



Massachusetts – CPAC Scorecard

Center for Legislative Analysis

11th Edition – 2025

Summary

The eleventh edition of the **Massachusetts** CPAC Scorecard analyzes **10** key House votes and **13** Senate votes from 2024. Senate Republicans averaged **36%** while Senate Democrats managed just **27%**, for a **28%** overall Senate average. In the House, Republicans averaged **51%** and Democrats only **14%**, bringing the chamber to a **20%** overall average. These results reflect the state's lopsided makeup (House **132D–25R–1I**; Senate **36D–4R**) and show which caucus actually aligned with CPAC's limited-government priorities.

In 2024, Massachusetts Democrats' supermajorities drove outcomes and consistently rejected CPAC-aligned reforms. In the **House**, **not a single member** reached 80%, and **120 Democrats** landed at **20% or below**—near rock-bottom performance. In the **Senate**, **six Democrats** scored **20% or below**, and **none** cleared 80%. By comparison, Republicans posted stronger alignment in both chambers (House **51%**, Senate **36%**) despite being vastly outnumbered. Across the year's big fights—spending growth, regulation, and public safety—the pattern was clear: **Democrats pushed bigger government and more mandates**, while Republicans were the only ones trying to bring accountability and restraint, but they ultimately failed.

Bottom line: Democratic supermajorities used their numbers to **bury CPAC-backed reforms**, yielding low chamber averages (**20% House, 28% Senate**) and a scoreboard that leaves little doubt where each party stood in 2024.

Key Takeaways

Partisan composition drives chamber averages

Massachusetts remains one of the most lopsided legislatures in the nation, and that reality shows up clearly in the Scorecard. With 132 Democrats in the House versus only 25 Republicans and 1 Independent, and 36 Democrats versus 4 Republicans in the Senate, Democrats have complete control over the agenda and floor outcomes. This supermajority control meant that even where Republicans voted strongly with CPAC positions, their influence was marginalized. The numbers tell the story: not a single Democrat crossed into high CPAC alignment, while Republicans consistently scored three to four times higher than their counterparts. These averages show not just disagreement, but structural dominance by the Democratic caucus.

Firearms package dominated the agenda

The legislature pushed through one of the most aggressive gun-control drives in recent memory. Bills like H4139 ("Anti-Gun Push Vehicle") and S2572 ("Gun-Control Vehicle 2.0") layered sweeping new restrictions on lawful gun owners. Democrats lined up behind these bills, forcing passage over Republican opposition. CPAC opposed these measures because they expand state power at the expense of self-defense rights, criminalize compliance mistakes, and punish law-abiding citizens while leaving criminals untouched. These votes became defining moments in the session, underscoring the Democratic caucus's hostility to Second Amendment rights and the essential role of Republicans as the only bloc resisting the erosion of constitutional freedoms.

Housing overhaul was a defining through-line

The so-called "Affordable Homes Monster" (H4726) became a centerpiece of the legislative session. Democrats advanced this package of statewide mandates, subsidies, and top-down controls under the banner of affordability. In reality, the bill represented a sweeping override of local decision-making, pouring taxpayer money into programs that expand bureaucracy without addressing the root causes of housing supply shortages. CPAC opposed the measure as a textbook case of big government intervention that grows state power while eroding community control. The bill's adoption showed how far the majority is willing to go in centralizing policy decisions at the expense of local autonomy.

Highlighted Votes Analyzed

H4139 – Anti-Gun Push Vehicle

This measure advances a sweeping gun-control package that restricts lawful gun owners and expands state control. We oppose this gun-control bill because it infringes on the Second Amendment and punishes law-abiding citizens rather than criminals. The roll call was **120-38** on Final passage, and the bill passed the chamber.

H4744 – Protect Abuse Victims Act

This measure strengthens targeted public-safety reforms to protect victims and hold offenders accountable. We support this public-safety bill because it punishes abusers without burdening the innocent. The roll call was **156-0** on Conference report accepted, and the conference report was adopted.

S2548 – Infrastructure Pork-Barrel Jam

This measure advances corporate-welfare and infrastructure-pork spending. We oppose this spending vehicle because subsidies distort markets and waste taxpayer dollars. The roll call was **38-0 (1 absent)** on Amendment 6 – RC #104, and the amendment was adopted.

S2572 – Gun-Control Vehicle 2.0

This measure further tightens the gun-control package with additional restrictions. We oppose this gun-control bill because it expands state power over self-defense rights and criminalizes compliance errors. The roll call was **37-2** on Amendment 74 – RC #112, and the amendment was adopted.

H4726 – Affordable Homes Monster

This measure advances the Affordable Homes Act with statewide mandates and spending. We oppose this housing mandate package because it overrides local control and pours taxpayer money into top-down schemes. The roll call was **40-0** on Engrossed – RC #197, and the bill was engrossed and advanced.

Trends and Observations

Conference outcomes shaped the year's biggest packages.

The most consequential decisions were finalized in conference, where supermajority Democrats steered firearms and housing measures to outcomes aligned with their growth-of-government preferences. These closed-door negotiations translated caucus leverage into binding floor action, leaving little room for amendments to change the trajectory of the final products.

Amendment strategy carried outsized weight.

Many pivotal roll calls occurred not on final passage votes but on targeted amendments that defined scope, enforcement, and exemptions. This approach allowed the majority to cement policy direction early, making later votes procedural formalities rather than opportunities for substantive course correction.

Agenda clustering concentrated floor time.

The 2024 docket was dominated by a handful of clusters—guns, housing, and large budget/omnibus bills. Concentrating debate and votes on these clusters kept attention on the majority's priorities and limited airtime for reforms that would reduce spending, regulation, or administrative sprawl.

Polarization was durable, with narrow exceptions.

Vote patterns largely tracked caucus lines. While discrete public-safety items occasionally drew broader support, these exceptions were narrow and did not materially shift chamber averages. The overall picture is a legislature where Democrats consistently resisted CPAC priorities and Republicans provided the only reliable votes for limited government.

Conservative Excellence - Senate

NONE

Conservative Excellence - House

NONE

Conservative Achievement - Senate

NONE

Conservative Achievement - House

NONE