



## Alabama – CPAC Scorecard

Center for Legislative Analysis

11th Edition – 2025

### Summary

The eleventh edition of the Alabama CPAC Scorecard analyzes 19 critical votes in the Alabama House of Representatives, and 14 bills in the Alabama Senate. Senate Republicans earned a respectable **79% average**, while Senate Democrats lagged at **53%**, yielding a total Senate average of **73%**. In the House, Republicans averaged **76%**, while Democrats posted a weak **41%**, producing an overall House average of **66%**.

Alabama remains a red state on paper—but this year’s session revealed a growing gap between party labels and conservative performance. While lawmakers took commendable action to ban DEI offices, protect election integrity, and advance school choice, too many Republican legislators fell short when it came to fiscal discipline and limiting government overreach. Instead of advancing across the board conservative reforms, the legislature approved state-directed planning initiatives and industry-specific tax breaks that fly in the face of free-market principles.

Most strikingly, **not a single member of the Alabama Senate or House of Representatives earned a Conservative Excellence Award** this session—an unmistakable sign that while the right battles are being fought, too many are doing so without full resolve. Alabama conservatives deserve more than passive support for good ideas—they deserve champions. 93% of the Alabama House of Representatives scored between 70% and 79%, displaying their mediocrity.

To truly lead the conservative movement, Alabama lawmakers must move beyond half-measures and recommit to the principles that define our cause: smaller government, constitutional liberty, parental rights, and a culture rooted in truth—not compromise. The foundation is strong—but the fight for bold, unapologetic conservatism in Montgomery is far from finished.

## **Key Takeaways**

### **Fighting Back Against the DEI Bureaucracy**

In one of the most consequential victories of the 2024 session, Alabama lawmakers passed SB 129, delivering a direct blow to the entrenched DEI bureaucracy in public universities and state agencies. This legislation eliminates DEI offices and forbids public institutions from conditioning hiring or admissions on allegiance to radical identity politics. CPAC supported this pivotal bill, viewing it as a model for other states to restore meritocracy, academic integrity, and colorblind principles across America. Alabama is standing at the frontlines of the culture war and winning.

### **Protecting Parents, Students, and Educational Freedom**

Education reform was a centerpiece of Alabama's conservative momentum in 2024. Through HB 129, legislators launched a comprehensive school choice program that empowers parents to use education scholarship accounts to send their children to institutions aligned with their values. At the same time, SB 48 mandated school curriculum transparency, ensuring parents—not activist bureaucrats—retain control over their children's learning. These bills, both championed by CPAC, reflect a state rejecting indoctrination and embracing parental rights.

### **Standing Strong on Election Integrity and Constitutional Rights**

The session began with a powerful declaration: Alabama will protect its elections. SB 1 outlawed ballot harvesting by banning third-party submission of absentee ballot applications and rewarding participation—a bill modeled on CPAC's commitment to clean, fair elections. Additionally, SB 186 blocked the spread of ranked-choice voting, a system that undermines transparency and distorts electoral outcomes. Meanwhile, SB 281 defended Second Amendment privacy by banning firearm registries. These actions place Alabama among the top states for defending the integrity of both the ballot box and the Bill of Rights.

### **Warning Signs of Fiscal Drift**

Despite conservative wins on core values, Alabama showed signs of fiscal drift. Bills like SB 252 created new central planning institutions such as the Alabama Growth Alliance, which CPAC opposed due to its long-range government intervention in economic

development. Additionally, HB 346 and HB 358 allocated tax credits to favored industries such as housing and child care—an approach that, while politically popular, contradicts free-market principles. These moves warrant caution and reflection as Alabama strives to maintain a truly limited government.

## **Highlighted Votes Analyzed**

### **SB 129 – Cracking Down on DEI at Alabama’s Public Universities**

This bill bans DEI offices at state agencies and public universities. It then prohibits such institutions from conditioning hiring, admissions, or promotion efforts on one’s adherence to various concepts promoted by DEI. CPAC opposes DEI and the racist society it hopes to create and supported this bill. The House passed this bill on March 7, 2024 by a vote of 75-28, and the Senate passed it on March 19, 2024 by a vote of 25-4. The bill later became law.

### **SB 1 – Protecting Alabama’s Absentee Ballot System Against Fraud**

This bill prohibits people from filling out absentee ballot application forms on behalf of other people. It also prohibits people from giving out rewards to others for filling out such applications. CPAC supports efforts to protect election integrity and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on February 13, 2024 by a vote of 27-8, and the House passed it on March 7, 2024 by a vote of 75-28. The bill later became law.

### **HB 129 – Creating a School Choice System in Alabama**

This bill establishes education scholarship accounts containing funds that parents may use to send their children to an educational institution that best suits their child’s needs. CPAC supports school choice and supported this bill. The House passed this bill on February 27, 2024 by a vote of 69-34, and the Senate passed it on March 7, 2024 by a vote of 23-9. The bill later became law.

## **Trends and Observations**

### **A Model for the Conservative Movement Nationwide**

With Alabama's passage of landmark bills on DEI, school choice, and election integrity, the state has earned its place as a leader among conservative legislatures. These efforts aren't just symbolic, they are substantive, well-crafted, and widely supported by both grassroots conservatives and policy experts alike. CPAC applauds Alabama for showing that meaningful reform is possible when courage and conviction meet.

### **Republican Cohesion and Leadership Still Strong**

Of the 27 Republican Senators, all **27** scored above **70%**, and **6** scored in the 80–89% range. Not a single Democrat topped 60%. This demonstrates the continued unity of Alabama's GOP delegation in the face of intense cultural and political pressure. The state's legislative majorities are holding the line, though there are many issues that could benefit from stronger conservative leadership.

### **Central Planning and Corporate Favoritism on the Rise**

Despite the overwhelmingly conservative makeup of Alabama's legislature, government favoritism and interventionist economic planning crept into this year's session. CPAC opposed **SB 252** (Alabama Growth Alliance), **HB 346** (Workforce Housing Tax Credit), and **HB 358** (Child Care Tax Credit), which signal a worrying shift toward government-picking-winners-and-losers. While these bills may appear helpful on the surface, they undermine free enterprise and grow the very bureaucracies conservatives seek to restrain.

## **Conservative Excellence - Senate**

**NONE**

## **Conservative Excellence - House**

**NONE**

## **Conservative Achievement - Senate**

Tom Butler - 86%

Chris Elliott - 85%

Keith Kelley - 85%

Tim Melson - 85%

Jack Williams - 83%

Jay Hovey - 82%

## **Conservative Achievement - House**

Corey Harbison - 86%

Marcus Paramore - 84%