

# BRIEF



## Idaho – CPAC Scorecard

Center for Legislative Analysis

12th Edition – 2025

### Summary

The latest edition of the Idaho CPAC Scorecard assesses 19 votes in the Idaho Senate and 20 votes in the Idaho House of Representatives from the 2025 session. Idaho Republicans earned an average score of **92%** in the House and **91%** in the Senate, an increase from **84%** and **84%** respectively, reflecting continued strong performance and improvement over the prior year. Democrats earned an average score of **42%** in the House and **41%** in the Senate, a notable increase from their much lower scores in 2024, **11%** and **16%** respectively.

The 2025 Idaho session featured several major conservative victories. Unlike in many states where priority legislation stalls, Idaho lawmakers successfully enacted reforms protecting unborn life, strengthening parental authority, and restoring free speech on college campuses. The Legislature demonstrated that a unified conservative majority can still translate principle into durable law, rather than symbolic messaging votes.

### Key Takeaways

#### **Life Protections Were Strengthened Through Multiple Reforms**

Idaho lawmakers continued to lead nationally on protecting unborn life through a series of pro-life measures. **SB 1171** empowered families to hold abortion providers accountable when illegal abortions are performed in violation of Idaho's fetal heartbeat law. In addition, **SB 1058** strengthened protections for abandoned newborns by updating Safe Haven procedures to ensure infants can be placed quickly and safely into care. CPAC supported both bills as part of Idaho's continued commitment to life-affirming law and real enforcement rather than symbolic restrictions.

#### **Campus Bureaucracies Faced New Limits on Speech and Ideological Control**

The 2025 session featured several bills aimed at curbing the growing censorship regime inside higher education. Through **SB 1198** and **HB 240**, lawmakers created statutory protections for free inquiry and constitutionally protected speech on college campuses, pushing back against speech codes, bias response structures, and ideological enforcement mechanisms. CPAC supported these reforms because public universities should be institutions of open debate, not administrative thought police.

### **Parents Reasserted Authority Over Education and School Governance**

Idaho lawmakers advanced a clear theme of parental control over bureaucratic systems. **HB 352** strengthened and clarified parental rights in education, reaffirming that parents are the primary decision makers in their children's schooling. Lawmakers also enacted reforms like **HB 331**, improving facilities support for public charter schools and strengthening school choice infrastructure. Together, these measures reflected Idaho's continued movement away from centralized educational control and toward family-led governance.

### **Government Neutrality Was Reinforced Against Ideological Symbolism**

Several votes addressed the growing trend of government institutions adopting political or cultural messaging. **HB 96** restricted public entities to flying only approved governmental flags, preventing agencies and schools from displaying ideological banners on taxpayer property. CPAC supported the bill as a straightforward measure to keep the government neutral and prevent public institutions from being turned into platforms for political activism.

### **Immigration Enforcement and State Cooperation Advanced**

Idaho also enacted stronger enforcement cooperation through **HB 83**, directing state and local authorities to work more fully with federal immigration enforcement and discouraging sanctuary-style policies. CPAC supported the measure as an important assertion of lawful order and state responsibility amid continued federal failure at the border.

## **Highlighted Votes Analyzed**

### **SB 1171 Empowering Families to Hold Abortionists Accountable**

This bill creates a civil cause of action when an abortion has been attempted or performed in violation of Idaho's fetal heartbeat law. It allows affected parties to sue those who participate in illegal abortions. CPAC believes that abortion is always a human tragedy and supported this bill. The Senate passed this bill on March 24, 2025 by a vote of 32-1, and the bill later became law.

### **HB 352 Reasserting Parents' Rights Over Bureaucrats in Schools**

This bill strengthens and clarifies provisions related to parental rights in education. It reaffirms parents as the primary decision makers in their children's schooling and access to classroom content. CPAC supports putting parents back in charge of their children's education and supported this bill. The Idaho Senate passed HB 352 on March 25, 2025, in a 29-6 vote, and Governor Brad Little signed the measure into law.

### **SB 1198 Protecting Free Inquiry from Campus Thought Police**

This bill adds new statutory protections to ensure freedom of inquiry in higher education. It pushes back against ideological censorship by requiring institutions to safeguard open debate and diverse viewpoints. CPAC supports restoring free speech and intellectual diversity on college campuses and supported this bill. The Senate passed this bill on March 31, 2025 by a vote of 27-8, and the bill later became law.

## **Trends & Observations**

### **A Legislature Converting Conservative Priorities Into Law**

Idaho's 2025 session reflected a Legislature increasingly willing to move beyond messaging votes and toward enacted reform. Priority legislation advanced through both chambers with a high rate of success, demonstrating stronger alignment on core conservative objectives. Major measures such as **SB 1171** and **HB 352**, both of which CPAC supports, illustrate a Legislature focused on producing tangible conservative outcomes rather than symbolic positioning.

### **Constitutional Rights and Family Authority Took Center Stage**

Lawmakers emphasized foundational constitutional principles, particularly where bureaucratic systems have expanded into education and culture. Through **HB 352**, which CPAC supports, Idaho reaffirmed parental authority in schooling, while **SB 1198**, which CPAC also supports, strengthened protections for open inquiry and free speech in higher education. Together, these reforms reflect Idaho's continued prioritization of liberty and accountability.

### **Conservative Momentum Remains Strong Amid Ongoing Policy Tensions**

Despite substantial victories, the session also revealed areas where reform efforts stalled or faced internal resistance. The rejection of **SB 1025**, a measure CPAC supports to expand education freedom through stronger parental control, highlights that even in a productive year, not every conservative priority advances smoothly. These outcomes underscore the continued importance of sustained legislative discipline and vigilance to ensure Idaho's reform momentum translates into lasting structural change.

## **Conservative Excellence - House**

**Joe Alfieri - 100%**

**Kevin Andrus - 100%**

**Vito Barbieri - 100%**

**Rob Beiswenger - 100%**

**Judy Boyle - 100%**

**Chris Bruce - 100%**

**Tanya Burgoyne - 95%**

**David Cannon - 100%**

**Lucas Cayler - 95%**

**Brent Crane - 100%**

**Jaron Crane - 100%**

**Shawn Dygert - 95%**

**Barbara Ehardt - 100%**

**Jeff Ehlers - 100%**

**Kyle Harris - 100%**

**Dale Hawkins - 100%**

**Dori Healey - 100%**

**Ted Hill - 100%**

**James Holtzclaw - 100%**

**Wendy Horman - 95%**

**Clint Hostetler - 100%**

**David Leavitt - 100%**

**Kent Marmon - 95%**

**Ron Mendive - 95%**

**Steve Miller - 100%**

**Brandon Mitchell - 100%**

**Jason Monks - 100%**

**Mike Moyle - 100%**

**Joe Palmer - 100%**

**Douglas T. Pickett - 100%**

**Elaine Price - 100%**

**Cornel Rasor - 100%**

**Jordan Redman - 100%**

**Heather Scott - 100%**

**Charlie Shepherd - 100%**

**John Shirts - 100%**

**Bruce Skaug - 94%**

**Josh Tanner - 100%**

**Steve Tanner - 100%**

**Faye Thompson - 95%**

**Tony Wisniewski - 95%**

**John Vander Woude - 100%**

## **Conservative Excellence - Senate**

**Kelly Anthon - 100%**

**Treg Bernt - 94%**

**Carl Bjerke - 95%**

**Camille Blaylock - 95%**

**Cindy J. Carlson - 95%**

**Codi Galloway - 95%**

**C. Scott Grow - 94%**

**Josh Keyser - 100%**

**Josh Kohl - 95%**

**Todd Lakey - 95%**

**Brian Lenney - 95%**

**Tammy Nichols - 95%**

**Doug Okuniewicz - 95%**

**Doug Ricks - 95%**

**Ben Toews - 95%**

**Christy Zito - 95%**

## **Conservative Achievement - House**

**Lance Clow - 82%**

**Jeff Cornilles - 89%**

**Marco Erickson - 89%**

**Rodney Furniss - 85%**

**Dan Garner - 80%**

**Clay Handy - 85%**

**James Petzke - 84%**

**Mike Pohanka - 85%**

**Jerald Raymond - 83%**

**Josh Wheeler - 80%**

## **Conservative Achievement - Senate**

**Ben Adams - 88%**

**Van Burtenshaw - 88%**

**Kevin Cook - 84%**

**Dan Foreman - 89%**

**Mark Harris - 89%**

**Phil Hart - 89%**

**Lori Den Hartog - 89%**

**Brandon Shippy - 89%**

**Julie VanOrden - 89%**

**Jim Woodward - 84%**

**Glenneda Zuiderveld - 89%**