

Vote Description

Legend

- 1. 2009 Stimulus Budget
- 2. Roll Call recalled from committee
- 3. Roll Call subcommittee vote
- 4. Roll Call committee vote
- 5. Rule change to accept statutory Roll Call
- 6. 100% against Roll Call poison pills
- 7. Roll Call 3rd reading
- 8. NASCAR tax incentives
- 9. Retroactive economic incentives
- 10. Expansion of state health care
- 11. Voter ID
- 12. \$105 million extra to school districts
- 13. Refund excess tax collections
- 14. Amazon sales tax exemption
- 15. Economic Incentive Transparency Act
- 16. I-95 Corridor Authority
- 17. Elimination of Budget and Control Board
- 18. Largest budget in state history \$22 billion

- ✓ - voted for limited government, the free market, and individual liberty and responsibility
- ✗ - voted against limited government, the free market, and individual liberty and responsibility
- - did not vote
- ☒ - not eligible to vote either because the Senator was not on the committee where the vote was cast or, in the case of Gregory, was not yet elected.

Palmetto Liberty 2011 Senate Score Card v2 (ranked)

Vote Details

The following is a short description of each vote that was included in the score to the right. After each description is an explanation of what each ✓ or ✗ means. Remember, a ✓ is a vote for limited government, the free market, and individual liberty and responsibility.

- 2009 Stimulus Budget.** Remember the stimulus money that was accepted by our state in 2009? Here is the 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 passed 34 – 12 on May 13th 2009.

- ✗ – voted for tabling (for stimulus)
- ✓ – voted against tabling (against stimulus)

- Roll Call recalled from committee.** 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. Unfortunately, the bill died on the Senate floor when the session ended a few days later.

The Roll Call bill, H3047, was recalled from committee by a vote of 15 – 13 on May 27th 2010.

- ✗ – voted to keep Roll Call in committee
- ✓ – voted to bring Roll Call to the Senate floor

- Roll Call subcommittee vote.** One tactic used 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. A Senate judiciary subcommittee made this change to H3004 February 9, 2011 on a vote of 3 – 2.

The Roll Call bill was amended to make it dependent on a future state constitutional amendment in a subcommittee meeting on February 9th 2011 by a vote of 3 – 2.

- ✗ – voted for the amendment
- ✓ – voted against the amendment
- ☒ – not on the subcommittee

- Roll Call committee vote.** The full Judiciary Committee had an opportunity to kill the delaying amendment to the Roll Call bill, H3004, that was approved by the subcommittee. However, they voted to recommend the delaying amendment to the full Senate.

The Judiciary committee approved the delaying amendment by a vote of 13 – 9 on February 15th 2011.

- ✗ – voted for the amendment
- ✓ – voted against the amendment
- ☒ – not on the subcommittee

Each Senator's score is the % of their eligible marks that are a ✓

		%	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
R	Bright	88	✓	✓	☒	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
R	Davis	82	✓	✓	☒	✓	✓	✓	✓	•	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
R	Bryant	81	✓	✓	☒	☒	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
R	S. Martin	76	✓	✓	☒	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
R	Shoopman	76	✓	✓	☒	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
R	Ryberg	75	✓	•	☒	☒	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
R	Rose	71	✓	✓	☒	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
R	Massey	59	✓	✗	☒	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓
R	Thomas	56	✗	•	☒	☒	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	•
R	Grooms	50	✓	✗	☒	☒	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	•	✗	✓	✓	✓
R	Peeler	50	✗	✓	☒	☒	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
R	Verdin	50	✓	✗	☒	☒	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
R	Gregory	45	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	☒	✗	•	•	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	•	✓	✓
R	Campsen	44	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	•	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
R	Courson	44	✗	✓	☒	☒	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	•	•
R	Cleary	41	✗	✓	☒	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	•	✗	✓	✗	•	•	✗	✓	✗	✗
R	McConnell	41	✗	✗	☒	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
R	Cromer	38	✗	✓	☒	☒	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	•	•	•	•
R	L. Martin	33	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
R	Alexander	31	✗	✓	☒	☒	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
R	O'Dell	31	✗	✓	☒	☒	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗
R	Campbell	28	✗	•	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	•	✓	✓	✗
R	Hayes	25	✗	•	☒	☒	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
D	McGill	25	✗	✓	☒	☒	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
R	Knotts	24	✗	✗	☒	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
R	Fair	19	✗	•	☒	☒	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	•	✗	•	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗
D	Setzler	19	✗	✓	☒	☒	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	•	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
R	Leatherman	13	✗	•	☒	☒	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	•	✗
D	Leventis	13	✗	•	☒	☒	✓	✗	✓	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
R	Rankin	12	✗	•	☒	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	•	✓	✗	•	✗	•	•	•	✗
D	Williams	12	✗	•	☒	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
D	Anderson	6	✗	•	☒	☒	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	•	✗	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
D	Elliott	6	✗	✗	☒	☒	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
D	Jackson	6	✗	•	☒	☒	✗	✗	✓	✗	•	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
D	Land	6	✗	•	☒	☒	✗	✗	✓	✗	•	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
D	Matthews	6	✗	•	☒	☒	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
D	Coleman	6	✗	•	☒	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	•	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
D	Lourie	6	✗	✗	☒	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	•	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
D	Nicholson	6	✗	✗	☒	✗	✗	✗	✓	•	✗	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
D	Sheheen	6	✗	•	☒	✗	✗	✗	•	✗	•	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	•	✗	✓
D	Ford	0	✗	•	☒	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	•	✗	✗	✗	•	•	✗	✗	•
D	Hutto	0	✗	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
D	Malloy	0	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
D	Pinckney	0	✗	•	☒	☒	✗	✗	✗	•	✗	✗	•	✗	•	•	✗	•	•	•
D	Reese	0	✗	✗	☒	☒	✗	✗	✗	✗	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
D	Scott	0	✗	✗	☒	✗	✗	✗	✗	•	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	•	•	✗

Palmetto Liberty

2011 Senate Score Card (v.2)

(Continued from other side)

5. **Rule change to accept statutory Roll Call.** 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 only the Senate Rules could dictate when they must record their votes. In order to settle that dispute Senator Rose proposed to change 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.

Larry Martin's motion to kill Rose's Senate rules amendment passed 30 – 14 January 19th 2011.

✘ – Voted for tabling Rose's rule change
✓ – voted against tabling Rose's rule change

6. **100% against Roll Call poison pills.** During the Roll Call bill debate on the floor of the Senate there were a series of amendments offered that were meant to slow it down or kill it entirely. These were "poison pill" amendments. We notified Senators in advance that we expected a NO vote on all amendments. We scored anyone who voted for any one of these amendments with a ✘. Otherwise, they were scored with a ✓.

No poison pills passed.

✘ – voted for any poison pill amendment
✓ – voted against every poison pill amendment

7. **Roll Call 3rd reading.** This forced the legislature to make a public record of how each legislator votes on every new law that is passed and on every section of the budget. It is what made this report card possible. This was the final vote for passage. Thanks to everyone who made this happen!

The Roll Call bill, H3004, passed on a vote of 33 – 11 March 17th 2011.

✘ – voted against Roll Call
✓ – voted in favor of Roll Call

8. **NASCAR tax incentives.** Amendment 152B added a tax incentive to the budget for NASCAR venues in the state. Ostensibly, it was to keep NASCAR races in South Carolina. Does anyone really think NASCAR is ever going to leave Darlington? Another example of the well-connected getting preferential treatment from the government.

The NASCAR tax incentive passed 36 – 6.

✘ – voted for the tax incentive
✓ – voted against the tax incentive

9. **S533 retroactive economic incentive.** This tax incentive is the most ridiculous I have ever seen. Normally, our legislature justifies tax incentives as necessary in order to attract new out of state corporations to South Carolina. This one, however, was for the Institute for Business and Home Safety in Chester County, a company that moved to South Carolina years ago. This company ended up with a check for \$1 million from the SC Treasury as retroactive credit for taxes already paid.

The retroactive tax incentive passed the Senate on a vote of 29 – 9 on March 10th 2011.

✘ – voted for the retroactive tax incentive
✓ – voted against the retroactive tax incentive

10. **Expansion of state health care.** S586 is a bill that not only expands who is eligible to enroll in the state health care plan, but extends incentives to encourage them to do so. Why would we want to encourage people to abandon their private health care plans to enroll in the state plan, especially at a time when budgets are tight and government needs to be contracted rather than expanded?

S586, the expansion of state health care passed the Senate by a vote of 27 – 6 on May 11th 2011.

✘ – voted for expanding state health care
✓ – voted against expanding state health care

11. **Voter ID.** Just the idea that someone can vote without showing identification is laughable. Yet, this was one of the more controversial bills passed this year. Its fate is not yet decided, with the United States Justice Department opposing it.

The Voter ID bill, H3003, passed the Senate on a vote of 26 – 16 on May 11th 2011.

✘ – Voted against requiring photo ID to vote
✓ – Voted for requiring photo ID to vote

12. **\$105 Million extra to school districts.** During the 2011 budget debate the state's estimated tax revenue grew by more than \$200 million. Instead of returning this money to the taxpayers, Senators found ways to spend the money. One item that Senator Leatherman proposed was to give \$105 million to the schools. This, he said, would allow local school district to reduce taxes. Most school districts probably did like Lexington District One. They took the money from the state and *raised* property taxes then bought iPads™ for every high school student in the district. Senator Bryant made a motion to table Senator Leatherman's amendment.

Motion to table the 2011 budget amendment No. 181 failed 10 – 35 on May 18th 2011.

✘ – voted not to table the amendment
✓ – voted to table the amendment

13. **Refund excess tax collections.** During the 2011 budget debate the state's estimated tax revenue grew by more than \$200 million. Senator Davis introduced a budget amendment, No. 173, that would require the excess money to be returned to the tax payers. Hugh Leatherman and Larry Martin spoke against the amendment.

Budget amendment to return excess tax collections failed 23 – 17 on May 19th 2011.

✘ – voted against the amendment (for tabling)
✓ – voted for the amendment (against tabling)

14. **Amazon sales tax exemption.** Many people were alarmed when they heard that Amazon.com was being offered a sales tax exemption that was not available to other internet sellers with a physical presence in our state. It was rightly seen as another case of the government picking the winners and losers among private businesses. Amazon.com launched a huge PR campaign backed up by intense pressure by the Lexington County delegation and the Chairman of the Lexington County Republican party.

Senators who were opposed to the tax credit voted for it in hopes that they could amend it to make the process transparent (see vote 15). They failed, on both counts. Amazon's tax exemption passed the Senate 43 – 0.

✘ – voted for the tax exemption

15. **Economic Incentive Transparency Act.** 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 (see vote 14). 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.

The Senate President's ruling was sustained by a vote of 33 – 9 on May 25th 2011 killing the Transparency Act.

✘ – voted to sustain the ruling of the chair
✓ – voted to override the ruling of the chair

16. **I-95 Corridor Authority.** Quietly passed by the House and Senate, S211 creates a new government agency with a mandate to implement the 64 recommendations of the I-95 Human Needs Assessment. The mandate gives this agency the authority to manage the economy, education, infrastructure, and even leadership of the 17 South Carolina counties along I-95. This agency is central planning on steroids; the antithesis of the free market. The Governor vetoed this bill. The Senate overrode the veto.

The vote to override the Governor's veto of S211 passed by a vote of 30 – 10 on June 15th 2011.

✘ – voted to override the veto
✓ – voted to sustain the veto

17. **Elimination of the Budget and Control Board.** 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 failed 25 -17 on June 21st 2011.

✘ – voted against considering under Sine Die
✓ – voted for considering under Sine Die

18. **Largest budget in state history \$22 billion.** 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 failed 27 – 14 on June 22nd 2011.

✘ – voted not to table
✓ – voted to table

An electronic copy of the Palmetto Liberty 2011 Senate Score Card can be found at:

www.palmettoliberty.com/voting-records

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