



Illinois – CPAC Scorecard

Center for Legislative Analysis

11th Edition – 2025

Summary

The 2024 Illinois CPAC Legislative Scorecard evaluates 19 bills in both the House and Senate, exposing a General Assembly that has firmly entrenched itself as a bastion of **left-wing radicalism**. In a session dominated by social engineering, government expansion, and anti-liberty legislation, Illinois continues to accelerate away from the principles of limited government, personal freedom, and constitutional governance. Progressive lawmakers advanced a sweeping slate of bills, many of which centered around racial preferences, forced climate indoctrination, expanded **taxpayer-funded abortion**, and censorship of employers and individuals who dare to speak out.

House Republicans displayed commendable resistance under pressure, earning an average score of **80%**. Despite being outnumbered, many held firm on core conservative priorities. House Democrats, by contrast, earned a nearly nonexistent average score of **1%**, reflecting near-unanimous support for big government, radical social agendas, and ideological conformity. The overall House average stood at **39%**, driven downward by the overwhelming weight of Democrat extremism.

In the Senate, Republicans fared slightly worse with an average of **74%**, with a handful of disappointing votes by GOP members diluted the overall impact. Senate Democrats bottomed out with an abysmal average of **1%**, marking one of the lowest party averages in the nation. The Senate's total average of **33%** is similar to the House, suggesting bipartisan erosion in Illinois' commitment to limited government.

Taken together, the 2024 session shows a state in decline from abandoning its rich legacy of American industry and enterprise for a future of bureaucracy, dependency, and division.

Key Takeaways

Democrats Waged an All-Out War on Free Markets and Free Speech

Illinois Democrats advanced a radical slate of bills that took direct aim at the constitutional freedoms of employers, parents, and private citizens. From SB 3649, which muzzled employers during workplace meetings, to HB 4895, which forces schools to deliver climate alarmism as fact, the progressive agenda was brazen and unapologetic. These measures reveal a broader agenda of silencing dissent and embedding leftist ideology at every level of government and civil society.

Republican Lawmakers Showed Resilience, But Faced Inconsistent Party Discipline

While many Republicans in both chambers stood tall in defense of conservative values, others occasionally strayed from principle, especially when it came to fiscal matters and regulatory expansion. The GOP must reassert internal discipline and build a stronger, united front. With Democrats executing a coordinated progressive strategy, any Republican wavering is a setback for the movement.

DEI and Identity Politics Became the Cornerstone of Illinois Governance

Illinois has embraced DEI not just as a policy preference, but as a governing philosophy. Bills like SB 859 and SB 2930 institutionalize racial and gender preferences in both government and nonprofit sectors. This approach fosters division, weakens meritocracy, and weaponizes government to reward politically favored groups rather than protect equal rights for all citizens.

Illinois Is a Warning to the Nation

What happened in Springfield in 2024 is not an anomaly, it is a playbook for the national Left. Illinois lawmakers imposed restrictions on speech, expanded taxpayer subsidies for abortion, and pumped millions into government-controlled media, all under the guise of justice and inclusion. The policies enacted here could easily be replicated in other states if conservatives do not mobilize, organize, and vote to restore sanity.

Highlighted Votes Analyzed

SB 2690 Additional Special Privileges for Refugees in Illinois.

This bill requires public institutions of higher education to reimburse the cost of transcript evaluation fees for refugees from Iraq and Afghanistan. CPAC opposes measures that give special privileges to noncitizens and opposed this bill. The Senate passed this bill on April 10, 2024 by a vote of 57-1.

SB 3592 Blatant Sop for the Democrats' Favorite Propagandists.

This bill establishes the Journalism Student Scholarship Program, which will award scholarships to students who will work at a local news organization for at least two years. CPAC believes that taxpayers should not be forced to pay the costs of journalism degrees and opposed this bill. The Senate passed this bill on May 24, 2024 by a vote of 43-16.

SB 3597 Placing Taxpayers on the Hook for Clean Energy Projects.

This bill creates the Climate Bank Loan Financing Act, the likes of which allows municipalities to borrow from the Illinois Financing Authority to finance the acquisition of new or existing clean energy infrastructure. 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 May 24, 2024 by a vote of 42-16.

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HB 4768 Infringing on the Rights of Property Owners to Make and Break Contracts with Tenants.

This bill prohibits landlords from taking "retaliatory action" against tenants for complaining to a government agency about alleged code violations. CPAC supports the preservation of property rights and opposed this bill. The Senate passed this bill on May 22, 2025 by a vote of 34-19.

Trends and Observations

Bipartisan Erosion of Fiscal Discipline

Despite commendable resistance from many Republicans on cultural and liberty-based legislation, Illinois continues to suffer from bipartisan complicity in expanding the scope and cost of government. Programs such as the Journalism Student Scholarship and the new economic equity offices were often supported with little regard to long-term budget sustainability. Lawmakers from both parties have embraced short-term political optics over fiscal restraint, accelerating the state's financial decline.

The Rise of Identity-Based Governance

Rather than fostering unity and equal treatment, Illinois legislators have embraced DEI-based policy as the default approach to nearly every aspect of government and public service. From grant qualification requirements for nonprofits to public university staffing disclosures, legislation in 2024 made identity the primary lens for lawmaking. This trend poses a growing threat to merit-based systems and risks fostering division along racial and ideological lines.

Education Weaponized for Political Indoctrination

Illinois classrooms are no longer places of neutral instruction but are becoming ideological battlegrounds. Mandates like HB 4895 turn science curricula into political statements, compelling educators to preach a specific worldview. As parental rights are sidelined, and dissenting viewpoints excluded, the state is laying the groundwork for a generation raised under state-approved orthodoxy.

Freedoms Subordinated to Progressive Orthodoxy

The legislature has adopted a view of governance that tolerates little deviation from progressive norms. Bills that once would have been considered radical, such as protecting abortion as a civil right and penalizing religious or political expression in employment, passed with little debate. This chilling alignment between state power and cultural conformity should alarm anyone who values individual liberty, free enterprise, and freedom of conscience.

Conservative Excellence - Senate

None

Conservative Excellence - House

Jason Bunting – 100%

Dan Caulkins – 93%

Jed Davis – 94%

Brad Halbrook – 95%

Chris Miller – 95%

Adam Niemerg – 95%

Tom Weber – 94%

Conservative Achievement - Senate

Andrew Chesney – 89%

Jil Tracy – 82%

Conservative Achievement - House

John M. Cabello – 89%

C.D. Davidsmeyer – 89%

Randy Frese – 82%

David Friess – 83%

Amy Grant – 83%

Bill Hauter – 85%

Paul Jacobs – 84%

Charles Meier – 84%

Dave Severin – 82%

Joe Sosnowski – 81%

Dennis Tipsword Jr. – 89%

Travis Weaver – 88%

Blaine Wilhour – 89%

Patrick Windhorst – 84%