



Colorado – CPAC Scorecard

Center for Legislative Analysis

11th Edition – 2024

Summary

The 2024 edition of the Colorado CPAC Scorecard assesses 28 votes in both the Colorado State House and Senate. Colorado Republicans earned an average Conservative Rating of 87% which is exactly the same average score which Colorado Republicans earned in 2023. Democrats had an average score of 3% in 2024 and 2% in 2023, illustrating a large ideological gap between the two parties.

While not as far left as some other state legislatures, Colorado Democrats passed left-wing policies which will gradually expand the bureaucracy and choke off human creativity and individuality. They attacked the property rights of landlords by imposing an unreasonable version of tenants rights, took steps toward racial extortion payments, and made it illegal to call transgender-identified people by their real names in schools. Colorado also established even more bureaucratic departments to manage “mental health” and “environmental sustainability.”

Key Takeaways

Creating a State Holiday to Celebrate Abortion (SJR 3)

Senate Joint Resolution 3 encourages Colorado voters to enshrine abortion rights into the state constitution and designates January 22nd as “Roe v. Wade Anniversary Day.” The resolution seeks to solidify the state’s status as a national outlier in its embrace of abortion. CPAC firmly opposes the normalization and celebration of abortion, which it regards as a human tragedy rather than a right. According to CPAC, memorializing Roe v. Wade in this manner is offensive to those who value the sanctity of life. The resolution passed the Senate on January 18, 2024, with a vote of 21-13. CPAC views this as part of a broader agenda to advance radical pro-abortion values under the guise of reproductive rights.

Second Amendment Erosion Through New Restrictions

A wave of legislation in 2024 imposed new limitations on Colorado gun owners. **SB 131** expanded “gun-free zones,” **HB 1348** penalized improperly stored firearms in vehicles, **HB 1349** proposed an 11% excise tax on gun and ammunition sales, and **HB 1353** required firearm dealers to obtain a new state permit. CPAC opposed all four bills, viewing them as concerted

efforts to weaken the Second Amendment and make gun ownership burdensome for working-class citizens. The organization argued that these measures amount to legal harassment of law-abiding gun owners and merchants. While proponents claimed the bills would enhance safety, CPAC believes they only serve to restrict constitutional rights. These policies passed the Senate largely along party lines, with CPAC urging voters to resist such incremental attacks on firearm freedoms.

Growth of Government Bureaucracies in DEI and Climate Policy

Three bills significantly expanded state bureaucracy in 2024 by advancing left-wing priorities. **SB 200** promoted DEI training within child welfare services, **SB 214** created the Office of Sustainability to oversee eco-policies in government buildings, and **HB 1338** formed the Office of Environmental Justice to monitor “cumulative impact” pollution metrics. CPAC opposed all three, arguing they represent ideological bloat and unnecessary government overreach. The organization views these bills as a misuse of public resources to further progressive cultural and environmental agendas. Each measure passed comfortably in the Senate, reflecting strong support from the Democratic majority. CPAC remains concerned about the long-term implications of normalizing such ideologically charged offices within state government.

Highlighted Votes Analyzed

SB 53 Taking Steps Toward Reparations.

This bill requires the state to conduct a study determining how slavery has affected the Black community in Colorado. It then establishes a framework for showing the results to the Governor and legislature. CPAC recognizes that this effort is being made in an attempt to drum up reasons to enact racist policies favoring government-favored racial groups and opposed this bill. The Senate passed this bill on May 6, 2024 by a vote of 22-12.

HB 1075 Preparing for a Totally Socialized Healthcare System.

This bill directs the Colorado school of public health to analyze draft model legislation for a publicly financed and privately provided healthcare system. CPAC opposes socialized healthcare systems, opposes measures that take steps toward the creation of such systems, and opposed this bill. The House passed this bill on April 22, 2024 by a vote of 42-19 but the bill never became law.

HB 1098 Stripping Colorado’s Property Owners of their Rights.

This bill prohibits landlords from terminating a person’s tenancy without cause. CPAC supports the preservation of property rights and opposed this bill. The Senate passed this bill on March 26, 2024 by a vote of 19-15 and the bill later became law.

Trends and Observations

Rent Control and Housing Market Intervention

Multiple housing-related bills in 2024 sought to regulate rent and steer housing benefits toward favored populations. **HB 1259** introduced rent control during emergencies, **HB 1434** expanded affordable housing tax credits, and **HB 1340** granted tax benefits to university attendees. CPAC opposed all three measures, stating that they distort the free market and reward politically aligned constituencies. The organization maintains that rent control reduces housing supply over time and that targeted tax incentives are unfair and ineffective. CPAC views these bills as misguided attempts to manipulate housing outcomes through government interference. All three passed the Senate, intensifying CPAC's warnings about creeping socialist policies in the state's housing system.

Targeted Tax Credits and Economic Redistribution

A series of bills established narrow tax credits or grant programs for select groups and industries, including renters (**SB 146**), rural areas (**HB 1001**), employee-owned businesses (**HB 1157**), quantum tech firms (**HB 1325**), arts programs (**HB 1397**), and healthy food access (**HB 1416**). CPAC opposed these policies on the grounds that they promote economic favoritism and redistribute taxpayer funds without broad public benefit. The organization believes government should not be in the business of choosing winners and losers in the economy. CPAC also raised concerns about waste, cronyism, and mission creep. Many of these programs passed despite objections, reinforcing CPAC's argument that the state is favoring politically aligned interest groups. These developments signal a growing trend toward government-managed economic planning in Colorado.

Encoding Gender Ideology Into Law

Colorado legislators added "gender identity" to Colorado's hate crime law (**SB 189**) which will further entrench the caste system in Colorado in which people are treated differently under the law according to their race, ethnicity and sexual habits. Legislators also added red tape to the process of removing inappropriate books from school libraries (**SB 216**) in a transparent attempt to thwart the efforts of parents to remove child-inappropriate pornographic materials from schools.

Conservative Excellence - Senate

Mark Baisley - 96%
Larry Liston - 96%

Rod Pelton - 92%

Kevin Van Winkle - 100%

Conservative Excellence - House

Ryan Armagost - 93%
Scott Bottoms - 96%
Brandi Bradley - 100%
Ken Degraaf - 100%

Gabe Evans - 93%
Lisa Frizell - 93%
Anthony Hartsook - 96%
Stephanie Luck - 100%

Don Wilson - 93%
Ty Winter - 92%

Conservative Achievement - Senate

Byron Pelton - 88%

Janice Rich - 82%

Jim Smallwood - 82%

Conservative Achievement - House

Mary Bradfield - 82%

Michael Lynch - 81%

Ron Weinberg - 89%

Marc Catlin - 81%

Rose Pugliese - 85%

Richard Holtorf - 84%

Matt Soper - 81%