



South Carolina – CPAC Scorecard

Center for Legislative Analysis

12th Edition – 2025

Summary

The latest edition of the South Carolina CPAC Scorecard assesses 13 votes in the House of Representatives and 10 votes in the state Senate. South Carolina Republicans earned an overall score of **84%**, with Senate Republicans scoring 82% and House Republicans scoring a strong 86%. Republicans overall score reflected a 14% increase from 2024. Democrats scored **46%** overall, a 25% increase from 2024.

The 2025 South Carolina session put forward strong conservative bills across Constitutional rights, government accountability, and public safety. **SB 136** and **HB 3930** protected second amendment rights while measures such as **HB 3387**, **HB 3127**, and **SB 235** promoted safety through law and order proposals. CPAC opposed bills such as **HB 4134**, **SB 167**, and **SB 287** pushed for additional regulations and business-specific tax favors, but failed to progress through both chambers. Overall, South Carolina had a strong 2025 legislative session.

Key Takeaways

Upholding Second Amendment Rights

The South Carolina legislature put forward two measures aimed at bolstering Second Amendment rights. **SB 136** requires the dismissal and expungement of gun possession charges invalidated by the 2024 Constitutional Carry law, which allowed eligible adults to carry handguns without a state-issued permit based on the Second Amendment right to bear arms. This bill garnered bipartisan backing, passing through both chambers with overwhelming support. The legislature doubled down on its support for this bill by overriding the Governor's veto. **HB 3930** was more divisive, passing through the House with overwhelming Republican support despite push back from many Democrats. This measure prohibits government entities from maintaining firearm ownership records and establishes penalties for noncompliance. This bill is currently engrossed, awaiting floor action in the Senate.

Reinforcing Public Safety

A trio of bills- **HB 3387**, **HB 3127**, and **SB 235**- were supported by CPAC for their promotion of public safety. **HB 3387** creates legal remedies for quickly removing unlawful occupants from residential dwellings. This measure strengthens property rights while creating safer living spaces for landlords and law-abiding tenants. **HB 3387** passed the House unanimously and is awaiting further action in the Senate. **HB 3127** increases penalties for failing to stop a motor vehicle when signaled by law enforcement officers. This bill creates a safer travel environment for responsible drivers and prioritizes their protection over dangerous and erratic motorists. This bill became law after passing through both chambers with unanimous Republican approval and a slight majority Democrat support. **SB 235** revises prostitution laws and increases penalties for solicitation with carveouts for victims of human trafficking. This measure protects vulnerable individuals while promoting public order. **SB 235** passed the Senate with unanimous bipartisan support and is awaiting further House action.

Constitutional Heritage and First Amendment Protections

In addition to the aforementioned legislation regarding the Second Amendment, the South Carolina state legislature upheld constitutional values through measures such as **HB 3758** and **HB 3558**. **HB 3758** requires school districts to adopt policies that protect students' voluntary religious expression. This measure allows students to voice religious beliefs in homework and assignments, while also allowing the organization of prayer groups. **HB 3758** upholds the core principle of religious freedom and is awaiting Senate action after passing the House. **HB 3558** establishes the framework for appointing commissioners to represent South Carolina in the event of an Article V Constitutional Convention. This measure promotes accountability and preparation while acknowledging individual states' authority to select their own delegates. **HB 3558** passed the House and is awaiting further action in the Senate.

Highlighted Votes Analyzed

HB 3927 – Merit Over Mandates: Ending DEI Indoctrination

This bill prohibits state agencies and schools from promoting DEI initiatives and mandates merit-based standards. CPAC supports it for advancing equality under the law and limiting government-driven ideological mandates. The House passed it 82-32, but it died in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

SB 125 – Property Tax Exemption Adjustment for Nonprofit Housing Corporations

This bill limits property tax exemptions to match a nonprofit's actual ownership interest. CPAC supports it for promoting fiscal responsibility and fairness. The Senate passed it 44-0, but the House did not act on the measure before the end of the 2025 legislative session.

SB 62 – Restoring and Expanding Parental Choice in Education

SB 62 responds to a recent court decision that threatened to cripple South Carolina's Education Scholarship Trust Fund, that thousands of South Carolinians use to offset educational expenses. The bill adjusts the structure of the program to ensure compliance with the state constitution and expands the number of families eligible to join. CPAC believes school choice is a parental right and advocates for expanding educational freedom. For those reasons, it supports this bill. The South Carolina Senate passed **SB 62** on February 4, 2025, in a 31-9 vote, and Governor Henry McMaster signed the measure into law.

HB 3558 – Preparing for a Constitutional Convention

This bill establishes the framework for appointing commissioners to represent South Carolina at a potential Article V Constitutional Convention, defining qualifications, oaths, and duties. CPAC supports it for empowering states to assert their constitutional authority and push for limited federal overreach. The House passed it 76-29, and it is currently pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Trends and Observations

Senate Inaction on CPAC Supported Bills

While the South Carolina Senate was relatively strong throughout the 2025 legislature, there are a few conservative pieces of legislation currently blocked by Senate inaction. **HB 3758**, promoting religious freedom in the classroom and **HB 3930**, aimed at defending privacy and Second Amendment rights have been engrossed and stalled in the Senate. **HB 3927** promoted equality under the law by prohibiting state agencies and schools from forwarding DEI initiatives. This bill would have been crucial in separating government mandates from ideologies inculcated with biases. However, the measure died in a Senate committee.

Promoting Fiscal and Legal Responsibility

The South Carolina legislature put forward pieces of legislation aimed at fiscal and legal accountability. **SB 125** limits property tax exemptions for nonprofit housing corporations, requiring exemptions to match an organization's actual ownership. Ensuring tax exemptions are reflective of the actual percentage of property owned, closes any potential loopholes and strengthens fiscal responsibility. **SB 244**, a broad tort reform bill, would lower liability insurance costs, reduce frivolous litigation, and ensure defendants' payments reflect the actual percentage of fault. This measure prioritizes aligning each party's level of responsibility with their respective level of fault. **SJR 318** would create a commission intended to identify ways South Carolina could reduce waste and improve efficiency. These CPAC supported proposals advance common sense reforms, accountability, and fiscal responsibility.

Conservative Excellence - House

Paula Rawl Calhoon - 100%	Bruce Bannister - 92%	Thomas Beach - 92%
James Burns - 92%	Micajah Caskey - 92%	Brandon Cox - 92%
April Cromer - 92%	Sarita Edgerton - 92%	Shannon Erickson - 92%
Patrick Haddon - 92%	Randy Ligon - 92%	Timothy McGinnis - 92%
Weston Newton - 92%	Fawn Pedalino - 92%	Joe White - 92%
Paul Wickensimer - 92%	Mark Willis - 92%	Thomas Brittain - 91%
Lee Gilreath - 91%	Wallace Jordan - 91%	Phillip Lowe - 91%
Brandon Guffey - 90%	Jeffrey Johnson - 90%	Donald McCabe - 90%
Scott Montgomery - 90%		

Conservative Excellence - Senate

Wes Climer - 90%

Matthew Leber - 90%

Harvey Peeler - 90%

Mike Reichenbach - 90%

Rex Rice - 90%

Conservative Achievement - House

Nathan Ballentine - 89%

Bobby Cox - 89%

Stephen Frank - 89%

Kevin Hardee - 89%

Jordan Pace - 89%

Heather Crawford - 85%

Sylleste Davis - 85%

Cally Forrest - 85%

Val Guest - 85%

Charles Hartz - 85%

Harriet Holman - 85%

Jay Kilmartin - 85%

Kathy Landing - 85%

Brian Lawson - 85%

Josiah Magnuson - 85%

Robert May - 85%

Cody Mitchell - 85%

Alan Morgan - 85%

Brandon Newton - 85%

Melissa Oremus - 85%

Luke Rankin - 85%

Blake Sanders - 85%

Marvin Smith - 85%

Bill Taylor - 85%

James Teeple - 85%

Jackie Terrible - 85%

David Vaughan - 85%

William Whitmire - 85%

Christopher Wooten - 85%

Richard Yow - 85%

William Bailey - 83%

Phillip Bowers - 83%

Gary Brewer - 83%

Adam Duncan - 83%

Craig Gagnon - 83%

Bill Hager - 83%

Tom Hartnett - 83%

Davey Hiott - 83%

William Hixon - 83%

Chris Huff - 83%

Travis Moore - 83%

Mike Neese - 83%

Thomas Pope - 83%

Robby Robbins - 83%

Carla Schuessler - 83%

Heath Sessions - 83%

William Herbkersman - 82%

William Hewitt - 82%

William Chumley - 80%

Conservative Achievement - Senate

Billy Garrett - 89%

Stephen Goldfinch - 89%

Shane Massey - 89%

Luke Rankin - 88%

Thomas Alexander - 80%

Sean Bennett - 80%

Richard Cash - 80%

JD Chaplin - 80%

Thomas Corbin - 80%

Ronnie Cromer - 80%

Thomas Davis - 80%

Jason Elliott - 80%

Greg Hembree - 80%

Michael Johnson - 80%

Carlisle Kennedy - 80%

Joshua Kimbrell - 80%

Roger Nutt - 80%

Everett Stubbs - 80%

Ross Turner - 80%

Thomas Young - 80%

Jeff Zell - 80%