
4. **SB 37 Restricting Consumer Choice by Banning Single-Use Plastic Bags.** ACU opposes this government intrusion in the private sector which needlessly drives up business costs in order to advance a politicized environmental agenda, believes the government should not limit an individual's choice in how they take their groceries home and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on May 4, 2021 by a vote of 34-2. (The bill failed to advance in the House.)
5. **SB 45 Socializing Student Loan Forgiveness for Individuals within STEM Fields Through the Extension and Expansion of the "Wavemaker Fellowship Program".** ACU believes subsidizing higher education represents the largest transfer of wealth from lower-income individuals to higher-income individuals, believes instead society should reduce the exorbitant cost of higher education by eliminating wasteful programs and useless administrative positions and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 15, 2021 by a vote of 35-2. (The bill failed to advance in the House.)
6. **SB 79 Further Socializing Higher Education Costs by Permanently Extending the Rhode Island Promise Scholarship.** ACU believes subsidizing higher education represents the largest transfer of wealth from lower-income individuals to higher-income individuals, believes instead society should reduce the exorbitant cost of higher education by eliminating wasteful programs and useless administrative positions and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on May 25, 2021 by a vote of 33-4 and the bill was signed into law.
7. **SB 105 Infringing Property Rights and Growing Bureaucracy Through the Creation of "Environmental Justice" Zones.** ACU opposes infringing property rights and placing even greater burdens on taxpayers through unnecessary growth in government and the advancement of a radical Leftist environmental agenda and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 22, 2021 by a vote of 34-4. (The bill failed to advance in the House.)
8. **SB 173 Mandating Private Parking Lots Provide Designated Electric Vehicle Charging Stations.** ACU believes the market is the best mechanism to determine the need for vehicle charging infrastructure, opposes this mandate on private businesses which ultimately drives up construction and consumer costs and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 29, 2021 by a vote of 35-2. (The bill failed to advance in the House.)
9. **SB 190 (Cicccone Amd.) Weakening National Security by Prohibiting Driver Privilege Card Data from Being Transferred to Federal Immigration Authorities.** The Cicccone (ACUF Lifetime 13%) amendment to a bill providing driver's licenses to illegal immigrants. ACU supports efforts to help the federal government perform its constitutional role in enforcing the nation's immigration laws, opposes weakening national security by undermining federal authorities and opposed this bill. The Senate adopted the amendment on June 24, 2021 by a vote of 29-4. (The underlying bill failed to advance in the House.)
10. **SB 190 Providing "Drivers Privilege Cards" to Illegal Immigrants.** ACU supports efforts to help the federal government perform its constitutional role in enforcing the nation's immigration laws, opposes weakening national security and placing other motorists at risk and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 24, 2021 by a vote of 28-10. (The bill failed to advance in the House.)



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11. **SB 203 Slightly Reducing an Unnecessary Occupational Licensing Barrier by Providing Reciprocity to Insurance Claim Adjusters.** ACU opposes the proliferation of licensing requirements that reduce available services, raise consumer costs and are primarily designed to restrict competition. ACU supports efforts to expand competition and lower costs through license reciprocity and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 1, 2021 by a vote of 33-3. (The bill failed to advance in the House.)
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12. **SB 263 Advancing the State's War on Nicotine and Individual Liberties by Raising the Smoking and Vaping Age to 21.** ACU believes the usage of both cigarettes and e-cigarettes is a personal liberty issue and those who are old enough to fight for our country are old enough to decide whether to purchase nicotine products and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on July 1, 2021 by a vote of 35-2 and the bill was signed into law.
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13. **SB 342 Discriminating Against Internet Service Providers in the Procurement Process Which Do Not Abide by "Net Neutrality".** ACU supports an internet free of government interference, which has allowed it to thrive since its conception, and opposes heavy-handed government regulations, such as net neutrality. ACU opposes this mandate which is designed to strong-arm internet service providers and unnecessarily drives up taxpayer costs by reducing competition within the procurement process and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 22, 2021 by a vote of 36-1. (The bill failed to advance in the House.)
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14. **SB 363 Worsening Cronyism by Expanding Eligibility for "Historic Residence" Tax Credits.** ACU recognizes this state tax credit is on top of other federal tax credits provided to owners of historic properties. ACU supports a broadly applied tax code with as low of rates as possible for everyone, opposes this cronyism which shifts tax burdens to other taxpayers not favored by government and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 16, 2021 by a vote of 36-1 and the bill later became law without the governor's signature.
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15. **SB 378 Further Socializing Childcare Costs by Hiking Reimbursement Rates.** ACU supports efforts to help people live happier, healthier, more productive lives, and opposes efforts that expand dependence on government, which leads to intergenerational poverty. ACU opposes placing even greater burdens on taxpayers by further socializing childcare costs and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 30, 2021 by a vote of 34-3. (The bill failed to advance in the House.)
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16. **SB 428 Increasing Taxpayer Costs by Forcing Government Employees to Receive "Cultural Competency" Training.** ACU believes all government work environments should be safe and respectful, and employees held to high standards. ACU opposes this measure designed to enrich radical leftist consultants at the expense of taxpayers and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 30, 2021 by a vote of 33-3. (The bill failed to advance in the House.)
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17. **SB 430 Increasing Government Dependency by Expanding Post-Partum Medicaid Coverage to 12 Months.** ACU supports efforts to help people live happier, healthier, more productive lives, opposes efforts that expand dependence on government, which leads to intergenerational poverty, opposes further expanding a program rife with fraud and waste and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 8, 2021 by a vote of 37-0. (The bill failed to advance in the House.)
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18. **SB 489 Improving the Well-being of Animals and Reducing Taxpayer Costs by Permitting the Donation of Unused Medications.** ACU supports empowering veterinarians to improve the care they provided to animals across the state's shelters and rescue facilities by reducing unnecessary regulatory barriers and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 8, 2021 by a vote of 37-0 and the bill was signed into law.
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19. **SB 547 Further Empowering Union Bosses Through an Evergreen Clause in Firefighter Collective Bargaining Agreements.** ACU has long supported the "right to work" without joining a union, opposes driving up taxpayer costs through this provision which provides union bosses an upper hand in contract negotiations and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on May 25, 2021 by a vote of 29-6. (The bill failed to advance in the House.)
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20. **SB 561 Mandating Landlord Acceptance of Government Welfare Vouchers.** ACU opposes subjecting landlords to lawsuit abuse under this "source of income" mandate and recognizes landlords are now forced to participate in welfare 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 March 30, 2021 by a vote of 36-1 and the bill was signed into law.
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21. **SB 575 Worsening Cronyism by Expanding the Income Tax Exemption for Writers, Composers and Artists to Include East Providence.** ACU supports a tax code that is broadly applied with as low of rates as possible for everyone. ACU opposes this cronyism which provides competitive advantages and subsidies to select occupations favored by government and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on July 1, 2021 by a vote of 37-0 and the bill later became law without the governor's signature.
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22. **SB 611 Infringing Contracting Rights by Mandating Employers Provide Up to 24 Weeks of Unpaid Leave.** ACU opposes infringing contracting rights through this costly mandate which places significant staffing burdens on small businesses and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 8, 2021 by a vote of 30-4. (The bill failed to advance in the House.)
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23. **SB 718 Driving Up Rental Costs Through a New Landlord \$100k Liability Insurance Mandate.** ACU opposes placing costly and unnecessary mandates on landlords which ultimately makes the market less competitive and further drives up the cost of rental housing for everyone and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 30, 2021 by a vote of 34-4 and the bill was signed into law.
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24. **SB 803 Providing Unequal Justice Under the Law by Expanding the Scope of "Hate Crimes" to Include "Gender Identity" and "Groups of Persons".** ACU recognizes this measure further violates the "double-jeopardy" clause of the U.S. Constitution and believes in equal rights under the law for all and that it is the duty of government to ensure all laws are applied equally. ACU further recognizes that all crimes are disrespectful of individual rights and reflect an animus toward others. ACU opposes providing judges with inappropriate authority to enhance sentences, opposes increasing penalties for crimes committed against select individuals which runs afoul of the whole concept of equal application of justice and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 8, 2021 by a vote of 35-2. (The bill failed to advance in the House.)
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25. **SB 872 Advancing the Attack on the Gas-Powered Automobile by Entering Rhode Island into the Authoritarian "Transportation Climate Initiative."** ACU recognizes the Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI) is an unaccountable, nongovernmental entity that develops policies intended to force consumers, as well as manufacturers and suppliers to conform to radical environmental ideology. In joining TCI, state elected officials would be abrogating their legislative responsibilities, and instead, empower the TCI to act as an unaccountable policymaking organization. If enacted, consumers would have little recourse in opposing the TCI's rules. ACU is especially disappointed to see the Alliance for Automotive Innovation fall trap to the Left's Woke ideology and support this bill. ACU opposes the TCI and its attack on traditional, cost-effective automobile and transportation and the freedom it brings to citizens and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 22, 2021 by a vote of 28-9. (The bill failed to advance in the House.)
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26. **HB 5012 Driving Up Nursing Home Costs by Imposing Staffing Level and Wage Mandates.** ACU opposes driving up nursing home costs through these mandates primarily designed to enrich the greedy union bosses of the SEIU and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on May 25, 2021 by a vote of 33-3 and the bill was signed into law.
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27. **HB 5131 Advancing a Politicized Environmental Agenda by Prohibiting Restaurants from Offering Plastic Straws.** ACU believes government should enforce existing anti-littering laws in order to protect the environment, opposes efforts to intrude into private business operations to limit consumer choice and impose a politicized environmental agenda and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on July 1, 2021 by a vote of 34-3 and the bill was signed into law.
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28. **HB 5196 Driving Up Insurance Premium Costs by Imposing a \$40 Price Control on Insulin Copayments.** ACU recognizes that this and other insurance price controls and mandates only drive-up premium costs, thereby harming the affordability of insurance for everyone and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 29, 2021 by a vote of 37-0 and the bill was signed into law.
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29. **HB 5197 Hiking Taxpayer Costs Through an Unnecessary "Certified Nurse-Teacher" Mandate on School Districts.** ACU recognizes this bill is largely designed to enrich special interests such as the Certified School Nurse Teachers Association. ACU opposes unnecessarily driving up taxpayer costs and preventing school districts from hiring the most effective school nurses and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on July 1, 2021 by a vote of 35-0 and the bill became law without the governor's signature.
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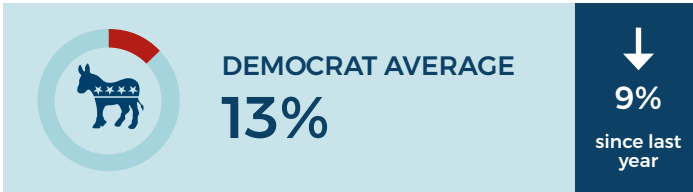
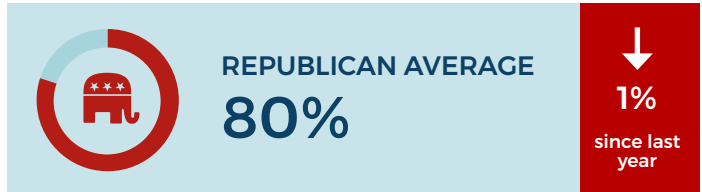
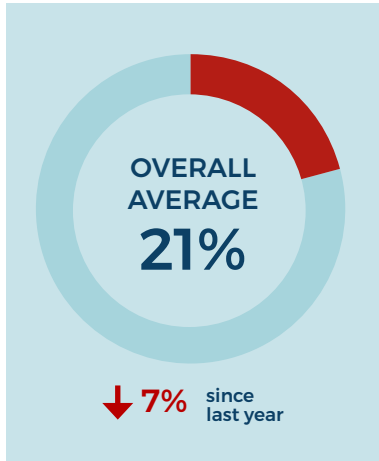


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30. **HB 5255 Expanding Competition in the Alcoholic Beverage Industry by Increasing the Amount of Product that May be Sold by Craft Breweries and Distilleries.** ACU supports a freer market in the alcoholic beverage industry and expanding individual liberties and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on July 1, 2021 by a vote of 36-0 and the bill was signed into law.
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31. **HB 5261 Exposing Businesses to Frivolous Litigation Through a Series of New Wage and "Equal Pay" Mandates.** ACU believes employment discrimination is wrong and business that discriminate will face repercussions in the marketplace. However, ACU opposes this measure which has the potential to devastate small businesses by exposing them to frivolous litigation and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on July 1, 2021 by a vote of 34-3 and the bill was signed into law.
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32. **HB 5386 Weakening Privacy and Second Amendment Rights by Tracking the Number of Firearms an Individual Purchases.** ACU supports the Founders' belief in the Second and Fourth Amendments, opposes government firearm registries and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on July 1, 2021 by a vote of 25-12 and the bill was signed into law.
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33. **HB 5445 (de la Cruz Amd. 1) Placing a Legislative Check on the Rulemaking Authority of Unelected Bureaucrats Under the Draconian "Act on Climate".** The de la Cruz (ACUF Lifetime 65%) amendment to the "Act on Climate," which imposes emissions mandates. ACU supports providing a legislative check on the powers of unaccountable bureaucrats, many of whom are determined to destroy the state's economy in order to advance a radical leftist environmental agenda and supported this amendment as a step in the right direction. The Senate defeated the amendment on April 6, 2021 by a vote of 10-26.
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34. **HB 5445 (de la Cruz Amd. 2) Protecting the Private Sector by Restricting the Draconian "Act on Climate" Provisions to Only State Government Operations.** The de la Cruz (ACUF Lifetime 65%) amendment to the "Act on Climate," which imposes emissions mandates. ACU opposes destroying the state's economy in order to advance a radical leftist environmental agenda and supported this amendment. The Senate defeated the amendment on April 6, 2021 by a vote of 10-26.
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35. **HB 5445 Threatening Economic Catastrophe Through the "Act on Climate" 100% Renewable Energy 2050 Mandate.** ACU opposes subjecting Rhode Islanders to skyrocketing energy and consumer costs and providing unaccountable bureaucrats carte-blanche authority to destroy the state's economy in order to advance a radical leftist environmental agenda and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on April 10, 2021 by a vote of 28-9 and the bill was signed into law.
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36. **HB 5505 Subjecting Short-Term Rental Property Owners to Costly New Regulations Through a New Registration Mandate.** ACU recognizes this new mandate will force short-term rentals provided through platforms such as Airbnb and Vrbo to meet excessive building code standards. While ACU supports the collection of lodging taxes to ensure fair competition with the hotel industry, we oppose this costly new mandate which infringes property rights and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on July 1, 2021 by a vote of 31-6 but the bill was vetoed by the governor.
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37. **HB 5555 Weakening Security and Second Amendment Rights by Making School Grounds "Gun Free" Zones.** ACU recognizes that "gun-free" zones merely disarm law-abiding citizens while doing nothing to prevent criminal activity and the illegal possession of firearms. ACU supports the founders' belief in the Second Amendment and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on July 1, 2021 by a vote of 26-11 and the bill was signed into law.
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38. **HB 5599 Expanding Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Previous Criminal Convictions by Combatting Overzealous Licensing Boards.** ACU opposes the proliferation of licensing requirements, which are primarily designed to restrict competition. ACUF's Nolan Center for Justice is a national leader in criminal justice policy and works to cut crime, reduce taxpayer costs, protect victims, define the proper scope of government, and safely reduce incarceration rates. The Nolan Center supports efforts to increase employment for ex-offenders because it has been proven to lower recidivism whereas license denials for vaguely defined offenses involving "moral turpitude" have the opposite effect. Both ACU and the Nolan Center supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on July 1, 2021 by a vote of 37-0 and the bill was signed into law.
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39. **HB 5826 Providing Illegal Immigrants Taxpayer-funded College Scholarships.** ACU supports assisting the federal government in its constitutional role to enforce our nation's immigration laws, opposes the use of taxpayer resources to benefit those who entered the country illegally and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on July 1, 2021 by a vote of 30-7 and the bill was signed into law.
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40. **HB 5855 Weakening National Security by Subjecting Employers Who Report Immigration Status to ICE to Treble Damages.** ACU supports efforts to assist the federal government in performing its constitutional role to enforce the nation's immigration laws, opposes subjecting employers to lawsuit abuse and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on July 1, 2021 by a vote of 33-4 and the bill was signed into law.
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41. **HB 5966 Infringing Consumer Choice Through Appliance Energy and Water Efficiency Mandates.** ACU opposes reducing consumer choice and increasing product costs through this measure to advance a politicized environmental agenda and conduct market interference for government-favored products and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on July 1, 2021 by a vote of 31-6 and the bill was signed into law.
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42. **HB 6052 Raising Vehicle Insurance Premiums by Mandating Policies Provide Comprehensive Coverage of Rental Vehicles.** ACU opposes this and other insurance mandates which drive up the cost of insurance by restricting the ability of consumers to purchase the policies which best suit their needs and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on July 1, 2021 by a vote of 37-0 and the bill later became law without the governor's signature.
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43. **HB 6090 Advancing Higher Payroll Taxes by Hiking Caregiver Benefits to 6 Weeks Under the State's Paid Leave Program.** ACU opposes unnecessarily driving up employment costs by further socializing the cost of caregiving benefits under the state-run paid leave program and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on July 1, 2021 by a vote of 32-5 and the bill was signed into law.
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44. **HB 6215 Infringing Property and Privacy Rights by Exposing Individuals of Owner-Occupied Housing to Lawsuit Abuse if they Consider Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation.** ACU believes public discrimination is wrong and believes individuals who discriminate will face repercussions in the marketplace. ACU further recognize that providing another individual access to a shared living space may bring up numerous concerns surrounding intimacy and privacy. For this reason, the federal Fair Housing Act (FHA) allows individuals of owner-occupied property to consider numerous characteristics, such as gender, when selecting a housemate. ACU opposes this attack on property and privacy rights through this measure designed to enrich greedy plaintiffs' attorneys by exposing individuals of owner-occupied property to lawsuit abuse and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 29, 2021 by a vote of 32-4 and the bill was signed into law.
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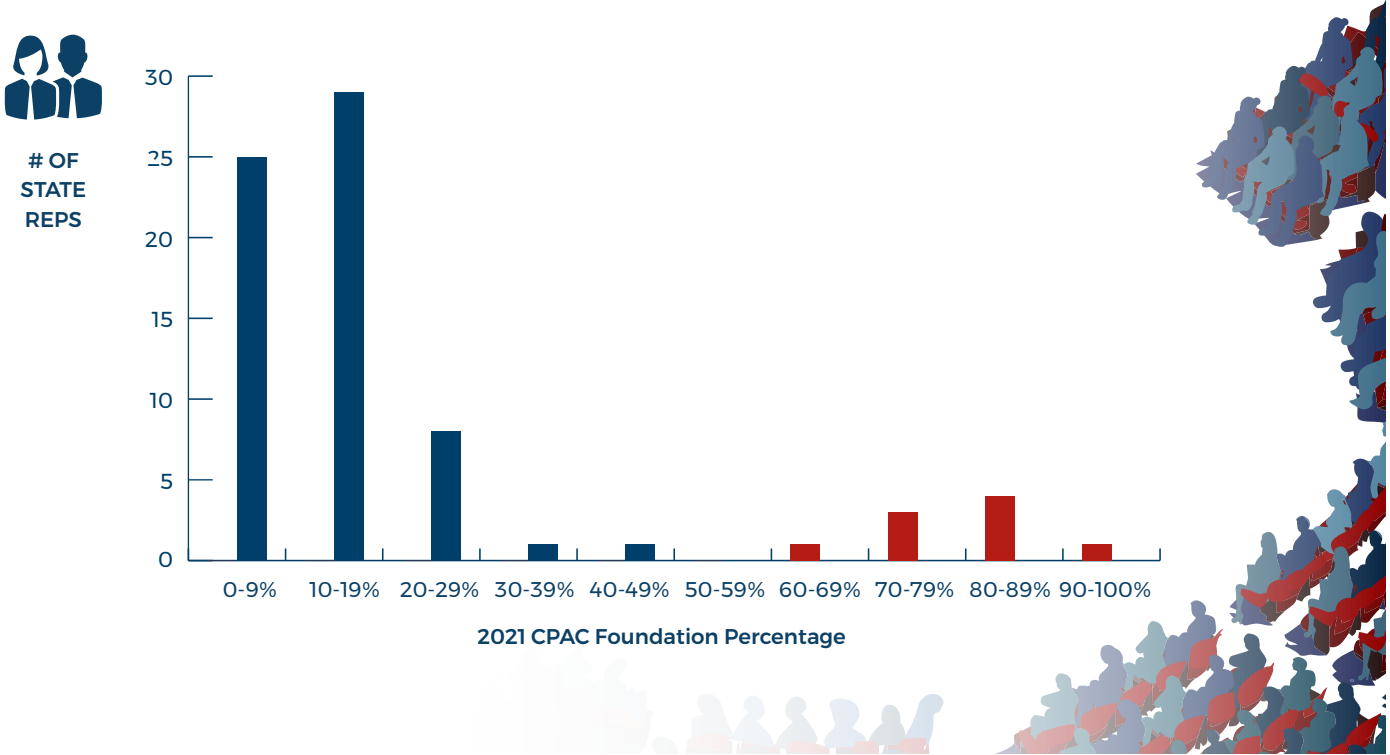
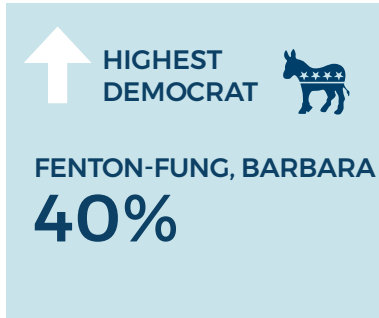
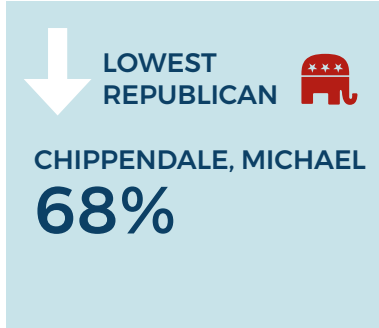
RHODE ISLAND HOUSE STATISTICS



RHODE ISLAND HOUSE CONSERVATIVE RATINGS

 **RED = REPUBLICANS**
9 TOTAL IN HOUSE

 **BLUE = DEMOCRATS**
66 TOTAL IN HOUSE





RHODE ISLAND HOUSE VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

- 1. SB 1 Increasing Unemployment by Raising the Minimum Wage to \$15 an Hour by 2025.** ACU opposes these artificial wages that hurts those needing employment the most, such as students and inexperienced workers, and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on May 18, 2021 by a vote of 58-15 and the bill was signed into law.
- 2. SB 3 Hiking Health Insurance Premiums by Prohibiting Policies from Varying Rates Based on Gender.** ACU opposes this advancement to a single-payer system and opposes health insurance mandates that ultimately drive up the cost of health insurance for everyone and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on June 15, 2021 by a vote of 68-0 and the bill was signed into law.
- 3. SB 79 Further Socializing Higher Education Costs by Permanently Extending the Rhode Island Promise Scholarship.** ACU believes subsidizing higher education represents the largest transfer of wealth from lower-income individuals to higher-income individuals, believes instead society should reduce the exorbitant cost of higher education by eliminating wasteful programs and useless administrative positions and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on May 18, 2021 by a vote of 68-5 and the bill was signed into law.
- 4. SB 263 Advancing the State's War on Nicotine and Individual Liberties by Raising the Smoking and Vaping Age to 21.** ACU believes the usage of both cigarettes and e-cigarettes is a personal liberty issue and those who are old enough to fight for our country are old enough to decide whether to purchase nicotine products and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on July 1, 2021 by a vote of 59-11 and the bill was signed into law.
- 5. SB 363 Worsening Cronyism by Expanding Eligibility for "Historic Residence" Tax Credits.** ACU recognizes this state tax credit is on top of other federal tax credits provided to owners of historic properties. ACU supports a broadly applied tax code with as low of rates as possible for everyone, opposes this cronyism which shifts tax burdens to other taxpayers not favored by government and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on April 15, 2021 by a vote of 70-1 and the bill later became law without the governor's signature.
- 6. SB 561 Mandating Landlord Acceptance of Government Welfare Vouchers.** ACU opposes subjecting landlords to lawsuit abuse under this "source of income" mandate and recognizes landlords are now forced to participate in welfare 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 House passed the bill on April 13, 2021 by a vote of 68-5 and the bill was signed into law.
- 7. SB 575 Worsening Cronyism by Expanding the Income Tax Exemption for Writers, Composers and Artists to Include East Providence.** ACU supports a tax code that is broadly applied with as low of rates as possible for everyone. ACU opposes this cronyism which provides competitive advantages and subsidies to select occupations favored by government and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on July 1, 2021 by a vote of 63-5 and the bill later became law without the governor's signature.
- 8. SB 718 Driving Up Rental Costs Through a New Landlord \$100k Liability Insurance Mandate.** ACU opposes placing costly and unnecessary mandates on landlords which ultimately makes the market less competitive and further drives up the cost of rental housing for everyone and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on June 28, 2021 by a vote of 55-8 and the bill was signed into law.
- 9. HB 5012 Driving Up Nursing Home Costs by Imposing Staffing Level and Wage Mandates.** ACU opposes driving up nursing home costs through these mandates primarily designed to enrich the greedy union bosses of the SEIU and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on May 4, 2021 by a vote of 64-9 and the bill was signed into law.
- 10. HB 5077 Granting Terminally Ill Patients the "Right to Try" Experimental Treatments.** 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 February 25, 2021 by a vote of 75-0. (The bill failed to advance in the Senate.)



11. **HB 5131 Advancing a Politicized Environmental Agenda by Prohibiting Restaurants from Offering Plastic Straws.** ACU believes government should enforce existing anti-littering laws in order to protect the environment, opposes efforts to intrude into private business operations to limit consumer choice and impose a politicized environmental agenda and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on June 30, 2021 by a vote of 60-7 and the bill was signed into law.
12. **HB 5147 Imposing Excessive New Licensing Mandates on Genetic Counselors.** ACU opposes excessive licensing mandates which restrict competition and drive-up costs and are primarily designed to enrich private entities and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on June 28, 2021 by a vote of 57-8. (The bill failed to advance in the Senate.)
13. **HB 5188 Fueling a Black Market Through an Overreaching Ban on the Production and Sale of any New Fur Product.** ACU believes animals should be treated with the utmost dignity and respect, opposes the creation of black markets which most often result in animal cruelty and horrendous conditions and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on June 17, 2021 by a vote of 55-11. (The bill failed to advance in the Senate.)
14. **HB 5196 Driving Up Insurance Premium Costs by Imposing a \$40 Price Control on Insulin Copayments.** ACU recognizes that this and other insurance price controls and mandates only drive-up premium costs, thereby harming the affordability of insurance for everyone and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on June 3, 2021 by a vote of 71-0 and the bill was signed into law.
15. **HB 5197 Hiking Taxpayer Costs Through an Unnecessary "Certified Nurse-Teacher" Mandate on School Districts.** ACU recognizes this bill is largely designed to enrich special interests such as the Certified School Nurse Teachers Association. ACU opposes unnecessarily driving up taxpayer costs and preventing school districts from hiring the most effective school nurses and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on June 29, 2021 by a vote of 54-6 and the bill became law without the governor's signature.
16. **HB 5255 Expanding Competition in the Alcoholic Beverage Industry by Increasing the Amount of Product that May be Sold by Craft Breweries and Distilleries.** ACU supports a freer market in the alcoholic beverage industry and expanding individual liberties and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on June 30, 2021 by a vote of 66-0 and the bill was signed into law.
17. **HB 5261 Exposing Businesses to Frivolous Litigation Through a Series of New Wage and "Equal Pay" Mandates.** ACU believes employment discrimination is wrong and business that discriminate will face repercussions in the marketplace. However, ACU opposes this measure which has the potential to devastate small businesses by exposing them to frivolous litigation and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on June 29, 2021 by a vote of 72-0 and the bill was signed into law.
18. **HB 5327 Raising Electricity Costs by Expanding Net Metering Solar Subsidies.** ACU supports all sources of energy, believes government should not support one source of energy over another, opposes this program that results in one set of electricity ratepayers subsidizing others and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on June 25, 2021 by a vote of 59-9. (The bill failed to advance in the Senate.)
19. **HB 5380 Growing the Nanny State by Creating a Special License to Operate a Three-Wheel Autocycle.** ACU believes the state should allow the operation of an autocycle with a regular driver's license, opposes this nanny-state mandate which places a costly and time-consuming barrier (16.5 hours of training) to operate an autocycle and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on June 17, 2021 by a vote of 59-9 and the bill was signed into law.
20. **HB 5386 Weakening Privacy and Second Amendment Rights by Tracking the Number of Firearms an Individual Purchases.** ACU supports the Founders' belief in the Second and Fourth Amendments, opposes government firearm registries and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on June 30, 2021 by a vote of 46-27 and the bill was signed into law.



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21. **HB 5445 (Filippi Amd.) Placing a Legislative Check on the Rulemaking Authority of Unelected Bureaucrats Under the Draconian “Act on Climate”.** The Filippi amendment (ACUF Lifetime 76%) to the “Act on Climate,” which imposes draconian emissions mandates. ACU supports providing a legislative check on the powers of unaccountable bureaucrats, many of whom are determined to destroy the state’s economy in order to advance a radical leftist environmental agenda and supported this amendment as a step in the right direction. The House defeated the amendment on March 23, 2021 by a vote of 15-54.
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22. **HB 5445 (Newberry Amd.) Protecting the Private Sector by Restricting the Draconian “Act on Climate” Provisions to Only State Government Operations.** The Newberry (ACUF Lifetime 67%) amendment to the “Act on Climate,” which imposes draconian emissions mandates. ACU opposes destroying the state’s economy in order to advance a radical leftist environmental agenda and supported this amendment. The House defeated the amendment on March 23, 2021 by a vote of 13-57.
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23. **HB 5445 Threatening Economic Catastrophe Through the “Act on Climate” 100% Renewable Energy 2050 Mandate.** ACU opposes subjecting Rhode Islanders to skyrocketing energy and consumer costs and providing unaccountable bureaucrats carte-blanche authority to destroy the state’s economy in order to advance a radical leftist environmental agenda and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on March 23, 2021 by a vote of 53-22 and the bill was signed into law.
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24. **HB 5505 Subjecting Short-Term Rental Property Owners to Costly New Regulations Through a New Registration Mandate.** ACU recognizes this new mandate will force short-term rentals provided through platforms such as Airbnb and Vrbo to meet excessive building code standards. While ACU supports the collection of lodging taxes to ensure fair competition with the hotel industry, we oppose this costly new mandate which infringes property rights and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on June 29, 2021 by a vote of 60-9 but the bill was vetoed by the governor.
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25. **HB 5555 (Lima Amd.) Protecting School Security by Ensuring Concealed Carry Permit Holders May Carry a Firearm.** The Lima (ACUF Lifetime 27%) amendment to the gun control bill banning firearms at schools. ACU recognizes that “gun-free” zones merely disarm law-abiding citizens while doing nothing to prevent criminal activity and the illegal possession of firearms. ACU supports the founders’ belief in the Second Amendment and supported this amendment. The House defeated the amendment on June 30, 2021 by a vote of 25-41.
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26. **HB 5555 Weakening Security and Second Amendment Rights by Making School Grounds “Gun Free” Zones.** ACU recognizes that “gun-free” zones merely disarm law-abiding citizens while doing nothing to prevent criminal activity and the illegal possession of firearms. ACU supports the founders’ belief in the Second Amendment and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on June 30, 2021 by a vote of 44-28 and the bill was signed into law.
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27. **HB 5599 Expanding Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Previous Criminal Convictions by Combatting Overzealous Licensing Boards.** ACU opposes the proliferation of licensing requirements, which are primarily designed to restrict competition. ACUF’s Nolan Center for Justice is a national leader in criminal justice policy and works to cut crime, reduce taxpayer costs, protect victims, define the proper scope of government, and safely reduce incarceration rates. The Nolan Center supports efforts to increase employment for ex-offenders because it has been proven to lower recidivism whereas license denials for vaguely defined offenses involving “moral turpitude” have the opposite effect. Both ACU and the Nolan Center supported this bill. The House passed the bill on June 16, 2021 by a vote of 69-0 and the bill was signed into law.
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28. **HB 5612 Imposing Overreaching New Mandates in the Eye Care Industry Through the “Consumer Protection in Eye Care Act”.** ACU opposes these overreaching regulations which ultimately restrict competition and drive-up consumer costs and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on July 1, 2021 by a vote of 60-8. (The bill failed to advance in the Senate.)
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29. **HB 5641 Imposing an Overreaching New Ban on Neonicotinoid Pesticides.** ACU recognizes the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) already heavily regulates the application of pesticides. ACU opposes this heavy-handed regulatory approach by the state to a commonly utilized pesticide and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on June 30, 2021 by a vote of 58-10. (The bill failed to advance in the Senate.)
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30. **HB 5741 Mandating Private Businesses Make Single-Stall Restrooms Gender Neutral.** ACU believes government should not mandate private institutions' restroom policy, except to prevent criminal acts, and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on May 18, 2021 by a vote of 66-7 and the bill was signed into law.
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31. **HB 5746 Hiking Costs and Harming State Supply Chains by Mandating Adherence to Minority Procurement Mandates During States of Emergency.** ACU believes in equal rights under the law for all, believes it is the duty of government to ensure all laws are applied equally, opposes driving up taxpayer costs by awarding projects based on racial or gender discrimination and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on July 1, 2021 by a vote of 60-9. (The bill failed to advance in the Senate.)
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32. **HB 5826 Providing Illegal Immigrants Taxpayer-funded College Scholarships.** ACU supports assisting the federal government in its constitutional role to enforce our nation's immigration laws, opposes the use of taxpayer resources to benefit those who entered the country illegally and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on June 29, 2021 by a vote of 65-0 and the bill was signed into law.
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33. **HB 5844 Imposing Overreaching New Mandates on Cosmetic Medical Spas Concerning Employment of Physicians and RN's.** ACU opposes these overreaching regulations which ultimately restrict competition and drive-up consumer costs and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on July 1, 2021 by a vote of 62-9. (The bill failed to advance in the Senate.)
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34. **HB 5851 Harming Employment and Training Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities by Eliminating the Minimum Wage Exemption.** ACU supports empowering the private sector to improve the lives and dignity of individuals with disabilities by providing valuable work, training and development opportunities. ACU opposes this measure which will harm the ability of organizations to provide these opportunities by prohibiting work from being performed unless it is compensated at the state's lofty minimum wage rate and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on May 6, 2021 by a vote of 66-6. (The bill failed to advance in the Senate.)
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35. **HB 5855 Weakening National Security by Subjecting Employers Who Report Immigration Status to ICE to Treble Damages.** ACU supports efforts to assist the federal government in performing its constitutional role to enforce the nation's immigration laws, opposes subjecting employers to lawsuit abuse and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on July 1, 2021 by a vote of 63-8 and the bill was signed into law.
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36. **HB 5966 Infringing Consumer Choice Through Appliance Energy and Water Efficiency Mandates.** ACU opposes reducing consumer choice and increasing product costs through this measure to advance a politicized environmental agenda and conduct market interference for government-favored products and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on June 30, 2021 by a vote of 59-8 and the bill was signed into law.
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37. **HB 6004 Weakening Election Integrity Through the Electronic Delivery and Return of Ballots for Certain Individuals.** ACU recognizes that election integrity safeguards, such as in-person voting and physical ballots, are designed to help ensure that one person cannot cast the ballot of another (or one person on behalf of many others). ACU opposes weakening election integrity by eliminating safeguards that prevent voter fraud, which disenfranchises eligible voters, and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on June 16, 2021 by a vote of 48-17. (The bill failed to advance in the Senate.)
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38. **HB 6018 Imposing a Series of Costly New Reporting and Training Mandates on Hospitals Concerning Workplace Violence.** ACU believes all companies should provide safe and respectful work environments and recognizes those that fail to provide such environments will face repercussions in the marketplace. ACU opposes one-size-fits-all mandates on hospitals which ultimately come at the expense of patients through higher costs or lower standards of care and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on July 1, 2021 by a vote of 63-8 and the bill was signed into law.
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39. **HB 6021 Reducing School Choice Through a State Takeover of Charter Schools' Admissions Processes.** ACU supports improving educational outcomes by empowering parents to choose the best educational option for their children through school choice and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on June 22, 2021 by a vote of 61-8. (The bill failed to advance in the Senate.)
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40. **HB 6052 Raising Vehicle Insurance Premiums by Mandating Policies Provide Comprehensive Coverage of Rental Vehicles.** ACU opposes this and other insurance mandates which drive up the cost of insurance by restricting the ability of consumers to purchase the policies which best suit their needs and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on July 1, 2021 by a vote of 59-9 and the bill later became law without the governor's signature.
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41. **HB 6090 Advancing Higher Payroll Taxes by Hiking Caregiver Benefits to 6 Weeks Under the State's Paid Leave Program.** ACU opposes unnecessarily driving up employment costs by further socializing the cost of caregiving benefits under the state-run paid leave program and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on June 25, 2021 by a vote of 60-9 and the bill was signed into law.
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42. **HB 6122 (Filippi Amd.) Combatting Executive Overreach by Limiting the Duration of Executive Disaster Emergency Orders from 180 Days to 90 Days.** The Filippi amendment (ACUF Lifetime 76%) to the appropriations bill. ACU believes that many of government's reactions to COVID-19 have done more harm than good, supports protecting individual liberties through this legislative check on executive overreach and supported this amendment. The House defeated the amendment on June 24, 2021 by a vote of 10-58.
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43. **HB 6122 (Place Amd.) Improving Fiscal Responsibility Through Zero-Base Budgeting.** The Place (ACUF Lifetime 87%) amendment to the appropriations bill. ACU strongly supports zero-base budgeting practices to reign in the states out of control spending, supports improving fiscal responsibility in order to ease taxpayer burdens and supported this amendment. The House defeated the amendment on June 24, 2021 by a vote of 10-63.
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44. **HB 6215 Infringing Property and Privacy Rights by Exposing Individuals of Owner-Occupied Housing to Lawsuit Abuse if they Consider Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation.** ACU believes public discrimination is wrong and believes individuals who discriminate will face repercussions in the marketplace. ACU further recognize that providing another individual access to a shared living space may bring up numerous concerns surrounding intimacy and privacy. For this reason, the federal Fair Housing Act (FHA) allows individuals of owner-occupied property to consider numerous characteristics, such as gender, when selecting a housemate. ACU opposes this attack on property and privacy rights through this measure designed to enrich greedy plaintiffs' attorneys by exposing individuals of owner-occupied property to lawsuit abuse and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on June 23, 2021 by a vote of 68-0 and the bill was signed into law.
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45. **HB 6283 Improving the Well-being of Animals and Reducing Taxpayer Costs by Permitting the Donation of Unused Medications.** ACU supports empowering veterinarians to improve the care they provided to animals across the state's shelters and rescue facilities by reducing unnecessary regulatory barriers and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on June 23, 2021 by a vote of 71-0 and the bill was signed into law.
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