



Principles of Liberty

2016

Legislative Summary & Scorecard



Mission

The mission of Principles of Liberty (POL) is to focus the conversation on “What is the role of government?” and “How is that role being executed at the state capitol?”

Role of the Scorecard

The POL scorecard is a useful tool for identifying trends and making relative comparisons. The scorecard is indeed a powerful tool, but it is not an arbiter of final judgment. It is an objective, consistent, rational way to evaluate the voting records of legislators compared to the analyses that POL makes based on the principles that POL defines and uses as our standard for legislative analysis. Bills are generally scored by POL BEFORE legislators cast their votes. More bills are rated by POL than any other organization in the state. In 2016, POL analyzed, and scored, 287 bills.

Summary of Bills and Analysis Online

As you can imagine, it would be quite cost-prohibitive to publish the analyses for every single bill in this report. This is where your own “Personal Responsibility” comes into play – you can find ALL reviews on all 287 bills at our website at www.principlesofliberty.org. Just click on the dropdown box at the top of the home page for Ratings/2016 Bills/House for all House bills, and Ratings/2016 Bills/Senate for all Senate bills.

Got Questions?

If you would like additional information about any specific bill or rating, please do what many of our legislators do – email us your question at Chelsea@principlesofliberty.org and we will give you more of the in-depth research that went into our analysis.

Grades

POL does not curve the grades. There is a sufficient amount of data to allow one to make your own observations and draw your own conclusions. The assignment of a letter grade is simply a linear scale based on the following...

60% is the “passing” mark, hence a D-

60% + 3% = 63% = D

63% + 3% = 66% = D+

66% + 3% = 69% = C-

69% + 3% = 72% = C

72% + 3% = 75% = C+

...

...

87% + 3% = 90% = A

90% + 3% = 93% = A+

Results

As we've said repeatedly, ***if we're agreeing with someone 75% of the time, then we think that's a good thing!*** Not everyone is going to agree on everything. We believe that even a 69-74% has to be considered at least a good starting point on common ground for a conversation with your legislator. That's a C- or better. This isn't Lake Wobegone where ALL of the legislators are above average, and this isn't a partisan group that hands out awards for "conservatism" to virtually every Republican in the state legislature based on a cherry-picked set of one or two dozen bills to make one side look good and another side look bad. This is real life, objective, statistically significant data reporting.

That said, once you drop below a C-, we think that some questions should absolutely be asked. First, look back at prior years to see if this is consistent for that legislator, or if their scores have bounced up/down in the past. If it's an irregular score, with their scores usually being higher, then we'd suggest monitoring, but maintaining some perspective. Look at a legislator's scores vs. their district, remembering that cuts both ways. Is a C appropriate for a legislator in a liberal district? Is a C appropriate for a legislator in a conservative district? If it's consistently in D or F territory, then perhaps more investigation is warranted.

Think For Yourself, Verify the Facts

Do your own homework. Do not take our word for it. Do not accept your legislator's "spin". Look at the bills POL rated, and look up your legislator's votes on those bills. Maybe even read the bills. Yes, that takes time, but if you want to get the facts, you must do your homework and draw your own conclusions. Too many people blindly listen to what their legislator says because it's easy and it's what they want to hear. Some legislators have bad scores, and you should seek to find out why, not just let them waive it off.

Talk to High Scoring Legislators

There are many legislators who have great scores. Ask them about POL, even if they're not your legislator. Ask them about their good scores and see what they say. Some follow POL closely, some not as much. Some even ask us for additional detailed analysis. Get their opinion on the value POL brings to the political discussion.

Non-Partisan Objective Analysis Has Helped Us Be Effective

Once again, legislators on both sides of the aisle contacted POL this year about our analysis. We successfully worked with both parties on pending legislation.

Scorecard Data Statistical Significance:

The scores we calculate are based upon a statistically significant set of data. That is, there's enough there to identify trends and make relative comparisons. Analyzing 287 bills gave us almost 40,000 datapoints on 100 legislators, about 400 per legislator. A datapoint is generated for any principle that applies to a bill any time a legislator votes on a bill that we've analyzed. Those datapoints represent votes on about 150 different bills for each legislator. The set of bills for each legislator is different because we track EVERY vote a legislator makes in committee and in Thirds on the floor. I won't bore you with the statistical details, but if you have a question on the mathematical methodology, I'm happy to discuss! But fair warning, I'm an actuary and a bit of a math 'geek', so be careful what you ask for...!

Thank You:

Thanks to our staff at POL - Chelsea Spencer and Joshua Kistler. Thanks to all of our fantastic volunteers from all over the state, especially Cedric Bertolasio, Jay North, David Aitken, Bob Morgan, and others who stepped it up this year. Thanks to awesome our interns Branden Yeates, Stephen Scheffel, Finley Konold, Ellen Densmore! Thanks to the many activists and group leaders throughout Colorado that have worked with POL. And thanks to our many legislators who actively engage with POL on a regular basis! Without your help, support and dedication, we could be not so effective.

Conclusion:

We appreciate the following that POL has gained over the years. Our goal is to focus the conversation on the role of government and what's happening at the state capitol to that end. **We want to empower you to make your voice heard.** We are regularly contacted and referenced by individuals, activists, legislators of both parties, staffers, candidates, and lobbyists. We had more volunteers this year than ever. Let's keep up the diligent work that is required of us to keep our freedom and liberty, and to maintain and oversee our republic. POL provides the people of Colorado with a powerful tool, but like any tool, it's only as good as the people who pick it up and use it. Thank you!

2016 Principles of Liberty Scorecard - State House

POL rated 287 bills this year and tracked votes in all committees + final votes (Thirds) in both the House and the Senate.

Rank	Name	Individual Liberty	Personal Responsibility	Property Rights	Free Markets	Limited Government	Fiscal Responsibility	Equal Protection of the Law	State vs Federal Powers	Overall Score	Grade
1	Neville P.	98%	100%	100%	100%	98%	100%	100%	100%	99.1%	A+
2	Everett	94%	98%	100%	99%	98%	100%	100%	100%	98.5%	A+
3	Ransom	96%	98%	100%	96%	98%	98%	100%	100%	97.6%	A+
4	Humphrey	93%	98%	100%	97%	97%	98%	96%	86%	96.7%	A+
5	Saine	96%	100%	100%	94%	95%	100%	100%	100%	96.4%	A+
6	Leonard	93%	96%	100%	92%	95%	95%	100%	100%	95.0%	A+
7	Buck	85%	98%	94%	95%	94%	98%	88%	100%	94.0%	A+
8	Klingenschmitt	92%	91%	93%	86%	93%	98%	91%	50%	91.7%	A
9	VanWinkle	97%	88%	87%	93%	91%	91%	89%	100%	91.5%	A
10	Joshi	97%	88%	100%	90%	89%	95%	100%	67%	91.2%	A
11	Navarro	97%	92%	94%	85%	89%	92%	80%	100%	89.4%	A-
12	Nordberg	92%	86%	94%	86%	88%	92%	73%	75%	87.5%	A-
13	Lundeen	89%	89%	93%	83%	85%	88%	70%	75%	85.0%	B+
14	Wist	83%	93%	87%	84%	84%	88%	83%	71%	84.9%	B+
15	DelGrosso	88%	83%	85%	81%	81%	85%	71%	67%	81.5%	B
16	Becker J.	73%	92%	71%	75%	82%	87%	88%	100%	81.5%	B
17	Lawrence	82%	90%	86%	77%	80%	86%	59%	67%	80.3%	B-
18	Carver	82%	79%	80%	81%	80%	88%	58%	75%	79.7%	B-
19	Sias	94%	87%	88%	78%	76%	76%	59%	100%	78.6%	B-
20	Willett	85%	79%	79%	72%	75%	91%	66%	67%	77.0%	C+
21	Landgraf	90%	80%	79%	70%	75%	83%	77%	67%	76.6%	C+
22	Dore	74%	71%	69%	69%	75%	78%	56%	75%	72.3%	C
23	Windholz	84%	74%	92%	67%	71%	72%	64%	75%	72.0%	C
24	Coram	69%	71%	76%	70%	70%	77%	59%	100%	70.8%	C-
25	Wilson	73%	70%	79%	68%	72%	66%	60%	75%	69.8%	C-
26	Thurlow	72%	63%	89%	72%	63%	65%	60%	75%	67.0%	D+
27	Conti	85%	68%	79%	58%	67%	63%	65%	67%	66.3%	D+
28	Brown	67%	60%	75%	63%	61%	60%	48%	100%	61.6%	D-
29	Rankin	69%	59%	62%	63%	62%	50%	57%	67%	61.0%	D-
30	Roupe	73%	40%	60%	56%	55%	49%	46%	67%	54.3%	F
31	Priola	78%	38%	54%	54%	52%	49%	48%	75%	52.2%	F
32	Pabon	69%	16%	41%	32%	33%	27%	28%	67%	33.1%	F
33	Garnett	67%	22%	47%	32%	32%	28%	21%	50%	32.6%	F
34	Court	62%	20%	27%	27%	31%	33%	29%	67%	31.7%	F
35	Rosenthal	66%	11%	44%	29%	31%	27%	28%	25%	31.3%	F

2016 Principles of Liberty Scorecard - State House

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Rank	Name	Individual Liberty	Personal Responsibility	Property Rights	Free Markets	Limited Government	Fiscal Responsibility	Equal Protection of the Law	State vs Federal Powers	Overall Score	Grade
36	Arndt	61%	11%	45%	26%	32%	26%	25%	75%	31.2%	F
37	Becker K.	55%	17%	38%	29%	29%	34%	28%	75%	31.0%	F
38	Lebsock	61%	17%	47%	26%	31%	21%	27%	60%	30.9%	F
39	Williams	68%	11%	44%	27%	32%	24%	22%	67%	30.9%	F
40	Kagan	62%	17%	33%	24%	30%	30%	27%	67%	30.3%	F
41	Winter	61%	12%	42%	26%	31%	24%	22%	50%	30.0%	F
42	Foote	46%	18%	25%	27%	30%	27%	32%	43%	29.7%	F
43	Lee	63%	17%	36%	21%	30%	21%	27%	50%	28.9%	F
44	Kraft Tharp	53%	14%	44%	24%	29%	21%	23%	50%	28.5%	F
45	Buckner	66%	14%	36%	25%	30%	20%	19%	75%	28.4%	F
46	Vigil	57%	9%	47%	26%	29%	18%	29%	50%	28.2%	F
47	Salazar	64%	10%	36%	19%	30%	18%	24%	67%	28.0%	F
48	Melton	63%	16%	44%	16%	29%	19%	22%	50%	28.0%	F
49	Fields	63%	14%	40%	22%	29%	18%	24%	40%	27.3%	F
50	Hullingerhorst	58%	9%	38%	22%	28%	24%	24%	67%	27.3%	F
51	McCann	61%	10%	36%	25%	28%	20%	22%	67%	27.3%	F
52	Young	58%	9%	38%	22%	28%	21%	24%	67%	26.7%	F
53	Lontine	46%	8%	27%	25%	29%	18%	26%	43%	26.6%	F
54	Ryden	44%	8%	26%	25%	28%	20%	26%	43%	26.2%	F
55	Duran	58%	9%	33%	22%	27%	18%	24%	67%	26.2%	F
56	Hamner	54%	9%	38%	22%	27%	21%	24%	67%	26.1%	F
57	Mitsch Bush	53%	10%	41%	19%	28%	18%	21%	60%	26.1%	F
58	Ginal	58%	8%	38%	25%	26%	20%	22%	75%	25.9%	F
59	Pettersen	60%	11%	38%	23%	27%	17%	20%	75%	25.9%	F
60	Singer	63%	9%	47%	19%	26%	20%	23%	50%	25.7%	F
61	Esgar	52%	11%	38%	22%	27%	17%	19%	50%	25.3%	F
62	Danielson	56%	7%	41%	19%	26%	18%	23%	60%	24.7%	F
63	Moreno	54%	12%	40%	19%	25%	19%	21%	40%	24.3%	F
64	Primavera	42%	7%	26%	24%	26%	17%	26%	43%	24.2%	F
65	Tyler	41%	9%	29%	17%	26%	18%	25%	38%	23.5%	F

2016 Principles of Liberty Scorecard - State Senate

POL rated 287 bills this year and tracked votes in all committees + final votes (Thirds) in both the House and the Senate.

Rank	Name	Individual Liberty	Personal Responsibility	Property Rights	Free Markets	Limited Government	Fiscal Responsibility	Equal Protection of the Law	State vs Federal Powers	Overall Score	Grade
1	Marble	96%	95%	100%	94%	95%	94%	93%	100%	95.1%	A+
2	Neville T.	92%	97%	94%	91%	92%	92%	86%	100%	92.1%	A
3	Sonnenberg	89%	92%	95%	86%	85%	83%	88%	100%	86.9%	A-
4	Holbert	92%	85%	89%	80%	84%	86%	86%	100%	84.8%	B+
5	Baumgardner	89%	83%	90%	83%	82%	71%	82%	88%	82.6%	B
6	Lambert	93%	72%	92%	81%	79%	69%	77%	83%	79.8%	B-
7	Hill	92%	81%	85%	78%	73%	63%	67%	88%	75.6%	C+
8	Scott	88%	68%	91%	78%	74%	62%	60%	88%	74.6%	C+
9	Lundberg	92%	46%	92%	71%	66%	60%	61%	88%	69.0%	C-
10	Woods	91%	69%	71%	52%	62%	58%	69%	83%	64.1%	D
11	Tate	84%	55%	76%	55%	63%	65%	50%	83%	63.6%	D
12	Grantham	89%	50%	92%	60%	60%	43%	43%	83%	61.5%	D-
13	Cooke	72%	52%	89%	53%	57%	57%	32%	100%	59.3%	F
14	Roberts	74%	42%	75%	49%	50%	40%	28%	89%	51.8%	F
15	Scheffel	89%	28%	83%	43%	50%	37%	36%	83%	51.5%	F
16	Crowder	79%	24%	69%	45%	50%	39%	43%	83%	49.8%	F
17	Martinez Humenik	79%	29%	69%	40%	46%	44%	27%	83%	47.6%	F
18	Cadman	81%	18%	64%	39%	47%	34%	36%	83%	46.9%	F
19	Garcia	79%	16%	69%	36%	46%	24%	33%	38%	43.2%	F
20	Jahn	72%	29%	56%	38%	44%	32%	31%	33%	42.9%	F
21	Steadman	70%	28%	58%	36%	41%	30%	50%	50%	42.7%	F
22	Hodge	69%	24%	50%	37%	42%	30%	31%	38%	40.9%	F
23	Donovan	70%	19%	65%	35%	41%	27%	36%	38%	40.7%	F
24	Kefalas	67%	21%	54%	34%	40%	26%	40%	50%	39.4%	F
25	Merrifield	66%	15%	50%	35%	40%	30%	36%	33%	38.9%	F
26	Carroll	62%	18%	45%	38%	41%	29%	29%	33%	38.9%	F
27	Todd	65%	15%	54%	32%	39%	24%	31%	33%	37.3%	F
28	Heath	63%	18%	38%	34%	38%	30%	27%	33%	36.7%	F
29	Newell	66%	10%	33%	34%	38%	32%	31%	33%	36.4%	F
30	Aguilar	62%	8%	40%	33%	37%	26%	28%	25%	35.1%	F
31	Guzman	59%	12%	40%	32%	37%	21%	29%	40%	34.8%	F
32	Johnston	65%	14%	50%	31%	35%	18%	32%	43%	34.2%	F
33	Kerr	65%	10%	36%	29%	34%	19%	33%	43%	32.5%	F
34	Jones	50%	3%	27%	21%	29%	21%	39%	33%	26.9%	F
35	Ulibarri	48%	6%	27%	25%	28%	18%	38%	20%	26.2%	F



Principles Of Liberty

www.principlesofliberty.org

What? Find out what is going on legislatively at the state capitol.

How? We analyze legislation based upon defined Principles of Liberty.

Why? Be informed about how your legislators actually vote.

What are the Principles?

Free People

- ✓ Individual Liberty
- ✓ Personal Responsibility

Free Markets

- ✓ Property Rights
- ✓ Free Markets

Good Government

- ✓ Limited Government
- ✓ Fiscal Responsibility
- ✓ Equal Protection of the Rule of Law
- ✓ State vs. Federal Balance of Power