BRIEF

North Carolina — CPAC Scorecard

Center for Legislative Analysis

11th Edition — 2025

Summary

The eleventh edition of the North Carolina CPAC Scorecard analyzes 9 critical votes in the North Carolina House of Representatives and 9 bills in the North Carolina Senate. **Senate Republicans earned an exemplary 89% average**, while Senate Democrats lagged at 2%, yielding a total Senate average of 35%. In the House, Republicans should be **proud to have earned an 89%**, while **Democrats posted a lacking 20%**, producing an **overall House average of 61%.**

This year's legislative session showcased a clear ideological split in Raleigh. Republican lawmakers were emboldened by grassroots support and **driven by a conservative mandate.** They took decisive action to c**ombat voter fraud, defend property rights, expand school choice, reinforce law enforcement, and protect First Amendment freedoms**. Their efforts were met with consistent resistance from Democrats and North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper, whose vetoes and party-line votes reflected a commitment to **progressive orthodoxy over practical governance.**

Yet despite that opposition, **conservatives secured major victories**, passing laws to rein in activist bar associations, override anti-religious discrimination, and block woke policies from being baked into the state budget. This year's votes reveal not only a conservative coalition willing to **fight for liberty but also a dangerous counterforce on the Left that continues to weaponize state institutions against dissent and push radical ideology into every facet of governance**, from nonprofit funding to health care regulation.

The session also made clear that many good bills failed not because of public opposition but because of executive obstruction or Democrat party loyalty. CPAC will continue to support legislators who stood firm in defense of freedom, family, and the Constitution, while calling out those who worked to stall progress and preserve the status quo.

Key Takeaways

Election Integrity Remains a Top Priority in Raleigh

Republicans advanced critical election security legislation designed to restore public faith in North Carolina's electoral process. **Senate Bill 88** required the use of signature verification for absentee ballots, bringing basic verification protocols to mail-in voting. Meanwhile, **House Bill 1071** would have required the State Board of Elections to act on credible voter integrity research and correct voter rolls accordingly. **House Bill 1074** aimed to enshrine in the state constitution that only U.S. citizens may vote in North Carolina elections. While many of these reforms were blocked from becoming law, they represent a concerted and principled effort by the legislature to restore confidence in the ballot box—a clear contrast to Democrats, who voted almost unanimously against all such measures.

Conservatives Took Action to Confront the National Immigration Crisis Locally

With illegal immigration surging under the Biden administration, **House Bill 10** was a pivotal measure aimed at protecting North Carolina communities by requiring local law enforcement to comply with federal immigration detainers. This commonsense reform, designed to ensure that criminals subject to deportation are not released into the public, was met with fierce opposition from the Left and ultimately failed to become law. Still, the vote itself signaled where the state's conservative leaders stand: on the side of law, order, and national sovereignty. It also underscores the importance of electing leaders who will uphold these values not just in the legislature, but in the governor's mansion as well.

CPAC-Backed Victories on Religious Freedom and Legal Accountability

Two landmark conservative wins this session came through **House Bill 237** and **Senate Bill 790**—both of which became law despite the Governor's resistance. H 237 blocked governments from singling out religious institutions with restrictions that didn't apply to secular entities, a hard-learned lesson from COVID-era abuses. S 790 significantly limited the power of the state bar association to punish attorneys for political speech by raising the evidentiary standard for disciplinary action. Together, these bills push back against the soft tyranny of administrative overreach and reaffirm the legislature's role as a check against ideological weaponization of government.

Highlighted Votes Analyzed

H 237 – Protecting Religious Institutions from Unjust Discrimination
This bill prohibits the government from imposing additional limitations on religious organizations not applicable to other businesses. CPAC supports this effort to protect First Amendment freedoms and supported this bill. The House overrode Governor Cooper's veto of this bill on June 26, 2024, by a vote of 70-46. The Senate overrode the veto on June 27, 2024, by a vote of 30-14. The bill later became law.

S 88 – Upping the Security of the Absentee Ballot Voting Process
This bill requires the State Board of Elections to use signature verification software to ensure the validity of signatures on absentee ballots. The bill also makes it easier to challenge potentially fraudulent ballots. CPAC supports this effort to protect the integrity of the election system and supported this bill. The Senate passed this bill on June 26, 2024, by a vote of 28-19. The bill did not become law.

H 823 – Further Funding North Carolina's School Choice Programs
This bill apportions additional funds to North Carolina's opportunity scholarships program. CPAC supports school choice and supported this bill. The House passed this bill on May 17, 2024, by a vote of 65-45. The Senate passed the bill on May 2, 2024, by a vote of 28-15. The bill did not become law.

S 790 – Diminishing the Authority of the Leftist Bar Association to Persecute Conservative Lawyers
This bill increases the evidentiary burden on the bar association when it decides to act against an attorney. CPAC supports this effort to taper the power of the bar association and supported this bill. The Senate passed this bill on May 23, 2024, by a vote of 43-2. The House passed the bill on June 19, 2024, by a vote of 79-26. The bill later became law.

H 1074 – Preventing Non-Citizens from Voting in North Carolina
This bill proposes a constitutional amendment that would clarify that noncitizens may not vote in North Carolina's elections. CPAC believes that only citizens should be permitted to vote in elections and supported this bill. The House passed this bill on June 27, 2024, by a vote of 99-12. The Senate passed it the same day by a vote of 40-4.

Trends and Observations

Republican Cohesion on Core Conservative Values

North Carolina's Republican lawmakers demonstrated remarkable unity across both chambers on foundational conservative issues like election integrity, school choice, immigration enforcement, and religious liberty. In both the House and Senate, GOP members voted in lockstep on key legislation like H 237, S 88, and H 823, showcasing a party that is largely aligned on policy vision. This cohesion bodes well for the advancement of additional conservative priorities in future sessions and signals a clear contrast to Democrat infighting seen in other states.

Democrat Opposition to Common-Sense Reforms Was Near-Unanimous

Across nearly every scored vote, Democrats opposed even the most basic reforms—blocking signature verification for absentee ballots (S 88), fighting compliance with federal immigration authorities (H 10), and voting against school choice expansions (H 823). This pattern of obstruction suggests a party wholly beholden to progressive special interests, rather than representing the will of working-class North Carolinians. Democrats did not offer bipartisan alternatives, but instead took an absolutist posture against any bill seen as conservative, regardless of merit.

Vetoes and Procedural Roadblocks Undermined Popular Legislation

Even when legislation passed both chambers with GOP support, numerous bills were vetoed by Governor Roy Cooper or blocked from final enactment through procedural hurdles. These include H 10 (immigration enforcement), H 823 (school choice expansion), and S 88 (signature verification). This reveals a dangerous pattern in which the executive branch thwarts the legislature's ability to govern. While Republicans achieved some critical overrides, most notably with H 237 (religious liberty)—many good bills died not due to lack of support but because of gubernatorial obstruction.

Weaponized Bureaucracies and Administrative Overreach Took Center Stage

Several bills targeted the growing threat of weaponized agencies. S 790 curtailed the disciplinary power of the North Carolina Bar, long seen as a vehicle for silencing conservative legal professionals. H 1071 aimed to push back against election boards that ignored third-party audit data. These bills reveal a new and necessary trend among Republican legislators: not just making good laws, but reining in the administrative state's ability to punish dissent and override the legislature's will.

Conservative Excellence - Senate

Todd Johnson - 100%

Michael Lee - 100%

Conservative Excellence - House

Mark Brody - 100%

Chris Humphrey - 100%

Harry Warren - 100%

George Cleveland - 100%

Mark Pless- 100%

Conservative Achievement - Senate

E. S. Newton – 89%

Steve Jarvis – 89%

Eddie D. Settle – 89%

Phil Berger – 89%

Joyce Krawiec – 89%

Danny Britt – 88%

Jim Burgin – 89%

Michael Lazzara – 89%

Amy Galey – 88%

Kevin Corbin – 89%

Brad Overcash – 89%

Tim D Moffitt – 88%

Warren Daniel – 89%

Paul Newton – 89%

Ted Alexander – 88%

Carl Ford – 89%

Dean Proctor – 89%

Jim Perry – 86%

Bobby Hanig – 89%

Bill Rabon – 89%

Benton G. Sawrey – 86%

Ralph Hise – 89%

Norman Sanderson – 89%

David Craven – 83%

Brent Jackson – 89%

Vickie Sawyer – 89%

Tom McInnis – 83%

Conservative Achievement - House

Jay Adams – 89%

Jarrod Lowery – 89%

John Torbett – 89%

Kristin Baker – 89%

Jeffrey McNeely – 89%

Steve Tyson – 89%

Jennifer Balkcom – 89%

Charles Miller – 89%

Bill Ward – 89%

Brian Biggs – 89%

John Bradford – 89%

William Brisson – 89%

Allen Chesser – 89%

Mike Clampitt – 89%

Tricia Cotham – 89%

Ted Davis – 89%

Jimmy Dixon – 89%

Karl Gillespie – 89%

Edward Goodwin – 89%

Kyle Hall – 89%

Frank Iler – 89%

Neal Jackson – 89%

Jake Johnson – 89%

Brenden Jones – 89%

Keith Kidwell – 89%

Donnie Loftis – 89%

Grey Mills – 89%

Tim Moore – 89%

Erin Paré – 89%

Howard Penny – 89%

Ray Pickett – 89%

Joseph Pike – 89%

Larry Potts – 89%

A. Reece Pyrtle Jr. – 89%

Timothy Reeder – 89%

Dennis Riddell – 89%

Stephen Ross – 89%

Wayne Sasser – 89%

John Sauls – 89%

Mitchell Setzer – 89%

Phil Shepard – 89%

Frank Sossamon – 89%

Larry Strickland – 89%

Diane Wheatley – 89%

Matthew Winslow – 89%

Jeff Zenger – 89%

Dean Arp – 88%

John Bell – 88%

Celeste C. Cairns – 88%

Kevin Crutchfield – 88%

Jeffrey Elmore – 88%

Kelly Hastings – 88%

Jason Saine – 88%

Donna White – 88%

Hugh Blackwell – 86%

Jerry Branson – 86%

Destin Hall – 86%

Donny Lambeth – 86%

Ben Moss – 86%

David Willis – 86%