

The American Conservative Union is taking our highly touted Congressional Ratings program to State Legislatures for the third year in a row, grading members on their votes on key conservative issues. Last year, we graded State Legislators in fifteen critical states, including Colorado, Florida, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio and Virginia. This year, we are expanding our ratings to twenty states.

ACU first began rating members of Congress in 1971. Since then, our ratings system has become the most important conservative measuring stick in American politics -- the gold standard for voters seeking more information on their representatives' records.

Throughout the history of our conservative ratings program, the ACU has also become the go-to source for determining whether an elected official's philosophical rhetoric matches his or her record. Our guides provide a comprehensive analysis of

the legislative landscape over the preceding year. This differentiates us from other useful guides which may emphasize single areas, like taxes, defense, or social policy.

Our annual matrix covers issues running the gamut of legislative action, including domestic energy production, healthcare, government reform, climate change, border security, foreign policy, and social issues. These issues are carefully selected to ensure legislators are scored and rated on the bellwether conservative topics they voted on over the course of the year.

This expansion of our Conservative Ratings program is part of Chairman Al Cardenas' vision for building on successful ACU initiatives and taking the fight for conservative principles to the state and local levels. Eventually we will bring our ratings to all fifty states -- scoring every legislature in every state, every year.

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November 26, 2013

Dear Fellow Conservative,

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the American Conservative Union's *2013 State Legislative Ratings* for members of the Nevada General Assembly.



Al Cardenas, ACU Chairman

Since 1971, our Congressional ratings have become the gold standard in holding every member of Congress accountable for their voting record on the most important issues facing our nation. Last year we brought that same commitment to conservative ideals to the states, rating members in fifteen legislatures. I am pleased to report that this year we will score 20 states. This is part of the ACU plan to bring our ratings to all 50 states -- scoring every legislature in every state, every cycle.

There could not be a more critical time for conservatives to evaluate America's leadership and hold them accountable for their actions. Our economy, our international standing, our very moral fiber are weaker because this administration has put us on a course to bigger government, less freedom, and an abandonment of traditional values.

With our government expanding faster now than at any time in our country's history, the ACU intends to continue to play a major role in giving the American people the tools they need to make informed voting decisions at every level of government. While some may be disheartened by the results of November's elections, conservatives found themselves in a similar situation after President Obama first took office in the spring of 2009. The cause of conservatism dramatically reasserted itself in the 2010 elections, with conservative legislators winning an unprecedented number of elections nationwide. Because of this, our *2013 State Legislative Ratings* are vital for voters to make informed choices on the future of our nation.

We can come back even stronger in 2014, but only if we start our march toward victory now.

Thank you for your continued support. I know that together we can ensure America's best days are still ahead.

Sincerely,

Al Cardenas Chairman, the American Conservative Union

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How We Selected the Votes

The American Conservative Union is taking our highly touted Congressional Ratings program to State Legislatures for the third year in a row, grading members on their votes on key conservative issues. Last year, we graded State Legislators in fifteen critical states, including Colorado, Florida, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio and Virginia. This year, we are expanding our ratings to twenty states.

ACU first began rating members of Congress in 1971. Since then, our ratings system has become the most important conservative measuring stick in American politics- the gold standard for voters seeking more information on their representatives' records.

This expansion of our Conservative Ratings program is part of Chairman Al Cardenas' vision for building on successful ACU initiatives and taking the fight for conservative principles to the state and local levels. This is part of the ACU five-year plan to bring our ratings to all fifty states- scoring every legislature in every state, every year.

Conservatives of the Nevada General Assembly

Defenders of Liberty

ACU Defenders of Liberty are those members of the Nevada General Assembly who scored 100 percent on the ACU 2013 State Legislative Ratings and cast a vote for each adjudicated vote.

Nevada Senate: None Nevada Assembly: None

ACU Conservatives

ACU Conservatives are those members of the Nevada General Assembly who scored 80 percent or higher on the ACU *2013 State Legislative Ratings*.

Nevada Senate:	Gustavson Settelmeyer	
Nevada Assembly:	Duncan Ellison	Livermore Wheeler

True Liberals of the Silver State

True Liberals of the Silver State are those members of the Nevada General Assembly who scored 0 percent on the ACU 2013 State Legislative Ratings.

Nevada Senate: None

Nevada Assembly:

Bustamante Adams Diaz Eisen Flores Frierson Swank

THE AMERICAN CONSERVATIVE UNJON STATE LEGISLATIVE RATINGS GUIDE NEVADA

Nevada Assembly Vote Descriptions

- 1. SB 475 Tax Increase. This bill extends for the second time so-called "temporary" tax increases, totaling almost \$800 million, including sales taxes and business licenses for another two years. ACU opposes the subterfuge of "temporary" taxes that are really permanent and opposed this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on June 3, 2013 by a vote of 35-6.
- 2. AB 413 Clark County Gas Tax. This bill "authorizes" Clark County to index its fuel tax, allowing for annual increases with no further vote. ACU opposes this type of automatic tax increase and opposed this bill that circumvents Nevada's law requiring a 2/3 vote to impose a tax increase. The bill passed the Assembly on May 31, 2013 by a vote of 34-7.
- **3. AB 46 Washoe County Tax Increase.** This bill authorizes Washoe County to increase sales and property taxes. ACU opposes this type of targeted tax increase which circumvents Nevada's requirement of a 2/3 vote to impose a tax increase. The bill passed the Assembly on May 28, 2013 by a vote of 32-8.
- **4. AB 403 Property Tax Increase.** This bill "authorizes" local school boards to levy a new property tax rate of \$2 per acre of taxable land within each county. ACU opposes tax increases that circumvent Nevada's requirement that a 2/3 majority approve tax increases and opposed this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on April 22, 2013 by a vote of 23-16.
- **5. AB 496 Police Department Funding.** This bill "suspends" the requirement that additional funding for the Las Vegas Municipal Police Department be used for additional officers while imposing an additional sales tax levy of 0.15 %. ACU opposes tax increases to expand the bureaucracy rather than increase the police force and opposed this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on April 23, 2013 by a vote of 32-9.
- 6. SB 165 Film Subsidies. This bill spends up to \$20 million per year on subsidizing film production up to 19 percent of production costs. Since the tax credits are far in excess of taxes owed, this results in taxpayer funds going to film producers, a program which has resulted in a net loss to states with similar programs. ACU opposes these programs as a misuse of taxpayer funds and opposed this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on June 3, 2013 by a vote of 27-14.
- **7. AB 410 Government Subsidies.** This bill would create a pilot program to select 10 Nevada businesses as "winners" and assist with public resources. ACU opposes government picking winners and losers in spending taxpayer funds and opposed this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on May 22, 2013 by a vote of 28-13.
- 8. AB 126 Government Regulation. This bill would go beyond federal law to require retail food outlets with 15 or more location (rather than the 20 under federal law) to publish nutritional information about their products or face a new civil penalty. ACU opposes these unneeded regulations as an unnecessary burden on small business and opposed this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on April 18, 2013 by a vote of 25-14.

- 9. SB 267 Business Liability. This bill allows parents to bring lawsuits against tanning establishments if their child successfully purchased tanning services even if they showed an I.D. ACU opposes this burden on small businesses which will dramatically increase their liability and produce spurious lawsuits and opposed this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on May 24, 2013 by a vote of 25-16.
- 10. SB 373 Debt Repayment Regulation. This bill raises from 75% to 85% the amount of income exempted from garnishments of wages. ACU opposes efforts to deny the ability to collect legitimate debts, thus raising the cost of borrowing for everyone else and opposed this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on May 23, 2013 by a vote of 25-15.
- 11. SB 406 "Prevailing Wage." This bill applies Davis-Bacon style prevailing wage rules to the construction of buildings within tourism improvement districts. ACU opposes these mandates that interfere with the free market, kill jobs and add to the cost of the project and so opposed this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on June 3, 2013 by a vote of 38-4.
- 12. AB 218 Labor Mandates. This bill requires fringe benefits provided to employees as a component of "prevailing wages" be annualized. In effect, this requires contractors to provide prevailing wage benefits for work on projects that don't have prevailing wage requirements. ACU opposes these mandates that further drive up the cost of projects in a state with the highest unemployment rate in the nation. The bill passed the Assembly on April 22, 2013 by a vote of 27-13.
- **13. SB 123 Energy Mandates.** This bill mandates the closure of 800 MW of coal fired plants and fuel-switching to natural gas while ratepayers continue payments on both types of facilities. ACU opposes these mandates that dramatically increase consumers' utility bills while rewarding the monopoly companies that operate the plants and opposed this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on June 3, 2013 by a vote of 31-10.
- 14. SB 252 Renewable Energy Mandates. Eliminates the purchase of hydropower from credit towards the renewable energy mandates as well as credit for improving energy efficiency. ACU opposes picking winners and losers in the energy marketplace and mandates that increase the cost of energy to the average consumer and opposed this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on May 22, 2013 by a vote of 27-14.
- **15. SB 220 License Regulation.** This bill allows occupational licensing boards to enter premises without a warrant to check for infractions, impose fines and issue cease and desist orders to entrepreneurs. ACU opposes these measures designed to limit competition and entrepreneurship and opposed this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on May 24, 2013 by a vote of 28-13.
- **16. SB 311 Education Reform.** This bill allows parents to improve their schools through the petition process. 55% of parents who sign a petition can transform a failing school into an empowerment school that gives the principle more control and a charter school three years later through another petition signed by 55% of parents. ACU supports these education reforms that give parents more control over their children's schools and supported this bill. The bill was defeated in the Assembly on May 24, 2013 by a vote of 17-24.
- **17. SB 221 Second Amendment Rights.** This bill would require background checks for the private sales of firearms. ACU opposes weakening Second Amendment rights and opposed this bill. The bill passed the Assembly on June 3, 2013 by a vote of 23-19.
- **18. SJR 13 Same Sex Marriage.** This resolution would amend the Nevada constitution would allow marriage between individuals of the same gender. ACU supports the traditional definition of marriage between one man and one woman and opposed this amendment. The resolution passed the Assembly on May 23, 2013 by a vote of 27-14.

NEVADA 2013 STATE LEGISLATIVE RATINGS

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Representative Name	Neal	Ohrenschall	OSCARSON	Pierce	Spiegel	Sprinkle	STEWART	Swank	Thompson	WHEELER	WOODBURY

+ in favor of the ACU position; - in opposition to the ACU position; (+) announcement in favor of the ACU position; (-) announcement in opposition to the ACU position; X did not vote; I heligible to vote; E Excused absence; P voted present



Nevada Senate Vote Descriptions

- 1. SB 475 Tax Increase. This bill extends, for the second time, so-called "temporary" tax increases totaling almost \$800 million, including sales taxes and business licenses for another two years. ACU opposes the subterfuge of "temporary" taxes that are really permanent and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on June 3, 2013 by a vote of 17-3.
- 2. AB 46 Washoe County Tax Increase. This bill authorizes Washoe County to increase sales and property taxes. ACU opposes this type of targeted tax increase which circumvents Nevada's requirement of a 2/3 vote to impose a tax increase. The bill passed the Senate on June 3, 2013 by a vote of 16-4.
- **3. AB 413 Clark County Gas Tax.** This bill "authorizes" Clark County to index its fuel tax, allowing for annual increases with no further vote. ACU opposes this type of automatic tax increase and opposed this bill that circumvents Nevada's law requiring a 2/3 vote to impose a tax increase. The bill passed the Senate on June 3, 2013 by a vote of 17-3.
- **4. AB 496 Police Department Funding.** This bill "suspends" the requirement that additional funding for the Las Vegas Municipal Police Department be used for additional officers, while imposing an additional sales tax levy of 0.15 %. ACU opposes tax increases to expand the bureaucracy rather than increasing the police force and opposed this bill. The bill passed the Senate on May 24, 2013 by a vote of 18-3.
- 5. SB 165 Film Subsidies. This bill spends up to \$20 million per year on subsidizing film production up to 19 percent of production costs. Since the tax credits are far in excess of taxes owed, this results in taxpayer funds going to film producers, a program which has resulted in a net loss to states with similar programs. ACU opposes these programs as a misuse of taxpayer funds and opposed this bill. The bill passed the Senate on May 28, 2013 by a vote of 13-8.
- 6. AB 126 Government Regulation. This bill would go beyond federal law to require retail food outlets with 15 or more locations (rather than the 20 under federal law) to publish nutritional information about their products or face a new civil penalty. ACU opposes these unneeded regulations as an unnecessary burden on small business and opposed this bill. The bill passed the Senate on May 23, 2013 by a vote of 11-10.
- 7. SB 267 Business Liability. This bill allows parents to bring lawsuits against tanning establishments if their child successfully purchased tanning services even if they showed an I.D. ACU opposes this burden on small businesses which will dramatically increase their liability and produce spurious lawsuits and opposed this bill. The bill passed the Senate on April 22, 2013 by a vote of 17-4.
- 8. SB 373 Debt Repayment Regulation. This bill raises from 75% to 85% the amount of income exempted from garnishments of wages. ACU opposes efforts to deny the ability to collect legitimate debts, thus raising the cost of borrowing for everyone else and opposed this bill. The bill passed the Senate on April 23, 2013 by a vote of 11-10.

- **9. SB 406 "Prevailing Wage.**" This bill applies Davis-Bacon style prevailing wage rules to the construction of buildings within tourism improvement districts. ACU opposes these mandates that interfere with the free market, kill jobs and add to the cost of the project and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on May 29, 2013 by a vote of 21-0.
- 10. AB 218 Labor Mandates. This bill requires fringe benefits provided to employees as a component of "prevailing wages" be annualized. In effect, this requires contractors to provide prevailing wage benefits for work on projects that do not have prevailing wage requirements. ACU opposes these mandates that further drive up the cost of projects in a state with the highest unemployment rate in the nation. The bill passed the Senate on May 23, 2013 by a vote of 11-10.
- 11. SB 123 Energy Mandates. This bill mandates the closure of 800 MW of coal fired plants and fuel-switching to natural gas while ratepayers continue payments on both types of facilities. ACU opposes these mandates that dramatically increase consumers' utility bills while rewarding the monopoly companies that operate the plants and opposed this bill. The bill passed the Senate on May 22, 2103 by a vote of 21-0.
- **12. SB 220 License Regulation.** This bill allows occupational licensing boards to enter premises without a warrant to check for infractions, impose fines and issue cease and desist orders to entrepreneurs. ACU opposes these measures designed to limit competition and entrepreneurship and opposed this bill. The bill passed the Senate on April 23, 2013 by a vote of 21-0.
- **13. SB 311 Education Reform.** This bill allows parents to improve their schools through the petition process. 55% of parents who sign a petition can transform a failing school into an empowerment school that gives the principal more control, and a charter school three years later through another petition signed by 55% of parents. ACU supports these education reforms that give parents more control over their children's schools and supported this bill. The bill passed the Senate on April 23, 2013 by a vote of 21-0.
- 14. SB 221 Second Amendment Rights. This bill would require background checks for the private sales of firearms. ACU opposes weakening Second Amendment rights and opposed this bill. The bill passed the Senate on May 22, 2013 by a vote of 11-10.
- **15. SJR 13 Same Sex Marriage.** This resolution would amend the Nevada constitution would allow marriage between individuals of the same sex. ACU supports the traditional definition of marriage between one man and one woman and opposed this amendment. The amendment passed the Senate on April 22, 2013 by a vote of 12-9.

NEVADA 2013 STATE LEGISLATIVE RATINGS

SB 165 <t< th=""><th>AB 126 · + + · · +</th></t<> <th>SB 267</th> <th>SB 373 · + + · · + +</th> <th>AB 218 · + + · · · + + +</th> <th>SB 123 · · · · · · · · · ·</th> <th>SB 220</th> <th>SB 311 +</th> <th>SJR 13 SB 221</th> <th>ACU Votes</th> <th>s Votes Cast</th> <th>ACU %</th>	AB 126 · + + · · +	SB 267	SB 373 · + + · · + +	AB 218 · + + · · · + + +	SB 123 · · · · · · · · · ·	SB 220	SB 311 +	SJR 13 SB 221	ACU Votes	s Votes Cast	ACU %
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+ in favor of the ACU position; - in opposition to the ACU position; (+) announcement in favor of the ACU position; (-) announcement in opposition to the ACU position; X did not vote; E Excused absence; P voted present

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The American Conservative Union

The American Conservative Union (ACU) is America's oldest and largest grassroots conservative organization.

Founded in 1964, ACU represents the views of Americans who are concerned with economic growth through lower taxes and reduced government spending and the issues of liberty, personal responsibility, traditional values, and national security.

As America's conservative voice, ACU is the leading entity in providing conservative positions on issues to Congress, White House Administration Officials, State Governments, the media, political candidates and the public.

The ACU's marquee initiatives include the annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) and the annual Ratings of Congress guide.

Under the leadership of ACU Chairman Al Cardenas, the organization remains the standard bearer of conservatism in America. Chairman Cardenas is dedicated to growing the national conservative movement through the expansion of ACU programs, unprecedented outreach and advocacy – especially to young, emerging activists – and an extended reach into local and state issues. Among these inaugural efforts are the expansion of conservative rating to State Legislatures and a first-ever series of regional CPAC's in states across the country, building on the legacy of the annual national CPAC event in our Nation's Capital.

For more information on the American Conservative Union, please visit our website at *www.conservative.org*.

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