



Principles of Liberty



2018 Colorado Legislative Summary & Scorecard

About Principles of Liberty

Mission

At Principles of Liberty, our goal is to focus the conversation on, “What is the proper role of the state government, and what is the best way to execute that role?” In order to accomplish this, we clearly identify our core principles, we provide free training classes around the state to explain those principles and how we apply them to legislation, and we engage with volunteers, legislators, lobbyists, activists and others to analyze legislation proposed at the Colorado state capitol in real time during the state legislative session, and at the end of the session we produce a legislator scorecard.

Role of the Scorecard

The scorecard is a powerful tool, but it is not an arbiter of final judgment. It is an objective, consistent, rational way to evaluate the voting records of legislators and therefore a useful tool for identifying trends and making relative comparisons. We create the scorecard by recording a legislator’s votes on the hundreds of bills that POL analyzes with the 8 Core Principles that we use as our standard for legislative analysis. Bill analyses are usually published by POL **BEFORE** legislators cast their votes, allowing time for productive dialogue amongst legislators and citizens. POL analyzes more bills than any other organization in the state. This year, POL scored 252 Colorado bills.

The POL scorecard uses every single bill analyzed. If we rate a bill, it is scored – there is no picking/choosing. Because POL analyzes and utilizes so many bills in our scorecard, our scorecard is the most statistically significant rating system in the state. **A legislator can disagree with POL on over two dozen bills and still earn a score of over 80%.** Our scorecard has room for differing viewpoints on a variety of policies while still effectively capturing a broad picture of whether a legislator consistently supports the core principles essential to free people, free markets, and good government. For 2018, a total of 24 legislators earned grades of average or better.

Summary of Bills and Analysis Online

As you can imagine, it would turn into a book if we published the analyses for every single bill in this report. This is where your own “Personal Responsibility” (one of our 8 Core Principles!) comes into play – you can find all 252 Colorado bill analyses on our website at www.principlesofliberty.org. Just click on the dropdown box at the top of the home page for Ratings/2018 Bills/House for all House bills, and Ratings/2018 Bills/Senate for all Senate bills.

Got Questions?

If you would like additional information about any specific bill or rating, please do what many of our legislators do – email your question to our Executive Director Chelsea Spencer at Chelsea@principlesofliberty.org and we will give you more of the in-depth research that went into our analysis.

Colorado State House Award Winners

#1 Justin Everett
99.7% A+



#2 Steve Humphrey
98.9% A+



#3 Kim Ransom
96.4% A+



#4 Tim Leonard
94.1% A+



#5 Lori Saine
93.3% A+



#6 Perry Buck
93.2% A+



#7 David Williams
93.0% A+



#7 Shane Sandridge
93.0% A+



Colorado State Senate Award Winners

#1 Vicki Marble
88.6% A-



#2 Randy Baumgardner
81.2% B



#3 Chris Holbert
79.3% B-



Grades and Methods

Grades

POL does not curve the grades. There is a sufficient amount of data to allow you to make your own observations and draw your own conclusions. The assignment of a letter grade is simply a linear scale. 60% is the “passing” mark, hence:

60%-62% = D-
63%-65% = D
90% -92% = A
93% - 100% = A+

Results

As we’ve said repeatedly, if we’re agreeing with someone 75% of the time, then we think that’s a good thing!

Not everyone is going to agree on everything. We believe that even a 69-74% has to be considered at least a good starting point on common ground for a conversation with your legislator. That’s the C- to C+ range. There is no grade inflation at POL. A grade of C is average. This isn’t Lake Wobegone where ALL of the legislators are above average. We also don’t cherry-pick a set of bills to make one side look good and another side look bad.

That said, once you drop below a C-, we think that some questions need to be asked. First, look back at prior years to see if such a score is consistent for that legislator, or if their scores have bounced up/down in the past. If it’s an irregular score, and their score is usually higher, then we’d suggest monitoring. Also look at a legislator’s scores vs. the political orientation their district, remembering that cuts both

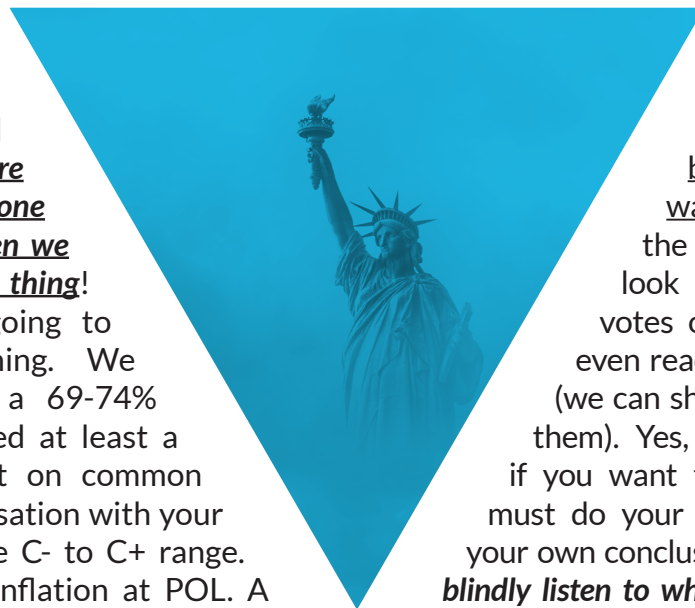
ways. Is a C appropriate for a legislator in a “big government” type of district? Is a C appropriate for a legislator in a “limited government” type of district? If a score is consistently in D or F territory, then perhaps more investigation is warranted.

Think For Yourself, Verify the Facts

Do your own homework. Do not accept anyone’s word on a legislator as gospel. Do not accept your legislator’s “spin”. Legislators are good at getting elected. They do that by saying what you want to hear. Look at the bills POL rated, and look up your legislator’s votes on those bills. Maybe even read the bills for yourself (we can show you where to find them). Yes, that takes time, but if you want to get the facts, you must do your homework and draw your own conclusions. ***Too many people blindly listen to what their legislator says because it’s easy, and it’s what they want to hear.*** If you want the easy button, then just accept the soothing spin of your politician. Some legislators have low scores, and you should seek to find out why. Don’t just let them waive it off—they will try! Please do some basic homework and make use of the mountain of work that POL has done for you.

Talk to High Scoring Legislators

There are many Colorado legislators with great POL scores, and they are proud of those scores. Ask them about POL, even if they’re not your legislator. Ask them about



their high scores and see what they say. Some may follow POL closely, some may not.

Many legislators dialogue with us regularly and ask us for additional detailed analysis on bills during the legislative session. Get their opinion on the value POL brings to the political discussion.

Non-Partisan Objective Analysis Has Helped Us Be Effective

Once again, legislators on both sides of the aisle contacted POL this year about our analysis. We successfully worked with both parties this year on pending legislation. In addition, POL was contacted by and worked with lobbyists, non-profit advocacy groups, and even Colorado state department personnel.

Scorecard Data Statistical Significance:

The scores we calculate are based upon a statistically significant set of data—we have enough data to identify trends and make relative comparisons. Analyzing 252 bills gives us thousands of data points on our 100 Colorado legislators. A data point is generated for each principle that applies to a bill any time a legislator votes on a bill that we've analyzed. Those data points reflect votes on about 140 different bills for each legislator on average. The set of bills for each legislator is different because we track EVERY vote a legislator makes in committee and in Thirds on the floor. We won't bore you with the statistical details, but if you have a question on the mathematical methodology, President Rich Bratten is happy to discuss! But fair warning, he's an actuary and a bit of a math 'geek', so be careful what you ask for...!

Thank You:

Thanks to our staff at POL - Chelsea Spencer and Joshua Kistler. Thanks to all of our fantastic volunteers from all over the state. Thanks to awesome our interns Ellen Densmore, Winston Ives, and Megan Takeda! Thanks to the many activists and group leaders throughout Colorado that have worked with POL. And thanks to our many legislators who engage with POL on a regular basis!

Conclusion:

We appreciate the following that POL has gained over the years. We are regularly contacted and referenced by individuals, activists, legislators from both parties, staffers, candidates, and lobbyists. Our goal is to focus these conversations on the proper role of government, what's happening at the state capitol to that end, and we want to empower you, the citizen, to make your voice heard.

Let's keep up the diligent work that is required of us to keep our freedom and liberty, and to maintain and oversee our republic. POL provides the people of Colorado with a powerful tool, but like any tool, it's only as good as the people who pick it up and use it. POL does not get involved in any electoral activity. It is up to you as constituents to decide whether you think that your legislator is representing you the way you want. POL provides an objective tool for you to honestly evaluate their performance. Don't just blindly accept anyone's word – ours or your politician's. You must make the effort to get the facts and evaluate for yourself what is happening at the state capitol and then do something about it – Colorado is depending upon you!

Legislator Scorecards - Senate

Grading Scale			
93%	100%	A+	Superior
90%	92%	A	Excellent
87%	89%	A-	Excellent
84%	86%	B+	Above Average
81%	83%	B	Above Average
78%	80%	B-	Above Average
75%	77%	C+	Average
72%	74%	C	Average
69%	71%	C-	Average
66%	68%	D+	Below Average
63%	65%	D	Below Average
60%	62%	D-	Below Average
0%	59%	F	Failing

Colorado Senate

Based on 252 Bills analyzed by POL and voted upon on Senate Floor (Thirds/Final)
and all Committees of Reference excluding Appropriations

Rank	Name	Score	Grade	Rank	Name	Score	Grade
1	Marble	88.6%	A-	19 (t)	Garcia	28.8%	F
2	Baumgardner	81.2%	B	19 (t)	Priola	28.8%	F
3	Holbert	79.3%	B-	21	Donovan	28.5%	F
4	Hill	73.2%	C	22	Fields	27.4%	F
5	Sonnenberg	73.0%	C	23	Aguilar	26.8%	F
6	Smallwood	68.3%	D+	24	Williams A.	26.5%	F
7	Neville T.	65.7%	D+	25	Todd	26.0%	F
8	Lambert	57.5%	F	26	Kerr	25.7%	F
9	Cooke	56.6%	F	27	Jones	25.6%	F
10	Lundberg	55.0%	F	28	Merrifield	24.9%	F
11	Tate	44.7%	F	29	Guzman	24.8%	F
12	Scott	42.9%	F	30	Kagan	24.7%	F
13	Crowder	37.9%	F	31	Kefalas	24.3%	F
14	Gardner	37.6%	F	32	Zenzinger	23.5%	F
15	Martinez Humenik	32.9%	F	33	Moreno	22.6%	F
16	Grantham	31.5%	F	34	Fenberg	18.9%	F
17	Coram	31.0%	F	35	Court	16.4%	F
18	Jahn	30.9%	F				

Legislator Scorecards - House

Colorado House of Representatives

Based on 252 Bills analyzed by POL and voted upon on House Floor (Thirds/Final)
and all Committees of Reference excluding Appropriations

Rank	Name	Score	Grade	Rank	Name	Score	Grade
1	Everett	99.7%	A+	34	Ginal	21.9%	F
2	Humphrey	98.9%	A+	35	Winter	21.1%	F
3	Ransom	96.4%	A+	36	Garnett	21.0%	F
4	Leonard	94.1%	A+	37	Bridges	20.8%	F
5	Saine	93.3%	A+	38	Buckner	20.6%	F
6	Buck	93.2%	A+	39	Lontine	20.3%	F
7 (t)	Williams D.	93.0%	A+	40	Arndt	20.1%	F
7 (t)	Sandridge	93.0%	A+	41	Hansen	20.0%	F
9	Neville P.	92.1%	A	42	Herod	19.8%	F
10	Winkler	86.5%	B+	43	Kraft Tharp	19.5%	F
11	Lewis	85.1%	B+	44	Weissman	19.4%	F
12	VanWinkle	84.4%	B+	45 (t)	Rosenthal	19.3%	F
13	Wist	77.8%	B-	45 (t)	Gray	19.3%	F
14	Lundeen	77.0%	C+	47 (t)	Salazar	19.2%	F
15	Carver	76.9%	C+	47 (t)	Becker K	19.2%	F
16	Sias	70.9%	C-	49	Lee	19.0%	F
17	Beckman	69.2%	C-	50	Kennedy	18.9%	F
18	Liston	69.1%	C-	51	Hamner	18.8%	F
19	McKean	68.7%	C-	52	Valdez	18.5%	F
20	Covarubius	67.4%	D+	53 (t)	Coleman	18.3%	F
21	Reyher	66.2%	D+	53 (t)	Danielson	18.3%	F
22	Willett	66.0%	D+	55	Roberts	18.1%	F
23	Landgraf	62.2%	D-	55	Hooten	18.1%	F
24	Lawrence	59.1%	F	57	Melton	17.8%	F
25	Rankin	58.2%	F	58 (t)	Young	17.7%	F
26	Wilson	55.4%	F	58 (t)	Pabon	17.7%	F
27	Thurlow	50.5%	F	60	Exum	17.6%	F
28	Catlin	47.0%	F	61	Foote	17.5%	F
29	Becker J.	40.6%	F	62	Singer	17.1%	F
30	Benavidez	27.0%	F	63	Duran	16.8%	F
31 (t)	Esgar	22.4%	F	64	Pettersen	16.3%	F
31 (t)	McLachlan	22.4%	F	65	Michaelson Jenet	15.8%	F
33	Jackson	22.3%	F				



Find out more about us at www.principlesofliberty.org

What?	Find out what is going on legislatively at the state capitol
How?	We analyze legislation based upon defined Principles of Liberty
Why?	Be informed about how your legislators actually vote

What are the Principles?

Free Markets

Property Rights
Free Markets

Free People

Individual Liberty
Personal Responsibility

Good Government

Limited Government
Fiscal Responsibility
Equal Protection of the Rule of Law
State vs. Federal Balance of Power



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