

# BRIEF



## New Mexico – CPAC Scorecard

Center for Legislative Analysis

12th Edition – 2025

### Summary

The twelfth edition of the New Mexico CPAC Scorecard assesses 18 votes in the New Mexico State Senate and 19 votes in the New Mexico House of Representatives from the 2025 session. New Mexico Republicans earned an average score of **77%** in 2025, up from 73% in 2024. Democrats earned an average score of **23%**, rising sharply from 6% last year, though partisan divisions remain pronounced across nearly every major policy debate.

The 2025 session was defined by continued expansion of permanent government programs, stronger union-backed wage mandates, increased environmental and energy regulation, and broader firearm restrictions. Lawmakers expanded mandatory early childhood funding through **HB 71**, imposed government-set wage floors on private projects under **HB 6**, strengthened environmental enforcement through **SB 21**, and expanded red flag firearm confiscation authority through **HB 12**. While limited scope-of-practice reforms such as **SB 78** demonstrated narrow bipartisan cooperation, the overall direction of the Legislature continued to favor centralized control, higher spending, and greater regulatory authority.

### Key Takeaways

#### **Permanent Government Spending Was Locked In**

Through measures like **HB 71** and **HB 7**, lawmakers committed additional recurring revenue streams to long-term child-focused programs and permanent funds rather than prioritizing broad-based tax relief or direct parental empowerment. These policies entrench state-administered systems and make future fiscal restraint more difficult.

#### **Union Influence and Wage Mandates Expanded**

Bills such as **HB 6** and **SB 59** strengthened prevailing wage structures and imposed government wage floors tied to industrial revenue bond projects. These measures increase labor costs, favor organized labor, and risk discouraging private investment.

### **Environmental and Energy Regulation Tightened**

Through **SB 21** and **SB 9**, lawmakers expanded compliance authority and increased regulatory penalties affecting pipeline operators and broader discharge permitting frameworks. These changes raise costs for energy producers and increase administrative oversight in key sectors of the state's economy.

### **Second Amendment and Due Process Pressures Continued**

The passage of **HB 12** broadened the state's red flag framework, making it easier to remove firearms through civil processes that lack traditional due process safeguards. Additional measures such as **SB 318**, though not enacted, reflected continued legislative interest in targeting firearm-related commerce.

### **Targeted Reform Was Limited but Present**

Not all action moved in a regulatory direction. Scope-of-practice modernization under **SB 78** and administrative streamlining under **HB 117** reduced barriers in parts of the healthcare system, demonstrating that narrow reform remains possible even within a heavily progressive policy environment.

## **Highlighted Votes Analyzed**

### **HB 71 – Raiding Taxpayers to Inflate Early Childhood Bureaucracy**

This bill increases mandatory transfers into the Early Childhood Education and Care Fund to grow permanent government pre-K and childcare programs rather than empowering parents directly. CPAC opposes locking more taxpayer dollars into ever-expanding government systems instead of family-directed choice and opposed this bill. The Senate passed this bill on March 20, 2025 by a vote of 35-0. The House passed this bill on March 12, 2025 by a vote of 66-3. The bill later became law.

### **HB 12 – Expanding Red Flag Gun Confiscation Powers**

This bill broadens the Extreme Risk Firearm Protection Order framework, making it easier for the state to seize firearms from individuals without traditional due process protections. CPAC opposes red flag laws that erode Second Amendment rights and due process and opposed this bill. The Senate passed this bill on March 17, 2025 by a vote of 23-15. The House passed this bill on February 25, 2025 by a vote of 41-27. The bill later became law.

### **SB 21 – Expanding Red Tape Under the Pollutant Discharge Regime**

This bill revises the Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Act to expand state regulatory authority and compliance requirements over discharges into state waters. CPAC opposes layering additional environmental red tape on job creators and opposed this bill. The Senate passed this bill on February 26, 2025 by a vote of 25-16. The House passed this bill on March 19, 2025 by a vote of 43-25. The bill later became law.

## **Trends & Observations**

### **Crossover Voting Increased but the Policy Direction Did Not Change**

Democratic averages rose significantly compared to 2024, indicating more occasional alignment with conservative positions. However, the overall legislative agenda continued moving toward expanded government authority rather than structural reform.

### **Republicans Remained the Primary Check on Expansion**

Across fiscal, labor, environmental, and constitutional issues, Republican lawmakers provided the most consistent opposition to mandates, spending growth, and regulatory layering. Their improved averages reflect stronger cohesion in resisting progressive initiatives.

### **Permanent Funds and Structural Spending Are Becoming the Norm**

A recurring theme in 2025 was the creation or expansion of permanent funding mechanisms that embed ongoing commitments into statute. These structural decisions shape the long-term fiscal trajectory of the state more than one-time appropriations.

### **Regulatory Authority Continues to Broaden**

From environmental compliance to labor mandates to firearm regulation, the Legislature demonstrated continued willingness to expand administrative power over markets, property, and individual conduct.

## **Conservative Excellence - House**

**Stefani Lord - 94%**

**Randall Pettigrew - 95%**

## **Conservative Excellence - Senate**

**NONE**

## **Conservative Achievement - House**

**Gail Armstrong - 84%**

**Jonathan Henry - 84%**

**Tanya Mirabal Moya - 84%**

**John Block - 88%**

**Alan Martinez - 82%**

**Mark Murphy - 81%**

**Elaine Sena Cortez - 89%**

**Jimmy Mason - 89%**

**Andrea Reeb - 84%**

**Mark Duncan - 84%**

**Angelita Mejia - 89%**

**Harlan Vincent - 89%**

## **Conservative Achievement - Senate**

**Pat Boone - 85%**

**Craig Brandt - 80%**

**Joshua Sanchez - 80%**