2016-2017 ACLU-NJ Legislative Scorecard

ACLU

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION of NEW JERSEY

OCTOBER 2017

We New Jerseyans have enormous influence on our legislators, and New Jersey plays an influential role on the national stage. From one of the first paid family leave insurance programs in the country in 2008 to shifting the criminal justice landscape with risk-based bail reform in 2014, the laws made in the Garden State are sometimes used as models by other states looking to enhance civil liberties.

Because our lawmakers have the power to shape our access to justice and civil liberties, it's incumbent upon us to hold our officials accountable, and that means taking



account of their record. This scorecard tracks the voting records to date of Senate and Assembly members on 10 key issues during the legislative session that began Jan. 1, 2016, and will end Dec. 31 2017.

These bills reflect the ACLU of New Jersey's priorities this legislative session. Scores were developed by calculating each vote on one of 10 priority issues as a vote for or against civil liberties interests. Each bill carries equal weight. Absences were not included in the calculation, and casting a vote to abstain counted against the legislator.

2017 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD BILLS

SENATE:

Criminal Justice

- Limits on Solitary \$51/A547
- Racial Impact statements **\$677/A3677**
- Parole Reform \$895/A2182
- Prison Phone Rates \$1880/A1419
- Independent Police Investigations \$2469/A1115

Speech

• Anti-Boycott Bill \$1923/A925

Gender & LGBTQ Equity

- Gender Pay Equity \$992/A2750
- Transgender Student Guidelines \$3067/A4652

Health Care Rights

- Family Planning Funds \$2277/A3492
- Paid Family Leave \$3085/A4927

ASSEMBLY:

Criminal Justice

- Limits on Solitary A547/S51
- Prison Phone Rate Cap A1419/S1880
- Parole Reform A2182/S895
- Racial Impact Statements A3677/S677

Speech

• Anti-Boycott Bill A925/S1923

Gender & LGBTQ Equity

- Gender Pay Equity A2750/S992
- Transgender Student Guidelines A4652/S3067

Health Care Rights

- Aid in Dying A2451/S2474
- Family Planning Funds A3492/S2277
- Paid Family Leave A4927/S3085

2016-2017 ACLU-NJ Legislative Scorecard Bill Overviews



CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Limits on Solitary Confinement — S51, A547 ACLU-NJ Position: Support

ASSEMBLY: 45-26, 8 did not vote, 1 vote to abstain

SENATE: 23-16, 1 did not vote

Vetoed

Would have allowed solitary confinement only as a last resort, limited time allowed in isolation, and ended isolation of vulnerable groups: LGBTQ prisoners, pregnant women, and people with mental illness.

Racial and Ethnic Impact Statements — \$677, A3677

ACLU-NJ Position: Support

ASSEMBLY: 66-3, 6 did not vote, 5 votes to abstain

SENATE: 36-0, 4 did not vote

Conditionally vetoed, with minor changes

Would require projections on the impact of proposed criminal justice bills and regulations on communities of color, helping reduce racial disparities in sentencing, arrests, and incarceration.

Parole Reform — S895, A2182

ACLU-NJ Position: Support

ASSEMBLY: 44-26, 10 did not vote **SENATE:** 29-0. 11 did not vote

Conditionally vetoed

Would have required the parole board to explain reasons for denying parole, mandated re-entry plans, and removed barriers for people with good behavior records to qualify for parole.

Cap on Prison Phone Rates — S1880, A1419

ACLU-NJ Position: Support

ASSEMBLY: 57-21, 2 did not vote **SENATE:** 35-2. 3 did not vote

Signed into law

Ends exploitative costs of phone calls in prisons and prohibits kickbacks to prisons and jails from phone companies.

Independent Investigations of Police Killings — S2469, A1115

ACLU-NJ Position: Support

SENATE: 22-12, 6 did not vote **ASSEMBLY:** Has not yet voted

Would give the Attorney General, not local prosecutors, jurisdiction over investigations and prosecutions when someone dies during a law enforcement encounter.



FREE SPEECH

Anti-boycott Bill — S1923, A925 ACLU-NJ Position: Oppose

ASSEMBLY: 70-3, 5 did not vote, 2 votes to abstain

SENATE: 39-0, 1 did not vote

Signed into law

Punishes free speech by prohibiting state pension investment in companies that boycott Israel or Israeli businesses.



Gender Pay Equity — S992, A2750

ACLU-NJ Position: Support

ASSEMBLY: 54-14, 6 did not vote, 6 votes to abstain

SENATE: 28-4, 8 did not vote *Conditionally vetoed*

Would have specified gender-based wage discrimination as illegal in the Law Against Discrimination and established each pay period as a new instance of discrimination.

Transgender Student Guidelines — S3067, A4652

ACLU-NJ Position: Support

ASSEMBLY: 59-15, 3 did not vote, 3 votes to abstain

SENATE: 25-10, 5 did not vote

Signed into law

Requires statewide guidelines to create supportive, nondiscriminatory environments for transgender students.



Restoring Family Planning Funding — S2277, A3492

ACLU-NJ Position: Support

ASSEMBLY: 51-26, 3 did not vote **SENATE:** 25-14, 1 did not vote

Vetoed

Would have restored \$7,453,000 for family planning services into the budget, an item Christie has stricken each year.

Aid in Dying for Terminally III — S2474, A2451 ACLU-NJ Position: Support

ASSEMBLY: 41-29, 5 did not vote,

5 votes to abstain

SENATE: Has not yet voted

Would allow a terminally ill patient to selfadminister medication to end their life in a humane manner, affirming the rights of autonomy, privacy, and self-determination.

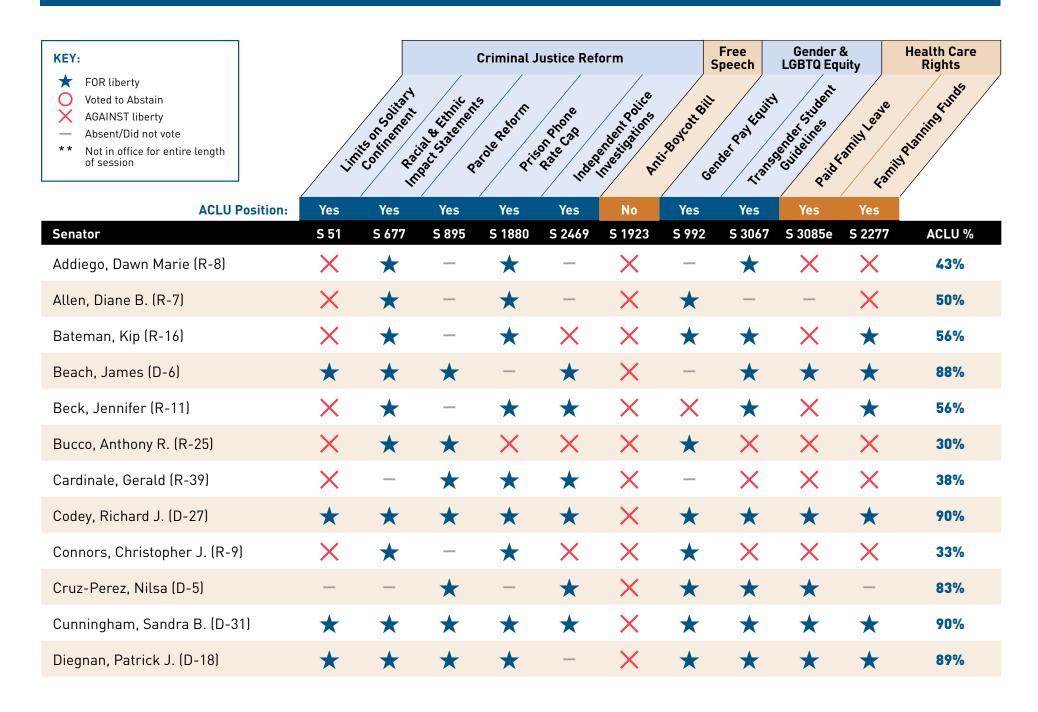
Expanding Paid Family Leave — S3085, A4927 ACLU-NJ Position: Support

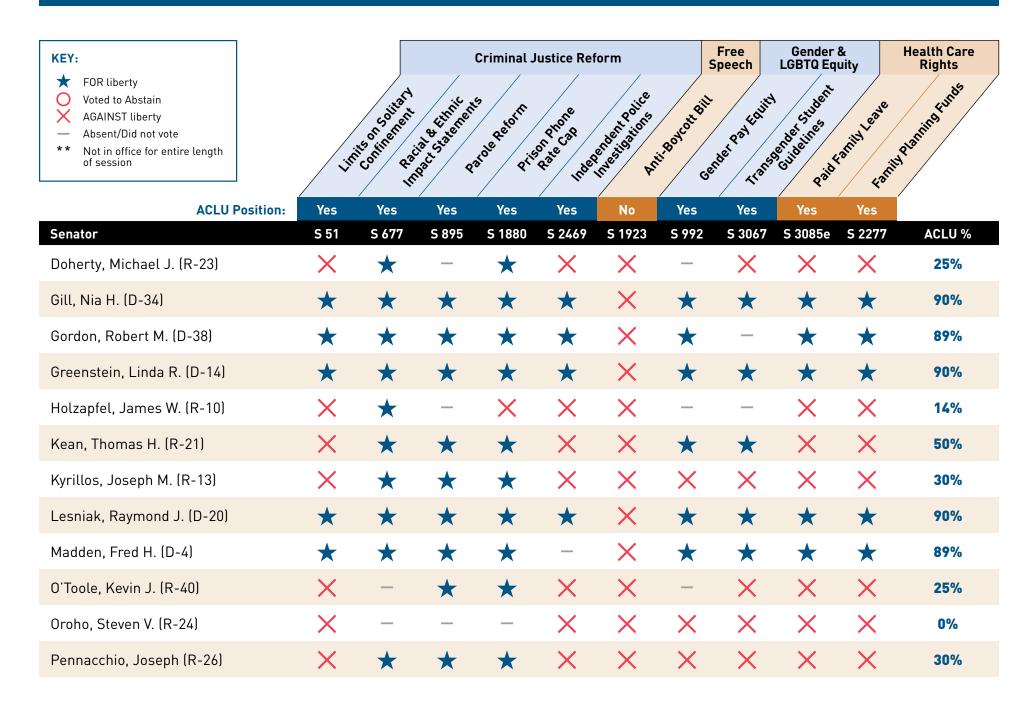
ASSEMBLY: 49-23, 5 did not vote, 3 votes to abstain

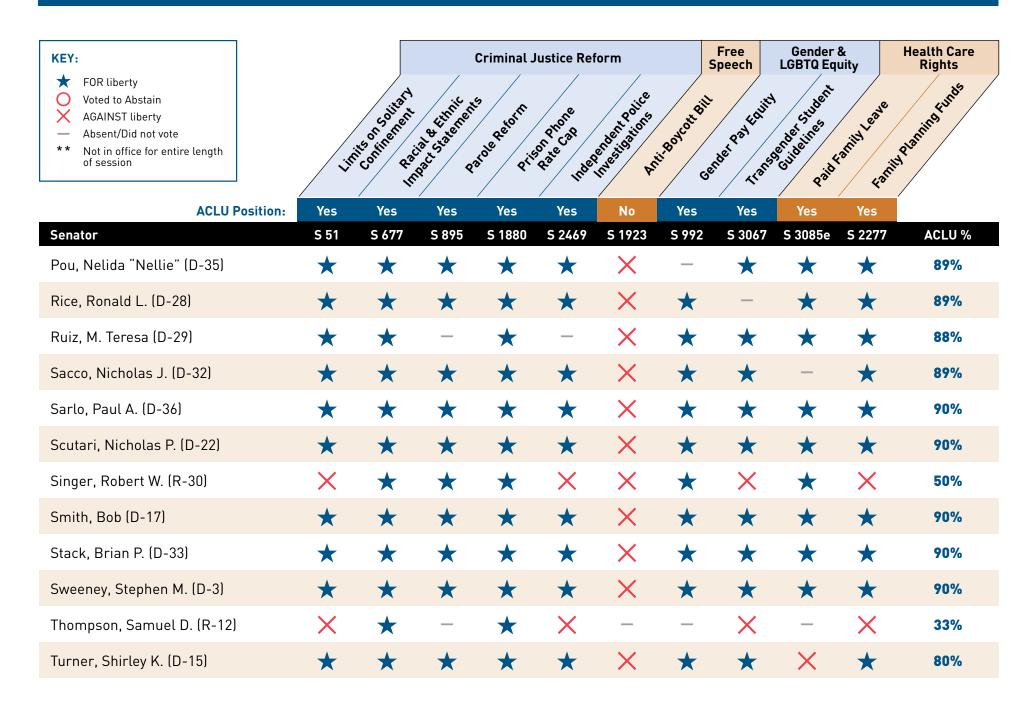
SENATE: 22-15, 3 did not vote

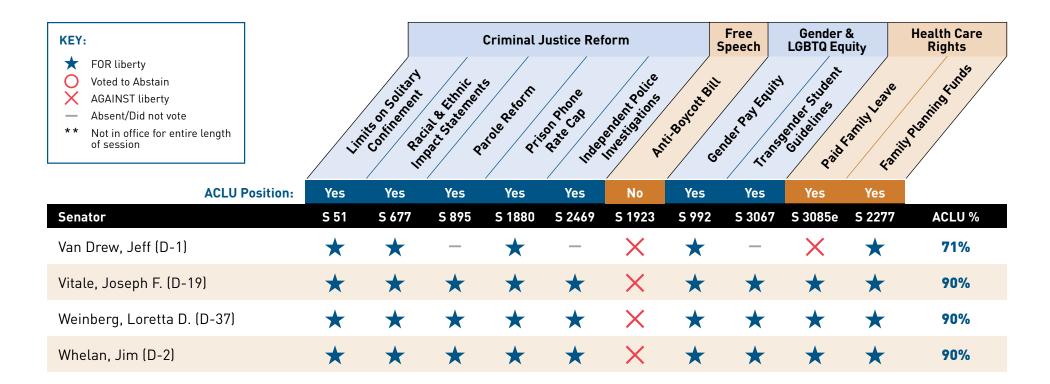
Conditionally vetoed, with major changes

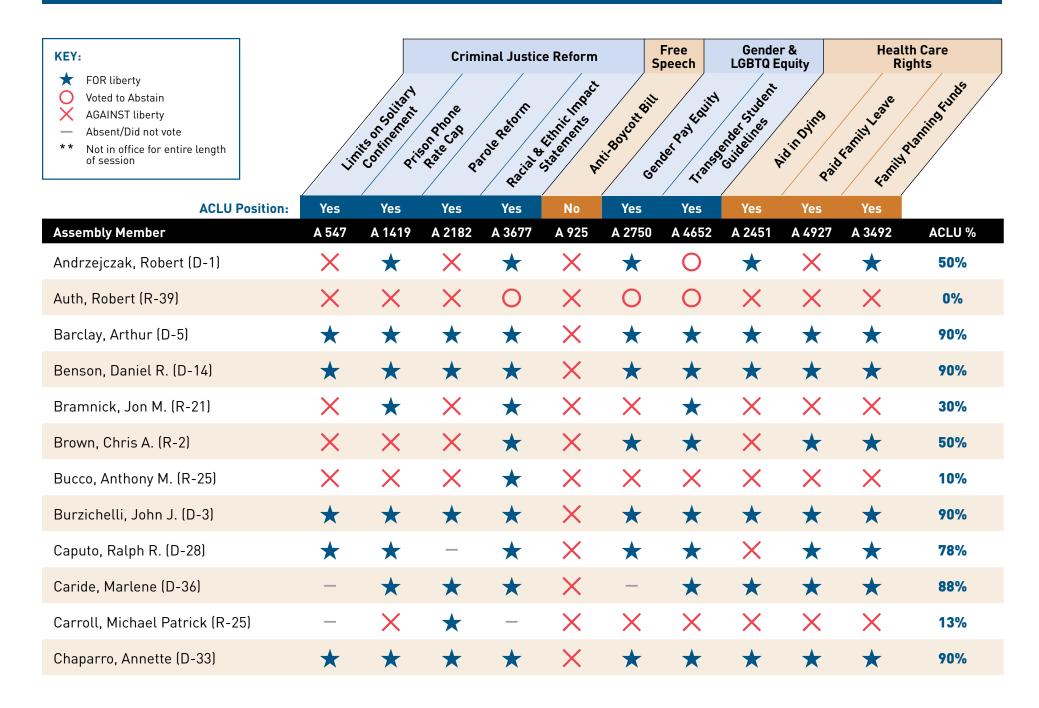
Would have expanded state paid family leave insurance from 6 weeks to 12 weeks to care for a sick relative or new child, increased available benefits, and allowed additional types of relatives to take paid leave.

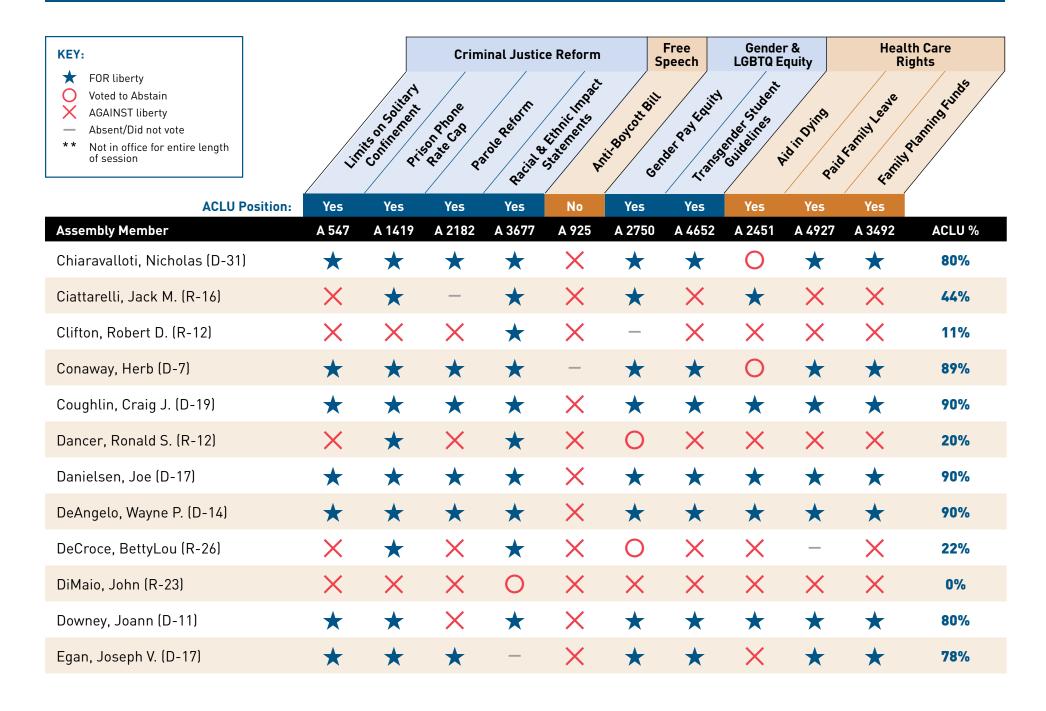


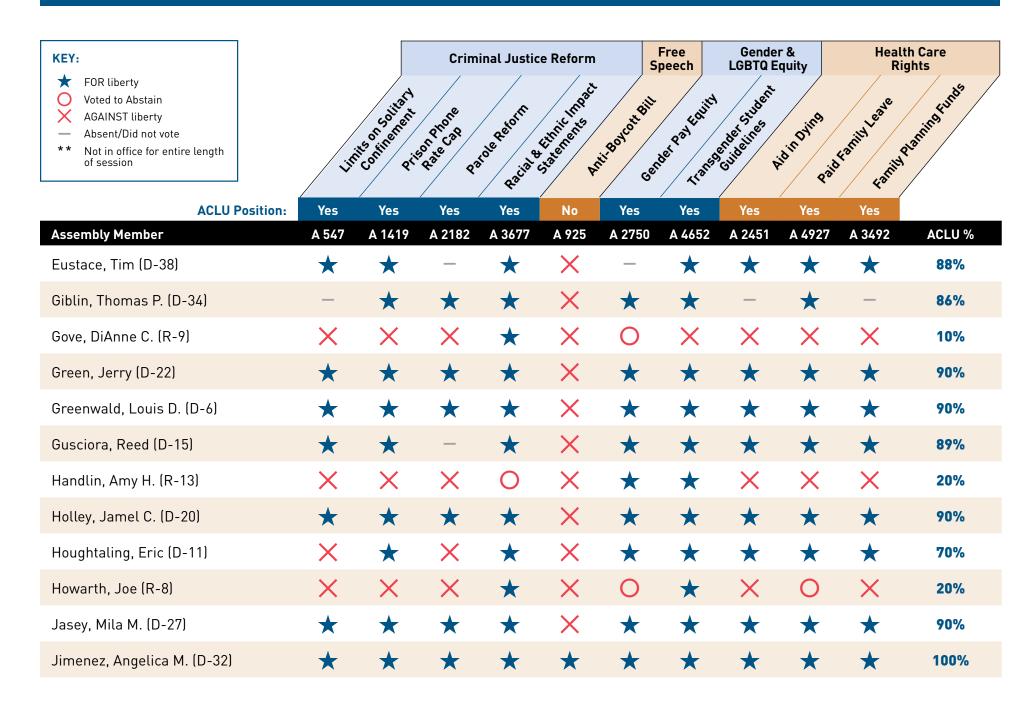


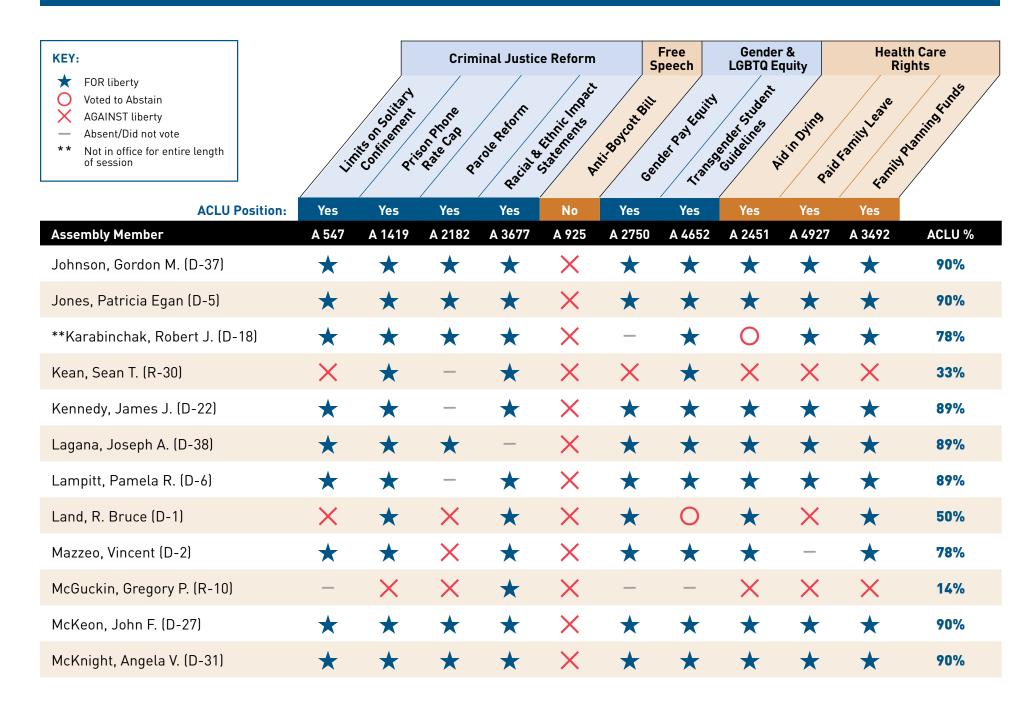


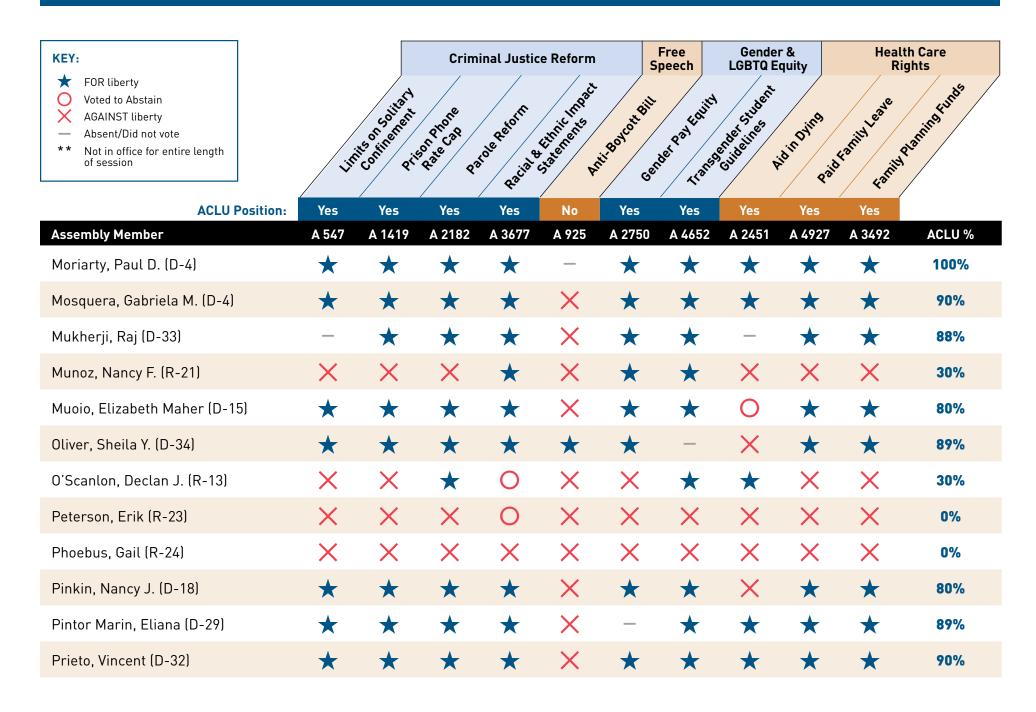


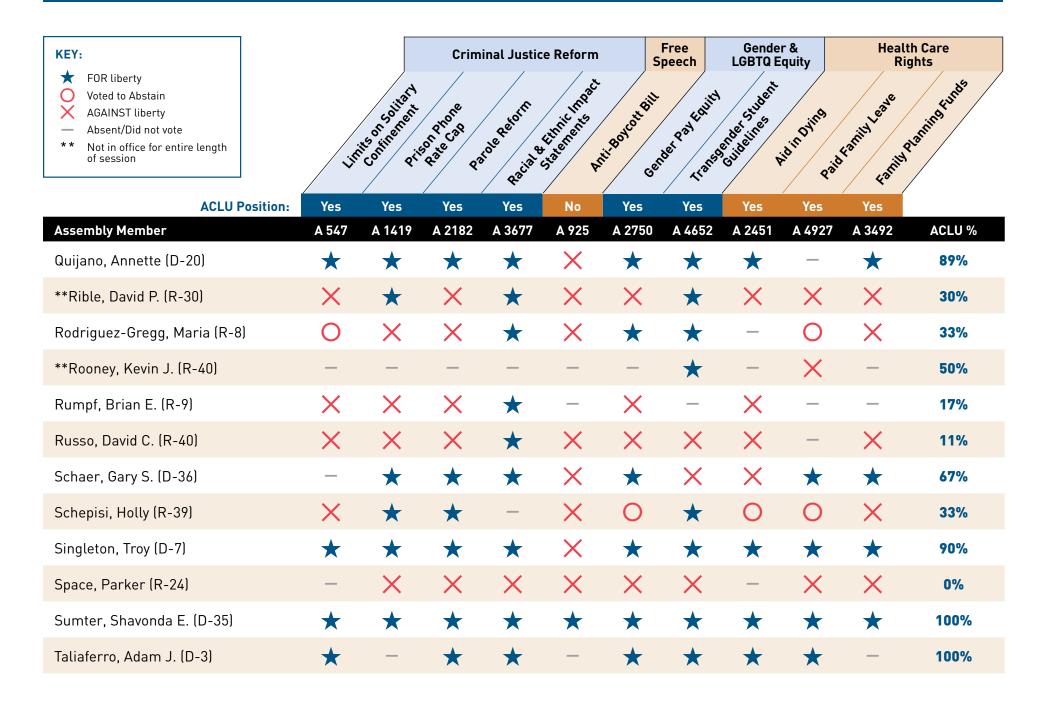


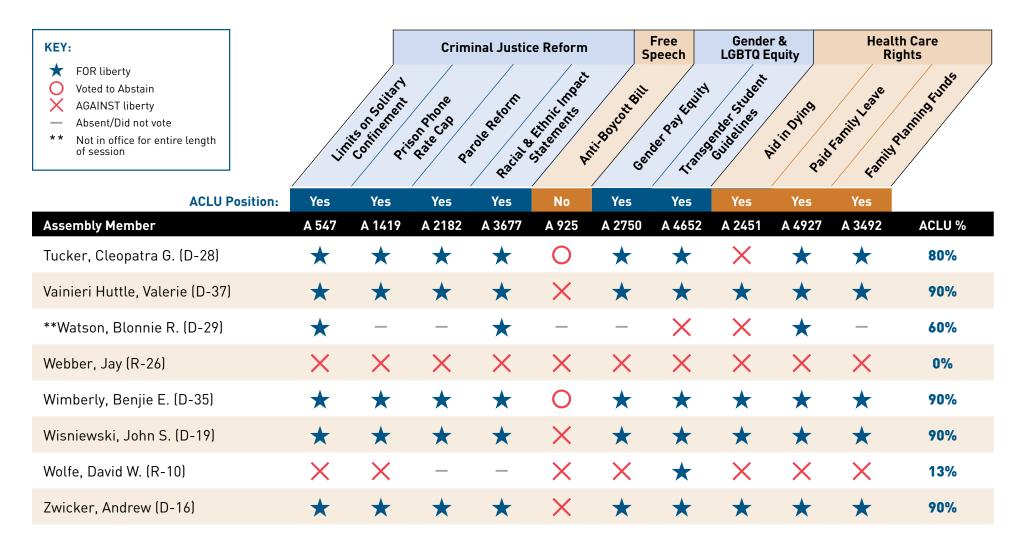














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