

THE CLUB FOR
GROWTH
FOUNDATION

2023

Arkansas State Legislative Scorecard

See how Members of Arkansas' General Assembly
are voting on economic growth issues.



Club for Growth Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization focused on educating the public about the value of free markets, pro-growth policies, and economic prosperity.

State Scorecards are created by the Club for Growth Foundation to educate the public about the voting records of the legislators who serve in state legislatures. This is part of a larger scorecard project that the Club for Growth Foundation has created to educate the public about the economic positions taken by legislators in states across the country.

Our Mission

THE FOUNDATION
EDUCATES THE
PUBLIC ABOUT PRO-
GROWTH POLICIES.

THE FOUNDATION
CONDUCTS
COMPREHENSIVE
EXAMINATIONS OF
VOTING RECORDS.

THE FOUNDATION'S
GOAL IS TO INFORM
THE PUBLIC AND
BRING AWARENESS
TO LAWMAKERS.

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Club for Growth Foundation publishes the scorecard study so the public can monitor the actions and the voting behavior of Arkansas' state lawmakers on economic growth issues.

The Foundation conducted a comprehensive examination of each lawmaker's record on votes related to pro-growth policies and computed an Economic Growth Score on a scale of 0 to 100. A score of 100 indicates the highest support for pro-growth policies.

The Foundation examines legislative votes related to the Foundation's immediate pro-economic growth policy goals, including:

- Reducing or eliminating tax rates and enacting tax reform
- Limited government through limited spending and budget reform
- Regulatory reform and deregulation
- Ending abusive lawsuits through medical malpractice and tort reform
- Expanding school choice
- Implementing term limits

Not all of these policy goals will come up for a vote in each legislative session.

The Foundation also examines votes on bills that would directly harm these goals.

This scorecard is based on selected votes of importance to the Foundation, and does not include the complete voting record of any legislator. There are inherent limitations in judging the overall qualifications of any legislator based on a selected voting record, and the Foundation does not endorse or oppose any legislator for public office.

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LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED IN ARKANSAS IN 2023

The Foundation’s study examined over 2,000 floor votes and, in the end, included 19 Arkansas House votes and 19 Arkansas Senate votes.

COMPUTATION

Scores are computed on a scale of 0 to 100. Each vote or action in the rating is assigned a certain number of points depending on its relative importance. If a lawmaker casts a correct vote, the scorecard will denote it with that number. If a lawmaker casts an incorrect vote, the scorecard will denote that vote with a hyphen (-). Absences are not counted – signified as an “X” on the scorecard – though the Foundation reserves the right to do so if, in its judgment, a lawmaker’s position was otherwise discernible. If a lawmaker was not officially sworn into office at the time of a vote, the scorecard will denote that vote with an “I”.

To provide some additional guidance concerning the scores, each lawmaker was ranked. Aside from ties, lawmakers with 0%

scores are, by default, ranked #100 in the House and #35 in the Senate if all lawmakers are present. Scores and ranks cannot be directly compared between the House and Senate, as different votes were taken in each chamber. If applicable, the study also records a “Lifetime Score” for each lawmaker. This is a simple average of the scores from 2023 and all previous years where the lawmaker earned a score.

In some cases, a lawmaker was not present for enough votes for a meaningful score or ranking to be computed. In such cases “n.a.” for “not applicable” appears. In computing lifetime scores, years with “n.a.” listed instead of a score are not included. Comparing such scores to other members without “n.a.” years may be misleading.

ADDITIONAL FACTORS

A study of roll call votes on the floor of the Arkansas House and Arkansas Senate and legislative actions is just that. It cannot account for a lawmaker’s work in committee, advocacy in his party’s caucus meetings, and effectiveness as a leader in advocating pro-growth policies.

“Through the release of this series, the Club for Growth Foundation is looking at how state legislatures perform in terms of pro-growth policies. We believe that this scorecard will help inform citizens and entrepreneurs about who supports the policies that are good for economic prosperity.”

- DAVID McINTOSH

PRESIDENT, CLUB FOR GROWTH FOUNDATION

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35 MEMBERS

Arkansas Senate Snapshot



29 Republicans

6 Democrats

0 Vacancies

Average Republican Score: 57%

(Down from 38% in 2019)

Average Democrat Score: 2%

(Down from 19% in 2019)



HIGHEST-RATED REPUBLICAN

Senator Jim Dotson (SD-34) | **73%**



LOWEST-RATED REPUBLICAN

Senator Jimmy Hickey (SD-4) | **32%**



HIGHEST-RATED DEMOCRAT

Senator Reginald Murdock (SD-9) | **12%**



LOWEST-RATED DEMOCRATS

Clockwise from left

Senator Linda Chesterfield (SD-12) | **0%**

Senator Stephanie Flowers (SD-8) | **0%**



Senator Greg Leding (SD-30) | **0%**

Senator Frederick Love (SD-15) | **0%**



Senator Clarke Tucker (SD-14) | **0%**

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PRO-GROWTH POSITION					Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	
POINTS					4	3	4	4	4	5	7	4	5	6	4	3	10	3	5	5	10	8	6	
Boyd, Justin	SD-27	R	58%	40%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	3	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	11
Bryant, Joshua	SD-32	R	60%	60%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	X	6	8
Caldwell, Ronald	SD-10	R	64%	43%	4	-	-	X	4	X	7	4	X	X	X	X	10	-	-	-	X	X	6	5
Chesterfield, Linda	SD-12	D	0%	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
Clark, Alan	SD-07	R	62%	52%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	3	X	-	-	-	10	8	6	7
Crowell, Steve	SD-03	R	58%	58%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	3	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	11
Davis, Breanne	SD-25	R	51%	44%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	-	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	24
Dees, Tyler	SD-35	R	59%	59%	4	-	-	-	4	5	X	4	5	-	-	X	10	-	-	-	10	X	6	10
Dismang, Jonathan	SD-18	R	45%	48%	4	-	-	-	4	-	X	X	5	-	-	X	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	28
Dotson, Jim	SD-34	R	73%	76%	4	3	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	X	X	10	X	-	-	10	8	6	1
English, Jane	SD-13	R	51%	45%	X	-	-	-	4	-	7	4	5	-	-	3	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	24
Flippo, Scott	SD-23	R	60%	56%	4	X	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	3	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	8
Flowers, Stephanie	SD-08	D	0%	8%	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
Gilmore, Ben	SD-01	R	58%	58%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	3	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	11
Hammer, Kim	SD-16	R	54%	52%	4	-	-	-	X	X	7	4	5	-	-	3	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	22
Hester, Bart	SD-33	R	55%	57%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	20
Hickey, Jimmy	SD-04	R	32%	36%	4	-	-	-	4	-	X	4	5	-	-	3	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
Hill, Ricky	SD-11	R	53%	51%	X	-	-	-	4	5	X	4	5	-	-	3	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	23
Irvin, Missy	SD-24	R	50%	47%	4	-	-	-	4	X	7	-	5	-	-	X	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	26
Johnson, Blake	SD-21	R	57%	44%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	X	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	18

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PRO-GROWTH POSITION					Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	
POINTS					4	3	4	4	4	5	7	4	5	6	4	3	10	3	5	5	10	8	6	
Johnson, Mark	SD-17	R	58%	44%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	-	5	-	-	3	X	-	-	-	10	8	6	11
King, Bryan	SD-28	R	49%	49%	4	-	-	X	4	5	X	X	X	X	-	-	10	-	X	-	-	8	X	27
Leding, Greg	SD-30	D	0%	6%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
Love, Frederick	SD-15	D	0%	13%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
McKee, Matt	SD-06	R	70%	70%	4	-	-	4	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	3	10	-	-	-	10	8	6	2
Murdock, Reginald	SD-09	D	12%	18%	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
Payton, John	SD-22	R	67%	70%	4	-	4	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	3	X	-	-	-	10	8	6	3
Penzo, Clint	SD-31	R	66%	67%	4	3	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	8	6	4
Petty, Jim	SD-29	R	57%	57%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	X	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	18
Rice, Terry	SD-05	R	58%	48%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	3	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	11
Stone, Matt	SD-02	R	58%	58%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	3	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	11
Stubblefield, Gary	SD-26	R	58%	52%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	3	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	11
Sullivan, Dan	SD-20	R	63%	68%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	3	10	-	-	-	10	X	6	6
Tucker, Clarke	SD-14	D	0%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
Wallace, David	SD-19	R	55%	40%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	3	10	-	-	-	10	-	X	20

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HB 1026

PREEMPTING LOCAL INCOME TAXES

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill implements a preemption on local taxes. Specifically, the legislation explicitly bans cities, counties, and other municipal subdivisions of the state from implementing an income tax. This measure protects taxpayers from double taxation and creates important checks on local tax burdens in a state that has made significant progress in recent years lowering the overall tax burden on its families, businesses, and individual taxpayers. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 79-10, on January 31, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 27-6, on February 9, 2023.

HB 1057

STATE RICE CHECKOFF APPROPRIATIONS

(CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill appropriates tax dollars to the Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board. Specifically, the legislation appropriates \$21.9

million in FY 2023-2024 to an organization that seizes 1.35 cents per bushel of rice grown and per bushel sold in a financing scheme that marginalizes smaller rice farming operations. Checkoff programs allow hand-picked interests in a particular agricultural industry to collude with the government to force their competitors to fund the promotion of their products. These programs essentially serve as government-mandated taxes on smaller businesses and should be abolished. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 95-1, on January 18, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 32-2, on January 19, 2023.

HB 1078

PUBLIC TELEVISION APPROPRIATIONS

(CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill appropriates tax dollars to the Arkansas public television division within the Department of Education. Specifically, the legislation appropriates \$15 million in FY 2023-2024 for state public broadcasting operations.

Consumers have an abundance of choices for programming in the free market, underscoring the fact that government-funded television should not exist and this program should be zeroed out. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 81-14, on March 28, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 34-1, on March 29, 2023.

HB 1189

LICENSING SCHEME FOR BEHAVIOR

ANALYSTS

(CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill implements new regulations for professional behavior analysts. Specifically, the legislation requires behavior analysts and similar behavior psychology positions to fall under the purview of the Arkansas Psychology Board. This new licensing framework subjects behavior analysts to new licensing fees, examinations, and continuing education requirements determined by the state board. Instead of creating new barriers to entry through punitive licensing regimes, lawmakers should

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instead pare back onerous restrictions that only empower state bureaucrats. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 56-24, on February 27, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 31-1, on April 5, 2023.

HB 1196

PUBLIC HOUSING WELFARE REFORM (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill implements work requirements for government-subsidized housing. Specifically, the legislation implements a work requirement for able-bodied adults as a condition of receiving taxpayer-funded housing subsidies. These requirements include a minimum of 20 hours of work per week or a minimum of 20 hours of work search per week to maintain eligibility for government housing. Additionally, the legislation requires housing authorities to implement such requirements as a condition for being chartered in the state. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 80-15, on February 23, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 28-5, on February 20, 2023.

HB 1307

PROHIBITION ON TAXPAYER-FINANCED ESG INVESTMENTS (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill prevents hedge funds and private equity funds responsible for managing the portfolios of taxpayer-funded pensions from abandoning their fiduciary duty in favor of a political agenda. Specifically, the legislation empowers the state treasurer to divest from holdings run by financial service providers that prioritize woke Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) investments over the pecuniary interests of investors. Further, the bill prohibits the state from investing taxpayer funds with a financial service provider that engages in boycotts or discrimination against certain industries, including the reliable energy sector, at the expense of investors. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 70-18, on March 27, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 23-9, on March 13, 2023.

HB 1401

SIGNIFICANT TANF WELFARE REFORM (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill implements a new hard eligibility cap for cash welfare assistance. Specifically, the legislation reduces the maximum time a household with able-bodied adults can receive direct taxpayer-funded subsidies through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program from two years to one year. Policy reforms that encourage re-employment lead to a healthier and more productive workforce that reduces poverty and serves as a foundation for sustainable growth. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 81-17, on February 22, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 24-5, on March 9, 2023.

HB 1410

TEENAGE WORK OPPORTUNITY REFORM (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill amends existing labor laws to provide more flexibility for teenagers seeking employment. Specifically, the legislation eliminates the requirement that teenagers

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under the age of 16 obtain a work permit from the Division of Labor to hold a job. As hardworking families experience persistent inflation, high prices, and increasing difficulty making ends meet, eliminating archaic regulations that restrict the work opportunities for households is a common sense policy that fosters economic growth and puts decisions back in the hands of parents instead of government bureaucrats. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 54-32, on February 22, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 24-9, on March 2, 2023.

HB 1575

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REFORMS (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill implements stricter work search requirements in the state UI program. Specifically, the legislation requires claimants to engage in five job search activities per week and requires the Division of Workforce Services to audit work searches. Failure to engage in the minimum amount of work search activity results in ineligibility to receive taxpayer-funded UI payments for that week. Policy reforms that

encourage re-employment lead to a healthier and more productive workforce while serving as a foundation for sustainable growth. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 74-17, on March 15, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 27-5, on April 5, 2023.

HB 1592

HOLLYWOOD TAX GIVEAWAY (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill expands the movie production subsidy under the Arkansas Economic Development Commission. Specifically, the legislation authorizes the commission to issue a 25 percent tax credit for eligible production expenses—an increase from the previous 20 percent baseline. Additionally, the bill grants two new 5 percent tax credits if companies hire rural Arkansans and commit to multiple projects, raising the total credit carveout to a potential 35 percent. This type of flagrant cronyism—wherein Arkansans essentially subsidize wealthy Hollywood production companies to entice them to film in the state—enriches a select few well-connected, government-preferred entities at the expense

of hardworking taxpayers. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 69-13, on March 27, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 32-0, on April 5, 2023.

HB 1654

DATA CENTER CORPORATE WELFARE HANDOUT (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill creates a new sales tax exemption for data centers and corporate technology entities. Specifically, the legislation grants a sales tax exemption of an unspecified amount to eligible corporations that may be used for data center equipment, utility bills, and any services used for the operation of the business. The bill requires recipients to invest at least \$500 million over five years and pay an aggregate annualized \$1 million compensation to employees in Arkansas. This is flagrant corporate welfare and is a textbook case of the government putting the interests of well-connected companies above those of hardworking citizens. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 78-6, on April 4, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 32-0, on April 6, 2023.

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HB 1655

CRONY GOVERNMENT CONTRACT SCHEME (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill implements a new mandate for government contracts. Specifically, the legislation requires state agencies to award at least 5 percent of government contracts to businesses that have been operational for less than five years and operate inside Arkansas. This mandate creates a central planning approach that effectively curtails a merit-based approach for entering into contracts with private businesses, which undermines the interests of taxpayers who ultimately foot the bill. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 86-7, on March 30, 2023. The Arkansas Senate failed to pass it, 8-17, on April 6, 2023.

SB 8

SIGNIFICANT INCOME TAX REFORM (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill implements further reductions in Arkansas's income tax rates. Specifically, the legislation lowers the top individual rate from 4.7 percent to 4.4 percent beginning on January

1, 2024, saving families and taxpayers roughly \$225 million through FY2025. Additionally, the bill cuts the corporate tax rate from 5.1 percent to 4.8 percent by January 1, 2024, and institutes a one-time \$150 inflation relief rebate for taxpayers earning less than \$90,000 per year. Cutting taxes for hardworking Arkansas families and businesses is vital for economic growth, especially amid persistent inflation and soaring energy prices. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 84-10, on September 14, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 27-3, on September 12, 2023.

SB 207

NEW FRANCHISE TAX FILING FEE (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill modifies Arkansas's corporate franchise tax act and creates a new fund. Specifically, the legislation creates the Secretary of State Business and Commercial Services Electronic Filing System Fund, requires that registered LLCs and other required corporations pay the existing \$150 minimum filing fee, and creates a new scaled processing fee for electronic filings that can potentially equal three percent

of the existing filing fee. Lawmakers should not create new fees and regulatory burdens for small businesses and job creators designed to prop up government bureaucracy. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 77-11, on March 16, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 34-0, on March 30, 2023.

SB 214

MEDICAID SUPPLEMENTAL SPENDING PACKAGE (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill provides supplemental spending increases for the Division of Medical Services. Specifically, the legislation appropriates \$450 million for FY 2022-23 for the Arkansas Medicaid program—an increase of 12.5 percent equal to \$50 million from the previous year's supplemental spending bill. Medicaid expansion under Obamacare has been a disaster for Arkansas with the program devouring one out of every four tax dollars and more than 340,000 healthy, able-bodied adults enrolled in a program originally meant for the indigent. Lawmakers should roll back the Medicaid expansion under Obamacare

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to cut costs in a program already saddled with poor health outcomes and low quality of care. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 90-3, on February 14, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 34-0, on February 13, 2023.

SB 240

CRONY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill appropriates tax dollars to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission for grant disbursement. Specifically, the legislation appropriates \$37.5 million in FY 2023-2024 for financial incentives to hand-picked businesses that move a new facility to the state or expand an existing facility in the state. Discretion on who receives the handouts is largely left up to the bureaucrats on the commission. Lawmakers should not engage in such flagrant cronyism that rewards well-connected interests at the expense of hardworking Arkansan families. Spending \$37.5 million on cronyism. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 91-3, on February 28, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 35-0, on February 23, 2023.

SB 294

TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT BILL

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill implements a universal ESA program for K-12 students in Arkansas and increases minimum teacher salaries. Specifically, the legislation provides for tax dollars to follow students to a school of their parents' or guardians' choice—including private education—over a three-year phase-in approach. Annual funding for the universal ESA is equal to 90 percent of the per-pupil allocation. Parents will have access to roughly \$6,600 per year to use for tuition, books, and other related education expenses. While the program initially only applies to students with disabilities or in foster care, all K-12 students are eligible beginning in the 2025-26 school year. Arkansas is the fourth state to enact a universal ESA approach for K-12 education. Additionally, the bill increases the minimum teacher salary from \$36,000 to \$50,000. However, the universal ESA implementation more than outweighs the spending increase. The Arkansas House passed

the bill, 78-21, on March 2, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 26-8, on March 7, 2023.

SB 306

FOOD STAMP ELIGIBILITY EXPANSION (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill increases the eligibility threshold for food stamps. Specifically, the legislation expands the asset limit for some food stamp recipients from \$2,250 to \$5,500, meaning eligible households can have considerably more cash and savings and remain enrolled in the food stamp program. The new asset threshold may only be applied to recipients once every five years. While well-intentioned as a glide path to help people wean themselves off the program, the bill sets a temporary new floor once every five years without implementing additional work-oriented reforms to move individuals out of dependency. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 65-16, on March 30, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 24-7, on April 4, 2023.

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SB 473

TEACHER PAYCHECK PROTECTION REFORM (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill prohibits unions from receiving dues from school employees. Specifically, the legislation prohibits school districts or their representatives from deducting dues from the salaries of school employees on behalf of any professional union, labor union, or political organization. Unions routinely act as political enforcers for far-left activists and causes. In difficult economic times, hardworking Arkansans deserve to keep more of their paycheck instead of having portions automatically deducted to serve political interests. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 70-17, on April 6, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 26-7, on March 30, 2023.

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100 MEMBERS

Arkansas House Snapshot



82 Republicans

18 Democrats

0 Vacancies

Average Republican Score: 61%

(Up from 47% in 2019)

Average Democrat Score: 4%

(Down from 27% in 2019)



HIGHEST-RATED REPUBLICAN

Rep. Austin McCollum (HD-8) | 88%



LOWEST-RATED REPUBLICAN

Rep. Jim Wooten (HD-59) | 29%



HIGHEST-RATED DEMOCRAT

Rep. Mark Perry (HD-66) | 20%



LOWEST-RATED DEMOCRATS

Multiple Representatives | 0%

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Name	District	Party	Score	Lifescore	HB1026	HB1057	HB1078	HB1189	HB1196	HB1307	HB1401	HB1410	HB1575	HB1592	HB1654	HB1655	SB8	SB207	SB214	SB240	SB294	SB306	SB473	Rank
PRO-GROWTH POSITION					Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	
POINTS					4	3	4	4	4	5	7	4	5	6	4	3	10	3	5	5	10	8	6	
Achor, Brandon	HD-071	R	54%	54%	4	X	-	-	4	5	7	4	X	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	57
Allen, Fred	HD-077	D	13%	23%	X	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	6	84
Andrews, Wade	HD-098	R	80%	80%	4	-	4	4	4	5	7	4	5	6	-	-	10	-	-	5	10	X	6	6
Barker, Sonia	HD-096	R	68%	48%	4	-	-	X	4	5	7	4	5	-	X	-	10	X	-	-	10	X	6	21
Beaty, Howard	HD-095	R	60%	60%	4	-	-	X	4	5	7	4	X	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	X	6	36
Beck, Rick	HD-043	R	71%	69%	4	-	-	X	4	5	7	4	5	X	X	-	10	-	-	-	10	X	6	19
Bentley, Mary	HD-054	R	69%	55%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	X	-	10	-	X	-	10	8	6	20
Berry, Mark	HD-026	R	57%	57%	4	-	-	X	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	46
Berry, Stan	HD-044	R	55%	61%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	-	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	X	6	51
Breaux, Harlan	HD-006	R	62%	53%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	X	10	-	-	-	10	X	6	31
Brooks, Keith	HD-078	R	53%	53%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	X	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	61
Brown, Karilyn	HD-067	R	63%	46%	4	-	-	X	4	5	7	4	5	X	-	-	10	X	-	-	10	-	6	30
Brown, Matt	HD-055	R	59%	59%	4	-	-	4	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	40
Burkes, Rebecca	HD-011	R	77%	77%	4	-	4	4	4	5	7	4	5	6	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	8	6	12
Carr, Joey	HD-034	R	40%	40%	4	-	-	-	4	-	7	-	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	-	80
Carr, John	HD-015	R	76%	76%	4	-	4	4	4	5	7	4	5	X	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	8	6	13
Cavanaugh, Frances	HD-030	R	54%	63%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	-	5	-	-	-	10	3	-	-	10	-	6	57
Clowney, Nicole	HD-021	D	0%	8%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90
Collins, Andrew	HD-073	D	4%	15%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	86
Cooper, Cameron	HD-057	R	76%	70%	4	-	-	4	4	X	7	4	5	6	-	-	10	-	X	-	10	8	6	13

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Name	District	Party	Score	Lifescore	HB1026	HB1057	HB1078	HB1189	HB1196	HB1307	HB1401	HB1410	HB1575	HB1592	HB1654	HB1655	SB8	SB207	SB214	SB240	SB294	SB306	SB473	Rank
PRO-GROWTH POSITION					Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	
POINTS					4	3	4	4	4	5	7	4	5	6	4	3	10	3	5	5	10	8	6	
Cozart, Bruce	HD-091	R	50%	41%	X	-	-	-	4	5	7	X	5	-	X	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	X	71
Crawford, Cindy	HD-051	R	54%	41%	4	-	-	X	4	X	7	4	5	-	X	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	X	57
Dalby, Carol	HD-100	R	48%	36%	4	-	-	-	4	X	7	-	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	77
Duffield, Matt	HD-053	R	51%	51%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	-	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	66
Duke, Hope	HD-012	R	82%	82%	4	-	4	4	4	-	7	4	5	6	4	3	10	3	5	5	-	8	6	5
Eaves, Les	HD-058	R	41%	44%	4	-	-	-	X	X	7	X	X	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	X	79
Ennett, Denise	HD-080	D	0%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90
Eubanks, Jon	HD-046	R	60%	46%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	X	6	36
Evans, Brian	HD-068	R	61%	48%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	4	X	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	8	6	32
Ferguson, Deborah	HD-063	D	12%	20%	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	10	X	-	-	-	-	-	85
Ferguson, Ken	HD-064	D	n/a	31%	X	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	X	X	
Fite, Charlene	HD-024	R	55%	42%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	-	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	X	6	51
Fite, Lanny	HD-083	R	50%	46%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	X	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	X	71
Flowers, Vivian	HD-065	D	0%	14%	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	90
Fortner, Jack	HD-004	R	51%	46%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	-	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	66
Furman, Tony	HD-082	R	73%	73%	4	-	-	4	4	5	7	4	5	X	-	-	10	-	X	-	10	X	6	17
Garner, Denise	HD-020	D	4%	13%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	86
Gazaway, Jimmie	HD-031	R	54%	41%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	-	5	X	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	57
Gonzales, Justin	HD-089	R	80%	77%	4	-	4	4	4	5	7	4	5	6	-	3	10	-	-	-	10	8	6	6
Gramlich, Zack	HD-050	R	56%	56%	4	-	-	4	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	X	50

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Name	District	Party	Score	Lifescore	HB1026	HB1057	HB1078	HB1189	HB1196	HB1307	HB1401	HB1410	HB1575	HB1592	HB1654	HB1655	SB8	SB207	SB214	SB240	SB294	SB306	SB473	Rank
PRO-GROWTH POSITION					Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	
POINTS					4	3	4	4	4	5	7	4	5	6	4	3	10	3	5	5	10	8	6	
Haak, Delia	HD-017	R	68%	68%	4	-	-	X	4	X	7	4	5	X	-	-	10	X	-	-	10	X	6	21
Hawk, RJ	HD-081	R	64%	64%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	X	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	X	6	27
Hodges, DeAnna	HD-009	R	59%	59%	4	-	4	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	40
Hodges, Grant	HD-014	R	79%	65%	4	-	-	4	4	5	7	4	5	X	-	-	10	3	-	X	10	8	6	10
Holcomb, Mike	HD-093	R	53%	42%	X	-	-	X	4	5	7	X	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	61
Hollowell, Steve	HD-037	R	57%	45%	4	-	-	X	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	46
Hudson, Ashley	HD-075	D	14%	14%	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	83
Jean, Lane	HD-099	R	45%	46%	4	-	-	-	4	X	7	X	X	-	-	X	10	-	-	-	10	-	X	78
Johnson, Lee	HD-047	R	50%	38%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	10	-	6	71
Ladyman, Jack	HD-032	R	60%	47%	4	-	X	-	4	5	7	4	X	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	X	6	36
Long, Wayne	HD-039	R	80%	80%	4	-	4	4	4	5	7	4	5	-	X	-	10	X	5	-	10	X	6	6
Lundstrum, Robin	HD-018	R	68%	73%	4	-	X	X	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	X	10	-	-	-	10	X	6	21
Lynch, Roger	HD-060	R	60%	45%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	X	6	36
Maddox, John	HD-086	R	58%	58%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	-	10	3	-	-	10	-	6	44
Magie, Stephen	HD-056	D	0%	14%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	90
Mayberry, Julie	HD-092	R	51%	60%	4	X	-	-	4	-	7	-	5	6	4	3	10	-	-	-	-	-	6	66
McAlindon, Mindy	HD-010	R	80%	80%	4	-	4	4	4	5	7	4	5	6	-	-	10	3	-	-	10	8	6	6
McClure, Rick	HD-029	R	64%	64%	4	-	X	X	4	5	7	4	5	-	4	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	27
McCollum, Austin	HD-008	R	88%	91%	4	-	X	4	4	5	7	4	5	X	-	-	10	X	X	5	10	8	6	1
McCullough, Tippi	HD-074	D	4%	13%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	86

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Name	District	Party	Score	Lifescore	HB1026	HB1057	HB1078	HB1189	HB1196	HB1307	HB1401	HB1410	HB1575	HB1592	HB1654	HB1655	SB8	SB207	SB214	SB240	SB294	SB306	SB473	Rank
PRO-GROWTH POSITION					Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	
POINTS					4	3	4	4	4	5	7	4	5	6	4	3	10	3	5	5	10	8	6	
McElroy, Mark	HD-062	R	57%	57%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	X	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	46
McGrew, Richard	HD-085	R	57%	57%	4	-	-	X	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	46
McKenzie, Brit	HD-007	R	67%	67%	4	-	-	X	4	5	7	4	5	6	-	-	10	-	-	X	10	-	6	24
McNair, Ron	HD-005	R	49%	38%	4	-	-	X	4	5	7	X	5	-	X	-	10	-	-	-	X	-	X	75
Meeks, Stephen	HD-042	R	55%	59%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	51
Miller, Josh	HD-041	R	84%	78%	X	-	4	X	4	5	7	4	X	X	X	-	10	X	5	-	10	8	X	2
Milligan, Jon	HD-033	R	61%	61%	4	-	-	4	4	5	7	X	5	X	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	32
Moore, Jeremiah	HD-061	R	55%	55%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	51
Moore, Kendra	HD-023	R	49%	49%	4	-	-	-	4	X	7	-	5	-	X	-	10	X	-	-	10	-	X	75
Nicks, Milton	HD-035	D	0%	20%	X	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	X	90
Painter, Stetson	HD-003	R	61%	61%	4	-	-	4	4	5	7	-	5	6	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	32
Pearce, Shad	HD-040	R	53%	53%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	-	5	-	-	-	10	X	-	-	10	-	6	61
Perry, Mark	HD-066	D	20%	20%	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	6	82
Pilkington, Aaron	HD-045	R	64%	74%	4	-	-	X	4	5	7	4	5	X	-	-	10	3	-	-	10	-	6	27
Puryear, Chad	HD-025	R	79%	79%	4	-	4	4	4	5	7	4	5	X	-	-	10	3	-	-	10	8	6	10
Ray, David	HD-069	R	83%	83%	4	-	-	4	4	5	7	4	5	6	-	3	10	3	X	-	10	8	6	4
Richardson, Jay	HD-049	D	4%	14%	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	3	-	-	-	-	X	86
Richardson, R. Scott	HD-013	R	76%	76%	4	-	4	4	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	3	10	X	-	-	10	8	6	13
Richmond, Marcus	HD-052	R	55%	48%	4	-	-	X	4	5	7	X	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	51
Rose, Ryan	HD-048	R	75%	75%	4	-	4	4	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	X	10	8	6	16

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Name	District	Party	Score	Lifescore	HB1026	HB1057	HB1078	HB1189	HB1196	HB1307	HB1401	HB1410	HB1575	HB1592	HB1654	HB1655	SB8	SB207	SB214	SB240	SB294	SB306	SB473	Rank
PRO-GROWTH POSITION					Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	
POINTS					4	3	4	4	4	5	7	4	5	6	4	3	10	3	5	5	10	8	6	
Rye, Johnny	HD-036	R	59%	51%	4	-	-	4	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	40
Schulz, Bart	HD-028	R	59%	59%	4	-	-	4	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	40
Scott, Jamie	HD-072	D	0%	10%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90
Shephard, Tara	HD-079	D	0%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90
Shepherd, Matthew	HD-097	R	n/a	n/a	X	X	X	X	X	5	X	X	X	X	X	X	10	X	X	X	10	X	X	
Springer, Joy	HD-076	D	0%	0%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90
Steimel, Trey	HD-002	R	53%	53%	4	-	-	X	4	5	7	-	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	61
Tosh, Dwight	HD-038	R	53%	54%	4	-	-	-	4	X	7	4	5	X	-	3	10	-	-	-	10	-	-	61
Underwood, Kendon	HD-016	R	84%	84%	4	-	4	4	4	5	7	4	5	6	-	-	10	3	-	X	10	8	6	2
Unger, Steve	HD-019	R	61%	61%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	6	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	32
Vaught, DeAnn	HD-087	R	50%	52%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	X	5	-	-	-	10	3	-	-	10	-	-	71
Walker, Steven	HD-027	R	55%	55%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	51
Wardlaw, Jeff	HD-094	R	66%	58%	4	3	-	4	4	5	7	4	5	X	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	25
Warren, Les	HD-084	R	51%	42%	4	-	-	-	4	X	7	X	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	66
Watson, Danny	HD-088	R	58%	42%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	X	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	X	6	44
Whitaker, David	HD-022	D	0%	13%	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90
Wing, Carlton	HD-070	R	65%	49%	4	-	-	X	4	5	7	4	5	-	-	X	10	-	-	-	10	X	6	26
Womack, Richard	HD-090	R	72%	72%	4	-	4	4	4	5	7	4	5	6	-	3	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	18
Wooldridge, Jeremy	HD-001	R	51%	51%	4	-	-	-	4	5	7	-	5	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	10	-	6	66
Wooten, Jim	HD-059	R	29%	30%	X	-	-	-	4	-	7	-	5	-	-	-	10	-	X	-	-	-	-	81

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Arkansas 2023 | House Vote Descriptions

HB 1026

PREEMPTING LOCAL INCOME TAXES

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill implements a preemption on local taxes. Specifically, the legislation explicitly bans cities, counties, and other municipal subdivisions of the state from implementing an income tax. This measure protects taxpayers from double taxation and creates important checks on local tax burdens in a state that has made significant progress in recent years lowering the overall tax burden on its families, businesses, and individual taxpayers. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 79-10, on January 31, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 27-6, on February 9, 2023.

HB 1057

STATE RICE CHECKOFF APPROPRIATIONS

(CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill appropriates tax dollars to the Arkansas Rice Research and Promotion Board.

Specifically, the legislation appropriates \$21.9 million in FY 2023-2024 to an organization that seizes 1.35 cents per bushel of rice grown and per bushel sold in a financing scheme that marginalizes smaller rice farming operations. Checkoff programs allow hand-picked interests in a particular agricultural industry to collude with the government to force their competitors to fund the promotion of their products. These programs essentially serve as government-mandated taxes on smaller businesses and should be abolished. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 95-1, on January 18, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 32-2, on January 19, 2023.

HB 1078

PUBLIC TELEVISION APPROPRIATIONS

(CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill appropriates tax dollars to the Arkansas public television division within the Department of Education. Specifically, the

legislation appropriates \$15 million in FY 2023-2024 for state public broadcasting operations. Consumers have an abundance of choices for programming in the free market, underscoring the fact that government-funded television should not exist and this program should be zeroed out. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 81-14, on March 28, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 34-1, on March 29, 2023.

HB 1189

LICENSING SCHEME FOR BEHAVIOR

ANALYSTS

(CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill implements new regulations for professional behavior analysts. Specifically, the legislation requires behavior analysts and similar behavior psychology positions to fall under the purview of the Arkansas Psychology Board. This new licensing framework subjects behavior analysts to new licensing fees, examinations, and continuing education

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requirements determined by the state board. Instead of creating new barriers to entry through punitive licensing regimes, lawmakers should instead pare back onerous restrictions that only empower state bureaucrats. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 56-24, on February 27, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 31-1, on April 5, 2023.

HB 1196

PUBLIC HOUSING WELFARE REFORM **(CFGF SUPPORTS)**

This bill implements work requirements for government-subsidized housing. Specifically, the legislation implements a work requirement for able-bodied adults as a condition of receiving taxpayer-funded housing subsidies. These requirements include a minimum of 20 hours of work per week or a minimum of 20 hours of work search per week to maintain eligibility for government housing. Additionally, the legislation requires housing authorities to implement such requirements as a condition

for being chartered in the state. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 80-15, on February 23, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 28-5, on February 20, 2023.

HB 1307

PROHIBITION ON TAXPAYER-FINANCED **ESG INVESTMENTS** **(CFGF SUPPORTS)**

This bill prevents hedge funds and private equity funds responsible for managing the portfolios of taxpayer-funded pensions from abandoning their fiduciary duty in favor of a political agenda. Specifically, the legislation empowers the state treasurer to divest from holdings run by financial service providers that prioritize woke Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) investments over the pecuniary interests of investors. Further, the bill prohibits the state from investing taxpayer funds with a financial service provider that engages in boycotts or discrimination against certain industries, including the reliable

energy sector, at the expense of investors. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 70-18, on March 27, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 23-9, on March 13, 2023.

HB 1401

SIGNIFICANT TANF WELFARE REFORM **(CFGF SUPPORTS)**

This bill implements a new hard eligibility cap for cash welfare assistance. Specifically, the legislation reduces the maximum time a household with able-bodied adults can receive direct taxpayer-funded subsidies through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program from two years to one year. Policy reforms that encourage re-employment lead to a healthier and more productive workforce that reduces poverty and serves as a foundation for sustainable growth. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 81-17, on February 22, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 24-5, on March 9, 2023.

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HB 1410

TEENAGE WORK OPPORTUNITY REFORM (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill amends existing labor laws to provide more flexibility for teenagers seeking employment. Specifically, the legislation eliminates the requirement that teenagers under the age of 16 obtain a work permit from the Division of Labor to hold a job. As hardworking families experience persistent inflation, high prices, and increasing difficulty making ends meet, eliminating archaic regulations that restrict the work opportunities for households is a common sense policy that fosters economic growth and puts decisions back in the hands of parents instead of government bureaucrats. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 54-32, on February 22, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 24-9, on March 2, 2023.

HB 1575

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE REFORMS (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill implements stricter work search requirements in the state UI program. Specifically, the legislation requires claimants to engage in five job search activities per week and requires the Division of Workforce Services to audit work searches. Failure to engage in the minimum amount of work search activity results in ineligibility to receive taxpayer-funded UI payments for that week. Policy reforms that encourage re-employment lead to a healthier and more productive workforce while serving as a foundation for sustainable growth. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 74-17, on March 15, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 27-5, on April 5, 2023.

HB 1592

HOLLYWOOD TAX GIVEAWAY (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill expands the movie production subsidy under the Arkansas Economic Development Commission. Specifically, the legislation authorizes the commission to issue a 25 percent tax credit for eligible production expenses—an increase from the previous 20 percent baseline. Additionally, the bill grants two new 5 percent tax credits if companies hire rural Arkansans and commit to multiple projects, raising the total credit carveout to a potential 35 percent. This type of flagrant cronyism—wherein Arkansans essentially subsidize wealthy Hollywood production companies to entice them to film in the state—enriches a select few well-connected, government-preferred entities at the expense of hardworking taxpayers. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 69-13, on March 27, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 32-0, on April 5, 2023.

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HB 1654

DATA CENTER CORPORATE WELFARE HANDOUT

(CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill creates a new sales tax exemption for data centers and corporate technology entities. Specifically, the legislation grants a sales tax exemption of an unspecified amount to eligible corporations that may be used for data center equipment, utility bills, and any services used for the operation of the business. The bill requires recipients to invest at least \$500 million over five years and pay an aggregate annualized \$1 million compensation to employees in Arkansas. This is flagrant corporate welfare and is a textbook case of the government putting the interests of well-connected companies above those of hardworking citizens. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 78-6, on April 4, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 32-0, on April 6, 2023.

HB 1655

CRONY GOVERNMENT CONTRACT SCHEME (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill implements a new mandate for government contracts. Specifically, the legislation requires state agencies to award at least 5 percent of government contracts to businesses that have been operational for less than five years and operate inside Arkansas. This mandate creates a central planning approach that effectively curtails a merit-based approach for entering into contracts with private businesses, which undermines the interests of taxpayers who ultimately foot the bill. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 86-7, on March 30, 2023. The Arkansas Senate failed to pass it, 8-17, on April 6, 2023.

SB 8

SIGNIFICANT INCOME TAX REFORM (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill implements further reductions in Arkansas's income tax rates. Specifically, the legislation lowers the top individual rate from

4.7 percent to 4.4 percent beginning on January 1, 2024, saving families and taxpayers roughly \$225 million through FY2025. Additionally, the bill cuts the corporate tax rate from 5.1 percent to 4.8 percent by January 1, 2024, and institutes a one-time \$150 inflation relief rebate for taxpayers earning less than \$90,000 per year. Cutting taxes for hardworking Arkansas families and businesses is vital for economic growth, especially amid persistent inflation and soaring energy prices. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 84-10, on September 14, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 27-3, on September 12, 2023.

SB 207

NEW FRANCHISE TAX FILING FEE (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill modifies Arkansas's corporate franchise tax act and creates a new fund. Specifically, the legislation creates the Secretary of State Business and Commercial Services Electronic Filing System Fund, requires that registered LLCs and other required corporations pay the

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existing \$150 minimum filing fee, and creates a new scaled processing fee for electronic filings that can potentially equal three percent of the existing filing fee. Lawmakers should not create new fees and regulatory burdens for small businesses and job creators designed to prop up government bureaucracy. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 77-11, on March 16, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 34-0, on March 30, 2023.

SB 214

MEDICAID SUPPLEMENTAL SPENDING PACKAGE

(CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill provides supplemental spending increases for the Division of Medical Services. Specifically, the legislation appropriates \$450 million for FY 2022-23 for the Arkansas Medicaid program—an increase of 12.5 percent equal to \$50 million from the previous year’s supplemental spending bill. Medicaid expansion under Obamacare has been a disaster for Arkansas with the program devouring one

out of every four tax dollars and more than 340,000 healthy, able-bodied adults enrolled in a program originally meant for the indigent. Lawmakers should roll back the Medicaid expansion under Obamacare to cut costs in a program already saddled with poor health outcomes and low quality of care. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 90-3, on February 14, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 34-0, on February 13, 2023.

SB 240

CRONY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill appropriates tax dollars to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission for grant disbursement. Specifically, the legislation appropriates \$37.5 million in FY 2023-2024 for financial incentives to hand-picked businesses that move a new facility to the state or expand an existing facility in the state. Discretion on who receives the handouts is largely left up to the bureaucrats on the commission. Lawmakers should not engage in such flagrant cronyism

that rewards well-connected interests at the expense of hardworking Arkansan families. Spending \$37.5 million on cronyism. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 91-3, on February 28, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 35-0, on February 23, 2023.

SB 294

TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT BILL

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill implements a universal ESA program for K-12 students in Arkansas and increases minimum teacher salaries. Specifically, the legislation provides for tax dollars to follow students to a school of their parents’ or guardians’ choice—including private education—over a three-year phase-in approach. Annual funding for the universal ESA is equal to 90 percent of the per-pupil allocation. Parents will have access to roughly \$6,600 per year to use for tuition, books, and other related education expenses. While the program initially only applies to students with disabilities or

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in foster care, all K-12 students are eligible beginning in the 2025-26 school year. Arkansas is the fourth state to enact a universal ESA approach for K-12 education. Additionally, the bill increases the minimum teacher salary from \$36,000 to \$50,000. However, the universal ESA implementation more than outweighs the spending increase. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 78-21, on March 2, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 26-8, on March 7, 2023.

SB 306

FOOD STAMP ELIGIBILITY EXPANSION

(CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill increases the eligibility threshold for food stamps. Specifically, the legislation expands the asset limit for some food stamp recipients from \$2,250 to \$5,500, meaning eligible households can have considerably more cash and savings and remain enrolled in the food stamp program. The new asset threshold may only be applied to recipients once every five years. While well-intentioned as a glide path to help people wean themselves off the program, the bill sets a temporary new floor

once every five years without implementing additional work-oriented reforms to move individuals out of dependency. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 65-16, on March 30, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 24-7, on April 4, 2023.

SB 473

TEACHER PAYCHECK PROTECTION REFORM (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill prohibits unions from receiving dues from school employees. Specifically, the legislation prohibits school districts or their representatives from deducting dues from the salaries of school employees on behalf of any professional union, labor union, or political organization. Unions routinely act as political enforcers for far-left activists and causes. In difficult economic times, hardworking Arkansans deserve to keep more of their paycheck instead of having portions automatically deducted to serve political interests. The Arkansas House passed the bill, 70-17, on April 6, 2023. The Arkansas Senate passed it, 26-7, on March 30, 2023.

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