



## Minnesota – CPAC Scorecard

Center for Legislative Analysis

12th Edition – 2025

### Summary

The latest edition of the Minnesota CPAC Scorecard assesses 17 votes in the State House and 13 votes in the State Senate from the 2024 session. Minnesota Republicans earned an average score of 77%, a decrease from their 2024 average score of 93%. Democrats earned an average score of 3%.

The 2025 Minnesota legislative session was defined by a clash between a reform-minded House willing to advance pro-life, pro-family, and fairness-focused measures and a Senate–Governor axis determined to grow government. Lawmakers delivered one major win for taxpayers and the rule of law with **HF 1**, repealing free state healthcare for illegal immigrants, but the Senate blocked key House victories like **HF 12**, **HF 24**, and **HF 25** on women’s sports and protecting life. At the same time, Democrats pushed through massive omnibus packages, like **HF 5**, **SF 3**, **SF 17**, **HF 2**, and **SF 3045**, that expand bureaucracy, increase spending, centralize power in St. Paul, and burden taxpayers without serious accountability.

### Key Takeaways

#### **Restoring Fairness and Protecting Public Resources from Abuse**

Minnesota took an important step toward restoring fairness in public benefits through **HF 1**, which repeals taxpayer-funded healthcare for illegal immigrants. This change ensures limited resources are directed to legal residents rather than serving as an incentive for unlawful entry. The bill also reestablishes clear boundaries around who may access state programs, reaffirming that benefits require lawful presence. At a time when human services costs continue to grow, this reform helps reduce the financial strain on Minnesotans. It also signals that state policy should not undermine federal immigration law. By prioritizing citizens and lawful residents, Minnesota strengthens public trust in its safety net. The measure marked a significant and overdue correction in the state’s approach to healthcare eligibility.

#### **Pro-Life Bills Blocked By State Senate**

The Minnesota House is controlled by Republicans and the Senate is controlled by Democrats. House Republicans advanced several pro-life protections, including **HF 24** and **HF 25** which would have strengthened care requirements for infants who survive abortions and expanded

support for pregnancy resource centers. **HF 24** reaffirmed that babies born alive deserve the same medical care as any newborn, grounding state policy in basic moral clarity. **HF 25** sought to direct resources toward maternity homes and life-affirming support, prioritizing mothers and children over the abortion industry. While these bills passed the House by narrow margins, the Senate's refusal to act prevented them from becoming law.

### **Democrats Double Down On Transgender Insanity**

National polls show that the public overwhelmingly rejects the insanity of transgender males competing in women's and girls' sports. Democrats lost the 2024 Presidential election partly because of this issue. But Democrats in Minnesota have doubled and tripled down on their insane, unpopular transgender-males-in-women's-sports position. Republicans in the State House passed **HF 12**, the Protect Women's Sports Act, which affirmed that female athletes deserve fair and safe athletic competition based on biological reality. Democrats in the State Senate refused to bring the bill up for a vote, ensuring that it did not become law.

### **Government Expansion Through Labor, Human Services, and Administrative Omnibus Bills**

Democrats advanced a suite of omnibus packages—including **SF 17**, the Senate Human Services Policy bill, and **HF 2435**—that significantly expanded state agencies at taxpayer expense. **SF 17** and the Senate human services bill became law, adding new mandates, payrolls, and bureaucratic structures with limited oversight. **HF 2435** passed the House but never secured a gubernatorial signature, showing at least some limits to government growth. These measures collectively represent a shift toward centralized planning, increased regulation, and diminished fiscal discipline. The burden on small businesses and taxpayers will grow as agencies absorb new authority without delivering better outcomes. These laws prioritize bureaucratic expansion over economic vitality. Minnesota's long-term fiscal stability will be tested by these decisions.

## **Highlighted Votes Analyzed**

### **SF 2298 – Wasteful Housing and Homelessness Spending Package**

This omnibus bill funnels millions in new taxpayer funding toward housing and homelessness programs with minimal accountability and sweeping new bureaucratic mandates. CPAC opposes this measure as wasteful and ineffective, reflecting continued reliance on government expansion instead of empowering communities and private sector solutions. The House passed the bill 108–26. The Senate passed the bill 36–31 and it was signed into law on May 19, 2025.

### **HF 2438 - Transportation and Climate Spending: More Taxes, More Bureaucracy**

This amendment to the Transportation Finance and Policy Bill increases state spending on urban transit, EV infrastructure, and “climate-aligned” projects. The bill imposes new fees and maintains inflation-indexed gas taxes, expanding government control over transportation funding and diverting taxpayer dollars toward partisan priorities. CPAC opposes this amendment as a reckless expansion of government authority that burdens taxpayers, favors urban special

interests, and grows bureaucracy at the expense of practical infrastructure maintenance. The Senate passed the amendment 37–28 but it was not signed into law.

### **HF 12– Protect Women’s Sports Act: Fairness in Athletics**

This bill preserves fairness and safety in women’s athletics by restricting participation on female sports teams to biological females. CPAC supports this bill as a vital protection of women’s sports integrity and a rejection of radical gender ideology in state policy. The House passed the bill 67–66. The bill did not receive a vote in the Senate.

## **Trends and Observations**

### **A Cascade of Wasteful Housing Mandates Becoming Law**

Democrats advanced an expensive and intrusive housing agenda through bills like **SF 2298**, **HF 2309**, and **HF 1471**, many of which became law despite deep flaws. These measures expand bureaucratic control, impose new compliance burdens, and pour millions into programs that fail to address core housing problems such as zoning restrictions and construction costs. Rather than empowering private development or reducing regulatory barriers, the legislation grows state intervention and increases taxpayer exposure to ineffective programs. The cumulative effect is a larger, more centralized housing bureaucracy with little accountability. These laws will further distort the housing market, discourage private investment, and saddle property owners with additional requirements. Minnesotans struggling with affordability will see very little benefit from these expansions. The housing bills highlight a legislative session defined by misplaced priorities.

### **Runaway Spending Spree on School Bureaucracy and DEI Expansion**

Several major spending bills—including **HF 5**, **HF 2431** (House version), and its Senate counterpart—pushed massive increases in education appropriations while adding new mandates and ideological requirements. CPAC believes that education spending should go towards educating kids, not funding administrative bureaucracy. **HF 5** became law, despite raising spending by billions without meaningful accountability or performance metrics. Meanwhile, **HF 2431** failed in both chambers, sparing Minnesotans a \$500 million DEI-heavy expansion in higher education bureaucracy. Together, these bills illustrate a consistent pattern: more regulation, more mandates, and more spending with little evidence of improved outcomes for students. The focus remained on growing administrative payrolls rather than empowering families or enhancing school choice. Minnesota’s education system will absorb even more taxpayer dollars while delivering no measurable gains. This session underscored how far policymakers have drifted from prioritizing students over systems.

### **Environmental and Climate Bureaucracies Grew While Conservation Was Neglected**

Legislation like **SF 3** and **HF 2563**, both signed into law, concentrated authority over Minnesota’s environment in large state agencies rather than local stewards or private conservation groups. Hundreds of millions in taxpayer funds were allocated to climate offices,

activist programs, and regulatory expansion, doing little to protect land, water, or wildlife. Administrative costs continued to rise while oversight and audit requirements remained weak. These laws prioritize ideological climate agendas over practical conservation strategies that rely on partnerships, innovation, and local ownership. They also burden taxpayers with expanding bureaucracies that offer no clear performance metrics. Minnesota's natural resources deserve targeted, effective management—not political symbolism. The passage of these bills marks a troubling shift away from stewardship and toward centralized control.

### **Taxpayers Protected When Key Big-Government Bills Fail**

Not every attempt to expand state government succeeded, offering rare fiscal wins for Minnesotans. The House tied votes on **HF 2431** (DEI expansion) and **HF 2115** (human services bureaucracy), preventing both from advancing. The House also rejected the **HF 2438** / Jones climate-transportation amendment, stopping new fees and climate-aligned transit spending. In the Senate, **SF 1832**, a bipartisan economic growth and workforce bill supported by CPAC, failed despite its promise to promote job creation. These outcomes reveal a growing unease—even among some Democrats—about unchecked government growth. The narrow margins reflect a politically divided state where taxpayers' voices still influence key decisions. These failures serve as a reminder that persistent advocacy can restrain bad policy, even in challenging environments.

### **Conservative Excellence - House**

**Pam Altendorf - 94%**  
**Ben Davis - 100%**  
**Tom Dippel - 94%**  
**Marj Fogelman - 100%**  
**Jimmy Gordon - 100%**

**Bobbie Harder - 100%**  
**Jim Joy - 100%**  
**Krista Knudsen - 100%**  
**Bryan Lawrence - 94%**  
**Tom Murphy - 100%**

**Drew Roach - 100%**  
**Max Rymer - 94%**  
**Isaac Schultz - 94%**  
**Scott Van Binsbergen - 100%**  
**Mike Wiener - 100%**

### **Conservative Excellence - Senate**

**Bruce Anderson - 92%**  
**Cal Bahr - 100%**  
**Gary Dahms - 92%**  
**Rich Draheim - 92%**  
**Steve Drazkowski - 92%**  
**Steve Green - 100%**  
**Glenn Gruenhagen - 92%**

**Jeff Howe - 92%**  
**John Jasinski - 92%**  
**Mark Johnson - 92%**  
**Mark Koran - 92%**  
**Michael Kreun - 92%**  
**Bill Lieske - 100%**  
**Eric Lucero - 100%**

**Andrew Mathews - 100%**  
**Jordan Rasmusson - 92%**  
**Paul Utke - 92%**  
**Nathan Wesenberg - 100%**  
**Torrey Westrom - 100%**

### **Conservative Achievement - House**

**Patti Anderson - 88%**

**Steven Jacob - 88%**

**Duane Quam - 82%**

**Matt Bliss - 88%**  
**Elliott Engen - 82%**

**Jon Koznick - 88%**  
**Shane Mekeland - 88%**

### **Conservative Achievement - Senate**

**Zach Duckworth - 85%**  
**Keri Heintzeman - 82%**

**Andrew Lang - 85%**  
**Warren Limmer - 85%**

**Eric Pratt - 85%**  
**Bill Weber - 85%**