



Kentucky – CPAC Scorecard

Center for Legislative Analysis

12th Edition – 2025

Summary

The latest edition of the Kentucky CPAC Scorecard assesses 20 votes in the Kentucky State Senate and 19 votes in the Kentucky House of Representatives from the 2025 session. Kentucky Republicans earned an average score of **84%**, a modest improvement over the 82% average score they earned in 2024. Democrats earned an average score of **26%**, compared to 11% last year, reflecting greater participation in select consensus legislation while still underscoring continued philosophical divergence on core limited-government priorities.

The 2025 Kentucky session produced several consequential conservative victories alongside ongoing debates over the proper scope of state power. Lawmakers enacted broad-based income tax relief through **HB 1**, letting Kentucky families and job creators keep more of what they earn, and cracked down on unlawful tax bureaucracy through **HB 2**. The Legislature also dismantled taxpayer-funded DEI offices on public campuses through **HB 4**, strengthened election integrity enforcement through **HB 455** and **HB 684**, and protected private property rights through **HB 10**. Kentucky lawmakers advanced strong safeguards against foreign control of farmland through **HB 315** and clarified environmental rules for energy producers through **SB 89**. At the same time, lawmakers approved new regulatory licensing regimes such as **SB 100** and adopted industry subsidies through **SB 1**, highlighting continued tension between conservative reform and incremental government expansion even in a productive session.

Key Takeaways

Tax Relief and Fiscal Restraint Advanced

Kentucky lawmakers continued delivering broad-based tax relief in 2025. Through **HB 1**, the Legislature cut the individual income tax rate again, allowing families and job creators to keep more of what they earn and reinforcing the principle that surplus revenues should be returned to taxpayers rather than absorbed into permanent government growth. Lawmakers also pushed back against unlawful tax bureaucracy through **HB 2**, strengthening protections for citizens improperly taxed on gold and silver.

Dismantling DEI Bureaucracies and Restoring Campus Neutrality

A major conservative victory came through **HB 4**, which shut down taxpayer-funded DEI offices and prohibited compelled ideological programming at Kentucky's public universities. The bill banned discriminatory race- and sex-based preferences and empowered students, employees, and the Attorney General to hold institutions accountable, marking a clear step toward restoring viewpoint neutrality in higher education.

Election Integrity and Transparency Were Strengthened

Kentucky advanced significant election integrity reforms through multiple measures. **HB 455** created an Election Integrity Unit within the Attorney General's office, while **HB 684** updated absentee ballot procedures, clarified surveillance rules for drop-boxes, and expanded local control of election administration. Lawmakers also strengthened protections against foreign influence in campaigns through **HB 45**, reinforcing transparency while safeguarding donor privacy.

Property Rights and Public Safety Protections Expanded

The Legislature enacted strong protections for property owners through **HB 10**, ensuring squatters can be removed quickly with law enforcement support and creating penalties for unlawful occupation. Lawmakers also pursued fairness for taxpayers and property owners facing excessive utility charges through **HB 85**, though that measure ultimately did not become law.

Safeguarding National Sovereignty and Energy Production

Kentucky lawmakers moved to protect critical industries and national security interests. **HB 315** barred foreign adversaries from acquiring or leasing Kentucky farmland, while **SB 89** clarified environmental definitions and bonding requirements to prevent overbroad regulatory burdens on mining and energy producers. Lawmakers also eased staffing mandates on small coal mine shifts through **HB 196**, supporting Kentucky's energy workforce.

Government Expansion and Regulatory Overreach Remain Ongoing Pressures

Despite strong conservative gains, some measures reflected continued tension over government growth. **SB 100** created a new tobacco and vaping licensing regime with expanded inspection powers, raising concerns about heavy-handed regulation. Lawmakers also approved industry favoritism through **SB 1**, establishing new film office structures that risk subsidizing Hollywood-style handouts at taxpayer expense.

Highlighted Votes Analyzed

HB 1 – Cutting Kentuckians' Income Tax Again

This bill cuts the individual income tax rate from 4.0% to 3.5% beginning January 1, 2026, letting Kentucky families and job creators keep more of what they earn. CPAC strongly supports broad-based income tax reductions and supported this bill. The Senate passed this bill on February 4, 2025 by a vote of 34-3. The House passed this bill on January 9, 2025 by a vote of 90-7. The bill later became law.

HB 4 – Dismantling DEI Bureaucracies on Kentucky Campuses

This bill shuts down taxpayer-funded DEI offices and discriminatory ideological programs at public universities, bans compelled political or racial viewpoints, forbids race- and sex-based preferences, and empowers students, employees, and the Attorney General to hold institutions accountable in court. CPAC opposes divisive DEI regimes and compelled speech and supported this bill. The Senate passed this bill on March 12, 2025 by a vote of 32-6. The House passed this bill on March 5, 2025 by a vote of 81-18. The bill later became law.

HB 455 – Establishing an Election Integrity Unit in the Attorney General’s Office

This bill creates the Office of Election Investigations and Security within the Attorney General’s office, granting it investigative powers over election matters and requiring annual reports to the legislature. CPAC supports dedicated election integrity enforcement and supported this bill. The Senate passed this bill on March 14, 2025 by a vote of 36-0. The House passed this bill on February 25, 2025 by a vote of 78-17. The bill later became law.

Trends & Observations

Republican Gains Continued While Democratic Scores Rose Sharply

Kentucky Republicans improved their average score from 82% in 2024 to 84% in 2025, reflecting continued cohesion around tax relief, regulatory restraint, and election integrity reforms. Democrats, meanwhile, saw their average rise from 11% to 26%, indicating increased bipartisan overlap on select structural reforms while still maintaining sharp philosophical differences on issues of limited government and economic intervention.

Tax Relief and Bureaucratic Restraint Defined the Session

Major reforms such as **HB 1**, cutting the individual income tax rate, and **HB 6**, limiting administrative overreach, demonstrate a Legislature focused on reducing the government’s economic footprint. Lawmakers also strengthened taxpayer protections through **HB 2**, reinforcing accountability within state tax administration and signaling continued resistance to bureaucratic expansion.

Election Integrity and Sovereignty Remained Central Priorities

Through measures such as **HB 455**, **HB 684**, and **HB 45**, lawmakers advanced structural reforms aimed at improving transparency, enforcement, and protection against foreign influence. These bills reflect a broader trend of states institutionalizing election integrity mechanisms rather than relying solely on procedural adjustments.

Energy, Property Rights, and National Security Advanced in Tandem

Kentucky lawmakers paired economic protection with sovereignty measures. **HB 315** safeguarded agricultural land from foreign adversaries, while **SB 89** clarified environmental standards affecting mining operations. At the same time, **HB 10** strengthened property owners’ rights against unlawful occupation, underscoring a session focused on protecting productive assets and individual ownership.

Government Expansion Pressures Persist

Despite strong conservative momentum, measures such as **SB 100**, creating a new tobacco and vaping licensing structure, and **SB 1**, establishing a state-backed film office, reveal continued tension between free-market principles and targeted industry intervention. Even in a high-performing session, debates over regulatory scope and economic favoritism remain active fault lines.

Conservative Excellence - House

Jared Bauman - 94%
Randy Bridges - 94%
Josh Calloway - 100%
Chris Fugate - 94%

Mark Hart - 93%
Jason Petrie - 94%
Marianne Proctor - 94%
Steve Riley - 94%

T.J. Roberts - 95%
Walker Thomas - 95%
Richard White - 100%

Conservative Excellence - Senate

Robert Mills - 90%

Aaron Reed - 90%

Conservative Achievement - House

Shane Baker - 86%
Ryan Bivens - 84%
Adam Bowling - 83%
Joshua Branscum - 84%
Steve Bratcher - 88%
Josh Bray - 88%
Emily Callaway - 84%
Mike Clines - 83%
Jennifer Henson Decker - 84%
Steven Doan - 89%
Myron Dossett - 82%
Ryan Dotson - 88%
Robert Duvall - 83%
Daniel Elliott - 83%
Daniel Fister - 84%
Ken Fleming - 84%
Chris Freeland - 89%
Jim Gooch - 84%

Peyton Griffie - 89%
David Hale - 84%
Tony Hampton - 84%
Samara Heavrin - 83%
Kimberly Holloway - 89%
Thomas Huff - 89%
Mary Imes - 84%
DJ Johnson - 84%
Kim King - 88%
Matthew Koch - 88%
William Lawrence - 80%
Scott Lewis - 88%
Derek Lewis - 83%
Chris Lewis - 84%
Matt Lockett - 84%
Savannah Maddox - 89%
Candy Massaroni - 88%
Shawn McPherson - 84%
David Meade - 84%

Suzanne Miles - 83%
Kimberly Moser - 83%
Amy Neighbors - 84%
Jason Nemes - 84%
David Osborne - 84%
J.T. Payne - 84%
Michael Pollock - 84%
Felicia Rabourn - 89%
Rebecca Raymer - 83%
Steven Rudy - 84%
Nancy Tate - 84%
James Tipton - 84%
Timmy Truett - 83%
Ken Upchurch - 83%
Billy Wesley - 84%
Wade Williams - 84%
Nicolas Wilson - 84%
Susan Tyler Witten - 84%

Conservative Achievement - Senate

Julie Raque Adams - 81%

**Amanda Mays Bledsoe -
89%**

Gary Boswell - 80%

Jared Carpenter - 84%

Matthew Deneen - 80%

Donald Douglas - 80%

Greg Elkins - 85%

Shelley Frommeyer - 84%

Rick Girdler - 82%

David Givens - 80%

Jimmy Higdon - 84%

Jason Howell - 84%

Scott Madon - 85%

Christian McDaniel - 82%

Stephen Meredith - 85%

Mike Nemes - 80%

Matt Nunn - 84%

Steve Rawlings - 85%

Craig Richardson - 85%

Brandon Smith - 80%

Robert Stivers - 84%

Brandon Storm - 89%

Lindsey Tichenor - 83%

Phillip Wheeler - 85%

Gex Williams - 85%

Mike Wilson - 89%

Max Wise - 85%