



## Arkansas – CPAC Scorecard

Center for Legislative Analysis

12th Edition – 2025

### Summary

The latest edition of the Arkansas CPAC Scorecard assesses 14 votes in the State Senate and 16 votes in the State House from the 2025 session. Arkansas Republicans earned an average of 79%, down from 82% in 2023. The Arkansas legislature holds a full session once every two years. Due to the legislature's passage of several common sense bills, such as the legalization of raw milk, Democrats averaged 45%, a large increase from their 5% average score in 2023.

The 2025 Arkansas legislative session produced a mix of meaningful reforms and ongoing challenges for taxpayers and individual liberty. Lawmakers advanced personal freedom and responsibility by expanding consumer choice, strengthening property rights, reinforcing work requirements in welfare programs, and broadening educational opportunity. The session also delivered notable tax relief by reducing burdens on food, nonprofits, and everyday economic activity, while pushing back against politicized investing and regulatory overreach. At the same time, the passage of selective subsidies and proposals to expand taxing authority underscored the continued need for vigilance against government favoritism and unchecked growth of spending.

### Key Takeaways

#### **Expanding Personal Choice and Consumer Freedom**

Several bills advanced the principle that adults should be free to make informed choices without unnecessary government interference. **HB 1048** legalized the sale of raw milk, including goat and sheep milk, without confining sales to farms, reinforcing voluntary exchange between consenting adults. This approach respects consumer autonomy while rejecting the idea that bureaucrats know better than families what they can safely consume. The legislation also supports small producers by removing artificial barriers to market entry.

#### **Protecting Property Rights and Neighborhood Stability**

The legislature took clear steps to defend private property and community order by criminalizing unlawful squatting through **HB 1049**. Property ownership is a cornerstone of economic freedom, and allowing illegal occupation undermines both homeowners and local communities. Squatting erodes property values, discourages investment, and places law-abiding residents at risk. This

reform reinforces that ownership carries enforceable rights, not just symbolic ones. By drawing a firm legal line, lawmakers affirmed that compassion does not require tolerating lawlessness. The measure also supports neighborhood revitalization and responsible land use. Strong property protections remain essential to long-term economic stability.

### **Resisting Politicized Investment and Financial Activism**

Through **HB 1307**, the state barred public institutions from investing in funds that advance ideological agendas unrelated to fiduciary responsibility. Public dollars are meant to be managed for financial return, not to subsidize social engineering or political activism. This reform reinforces neutrality and professionalism in public finance. It ensures that retirement systems and state funds are shielded from risky, agenda-driven strategies. Taxpayers should not be forced to bankroll causes they may fundamentally oppose. By refocusing investments on performance rather than politics, lawmakers upheld fiscal discipline. The policy also pushes back against efforts to use financial leverage to bypass democratic debate.

## **Highlighted Votes Analyzed**

### **Legalizing Raw Milk**

This bill allows the sale of raw milk, along with goat's milk and sheep's milk and does not limit it to sales on a farm. CPAC supports the voluntary consumption of raw milk and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on February 3, 2025 by a vote of 94-3 and the bill later became law.

### **Providing a Core Curriculum For State Supported Schools**

This bill requires a core curriculum be established at state supported schools. CPAC supports efforts to strengthen educational requirements and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on April 1, 2025 by a vote of 88-5 and the bill later became law.

### **Voter ID for Ballot Initiatives**

This bill requires a photo ID to sign ballot initiatives. CPAC supports efforts to prevent importing non-residents to vote on local initiatives and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on February 25, 2025 by a vote of 70-24 and the bill later became law.

## **Trends and Observations**

### **Delivering Broad-Based Tax Relief on Essentials**

Multiple bills advanced meaningful tax relief by reducing burdens on everyday necessities. **HB 1685** removed the gross receipts tax on food and food ingredients, easing costs for families regardless of income level. **HB 1636**, though not enacted, aimed to phase out sales taxes on soft drinks, reflecting momentum toward consumption tax relief. These measures recognize that taxing basic goods is inherently regressive. Eliminating such taxes allows households to keep more of what they earn. It also reduces administrative complexity for businesses.

### **Reducing Tax Burdens on Nonprofits and Economic Activity**

With **HB 1671**, lawmakers eliminated gross receipts and sales taxes applied to nonprofit organizations. Gross receipts taxes are particularly harmful because they apply regardless of profit or loss. Removing them encourages charitable activity and community service without expanding government programs. This reform also acknowledges that nonprofits already operate with limited resources. By reducing tax friction, the state allows these organizations to focus more on mission and less on compliance. The change supports civil society as an alternative to bureaucratic expansion. Tax policy should enable voluntary solutions, not crowd them out.

### **Work Requirements for Welfare**

The legislature strengthened expectations of personal responsibility within public assistance programs through **HB 1751** and **HB 1915**. Requiring job search activity during TANF application processing reinforces the idea that aid should be transitional, not permanent. Maintaining clear standards for SNAP eligibility and fixed subsidies promotes consistency and predictability. These policies aim to prevent mission creep and unchecked expansion of welfare programs. Assistance should prioritize those truly in need while encouraging self-sufficiency.

## **Conservative Excellence - House**

**John Carr - 93%**

**Wayne Long - 93%**

**Robin Lundstrum - 93%**

**Mindy McAlindon - 92%**

**Ryan Rose - 93%**

## **Conservative Excellence - Senate**

**Jim Dotson - 92%**

## **Conservative Achievement - House**

**Brandon Achor - 81%**

**Wade Andrews - 87%**

**Howard Beaty - 81%**

**Stan Berry - 80%**

**Harlan Breaux - 80%**

**Keith Brooks - 80%**

**Alyssa Brown - 86%**

**Justin Gonzales - 80%**

**Zack Gramlich - 86%**

**John Maddox - 85%**

**Brit McKenzie - 80%**

**Austin Mccollum - 86%**

**Stephen Meeks - 87%**

**Jeremiah Moore - 80%**

**Stetson Painter - 80%**

**David Ray - 88%**

**Scott Richardson - 88%**

**Johnny Rye - 81%**

**Matthew Shepherd - 81%**

**Randy Torres - 80%**

**Steve Unger - 85%**

**Matt Brown - 81%**  
**Paul Childress - 81%**

**Kendra Moore - 85%**  
**Jason Nazarenko - 88%**

**Carlton Wing - 81%**  
**Richard Womack - 88%**

### **Conservative Achievement - Senate**

**Joshua Bryant - 85%**  
**Ronald Caldwell - 83%**

**John Payton - 85%**  
**Clint Penzo - 86%**

**Gary Stubblefield - 85%**  
**David Wallace - 85%**