

AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY

TEXAS
Legislative
Report Card
80th Session - 2007

AFP's Mission

Americans for Prosperity (AFP) is committed to educating citizens about economic policy and mobilizing those citizens as advocates in the public policy process. AFP is an organization of grassroots leaders who engage citizens in the name of limited government and free markets on the local, state and federal levels. The grassroots members of AFP advocate for public policies that champion the principles of entrepreneurship and fiscal and regulatory restraint.

A Message from the State Director

The Texas Legislature meets in regular session only 140 days every other year. During the 2007 Legislative Session, 10,900 resolutions and bills were filed and 5900 were passed into law. Many bills never get to the House or Senate floor for a vote.

Some of those bills which failed to get record votes included the major taxpayer protection legislation including the tax and expenditure limits. AFP-Texas staff selected the legislation which we had key voted and weighted some votes more heavily than others, depending upon the specific vote and how it relates to our mission and our legislative priorities.

Legislators should be held accountable to their constituents for the votes they take, but should also be accountable for not passing real taxpayer protections which put taxpayers in greater control over how much government we want and are willing to pay for, as well as for not stopping taxpayer-funded lobbying, the practice of tax dollars being used to lobby against taxpayer interests.

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Vote Information Retrieved from
 Official House and Senate Journals

Accessed at:
www.legis.state.tx.us

Statistical Overview

House	Average	Senate
54.1%		33.5 %
55.0%	Median	30.4 %
96.2%	High	92.6 %
17.6%	Low	8.7 %
35.9%	Dem Avg	20.4 %
35.0%	Dem Median	20.0 %
69.5%	Rep Avg	40.7 %
70.0%	Rep Median	39.1 %

Report Card Key

+ Voted with AFP
 - Voted Against AFP
 P-Denotes a Paired Vote

Held Harmless Votes
 C-Serving as Chair
 AE-Excused Absence

Negative Votes
 AU-Unexcused Absence
 PNV-Present Not Voting

A	80% or higher	"Defender of the American Dream"
B	60% - 79%	"Fair"
C	50% - 59%	"Satisfactory"
D	25% - 49%	"Poor"
F	24% or lower	"Enemy of the Taxpayer"

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AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY - TEXAS

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----- HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOTE EXPLANATIONS

1) Secret Balloting

Motion to Table Amendment 3,
House Resolution 35
Journal Page 16 January 9
91 Yeas, 57 Nays
Record Vote 3

Amendment 3 of the Rules to Elect the Speaker would have made provisions for secret ballots which would be destroyed upon tallying, not allowing for the public to know how Representatives voted. No vote taken in the Legislature should be shielded from the public.

AFP “Yea” on Motion to Table

2) Telecommunications Tax Relief

Final Passage of House Bill 735
Journal Page 1005 March 20
143 Yeas, 0 Nays
Record Vote 135

House Bill 735 would have discontinued the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Tax which had continued on even though the primary objective of the tax had been met.

AFP “YEA” on Final Passage

3) Merit-based Pay

Motion to Table Amendment 63,
General Appropriations Act
Journal Page 1313 March 29
65 Yeas, 82 Nays, 1 Present-Not-Voting
Record Vote 232

Merit-based pay is a sound market approach to education, which fortifies the education of Texas’ children by rewarding successful teachers. Amendment 63 to House Bill 1 prohibited merit-based pay for two years in Texas.

AFP “Yea” on Motion to Table

4) School Vouchers

Weighed Twice
Adoption of Amendment 74,
General Appropriations Act
Journal Page 1322 March 29
129 Yeas, 8 Nays, 1 Present-Not-Voting
Record Vote 235

School vouchers are important for success of Texas’ students and the fiscal soundness of our education system.

Amendment 74 of House Bill 1 prohibited school vouchers for two years in Texas.

AFP “Nay” on Adoption

Votes Listed In Chronological Order.

5) Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying

Motion to Table Amendment 132,
General Appropriations Act
Journal Page 1363 March 29
70 Yeas, 59 Nays, 1 Present-Not-Voting
Record Vote 246

Taxpayer-funded lobbying dramatically distorts the democratic process and constituency communication while seeking to grow government. Amendment 132 of House Bill 1 would have expanded taxpayer-funded lobbying by disallowed using appropriations made for the 2008-2009 biennium to be used for lobbying on the federal level.

AFP “Nay” on Motion to Table

6) Welfare Reform

Motion to Table Amendment 4,
House Bill 109
Journal Page 1505 April 3
86 Yeas, 55 Nays, 1 Present-Not-Voting
Record Vote 267

Amendment 4 of House Bill 109 would have completely reversed the welfare

-----HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOTE EXPLANATIONS

reforms made in 2003 to the Children's Health Insurance Program. The revisions of 2003 were fiscally sound restraints of government.

AFP "Yea" on Motion to Table

7) Property Tax Rollbacks

Verification of Reconsideration of Second Passage of House Bill 2087

Journal Page 1749 April 11

75 Yeas, 67 Nays, 1 Present-Not-Voting

Record Vote 386

Property tax rollbacks are an important taxpayer protection which allows homestead owners to decide just how much government they want and are willing to pay for. House Bill 2087 placed onerous restrictions on the process of citizen-initiated rollback elections while not restricting local governments' ability to raise taxes.

AFP "Nay" on Passage

8) Taxpayer-Funded Lobbying

Final Passage of House Bill 1200

Journal Page 1812 April 12

88 Yeas, 45 Nays, 8 Present-Not-Voting

Record Vote 426

Taxpayer-funded lobbying dramatically distorts the democratic process and constituency communication while seeking to grow government. House Bill 1200 would have ensured that state grants to police organization is not used for the purpose of lobbying.

AFP "Yea" on Passage

9) Free Market for Utilities

Verification of Adoption of Amendment 3, Senate Bill 482

Journal Page 1855 April 12

63 Yeas, 73 Nays, 2 Present-Not-Voting

Record Vote 465

Private investment in and private administration of utilities market, following the free market, is the safest, most efficient way to provide Texans with their electric needs. This free market activity should not be burden by onerous government regulation and oversight. Senate Bill 482 would have required government approval of private investment in the utilities market.

AFP "Nay" on Adoption

10) School Vouchers

Weighed Twice

Motion to Table Motion to Instruct Conferees on House Bill 1 (Heflin)

Journal Page 1988 April 17

83 Yeas, 52 Nays, 1 Present-Not-Voting

Record Vote 513

School vouchers are important for success of Texas' students and the fiscal soundness of our education system. The Motion to Instruct Conferees by Representative Heflin would have prohibited school vouchers for two years in Texas.

AFP "Yea" on Motion to Table

11) Requiring Record Votes

Adoption of House Joint Resolution 19

Journal Page 2015 April 17

142 Yeas, 0 Nays

Record Vote 532

House Joint Resolution 19 proposed a constitutional amendment requiring legislators to record a vote on each legislative measure before final passage. Texans deserve to know how their representatives vote.

AFP "YEA" on Adoption

-----HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOTE EXPLANATIONS

12) Teacher Retirement System

Motion to Table Amendment 6,
House Bill 2427

Journal Page 2155 April 19

81 Yeas, 56 Nays, 2 Present-Not-Voting
Record Vote 585

Amendment 6 of House Bill 2427 required Cost of Living Adjustments of 5% per biennium for recipients of the Teacher Retirement System regardless of actual rise in the cost of living, recipient pay-in or performance of the system's funds, which is fiscally unsound.

AFP "Yea" on Motion to Table

13) Voter ID

Final Passage of House Bill 218

Journal Page 2244 April 24

76 Yeas, 69 Nays, 2 Present-Not-Voting
Record Vote 621

House Bill 218 would have ensured reliability in the democratic process by requiring those wishing to cast ballots to prove their eligibility to vote.

AFP "Yea" on Passage

14) Dynamic Fiscal Notes

Motion to Table Amendment 1,
House Bill 2786

Journal Page 3025 May 3

73 Yeas, 63 Nays, 2 Present-Not-Voting
Record Vote 926

Dynamic Fiscal Notes are an important tool for legislators to realize the actual affect of fiscal decisions and will lead to greater responsibility. However, Amendment 1 of House Bill 2786 would require the Legislative Budget Board to pollute Dynamic Fiscal Notes through the speculation of fiscal affects on certain government programs which are actually affected to a greater degree through other policy decisions that are unrelated to the fiscal decision in question.

15) Franchise Tax Expansion Protection

Weighed Twice

Adoption of House Joint Resolution 44

Journal Page 3213 May 7

93 Yeas, 49 Nays, 1 Present-Not-Voting
Record Vote 1006

House Joint Resolution 44 would have proposed a constitutional amendment

requiring a two-thirds vote of the Legislature when raising the Franchise Tax. This taxpayer protection would have ensured fiscal responsibility.
AFP "Yea" on Adoption

16) Smoking Ban

Weighed Twice

Motion to Table Amendment 20,
House Bill 9

Journal Page 3234 May 7

70 Yeas, 62 Nays, 1 Present-Not-Voting
Record Vote 1022

The free market, through decisions of owners, employees and patrons, should decide if a facility should be smoke free. Furthermore, the private property rights of establishment owners should not be subverted. Amendment 20 of House Bill 9 would have disallowed the state from taking away private property rights, except to require establishment owners to inform patrons and visitors, through signs, if an establishment is a smoking facility or nonsmoking facility.

AFP "Nay" on Motion to Table

-----HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOTE EXPLANATIONS

17) Taxes on Sexually-oriented Business

Weighed Twice

Final Passage of House Bill 1751

Journal Page 3591 May 9

110 Yeas, 28 Nays, 3 Present-Not-Voting
Record Vote 1139

House Bill 1751 created and imposed a new tax on sexually-oriented businesses. AFP “Nay” on Final Passage

18) Property Tax Relief

Weighed Twice

Motion to Table Amendment 3,

House Bill 2785

Journal Page 3699 May 10

62 Yeas, 81 Nays, 1 Present-Not-Voting
Record Vote 1157

Following school refinance reforms of the 79th Legislature, House Bill 2785 would have continued to provide for property tax relief for Texans. However, Amendment 3 of House Bill 2785 required a fiscally-impossible, across-the-board pay raise in education before additional property tax could be possible, in effect killing the tax relief.

AFP “Yea” on Motion to Table

19) School District Finance Transparency

Weighed Twice

Final Passage of House Bill 2560

Journal Page 4047 May 11

120 Yeas, 13 Nays, 2 Present-Not-Voting
Record Vote 1378

House Bill 2560 would have provided greater fiscal transparency in education by requiring school districts to post their check registries online.

AFP “Yea” on Passage

20) Red-Light Cameras

Weighed Twice

Motion to Table Amendment 7,

Senate Bill 1119

Journal Page 4206 May 15

61 Yeas, 74 Nays, 2 Present-Not-Voting
Record Vote 1438

Red-light cameras are viewed by municipalities as additional revenue stream, and the use of red-light cameras is unnecessary government growth.

Amendment 7 of Senate Bill 1119 would have ended the use of red-light cameras by September 1, 2009.

AFP “Nay” on Motion to Table

21) Cancer Research

Weighed Twice

Final Passage of House Bill 14

Journal Page 4069 May 11

68 Yeas, 24 Nays, 1 Present-Not-Voting
Record Vote 1391

House Bill 14 expands state government far from its proper role and authorizations a great deal of undue spending and debt. AFP “Nay” on Passage

Extra Credit

Branch – for authoring the franchise tax protection

Brown, B. – for offering Voter ID legislation

Chisum – for keeping state spending proportionate to population and inflation

Corte – for sponsoring legislation to end taxpayer-funded lobbying

Isett – for sponsoring state spending limit legislation

King – for withstanding pressure to re-regulate the electricity industry and retroactively interfere in private transactions

-----HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES VOTE EXPLANATIONS

Otto – for his appraisal reform legislation

Parker – for voting against CHIP expansion in committee

Paxton – for sponsoring state spending limit legislation

Paxton – for legislation to increase transparency in taxpayer-funded lobbying

Straus – for his TIF tax elimination legislation

Zedler – for authoring school district transparency legislation

Demerits

Crownover – for sponsoring legislation to ban smoking in all public places in Texas

Heflin - for attempting to instruct the conference committee not to fund “vouchers”

Hill - for sponsoring legislation which limited voters’ ability to petition local governments for a tax freeze for the elderly and disabled

Noriega – for offering a prohibition on merit-based pay in Texas for two years

Swinford – for failing to hear legislation on taxpayer-funded lobbying

Truitt – for sponsoring legislation which allows Texas governments to circumvent standard accounting practices and not report post employment benefits

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REPORT CARD

Legislator	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Total %	Grade	
Allen, Alma	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	AE	30.0	D	
Alonzo, Robert	-	+	-	-	AU	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	23.8	F	
Anchia, Rafael	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19.0	F	
Anderson, Charles "Doc"	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	76.2	B	
Aycock, Dan	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	C	+	-	65.0	B	
Bailey, Kevin	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	AE	AE	-	-	AE	-	+	+	-	+	AE	AE	50.0	C	
Berman, Leo	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	AE	80.0	A	
Bohac, Dwayne	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	AE	75.0	B
Bolton, Valinda	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	AU	-	-	+	+	+	-	38.1	D	
Bonnen, Dennis	+	C	-	-	AU	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	AE	68.4	B	
Branch, Dan	+	+	+	AU	AU	+	AU	PNV	-	+	+	AE	P+	+	+	AE	PNV	+	+	AE	-	71.1	B	
Brown, Betty	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	86.2	A
Brown, Fred	AU	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	81.0	A	
Burnam, Lon	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	AU	+	-	28.6	D	
Callegari, Bill	+	+	+	-	AU	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	AU	-	66.7	B	
Castro, Joaquin	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	AU	-	-	AE	+	AE	31.6	D	
Chavez, Norma	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	AE	+	-	-	AE	AE	-	-	+	-	-	44.4	D	
Chisum, Warren	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	AU	+	+	+	AU	-	76.7	B	
Christian, Wayne	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	76.2	B	
Cohen, Ellen	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	AE	30.0	D	

----- HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REPORT CARD

Legislator	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Total %	Grade
Coleman, Garnet	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	28.6	D
Cook, Byron	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	80.0	A
Cook, Robert "Robby"	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	52.4	C
Corte, Frank	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	67.1	B
Crabb, Joe	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	76.2	B
Craddick, Tom	+	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	100.0	---
Creighton, Brandon	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	57.1	C
Crownover, Myra	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	56.7	C
Darby, Drew	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	75.0	B
Davis, John	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	55.0	C
Davis, Yvonne	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	25.0	D
Delisi, Dianne White	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	66.7	B
Deshotel, Joe	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	50.0	C
Driver, Joe	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	65.0	B
Dukes, Dawnna	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	47.6	D
Dunnam, Jim	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	33.3	D
Dutton, Harold	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	38.1	D
Eiland, Craig	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	42.1	D
Eissler, Rob	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	76.2	B
Elkins, Garv	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	70.0	B

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REPORT CARD

Legislator	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Total %	Grade
England, Kirk	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	61.9	B
Escobar, Juan	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	AU	+	AU	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	AU	AE	30.0	D
Farabee, David	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	42.9	D
Farias, Joe	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	AU	-	-	-	+	+	AE	35.0	D
Farrar, Jessica	-	+	-	-	+	AE	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	30.0	D
Flores, Kino	+	+	-	-	AU	+	-	+	AU	+	+	+	P-	-	+	AU	-	-	+	+	AE	50.0	C
Flynn, Dan	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	AE	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	85.0	A
Frost, Stephen	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	AE	40.0	D
Gallego, Pete	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	AE	+	AE	31.6	D
Garcia, Juan	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23.8	F
Gattis, Dan	+	+	+	-	AU	+	+	AE	AE	+	+	+	+	AE	+	+	AE	+	AE	AE	AU	80.0	A
Geren, Charlie	+	AU	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	AE	70.0	B
Giddings, Helen	+	+	-	-	AU	+	-	+	+	AU	+	-	-	-	-	AU	-	-	+	+	-	38.1	D
Gonzales, Veronica	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	AU	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	AE	20.0	F
Gonzales Toureilles, Yvonne	-	+	-	-	AU	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	33.3	D
Goolsby, Tony	+	AU	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	AU	-	AE	45.0	D
Guillen, Ryan	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	52.4	C
Haggerty, Pat	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	57.1	C
Hamilton, Mike "Tuffy"	+	+	-	-	AU	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	57.1	C
Hancock, Kellv	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	PNV	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	AE	-	AE	63.2	B

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Legislator	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Total %	Grade	
Hardcastle, Rick	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	AU	-	81.0	A
Harless, Patricia	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	PNV	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	AU		71.4	B
Harper-Brown, Linda	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	AU	+	+	+	+	+	-	+		76.2	B
Hartnett, Will	+	AU	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-		57.1	C
Heflin, Joe	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	PNV	+	-	+	AE	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-		25.0	D
Hernandez, Ana	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-		23.8	F
Herrero, Abel	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-		33.3	D
Hilderbrand, Harvey	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	AE	75.0	B
Hill, Fred	+	+	AU	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	AU	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+		51.9	C
Hochberg, Scott	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-		28.6	D
Hodge, Terri	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-		47.6	D
Homer, Mark	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	AU	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	AU	-	+	-	AE		30.0	D
Hopson, Chuck	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	AE		45.0	D
Howard, Charlie	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-		71.4	B
Howard, Donna	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-		38.1	D
Hughes, Bryan	+	+	+	AU	AU	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		85.7	A
Isett, Carl	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		91.0	A
Jackson, Jim	+	+	+	-	-	+	AE	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-		70.0	B
Jones, Delwin	-	+	-	-	+	-	AE	AE	AE	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	AE		52.9	C
Keffer, Jim	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	AU	-	+	+	AU	-		61.9	B

----- HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REPORT CARD

Legislator	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Total %	Grade
King, Phil	+	+	+	AU	-	+	+	PNV	-	+	+	+	+	AE	+	AU	+	+	+	-	+	80.0	A
King, Susan	+	+	+	-	AU	+	-	AU	AU	+	+	-	+	+	+	AU	-	+	+	-	-	52.4	C
King, Tracy	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	38.1	D
Kolkhorst, Lois	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	AE	+	AE	+	-	73.7	B
Krusee, Mike	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	57.1	C
Kuempel, Edmund	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	61.9	B
Latham, Thomas	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	PNV	-	+	+	+	+	AU	+	-	+	-	+	-	AE	55.0	C
Laubenberg, Jodie	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	AU	+	+	+	-	+	76.2	B
Leibowitz, David	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	28.6	D
Lucio, Eddie III	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	AE	-	AE	31.6	D
Macias, Nathan	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	AU	+	+	+	+	+	76.2	B
Madden, Jerry	+	+	+	AU	-	+	-	-	AE	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	AU	+	+	-	-	65.0	B
Mallory Caraway, Barbara	-	+	-	-	AU	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	38.1	D
Martinez, Armando	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	AE	35.0	D
Martinez Fishcer, Trey	-	+	-	-	+	AE	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	AE	36.8	D
McCall, Brian	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	AE	60.0	B
McClendon, Ruth Jones	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	AU	-	AE	+	+	-	50.0	C
McReynolds, Jim	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	AE	45.0	D
Menendez, Jose	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	C	-	+	-	-	+	-	AE	36.8	D
Merritt, Tommy	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	AU	42.9	D

----- HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REPORT CARD

Legislator	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Total %	Grade
Miles, Borris	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	AU	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	AU	38.1	D
Miller, Sid	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	AU	C	+	65.0	B
Moreno, Paul	-	+	-	-	+	AU	AE	AE	AE	AU	AU	AE	AE	AE	AE	AE	AE	AE	AE	AE	AE	25.0	---
Morrison, Geanie	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	71.4	B
Mowery, Anna	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	AU	+	+	+	+	+	AE	AE	AE	AU	AU	-	AE	58.8	C
Murphy, Jim	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	71.4	B
Naishtat, Elliott	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	33.3	D
Noriega, Rick	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	PNV	AU	+	AU	-	AU	-	+	-	-	+	+	AE	25.0	D
O'Day, Mike	AE	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	75.0	B
Oliviera, Rene	-	+	-	-	AU	-	-	+	-	-	+	AU	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	AE	25.0	D
Olivo, Dora	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	38.1	D
Orr, Rob	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	AU	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	AE	55.0	C
Ortiz, Solomon	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	23.8	F
Otto, John	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	AU	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	71.9	B
Parker, Tan	+	AU	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	AU	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	67.1	B
Patrick, Diane	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	71.4	B
Paxton, Ken	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	96.2	A
Pena, Aaron	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	AU	AE	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	50.0	C
Phillips, Larry	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	AE	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	85.0	A
Pickett, Joe	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	AE	45.0	D

----- HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REPORT CARD

Legislator	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Total %	Grade	
Pierson, Paula	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	AU	AE	AE	-	AU	-	-	-	-	AE	-	AE	17.6	F	
Pitts, Jim	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	AE	AE	+	+	+	+	AE	-	+	+	+	AE	70.6	B	
Puente, Robert	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	AU	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	33.3	D	
Quintanilla, Chinte	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	-	AU	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	33.3	D	
Raymond, Richard	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	38.1	D	
Riddle, Debbie	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	AE	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	80.0	A	
Ritter, Allan	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	AE	65.0	B	
Rodriguez, Eddie	-	+	-	-	AU	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	38.1	D	
Rose, Patrick	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	57.1	C	
Smith, Todd	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	PNV	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	57.1	C	
Smith, Wayne	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	71.4	B	
Smithee, John	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	AU	-	+	AE	+	AE	68.4	B	
Solomons, Burt	+	+	-	AU	-	+	+	AU	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	AU	-	+	-	+	66.7	B	
Strama, Mark	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	28.6	D	
Straus, Joe	+	+	+	-	-	+	AU	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	AU	+	+	+	+	+	+	AE	90.0	A
Swinford, David	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	PNV	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	51.9	C	
Talton, Robert	-	+	+	AU	AE	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	85.0	A	
Taylor, Larry	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	C	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	70.0	B	
Thompson, Sefronia	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	38.1	D	
Truitt, Vicki	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	AU	56.7	C

----- HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REPORT CARD

Legislator	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Total %	Grade
Turner, Sylvester	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	AE	-	-	+	+	-	45.0	D
Van Arsdale, Corbin	+	+	+	-	AU	+	+	AU	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	81.0	A
Vaught, Allan	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	AE	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	AE	AE	33.3	D
Veasey, Marc	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	AE	AU	AE	26.3	D
Villarreal, Mike	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	AE	-	-	-	-	+	-	AE	31.6	D
Vo, Hubert	-	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	AU	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	38.1	D
West, G. E. "Buddy"	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	52.4	C
Woolley, Beverly	+	+	+	-	-	+	AE	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	70.0	B
Zedler, Bill	+	+	+	AU	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	AU	+	+	-	-	76.7	B
Zerwas, John	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	61.9	B

----- SENATE VOTE EXPLANATIONS

1) Senate Two-Thirds Rule

Weighed Twice

Adoption of Senate Resolution 3

Journal Page 24 January 9

30 Yeas, 1 Nay

The Senate adopted Rules of Procedure used in the 79th Legislature. Among these rules is the Two-Thirds Rule which prohibits legislation from being considered by the full Senate unless two-thirds of the Senate supports the legislation. A simple majority of the Senate should decide the fate of legislation.

AFP “Nay” on Adoption

2) Red-light Cameras

Weighed Twice

Motion to Table Amendment 4,

Senate Bill 125

Journal Page 848 April 4

22 Yeas, 9 Nays, 1 Absent-Excused, 1

Absent-Unexcused

Red-light cameras are viewed by municipalities as additional revenue

stream, and the use of red-light cameras is unnecessary government growth.

AFP “Nay” on Motion to Table

3) Early Childhood Education

Weighed Twice

Final Passage of Senate Bill 50

Journal Page 1179 April 23

28 Yeas, 3 Nays

Senate Bill 50 dedicates government resources to Early Childhood Education which is not the proper role of government. The legislation also adds bureaucracy to Texas’ education system.

AFP “Nay” on Final Passage

4) Local Property Tax Reduction Option and Rollback Provision

Final Passage of Senate Bill 407

Journal Page 1704 May 4

24 Yeas, 7 Nays

Senate Bill 407 followed a recommendation by the Taskforce on Appraisal Reforms by allowing localities to hold an election for the option of

reducing property taxes in favor of an expanded sales tax; the legislation also held the added benefit of protecting such reductions by lowering the rollback rate for “opt-in” communities to the original 5%.

AFP “Yea” on Final Passage

5) Greenhouse Gas Emissions Study

Final Passage of Senate Bill 1687

Journal Page 1784 May 8

28 Yeas, 3 Nays

Senate Bill 1687 expands state government out of its proper role by requiring studies on greenhouse gas emissions.

AFP “Nay” on Final Passage

6) Federal Regulation of Insurance

Adoption of Senate Concurrent Resolution 60

Journal Page 1800 May 8

28 Yeas, 3 Nays

Senate Concurrent Resolution 60 asks Congress to stay within its proper role by not regulating the insurance industry.

AFP “Yea” on Adoption

----- SENATE VOTE EXPLANATIONS

7) Voter ID

Verification of Motion to Suspend the Rules to Consider House Bill 218
Journal Page 2068 May 15
20 Yeas, 11 Nays
House Bill 218 would have ensured reliability in the democratic process by requiring those wishing to cast ballots to prove their eligibility to vote.
AFP “Yea” on Motion to Suspend the Rules

8) Prevailing Wage

Final Passage of House Bill 2625
Journal Page 2174 May 17
23 Yeas, 5 Nays, 3 Absent-Unexcused
House Bill 2625 would have loosened the requirements of local entities when calculating the prevailing wage for projects, which is an unnecessary financial burden on taxpayers.
AFP “Yea” on Final Passage

9) Franchise Tax Revision for Zero Income

Motion to Table Amendment 3, House Bill 3928
Journal Page 2329 May 18
23 Yeas, 6 Nays, 2 Absent-Excused
Amendment 3 to House Bill 3928 would have exempted businesses from the franchise tax who do not make a profit for the taxable period.
AFP “Nay” on Motion to Table

10) Comptroller’s Annual Property Value Study

Motion to Reconsider Adoption of Amendment 1, House Bill 3492
Journal Page 2426 May 21
25 Yeas, 5 Nays, 1 Absent-Unexcused
Amendment 1 would have increased the margin of error in the comptroller’s annual property value study to 10% from 5%, thus lessening the artificial inflation experienced when municipalities try to avoid auditing.
AFP “Nay” on Motion to Reconsider

11) Cancer Research

Weighed Twice
Final Passage of House Bill 14
Journal Page 2693 May 22
25 Yeas, 6 Nays
House Bill 14 expands state government far from its proper role and authorizations a great deal of undue spending and debt.
AFP “Nay” on Final Passage

12) Homestead Property Tax Evaluation Cap

Final Passage of House Joint Resolution 40
Journal Page 2742 May 22
30 Yeas, 1 Nay
House Joint Resolution 40 proposed a constitutional amendment which would protect homesteads from being evaluated higher than the constitutional cap per evaluation period and not calendar year.
AFP “Yea” on Final Passage

----- SENATE VOTE EXPLANATIONS

13) Property Tax Reduction

Weighed Twice

Final Passage of House Bill 2

Journal Page 2758 May 22

26 Yeas, 5 Nays

House Bill, the Appropriations

Supplemental Act, made appropriations for the reduction of property taxes statewide.

AFP “Yea” on Final Passage

14) Rollback of CHIP Reforms

Final Passage of House Bill 109

Journal Page 2760 May 22

30 yeas, 1 Nay

House Bill 109 rolled-back many reforms of the Children’s Health Insurance Program passed in 2003.

AFP “Nay” on Final Passage

15) Negating GASB Rule on Post-Employment Benefits

Final Passage of House Bill 2365

Journal Page 2760 May 22

28 Yeas, 3 Nays

House Bill 2365 allows local governments to ignore a General Accounting Standards Board rule which requires Post-Employment Benefits to be counted as liabilities, thus allowing local governments to ignore the future cost of post-employment benefits and leading to greater spending and debt in the future.
AFP “Nay” on Final Passage

16) Limitations of Public Information

Final Passage of House Bill 2564

Journal Page 2875 May 22

27 Yeas, 3 Nays, 1 Absent-Unexcused
House Bill 2564 reduced citizens’ ability to access public information.
AFP “Nay” on Final Passage

17) Taxes on Sexually-oriented Business

Weighed Twice

Suspension of Rules to Consider House Bill 1751

Journal Page 3046 May 22

26 Yeas, 3 Nays, 2 Absent-Unexcused
House Bill 1751 created and imposed a new tax on sexually-oriented businesses.
AFP “Nay” on Suspension of Rules

Extra Credit

Patrick – for sponsoring legislation to end taxpayer-funded lobbying

Demerits

Duncan – for failing to hear legislation on taxpayer-funded lobbying

Wentworth - for his Public Information Limitation legislation

SENATE REPORT CARD

Legislator	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total %	Grade
Averitt, Kip	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	AU	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	26.1	D
Brimer, Kim	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	39.1	D
Carona, John	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	AE	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	40.9	D
Deuell, Bob	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	30.4	D
Duncan, Robert	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	26.1	D
Ellis, Rodney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	8.7	F
Eltife, Kevin	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	39.1	D
Estes, Craig	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	39.1	D
Fraser, Troy	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	AU	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	52.2	C
Gallegos, Mario, Jr.	-	AE	-	-	-	+	-	AU	AE	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	AU	20.0	F
Harris, Chris	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	34.8	D
Hegar, Glenn	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	39.1	D
Hinojosa, Juan "Chuy"	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	26.1	D
Jackson, Mike	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	52.2	C
Janek, Kyle	-	AU	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	30.4	D
Lucio, Eddie, Jr.	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	21.7	F
Nelson, Jane	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	47.8	D
Nichols, Robert	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	52.2	C
Ogden, Steve	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	AU	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	AU	AU	26.1	D
Patrick, Dan	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	92.6	A

SENATE SCORE CARD

Legislator	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total %	Grade
Seliger, Kel	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	34.8	D
Shapiro, Florence	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	26.1	D
Shapleigh, Eliot	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	17.4	F
Uresti, Carlos	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	13.0	F
Van de Putte, Leticia	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	39.1	D
Watson, Kirk	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	17.4	F
Wentworth, Jeff	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	-	-	37.8	D
West, Royce	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	21.7	F
Whitmire, John	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	21.7	F
Williams, Tommy	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	47.8	D
Zaffirini, Judith	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	17.4	F

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