



Ohio – CPAC Scorecard

Center for Legislative Analysis

11th Edition – 2024

Summary

The 2024 edition of the Ohio CPAC Scorecard assesses 14 votes in the Ohio House and 10 votes in the Ohio Senate. Ohio Republicans earned an average Conservative Rating of 95% which is higher than the 2023 Ohio Republican average rating of 86%. The Democrats earned an average rating of 37% which is much higher than their 2023 average of 5%. In 2024 the Ohio legislature passed several common-sense reforms that even some Democrats supported.

The Ohio legislature passed important reforms to education, pushed back on transgender ideology, protected parents rights, and took steps to reduce the economic burden of occupational licensure. Ohio also took the advice of CPAC's Nolan Center for Justice and passed a key bill which reforms the criminal justice system to better serve victims of human trafficking.

Key Takeaways

Broad Support for Securing Ohio's Elections

The Ohio House passed a resolution which urged Congress to pass the SAVE Act to require proof of citizenship in order to register to vote. Several Ohio Democrat legislators crossed the aisle to join Republicans to vote for the resolution. The State Senate (**SB 215**) also prohibited foreign nationals from contributing to state ballot initiatives, but that bill was not taken up in the House. Given the broad bipartisan support for election integrity, Ohio legislators must reintroduce **SB 215** in the next session.

Stopping DEI In Education

Ohio Republicans took bold action to stop the spread of racist DEI curriculum in schools and Universities. **SB 117** breaks the Leftist stranglehold on Ohio's universities by establishing independent academic centers at five public universities to promote civil debate, free inquiry, and intellectual diversity. Leftist activists protested in the capital while the bill was under consideration because the Left is afraid of open discussion and they know that these new centers will undermine the Left's ability to indoctrinate students. A separate bill, **SB 83**, would eliminate DEI programs that claim all of history should be viewed from a racial perspective.

Unleashing American Energy By Reducing Burdensome Regulation

Ohio officially amended State law to categorize nuclear reactors as green energy. CPAC would prefer that government not favor “green energy” at all, but if the government is going to have green energy initiatives then nuclear energy should not be arbitrarily excluded. Most Americans want more nuclear power in the US, so expanding opportunities for nuclear energy is good politics as well as good policy. Ohio Republicans also tried to open up land for Natural Gas development but the bill failed because of a lack of coordination between the House and Senate.

Highlighted Votes Analyzed

HB 327 - Safeguarding Ohio Jobs Against Illegal Aliens

This bill requires most state contractors to use e-verify, the most reliable system for certifying workers. CPAC supports these safeguards and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on June 12, 2024 by a vote of 85-6 but the bill was not taken up by the Senate.

SB 28 - Allowing Physician Assistants More Opportunities

The bill opens the way for Ohio to join the physician assistant licensure compact that, among other provisions, removes residency restrictions on their practice. CPAC supports efforts to reduce unnecessary regulations in order to lower healthcare costs and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on June 26, 2024 by a vote of 95-2 and the bill later became law.

SB 214 - Allowing Victims of Human Trafficking to Expunge Certain Records

This bill helps victims of human trafficking to rebuild their lives by allowing them to expunge convictions for misdemeanors or certain low level felonies from their record if they can clearly demonstrate that their involvement in the offense was a result of having been trafficked. CPAC's Nolan Center for Justice supports common sense measures to reform the criminal justice system and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on June 26, 2024 by a vote of 97-1 and the bill was later signed into law.

Trends and Observations

Not Enough Coordination Between State House and Senate

Like its neighbor West Virginia, Ohio dropped the ball on some bills because the House did not take up bills passed by the Senate or vice versa. For example a bill which would have opened up development of natural gas pipelines (**HB 349**) passed the House by a large margin but was never taken up by the Senate. The Senate passed a bill (**SB 215**) to prevent foreign individuals from contributing to Ohio's ballot initiatives but the House did not take up the bill. In order to get conservative legislation across the finish line, Republican leadership in the House and Senate must ensure that every important bill gets a vote in both chambers.

Republicans Make An Effort To Tackle DEI, But Fail To Be Consistent

In recent years the Republican base has become aware of the growing problem of DEI ideology in education. Ohio Republicans took action against DEI indoctrination in K-12 schools and Universities. But many Republicans struggle to spot DEI ideology in government programs. In 2024 Ohio created a new African Immigrants Grant and Gift Fund which will distribute money to African immigrants in Ohio. CPAC believes that African immigrants should play by the same rules as everyone else. Unfortunately the bill (**SB 54**) passed by a vote of 77-17 with many Republican votes. Republicans who understand that we should not create racial special privileges in education should also understand that we should not create racial special privileges in government programs.

Opposition To Transgender Ideology Is A Major Issue for the Republican Base - Despite The Resistance From Weak-Kneed Republicans

Republican voters strongly oppose sex change procedures on minors and men in women's sports. However, some elements of Republican leadership have been reluctant to take these concerns seriously. In 2021 Arkansas governor Asa Huchison vetoed a ban on sex-change procedures on minors. Ohio governor Mike DeWine also vetoed a ban on sex change procedures for minors in 2023. Hutchinson and DeWine's vetoes sparked outrage from the Republican base. The Ohio legislature overrode DeWine's veto with a two thirds vote on January 10, 2024 (**HB 68**). Every House Republican and all but one Senate Republican voted to override the veto. The reaction to Hutchinson and DeWine show that Republican leadership was out of step with Republican voters on the transgender issue.

Conservative Excellence - Senate

Bob Hackett - 100%

Conservative Excellence - House

Tim Barhorst - 92%

Rodney Creech - 92%

Jack Daniels - 91%

Steve Demetriou - 93%

Sarah Arthur - 93%

Adam Holmes - 93%

Brett Hillyer - 92%

Mark Johnson - 90%

Angela N. King - 93%

Beth Lear - 93%

Brian Lorenz - 93%

Riordan McClain - 93%

Derek Merrin - 93%

Kevin Miller - 90%

Reggie Stoltzfus - 100%

D. J. Swearingen - 93%

Josh Williams - 92%

Bernard Willis - 92%

Conservative Achievement - Senate

Niraj Antani - 80%

Andrew Brenner - 83%

Brian Chavez - 82%

Matt Huffman - 83%

Terry Johnson - 83%

Stephanie Kunze - 83%

Bill Reineke - 83%

Kristina D. Roegner - 83%

Mark J. Romanchuk - 83%

Jerry Cirino - 83%
Matt Dolan - 83%
Theresa Gavarone - 83%
Stephen Huffman - 83%

Al Landis - 83%
George Lang - 83%
Rob McColley - 83%
Sandra O'Brien - 82%

Tim Schaffer - 83%
Shane Wilkin - 83%

Conservative Achievement - House

Cindy Abrams - 86%
Adam Bird - 86%
Sara Carruthers - 85%
Thaddeus J. Claggett - 86%
Gary Click - 86%
Jon Cross - 83%
Bill Dean - 86%
Dave Dobos - 86%
Jay Edwards - 86%
Ron Ferguson - 86%
Haraz Ghanbari - 86%
Jennifer Gross - 86%
Thomas Hall - 86%
James Hoops - 86%

Marilyn John - 86%
Don Jones - 86%
Darrell Kick - 86%
Roy Klopfenstein - 86%
Jeff LaRe - 86%
Brian Lampton - 83%
Scott Lipps - 86%
Susan Manchester - 86%
Adam Mathews - 86%
Melanie Miller - 86%
Scott Oelslager - 86%
Gail K. Pavliga - 86%
Bob Peterson - 86%
Justin Pizzulli - 86%

Phil Plummer - 86%
Jena Powell - 85%
Sharon A. Ray - 85%
Tracy M. Richardson - 82%
Monica Robb Blasdel - 86%
Bill Roemer - 86%
Jean Schmidt - 86%
Bill Seitz - 86%
Dick Stein - 86%
Jason Stephens - 86%
Jim Thomas - 86%
Scott Wiggam - 85%
Tom Young - 83%