



New Mexico— CPAC Scorecard

Center for Legislative Analysis

11th Edition — 2025

Summary

The eleventh edition of the New Mexico CPAC Scorecard analyzes 15 critical votes in the New Mexico House of Representatives and 14 bills in the New Mexico Senate. Senate Republicans earned a **respectable 75% average**, while **Senate Democrats lagged at just 2%**, yielding a **total Senate average of 35%**. In the House, **Republicans averaged 71%**, while **Democrats posted a weak 10%**, producing an **overall House average of 35%**.

These figures reveal the growing ideological divide in Santa Fe, where conservative lawmakers continue to fight for liberty and limited government, while Democrats embrace a radical agenda of centralized control and progressive overreach. From taxpayer-funded welfare expansions and union kickbacks to sweeping green energy mandates and Second Amendment restrictions, **the 2024 legislative session laid bare the Left's priorities: more government, more spending, and less freedom.**

Rather than focus on empowering New Mexicans through free markets and personal responsibility, Democrat lawmakers advanced legislation that **ballooned social programs, politicized education and healthcare, and targeted the constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens.** Many of these bills passed by slim margins, proving just how fragile the balance of power remains.

While Republicans stood firm against this tide by delivering unified opposition to legislation like SB 3 (Paid Family Leave), HB 129 (Gun Control Waiting Period), and HB 41 (Clean Energy Mandate)—the scorecard is a clarion call for conservative voters: **the fight for New Mexico's future is far from over. Every vote counts, every seat matters, and the 2025 session looms large on the horizon.**

Key Takeaways

The Left's Spending Spree is Draining New Mexico's Future

Progressives in Santa Fe spent the 2024 session treating the taxpayer like an ATM. Between SB 153, which poured \$95 million into unaccountable childhood welfare programs, and SB 159, which raided the state's Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund to cover college tuition costs, the Left used public funds to buy political loyalty under the guise of compassion. CPAC opposes these reckless, redistributive policies that deepen dependency and weaken economic freedom. New Mexicans deserve opportunity, not endless subsidies.

Second Amendment Freedoms Under Direct Attack

The Democrats made clear that they do not trust law-abiding citizens to exercise their constitutional rights. SB 5 created expanded gun-free zones near polling places, while HB 129 forced a 14-day waiting period on gun purchases, effectively delaying the right to self-defense. These laws target the innocent, not criminals, and reflect the Left's belief that the government and not individuals should determine who gets to defend themselves and when. CPAC stands unapologetically for the Second Amendment and opposed these anti-freedom bills.

Energy Mandates That Punish Consumers and Producers Alike

Through bills like HB 41 and HB 91, the legislature moved aggressively to remake New Mexico's energy economy in the image of California-style environmentalism. A new "clean transportation fuel standard," created by environmental justice bureaucrats, will distort the market and raise fuel prices. At the same time, geothermal energy grant programs siphon tax dollars into unproven technologies. CPAC supports an all-of-the-above energy strategy—not one where the government picks winners, buries producers in red tape, and drives up energy costs for working families.

Bureaucrats Given Control Over Healthcare and Business Decisions

In a disturbing show of central planning, legislators passed SB 15, which allows the state to approve or reject hospital mergers, and SB 146, which mandates which insurance plans hospitals must accept. These are not consumer protections, they are government mandates that undermine innovation, reduce efficiency, and drive up costs. CPAC rejects the idea that bureaucrats should dictate how private hospitals operate, and strongly opposes these forms of top-down control.

Highlighted Votes Analyzed

SB 5 – Expanding New Mexico’s Gun-Free Zones

This bill prohibits most people from carrying firearms near polling places. CPAC opposes the degradation of Second Amendment freedoms and opposed this bill. The Senate passed this bill on January 30, 2024 by a vote of 26-16 and the bill later became law.

SB 15 – Sticking the Government’s Nose into Hospital Mergers and Acquisitions

This bill allows the government to review and approve potential hospital mergers. CPAC opposes measures that increase government oversight in this way and opposed this bill. The Senate passed this bill on February 9, 2024 by a vote of 27-15 and the bill later became law.

HB 7 – Expanding New Mexico’s Socialist Health Care Programs

This bill permanently raises the amount of funds distributed to the New Mexico Health Care Affordability Fund to equal 55% of the net receipts of the state’s health insurance premium surtax. This fund assists in covering the costs of health care for various entities. CPAC opposes the expansion of this kind of government program and opposed this bill. The Senate passed this bill on February 14, 2024 by a vote of 26-13 and the bill later became law.

HB 41 – Cramming Down Clean Energy Mandates onto the Transportation Industry in New Mexico

This bill requires the government to establish an advisory committee composed of “environmental Justice groups,” tribal governments, and more that will establish a state-wide clean transportation fuel standard designed to decrease the state’s greenhouse gas emissions. CPAC supports all forms of energy, believes that the government should not support one form of energy over another, and opposed this bill. The Senate passed this bill on February 13, 2024 by a vote of 26-15 and the bill later became law.

HB 303 – Providing for Yet Another Workforce Welfare Program

This bill creates the New Mexico Workforce Training Economic Support Pilot Program, the likes of which will provide financial assistance to people such that they may be trained in government-selected useful skills. CPAC believes that taxpayers should not be forced to help foot the cost of these trainings and opposed this bill. The Senate passed this bill on February 15, 2024 by a vote of 27-14 and the bill later became law.

Trends and Observations

A Legislative Agenda Modeled on California's Worst Ideas

The 2024 session made one thing painfully clear: New Mexico Democrats are no longer moderates, they are full-blown activists. Nearly every high-profile bill mirrored the kind of big-government experimentation seen in states like California and Oregon. Whether it was radical environmental mandates, taxpayer-funded higher education, or expanded bureaucratic control over hospitals, the message from the Left was clear: central planning is in, and individual liberty is out. Republicans pushed back with impressive unity, but the margin for error in both chambers is shrinking—and every conservative vote is needed to stop the next wave.

Welfare Expansion Masquerading as Investment

A consistent pattern emerged: bills framed as “investments” in education, training, or healthcare were little more than thinly veiled welfare expansions. SB 159 and HB 303 didn't create opportunity, they redirected taxpayer dollars to politically favored recipients under the banner of equity. These aren't neutral policy proposals; they're part of a larger effort to entrench progressive dependency programs that cannot be easily unwound. Conservatives must continue calling out these programs for what they are: political payoffs with no measurable return for the taxpayer.

Public Safety and Gun Rights on the Chopping Block

Second Amendment rights came under direct assault in 2024, often with razor-thin margins. Bills like SB 5 and HB 129 passed by a single vote, underscoring just how close the state is to losing even more of its constitutional identity. The pretext for these restrictions was public safety, but the real aim was ideological: dismantling gun culture and empowering state control. CPAC will continue to support legislators who fight against the slow erosion of the right to keep and bear arms.

Green Energy Cronyism Disguised as Climate Policy

HB 41 and HB 91 reveal a broader trend: environmental policy has become a vehicle for funneling money into politically preferred industries. Advisory committees dominated by “environmental justice” groups are now setting standards for the entire transportation sector, and millions are being funneled into geothermal pet projects. This isn't environmentalism, it's cronyism, and it will lead to higher costs, fewer choices, and lost jobs in oil-and-gas communities across the state.

Conservative Excellence - Senate

Mark Moores - 90%

Conservative Excellence - House

John Block - 100% Randall Pettigrew - 100% Stefani Lord - 93%
Candy Spence Ezzell - 100%

Conservative Achievement - Senate

David Gallegos - 86% Cliff Pirtle - 85% Gregg Schmedes - 85%
Steven McCutcheon - 85%

Conservative Achievement - House

Larry Scott - 87% Rod Montoya - 86% Jared Hembree - 80%
James Townsend - 87% Cathrynn Brown - 80% Harlan Vincent - 80%