





**Palmetto Liberty**  
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

# Senate Score Card

**Palmetto Liberty PAC is working to make South Carolina the most free state in the nation.**

What does it mean to be the most free state in the nation? It means having both the lowest taxes in the nation and the safest streets. It means having access to quality through competition and consumer choice in health care and education. It means politicians act like public servants, not central planners. It means our universities teach people to think. It means our citizens own property and bear arms without fear that anyone will infringe on their right to either.

The purpose of our voting analysis is to identify the Republicans that vote with the Democrats against these ideas.

This analysis does not include votes that were unanimous or nearly so. It does not include votes that were party line votes. The only votes that are meaningful in this analysis are the votes that divided the Republicans on the issues mentioned above. This analysis separates the statesmen from the politicians.

Most of the votes shown are votes that we lost. We identify the Republicans that caused us to lose these votes. These are the ones who need to be replaced if we are to achieve our vision of having the most free state in the nation.

The scoring of these votes was rather simple.

- 1) Each vote on the floor of the Senate for our position gave the Senator 10 points. If they were absent, present but didn't vote, or voted against our position, they scored no points. This shows us who is reliably in the chamber and voting for freedom and liberty.
- 2) For a committee or subcommittee vote that was scored, we simply deducted 10 points from a Senator who was on the committee and did not vote for our position. This way we didn't penalize a Senator who was not on the committee or subcommittee and therefore could not cast a vote for our position,

On the chart, a "Y" means the Senator voted for our position and an "N" means the Senator voted against our position. A blank means they did not vote. There is no distinction made whether the lack of a vote was because they were absent or just did not vote.

Many may wonder why we did not simply choose to score the final vote on each matter. While that would be much easier, we know that it is rare when the vote that kills a bill or one that ensures a bill's success is the "final" vote on passage. The key vote is normally an obscure procedural vote that never gets publicity. Palmetto Liberty PAC is changing that! We are shining the light of day on the key votes that make or break important legislation.

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## Explanation of each vote:

- A. The Roll Call bill is what eventually created a law that requires a public record be kept of how every legislator votes on each new law that is passed and on each section of the budget.

In 2010 the Senate Judiciary Committee blocked the Roll Call bill and refused to recommend the Roll Call bill to the full Senate. Senator Shane Martin made a motion on the floor of the Senate to recall the bill, H3047, effectively bypassing the committee.

Motion to recall H3047 roll call from committee May 27<sup>th</sup> 2010.  
Passed 15-13.

- Y – vote to recall
- N – voted against recall

- B. One of the main points of dispute over the Roll Call bill was whether or not a law could be used to tell the Senate when to record their votes. Some Senators maintained that the only the Senate Rules could dictate when they must record their votes.

In order to settle that dispute Senator Rose proposed to change to the Senate Rules so that they would require a recorded vote whenever a law required it. Senator Larry Martin made a motion to table the proposal, effectively killing Rose's rule change.

Motion to table Rose amendment to Senate rules to require roll call vote when specified by law January 19<sup>th</sup> 2011.  
Passed 40 – 14.

- Y – voted to table Rose's rule change
- N – Voted against tabling Rose's rule change

- C. Another tactic to kill or delay the roll call bill was to make it effective only after a constitutional amendment is passed rather than being effective as soon as it is signed by the Governor. The Senate judiciary subcommittee made this change to H3004 February 9, 2011 on a vote of 3 – 2.

Motion to amendment roll call bill to make it dependent on a future state constitutional amendment February 9<sup>th</sup> 2011.  
Passed 3 – 2.

- Y – voted against the amendment (for immediate affectivity)
- N – voted for the amendment (for delayed affectivity)
- X – not on the subcommittee

- D. Before the above subcommittee amendment to the roll call bill, H3004, is passed on to the full Senate, the Full Judiciary Committee had to approve the amendment.

Motion to approve the subcommittee amendment Feb 15, 2011.  
Passed 13 – 9.

- Y – voted against the amendment (for immediate affectivity)
- N – voted for the amendment ( for delayed affectivity )
- X – not on the committee

- E. During the roll call bill debate on the floor of the Senate there were a series of amendments offered to the roll call bill that were all meant to slow it down or kill it entirely. These were "poison pill" amendments. We scored anyone who voted for any one of these amendments with a N. Otherwise, they were scored with a Y.

100% against poison pill amendments to roll call bill. March 15<sup>th</sup> 2011.  
No poison pills passed.

- Y – voted against every poison pill amendment
- N – voted for any one or more poison pill amendments

- F. Final vote in Senate to approve Roll Call bill. This changed the law to require a recorded "roll call" vote on every new law that is passed and on every section of the budget. Third and final reading of the bill.

Motion to give H3004 third and final reading March 17<sup>th</sup> 2011.  
Passed 33 – 11.

- Y – voted in favor of third reading
- N – voted against third reading

- G. During the 2011 legislation session the estimate on how much money the state would collect was increased by ~\$200 million. Senator Davis introduced a budget amendment that would require the excess money to be returned to the tax payers. Hugh Leatherman and Larry Martin spoke against the amendment.

Motion to amend budget to return excess collections to the tax payers. May 19<sup>th</sup> 2011. Amendment No. 173 to H3700. Failed 23 – 17.

- Y – voted in favor of the amendment (against tabling)
- N – voted against the amendment (for tabling)

- H. An estimated \$1 billion is given in economic incentives to private companies in South Carolina every year. It's all negotiated behind closed doors. In order to bring transparency to the process, Senator Tom Davis introduced the Economic Incentive Transparency Act and made a motion to amend it to the tax incentive bill for Amazon.com.

The Senate President, Ken Ard, ruled this motion out of order because, he said, the amendment was not germane to the bill that gave economic incentives to Amazon.com. Tom challenged the ruling. The entire Senate voted on the challenge and sustained the ruling of the president.

Senator Davis' challenge to the Senate President's ruling that Davis' amendment was not germane. May 25<sup>th</sup> 2011. Senate President's ruling was sustained by a vote of 33 – 9.

- Y – voted to override the ruling of the chair
- N – voted to sustain the ruling of the chair

- I. An amendment was introduced to a government restructuring bill that would have eliminated the Budget and Control Board, likely the most unaccountable government body in the *nation*. Because it was late in the session, it required 2/3 vote of the senate in order to even consider the bill.

Vote to allow consideration of the Davis restructuring amendment under Sine Die. June 21<sup>st</sup> 2011. Failed 25 -17 (requires 2/3).

- Y – voted for adding Davis amendment under Sine Die
- N – voted against adding Davis amendment under Sine Die

- J. The Governor vetoed the creation of a new government agency, I-95 corridor authority. Its sole purpose is to manage the economy in the I-95 corridor of the state. The authority would receive state funding, though the legislation does not specify how much. The authority would also be controlled by a 19-member board, with the majority of board members appointed by the Legislature. This agency is the antitheses of limited government and free markets.

Motion to override Governor's veto of the I-95 Corridor Authority. June 15<sup>th</sup> 2011. Passed 30 – 10.

- Y – voted to sustain the veto
- N – voted to override the veto

- K. The largest budget in state history, appropriating more than \$22 billion, was passed this year. Senator Massey, in an attempt to force a reduction, moved to table the Report of the Committee of Conference on the 2011 Budget. Tabling the committee report would have forced the General Assembly to continue working to reduce the budget.

Motion to table the \$22 billion budget. June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011. Failed 27 – 14.

- Y – voted to table
- N – voted against tabling

- L. Remember the stimulus money that was accepted by our state in 2009? Here is a key vote that accepted the money that created the budget difficulties of 2011. Senator Bright made a motion to carry over the budget, which would have blocked accepting the stimulus money. Senator Leatherman countered with a motion to table Senator Bright's motion, effectively killing it and accepting the Stimulus Money.

Motion by Leatherman to table Bright's motion to carry over the budget that accepted the stimulus money. May 13<sup>th</sup> 2009. Passed 34 – 12.

- Y – voted against table
- N – voted to table