

BRIEF



West Virginia – CPAC Scorecard

Center for Legislative Analysis

12th Edition – 2025

Summary

The latest edition of the West Virginia CPAC Scorecard assesses 11 votes in the West Virginia House of Delegates and 11 votes in the West Virginia Senate from the 2025 session. West Virginia Republicans earned an average score of 90%, an improvement over the 83% average they earned in 2024. Democrats earned an average score of 44%, up from 37% last year, reflecting a more divided minority caucus but still significant ideological differences between the parties.

The 2025 West Virginia session was defined by a strong emphasis on protecting constitutional rights, strengthening election integrity, and defending lawful industries from regulatory or political attack. Lawmakers passed legislation shielding the firearms industry from abusive litigation through **HB2067** and **HB3342**, protecting gun stores during emergencies under **SB270**, strengthening voter identification requirements in **HB3016**, and banning ranked-choice voting through **SB490**. The legislature also advanced measures supporting charter schools, expanding work-based learning opportunities, and ensuring child welfare authorities have access to critical medical information. While most major reforms moved through both chambers and became law, some proposals such as constitutionally requiring U.S. citizenship to vote under **SJR8** did not ultimately reach enactment. Overall, the session reflected a legislature focused on reinforcing conservative policy priorities across public safety, elections, and education.

Key Takeaways

Protecting the Second Amendment and the Firearms Industry

West Virginia lawmakers strengthened protections for lawful gun owners and firearms businesses across multiple fronts. **HB2067** shielded the firearms industry from abusive negligent marketing claims and politicized litigation. **HB3342** prohibited financial discrimination against firearm entities, preventing woke banking practices from targeting lawful businesses. **SB270** ensured firearms retailers remain essential during declared emergencies and created remedies for unlawful confiscation. Together, these measures reinforced strong Second Amendment protections statewide.

Strengthening Election Integrity

The legislature took decisive action to secure West Virginia elections. **HB3016** strengthened voter identification requirements by mandating photo identification and distinguishing noncitizen driver's licenses to prevent misuse for voter registration. **SB490** banned ranked choice voting systems to preserve voter confidence and clarity in elections. Additionally, **SJR8** sought to constitutionally require United States citizenship to vote, though it did not ultimately become law.

Supporting Education Reform and Opportunity

Lawmakers advanced policies designed to expand education options and workforce pathways. **HB2167** streamlined statutory language to help public charter schools operate more effectively. **HB2190** expanded the Learn and Earn Program to include Potomac State College, reinforcing work based education opportunities. These measures reflected a continued commitment to school choice and job-connected learning.

Removing Unnecessary Fees and Regulatory Burdens

West Virginia also reduced unnecessary burdens on lawful citizens. **HB2387** eliminated the small arms hunting stamp requirement, removing an outdated fee on hunters. While **HB3030** raised water permit fees to maintain state regulatory authority, CPAC opposed the measure out of concern for higher compliance costs on businesses.

Equipping Child Welfare Authorities

The legislature strengthened protections for vulnerable children through **HB2402**, which granted state agencies access to medical records for children in custody to ensure proper care coordination. This measure provided child welfare authorities with clearer tools to protect minors in state custody.

Highlighted Votes Analyzed

HB2067 Shielding the Firearms Industry from Anti Gun Lawfare

This bill creates the West Virginia Firearms Liability Clarification Act to limit abusive negligent marketing claims, clarifies the scope of permissible lawsuits, and creates a private right of action to enforce these protections. CPAC supports strong protections for lawful firearms businesses against politicized litigation and supported this bill. The House passed this bill on March 19, 2025 by a vote of 91-7. The bill later became law.

HB3016 Strengthening Voter ID and Blocking Noncitizens from the Ballot Box

This bill requires a photograph on all IDs used for voter identification and mandates that driver's licenses and IDs issued to lawful noncitizens be clearly distinguishable from those issued to citizens to prevent their use for voter registration. CPAC supports strong voter ID measures and protections against noncitizen voting and supported this bill. The House passed this bill on April 12th, 2025 by a vote of 76-19. The bill later became law.

SB490 Banning Confusing Ranked Choice Voting Schemes

This bill prohibits the use of ranked choice voting in West Virginia elections. CPAC opposes

experimental voting systems that undermine voter confidence and supported this bill. The House passed this bill on March 7, 2025 by a vote of 87-9. The bill later became law.

Trends & Observations

Republican Performance Strengthened in 2025

West Virginia Republicans improved their average score from 83 percent in 2024 to 90 percent in 2025, reflecting greater unity around core conservative priorities. The caucus showed consistent alignment on Second Amendment protections, election integrity reforms, and regulatory restraint. The higher average indicates a more disciplined voting record across both chambers.

Democrats Remain Divided but Ideologically Distinct

Democrats increased their average score from 37 percent in 2024 to 44 percent in 2025. While this reflects occasional bipartisan agreement on discrete issues, the overall gap between the parties remains substantial. The divide was most pronounced on election security and firearm protections, where Democratic opposition remained concentrated.

Second Amendment Protections Took Center Stage

A defining theme of the 2025 session was the reinforcement of gun rights. Bills such as **HB2067**, **HB3342**, and **SB270** strengthened legal protections for firearm businesses and ensured access to firearms during declared emergencies. These measures signal a legislature committed to safeguarding constitutional rights even during periods of crisis.

Election Integrity Reforms Advanced

West Virginia lawmakers continued strengthening election safeguards through **HB3016** and **SB490**. The focus on photo identification requirements and banning ranked choice voting demonstrates a continued emphasis on clarity, transparency, and voter confidence in the electoral process.

Regulatory Authority and Fee Structures Drew Scrutiny

While most legislation reflected conservative priorities, measures such as **HB3030** raised concerns about increased regulatory fees on businesses. Even in a strongly conservative legislature, debates over fee authority and compliance costs highlight ongoing tensions between maintaining state control and limiting burdens on industry.

Conservative Excellence - House

Stanley Adkins - 100%

JB Akers - 90%

Chris Anders - 90%

William Anderson - 90%

Henry Dillon - 100%

Sarah Drennan - 90%

Joe Ellington - 100%

Dana Ferrell - 90%

Jordan Maynor - 90%

David McCormick - 90%

Pat McGeehan - 100%

Erica Moore - 90%

Trenton Barnhart - 90%
Jordan Bridges - 100%
Eric Brooks - 100%
Ryan Browning - 90%
Adam Burkhammer - 90%
Jim Butler - 100%
Jeff Campbell - 90%
David Cannon - 100%
Denny Canterbury - 90%
Wayne Clark - 90%
Marshall Clay - 90%
Roy Cooper - 90%
Vernon Criss - 90%
Kathie Crouse - 90%
Mike DeVault - 90%

Dave Foggin - 100%
Marty Gearheart - 90%
Josh Holstein - 90%
Michael Hornby - 100%
John Hott - 90%
Tresa Howell - 90%
Dean Jeffries - 90%
D. Rolland Jennings - 90%
Larry D. Kump - 100%
Jonathan Kyle - 90%
Tristan Leavitt - 90%
Daniel Linville - 100%
Keith Marple - 90%
Carl Martin - 100%
Ian Masters - 90%

Mickey Petitto - 90%
Chris Phillips - 90%
Bill Ridenour - 90%
Clay Riley - 90%
Matthew Rohrbach - 90%
Carl Roop - 90%
Charles Sheedy - 90%
Doug Smith - 90%
Joe Statler - 90%
Brandon Steele - 100%
George Street - 90%
Christopher Toney - 90%
Bryan Ward - 100%
Jimmy Willis - 90%
Mark Zatezalo - 90%

Conservative Excellence - Senate

Mike Azinger - 90%
Jason Barrett - 90%
Kevan Bartlett - 90%
Donna Boley - 90%
Laura Wakim Chapman - 90%
Anne Charnock - 90%
Charles Clements - 90%
Vince Deeds - 90%
Scott Fuller - 90%
Amy Grady - 90%

Bill Hamilton - 90%
Craig Hart - 90%
Brian Helton - 90%
Glenn Jeffries - 90%
Patrick Martin - 100%
Mark Maynard - 100%
Robbie Morris - 90%
Mike Oliverio - 90%
Ben Queen - 90%
Rollan Roberts - 90%

Chris Rose - 100%
Patricia Rucker - 90%
Randy Smith - 90%
Mike Stuart - 100%
Tom Takubo - 90%
Eric Tarr - 90%
Jay Taylor - 90%
Darren Thorne - 100%
Ryan Weld - 90%
Tom Willis - 90%

Conservative Achievement - House

Michael Amos - 88%
Jarred Cannon - 89%
Geno Chiarelli - 89%
Thomas Clark - 80%
Elias Coop-Gonzalez - 80%
Jeff Eldridge - 80%

Rick Hillenbrand - 89%
Michael Hite - 89%
Chuck Horst - 89%
Gary Howell - 89%
David Kelly - 80%
Laura Kimble - 89%

Joe Parsons - 88%
Jonathan Pinson - 89%
Andy Shamblin - 80%
Bryan Smith - 88%
Jeffrey Stephens - 80%
Adam Vance - 88%

Bob Fehrenbacher - 89%
Joe Funkhouser - 80%
Walter Hall - 89%
Scot Heckert - 80%

Patrick Lucas - 80%
Phil Mallow - 88%
Margitta Mazzocchi - 89%
George Miller - 80%

Lisa White - 80%
Evan Worrell - 80%

Conservative Achievement - Senate

Rupie Phillips - 89%

Jack Woodrum - 89%