



Virginia— CPAC Scorecard

Center for Legislative Analysis

11th Edition — 2025

Summary

The eleventh edition of the *Virginia CPAC Scorecard* provides a stark assessment of a legislature increasingly driven by progressive ideology and detached from the principles of limited government, personal liberty, and fiscal restraint. Based on over 33 pivotal votes in the House and Senate from the 2024 session, the data reveals a divided General Assembly, one in which the Democratic majority pushed a sweeping left-wing agenda, and Republican lawmakers, backed by Governor Youngkin's veto pen, served as the last line of defense.

In the **Virginia House**, Republicans averaged a strong **80%**, while Democrats fell to just **2%**, resulting in an **overall House average of 52%**. The **Virginia Senate** reflected similar results with a **Republican average of 83%**. Meanwhile the **Senate Democrats averaged a radical 0%**, leading to an **overall average of 44%**. These figures expose an intensely polarized legislature where nearly every conservative victory required party-line unity and executive intervention.

The 2024 session saw an aggressive push to embed DEI mandates into public funding (SB 393), restrict gun rights (HB 1174), undermine parental authority in schools (HB 571), and use taxpayer dollars to fund corporate subsidies and climate programs (SB 156, HB 953). Democrats also passed legislation to weaken voter ID laws and promote abortion protections, revealing a clear strategy to reshape Virginia's legal and cultural foundations.

Yet the worst proposals were blocked by **Governor Glenn Youngkin's vetoes**, which halted dozens of harmful bills. Without this executive backstop, Virginia would have seen a dramatic expansion of government power and a permanent leftward policy shift.

This session makes one thing clear: Virginia's future rests on the continued vigilance of its conservative legislators, the commitment of its executive, and the engagement of its citizens. The battle lines have been drawn, and 2024 was just the beginning.

Key Takeaways

A Legislature Obsessed with Progressive Social Engineering

Virginia's Democrats prioritized cultural radicalism over constitutional governance. Bills like SB 15 attempted to transform the Commonwealth into an abortion sanctuary, while HB 571 sought to prevent parents from removing explicit materials from public schools. DEI mandates were baked into economic development programs (SB 393), and a host of gun control bills attempted to restrict access to firearms, including HB 1174's attempt to ban handgun purchases by legal adults under 21.

Taxpayer Funds Funneled into Corporate Welfare and Climate Extremism

Despite persistent budgetary pressures, the General Assembly greenlit massive public expenditures to subsidize politically favored industries. SB 156 established a new fund for financial services companies in Roanoke County, and HB 953 authorized local governments to funnel tax dollars into "green" technology purchases. Whether the target was the film industry, sports arenas, or solar parking lots, the message was clear: taxpayers will pay for the Left's pet projects.

Parental Rights and Election Integrity Under Siege

HB 571 and HB 609 represent just two examples of how this session sought to erode parental authority and traditional moral standards in public schools. At the same time, HB 1534 and HB 26 aimed to gut voter ID laws and make it harder to challenge unlawful ballots, part of a broader attempt to weaken electoral safeguards.

Conservative Unity and Gubernatorial Vetoes Were the Firewall

Without the resolve of Republican legislators and the assertiveness of Governor Youngkin's veto power, Virginia would have taken a dramatic leftward lurch. Dozens of extreme bills were passed narrowly and stopped only at the executive level. This session reaffirmed the importance of maintaining a strong conservative bloc and an active governor willing to stand against the tide.

Highlighted Votes Analyzed

SB 1 – Artificial Minimum Wage Increase to \$15

This bill raises the minimum wage to \$15 by 2026. CPAC opposes artificial wage increases, recognizes that they damage the interests of young workers, and opposed this bill. The House passed this bill on February 23, 2024 by a vote of 51-47 but Governor Youngkin vetoed the bill.

SB 2 – Banning a Laundry List of Firearms

This bill bans the sale of a laundry list of firearms listed by the state under the definition of “assault firearms.” CPAC supports the preservation of Second Amendment freedoms and opposed this bill. The House passed this bill on February 28, 2024 by a vote of 51-49 but Governor Youngkin vetoed the bill.

SB 393 – Grafting DEI onto the MEI Project Approval Commission’s Decisions

This bill requires the Virginia’s MEI Project Approval Commission to consider the racial and sexual makeup of a company’s board of directors prior to approving financing for one of their projects. CPAC opposes the cult of DEI’s self-insertion into every aspect of government and opposed this bill. The House passed this bill on March 9, 2024 by a vote of 51-47 but Governor Youngkin vetoed the bill.

HB 1174 – Banning Firearm Purchases for Adults

This bill prohibits adults under the age of 21 from purchasing handguns. CPAC supports the preservation of Second Amendment freedoms and opposed this bill. The House passed this bill on March 7, 2024 by a vote of 52-45 but Governor Youngkin vetoed the bill.

HB 571 – Preventing the Removal of Explicit Materials from Schools

This bill prohibits policies requiring the notification of parents of explicit content in school instructional materials from allowing the prohibition of books from schools. CPAC opposes Leftist indoctrination in schools, believes that students should not be exposed to pornography, and opposed this bill. The House passed this bill on February 13, 2024 by a vote of 55-40 but Governor Youngkin vetoed the bill.

Trends and Observations

Conservatives Held the Line, Just Barely

Despite a relentless policy onslaught from the Left, conservative lawmakers stood firm. House and Senate Republicans maintained high levels of ideological consistency, posting an average score of 81% in both chambers. Their votes were critical in preventing veto overrides and ensuring that many of the worst bills never took root in Virginia law. However, with Democrats passing dozens of radical bills by razor-thin margins, the session also made clear how fragile Virginia's conservative firewall has become and how essential continued unity and vigilance will be in the years ahead.

The Weaponization of DEI and Identity Politics Is Now Systemic

One of the clearest patterns from this session was the effort to entrench Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) dogma into all corners of public life. From SB 393's requirement that state economic development boards consider the racial and gender composition of corporate leadership, to HB 1130's mandatory "implicit bias" training for healthcare professionals, Virginia Democrats are no longer content with DEI as a hiring philosophy—it is now a governing philosophy. The session revealed a strategy of embedding identity politics into government funding, professional licensing, and public contracting. This trend represents a long-term threat to merit-based governance, colorblind law, and personal liberty.

Government-Driven Economics: Taxpayer Subsidies for the Politically Favored

Another key theme of the 2024 session was the embrace of corporatism disguised as economic development. Bills like SB 156 and HB 1514 funneled public dollars into politically connected financial institutions, entertainment districts, and green energy programs—all under the guise of "investment" and "innovation." Whether the industry in question was seafood (HB 596), film production (HB 1495), or climate banking (SB 729), the legislature proved all too willing to spend taxpayer dollars on initiatives better left to the private market. These moves undermine fiscal responsibility and shift power from individuals and small businesses to bureaucrats and corporate special interests.

Conservative Excellence - Senate

John McGuire – 97%

Bill DeSteph – 91%

Timmy French – 91%

Tammy Brankley Mulchi – 91%

Mark Obenshain – 91%

Conservative Excellence - House

Nicholas Freitas – 100%

Philip Scott – 100%

Thomas Garrett – 97%

Todd Gilbert – 97%

Timothy Griffin – 97%

Eric Zehr – 97%

Thomas Wright – 91%

Michael Webert – 94%

Delores Oates – 93%

Chris Runion – 90%

Wendell Walker – 90%

Conservative Achievement - Senate

Christie New Craig – 88%

Tara Durant – 85%

T. Travis Hackworth – 85%

Emily Jordan – 85%

Ryan McDougle – 84%

William Stanley – 84%

Christopher Head – 82%

Todd Pillion – 82%

Glen Sturtevant – 82%

Bryce Reeves – 81%

Conservative Achievement - House

Will Davis – 88%

Amanda Batten – 85%

Scott Wyatt – 85%

Jay Leftwich – 84%

Joseph McNamara – 83%

William Wiley – 82%

Hillary Pugh Kent – 82%

Buddy Fowler – 82%

Mark Earley – 82%

R. Lee Ward – 80%

Jonathan Arnold – 81%

Israel O'Quinn – 81%