



Alaska – CPAC Scorecard

Center for Legislative Analysis

11th Edition – 2025

Summary

The eleventh edition of the Alaska CPAC Scorecard reviews 17 key votes in the Alaska House of Representatives and 12 pivotal votes in the Alaska Senate from the 2024 legislative session. Despite Alaska's reputation for rugged individualism and fiscal caution, the data reveal a legislature often out of step with core conservative principles, especially in the Senate.

In the **Alaska Senate**, Republicans posted an **average score of just 40%**, while Democrats fell to an astonishingly low **6%**, yielding an overall Senate average of **only 33%**. These numbers demonstrate a chamber frequently willing to back bigger government, higher spending, and social policies at odds with constitutional conservatism.

The **Alaska House** performed somewhat better, with Republicans **averaging 63%** and Democrats a **mere 4%**, leading to an overall **House average of 36%**. This modest showing for the House underscores how Alaska's conservative advances often come narrowly, and are too easily undercut by bipartisan votes that grow government, expand welfare, and increase regulatory burdens.

This session, lawmakers considered legislation that risked Alaska's financial stability through new pension schemes, intervened further into housing markets, imposed costly insurance mandates, and weakened parental rights. Although Alaska did see a few important wins such as protecting women's sports and reinforcing concealed carry reciprocity, these victories were often overshadowed by a **troubling bipartisan comfort with growing the size and scope of government**. For a state that markets itself as fiercely independent, the 2024 session revealed significant gaps in legislative discipline when it comes to **safeguarding economic freedom, individual liberty, and the core principles of limited government**.

Key Takeaways

Lawmakers Put Alaska's Fiscal Health at Risk

Despite Alaska's fragile financial position, legislators advanced policies that could deepen long-term liabilities. SB 88 established a new pension tier for state employees, adding to burdens that already outstrip the assets in Alaska's pension funds. Meanwhile, amendments aimed at cutting government programs and reducing spending were repeatedly defeated, revealing a legislature too willing to defer tough fiscal decisions.

More Government Intrusion into Private Markets

The legislature passed bills that deepen state involvement in Alaska's economy. SB 239 expanded the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority's reach into workforce housing, effectively compelling taxpayers to subsidize private real estate projects. In the House, mandates like HB 88 imposed new regulatory reporting on warehouse operations, illustrating a growing willingness to micromanage private workplaces.

Undermining Parental Rights and Expanding Social Dependency

SB 240 allowed minors as young as 16 to seek outpatient mental health services without parental consent, a direct encroachment on parental authority. The House passed HB 89, which eases eligibility for child care assistance, continuing a cradle-to-grave approach that expands dependency on state programs at the expense of personal responsibility and family autonomy.

Bright Spots: Protecting Second Amendment Rights and Women's Sports

Not all was negative. HJR 3 encouraged Congress to enact concealed carry reciprocity between states, reinforcing Alaskans' Second Amendment freedoms. The House also passed HB 183, protecting girls' sports by prohibiting biological males from competing on female-designated teams. These victories demonstrate that while Alaska's legislature struggles on many conservative economic fronts, it still finds moments to defend constitutional and cultural priorities.

Highlighted Votes Analyzed

SB 88 – Risking Higher Pension Costs on the State

This bill establishes an entirely new pension tier and fund for teachers and state employees. CPAC believes this places unnecessary risk on Alaska's financial stability, especially given that current pension liabilities vastly exceed assets, and opposed this bill. The Senate passed it on January 31, 2024 by a vote of 12-5. The House failed to discharge this bill from committee on April 26, 2024 by a vote of 19-19.

SB 206 – Interfering in Alaska's Workforce

Establishes a new "stay-at-work" program to incentivize employers to keep injured workers on payroll. CPAC believes government should refrain from interfering in workforce arrangements and opposed this bill. The Senate passed it on May 6, 2024 by a vote of 18-1.

SB 239 – Extending the Government's Reach Into the Housing Market

Expands the duties of the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority to finance workforce housing. CPAC believes taxpayers should not be forced to pay for others' housing and opposed this bill. The Senate passed it on April 22, 2024 by a vote of 18-2.

SB 240 – Diminishing Parental Rights Over One's Children

Allows minors aged 16 and 17 to consent to outpatient mental health services without parental consent. CPAC supports parental rights and opposed this bill. The Senate passed it on April 24, 2024 by a vote of 14-5.

HJR 3 – Encouraging Concealed Carry Reciprocity Between States

Encourages Congress to pass legislation that would let concealed carry permits transfer across state lines. CPAC supports Second Amendment rights and supported this resolution. Passed Senate on May 11, 2024 by a vote of 14-5 and House on May 13, 2024 by a vote of 32-7.

HB 268 (Amd. 131) – No Taxpayer Funds for Abortion

Would have prohibited Medicaid from covering abortion costs. CPAC believes abortion is always a tragedy and supported this amendment. Tabled by the House on April 10, 2024 by a vote of 26-14 and defeated in the Senate on May 1, 2024 by a vote of 8-12.

HB 375 – Prohibiting Gas-Powered Car Bans in Alaska

Prohibits state and local governments from restricting cars based on energy type. CPAC supports energy freedom and supported this bill. Passed House on May 1, 2024 by a vote of 23-17.

Trends and Observations

Alaska's Legislature Lacks Serious Commitment to Spending Restraint

Despite Alaska's well-known budget challenges and the looming liabilities tied to its pension systems, the legislature repeatedly rejected opportunities to cut spending or rein in programs. Votes on HB 268 amendments that would have eliminated funding for public radio, reduced funds for ranked choice voting education, or slashed appropriations across various state agencies all failed, often by wide margins. Likewise, the creation of a new pension tier through SB 88 ignored Alaska's already precarious financial position. Together these decisions illustrate a legislature that prefers to defer difficult fiscal choices, leaving taxpayers and future generations to shoulder mounting obligations.

A Bipartisan Appetite for Expanding Government's Role in Private Markets

This session highlighted how legislators from both parties often support expanding state power into areas best left to private actors. SB 239 expanded the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority's ability to finance workforce housing, effectively tying taxpayer dollars to real estate ventures that private markets are fully capable of managing. Meanwhile, the House passed HB 88, which requires warehouse owners to spell out quotas and working conditions, imposing new regulatory compliance burdens on employers. These moves indicate a troubling willingness to let government set the rules for sectors that thrive on competition, innovation, and local control.

Parental Rights and Individual Responsibility Increasingly Sidelined

While Alaska still positions itself as a state of independent families and strong communities, the legislature advanced policies this session that undermine parental oversight and deepen dependency on public programs. SB 240, which allows minors aged 16 and 17 to independently consent to outpatient mental health services, strips parents of their fundamental right to guide the healthcare decisions of their children. Meanwhile, HB 89 relaxed eligibility requirements for Alaska's child care assistance program, continuing a cradle-to-grave approach that expands state involvement in family life and erodes the ethic of personal responsibility that underpins a free society.

Conservative Excellence - Senate

Mike Shower - 100%

Robert Myers - 91%

Conservative Excellence - House

David Eastman - 100%

Conservative Achievement - Senate

None

Conservative Achievement - House

Ben Carpenter - 86%

George Rauscher - 86%