



## Minnesota – CPAC Scorecard

Center for Legislative Analysis

11th Edition – 2024

### Summary

The latest edition of the Minnesota CPAC Scorecard assesses 19 votes in the Minnesota State Senate and 19 votes in the Minnesota State House from the 2024 session. Minnesota Republicans earned an average conservative rating of 93% while Democrats averaged 2%. The 2024 Republican average score of 93% is much better than their 2023 score of 82%.

Minnesota has some of the most radical Leftist Democrats in the country. Democrats voted to keep men in women's sports. They voted to strengthen Minnesota's racial caste system. They shot down basic election integrity reforms, including a requirement that one must be a US citizen in order to vote. Democrats voted to force the public to pay for transgender surgeries, including those done on minors. Democrats even passed a bill that forces doctors to participate in abortions even if it violates their conscience.

Since Democrats had a trifecta in Minnesota in 2024 Republicans were not able to effectively oppose these radical Leftist policies. Now that Republicans have a majority in the Minnesota house thanks to gains in the 2024 elections, Republicans must block the Democrats' extremism.

### Key Takeaways

#### **Republicans Joined Democrats To Expand The Racial Caste System**

**SF 716** (African American Family Preservation Act) passed overwhelmingly in both chambers, despite CPAC's opposition to race-specific programs. The bill creates grants and services directed at favored racial groups, expanding Minnesota's practice of government-sanctioned racial preference in social policy. CPAC has argued that such measures exacerbate identity politics and perpetuate the racial caste system. The bipartisan nature of the vote in the House (117-5) suggests there is much work to be done to bring Republicans in line with conservative principles of justice and equality before the law.

#### **Conservatives Mounted a Robust Defense of Property Rights, But Failed.**

Multiple amendments to **SF 3492** attempted to empower property owners against squatters and burdensome voucher program requirements. CPAC-backed proposals to allow sheriffs to remove illegal occupants and to shield landlords from financially onerous rental conditions were

defeated in both chambers. These efforts reflect a broader conservative push against what they perceive as creeping regulatory encroachments on private property. The defeats signal a legislative preference for tenant protections, even when they conflict with fundamental rights of property ownership and contract law.

### **Minnesota's Omnibus Bills Continue to Mask Controversial Spending.**

**HF 4124**, described by CPAC as a “gargantuan omnibus,” contained funding for numerous niche cultural projects, such as the “Monkeybear Harmolodic Workshop” and materials about favored demographic groups. CPAC opposes the practice of embedding pet projects in massive multi-topic spending bills, arguing it limits transparency and accountability. Despite this, the bill passed with overwhelming support (115-13 in the House), highlighting a political culture in which lawmakers continue to use omnibus vehicles to secure funding for ideologically charged programs. Even transparency-focused amendments like the Lucero receipts provision were defeated.

## **Highlighted Votes Analyzed**

### **SF 4699 (Gr Amd.) Restoring Conscience Protections for Medical Providers.**

The Gruenhagen amendment to **SF 4699** removes various provisions in the bill that attempted to delete certain conscience protections for health care providers. CPAC believes that doctors and medical organizations should not be forced to provide elective abortions and supported this amendment. The Senate defeated this amendment on May 3, 2024 by a vote of 30-34.

### **SF 37 (Gi Amd.) Protecting Girls' Sports in Minnesota.**

The Gillman amendment to **SF 37** inserts a provision that would allow the government to prevent men from playing on women's sports teams. CPAC supports efforts to create a safe and fair environment of play in school sports and supported this amendment. The House defeated this amendment on May 17, 2024 by a vote of 61-67.

### **HF 2609 Banning Even More Firearms Accessories in Minnesota.**

The conference committee report of this bill adds devices that allow one to shoot two bullets with one pull and release of a trigger to the definition of “machine gun.” CPAC supports the preservation of Second Amendment freedoms and opposed this amendment. The House passed this amendment on May 17, 2024 by a vote of 69-60.

## **Trends and Observations**

### **Attempts to Rein in DEI in Government and Higher Education Were Soundly Defeated.**

A series of CPAC-backed amendments sought to defund or restrict race and gender-based hiring and education policies in public universities and state programs. These included **HF 3436** (barring race and sex-based hiring), **HF 5299** (prohibiting DEI funding and DEI-based admissions decisions), and others. All were defeated by similar margins, revealing that DEI programs remain deeply entrenched in Minnesota's public institutions.

### **Election Integrity Amendments Failed Despite Growing National Scrutiny.**

Three CPAC-backed amendments aimed to ban “Zuckerbucks,” prevent noncitizen voting, and require election judges to report noncitizen participation. All were defeated by small margins. These votes took place in the context of nationwide concern over election security and private interference in public election administration. While these proposals have gained traction in other states, Minnesota lawmakers rejected them, signaling resistance to the broader conservative election integrity agenda. This legislative direction aligns Minnesota more closely with blue-state peers on election policy.

### **Radical Left Democrats Force Doctors and Insurers to Support Transgenderism**

Amendments to **SF 4699** sought to restore protections for providers who object to abortion or sex change surgeries on moral grounds and to exempt insurers from covering sex change procedures. CPAC supported both, believing that people should not be forced to participate in abortion or transgender mutilation. However, the Senate rejected both amendments.

### **Second Amendment Freedoms Were Further Curtailed.**

Both chambers passed amendments redefining certain firearms accessories as “machine guns,” effectively banning them. CPAC strongly opposed these measures as infringements on the Second Amendment. Despite this opposition, the amendments passed with modest margins (35-32 in Senate, 69-60 in House). These votes underscore Minnesota’s willingness to tighten gun control, even when doing so raises constitutional concerns.

## **Conservative Excellence - Senate**

<b>Bruce Anderson - 100%</b>	<b>Glenn Gruenhagen - 100%</b>	<b>Andrew Mathews - 94%</b>
<b>Cal Bahr - 100%</b>	<b>Karin Housley - 94%</b>	<b>Carla Nelson - 94%</b>
<b>Julia Coleman - 94%</b>	<b>Jeff Howe - 100%</b>	<b>Jason Rarick - 100%</b>
<b>Gary Dahms - 100%</b>	<b>John Jasinski - 100%</b>	<b>Jordan Rasmusson - 100%</b>
<b>Gene Dornink - 100%</b>	<b>Mark Johnson - 100%</b>	<b>Paul Utke - 100%</b>
<b>Rick Draheim - 100%</b>	<b>Mark Koran - 100%</b>	<b>Bill Weber - 100%</b>
<b>Steve Drazkowski - 100%</b>	<b>Michael E. Kreun - 100%</b>	<b>Nathan Wesenberg - 100%</b>
<b>Justin Eichorn - 100%</b>	<b>Andrew Lang - 94%</b>	<b>Torrey Westrom - 93%</b>
<b>Robert D. Farnsworth - 100%</b>	<b>Bill Lieske - 100%</b>	
<b>Steve Green - 100%</b>	<b>Eric Lucero - 100%</b>	

## **Conservative Excellence - House**

<b>Patti Anderson - 93%</b>	<b>Josh Heintzeman - 95%</b>	<b>Tom Murphy - 95%</b>
<b>Matt Bliss - 94%</b>	<b>Walter Hudson - 94%</b>	<b>Anne Neu - 94%</b>
<b>Ben Davis - 95%</b>	<b>Steven Jacob - 95%</b>	<b>Harry Niska - 95%</b>
<b>Marj Fogelman - 100%</b>	<b>Brian Johnson - 95%</b>	<b>Duane Quam - 94%</b>
<b>Mary Franson - 94%</b>	<b>Debra Kiel - 94%</b>	<b>Marion Rarick - 94%</b>

**Dawn Gillman - 94%**  
**Matt Grossell - 100%**

**Bryan Lawrence - 94%**  
**Shane Mekeland - 100%**

**Isaac Schultz - 94%**  
**Nolan West - 93%**

### **Conservative Achievement - Senate**

**Zach Duckworth - 89%**  
**Warren Limmer - 89%**

**Jeremy Miller - 88%**

**Eric Pratt - 89%**

### **Conservative Achievement - House**

**Pam Altendorf - 89%**  
**Paul Anderson - 89%**  
**Jeff Backer - 84%**  
**Dave Baker - 89%**  
**Peggy Bennett - 89%**  
**John Burkel - 89%**  
**Lisa Demuth - 83%**  
**Jeff Dotseth - 89%**  
**Pat Garofalo - 84%**  
**Bobbie Harder - 89%**  
**Spencer Igo - 84%**

**Jim Joy - 89%**  
**Krista Knudsen - 89%**  
**Jon Koznick - 89%**  
**Ron Kresha - 87%**  
**Joe McDonald - 89%**  
**Patricia Mueller - 84%**  
**Jim Nash - 83%**  
**Nathan Nelson - 89%**  
**Paul Novotny - 89%**  
**Tim O'Driscoll - 88%**  
**Bjorn Olson - 89%**

**Bernie Perryman - 83%**  
**John Petersburg - 84%**  
**Kristin Robbins - 88%**  
**Joe Schomacker - 89%**  
**Peggy Scott - 89%**  
**Roger Skraba - 81%**  
**Chris Swedzinski - 89%**  
**Paul Tokelson - 84%**  
**Mike Wiener - 89%**  
**Jeff Witte - 83%**  
**Natalie Zeleznikar - 83%**