



THE CLUB FOR
GROWTH
FOUNDATION



2025

South Carolina State Legislative Scorecard

See how Members of South Carolina's 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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Methodology | South Carolina 2025

Club for Growth Foundation publishes the scorecard study so the public can monitor the actions and the voting behavior of South Carolina’s elected 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 Club’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 SOUTH CAROLINA IN 2025

The Foundation’s study examined over 875 floor votes and, in the end, included 11 South Carolina House votes and 11 South Carolina 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 #124 in the House and #46 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 2025 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 South Carolina House and South Carolina 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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46 MEMBERS

South Carolina Senate Snapshot

34 Republicans

12 Democrats

0 Vacancies

Average Republican Score: 65%

Average Democrat Score: 22%

HIGHEST-RATED REPUBLICAN

Tom Fernandez (SD-39) | 88%

LOWEST-RATED REPUBLICAN

Shane Martin (SD-13) | 36%

HIGHEST-RATED DEMOCRAT

Kent Williams (SD-30) | 44%

LOWEST-RATED DEMOCRAT

Karl Allen (SD-7) | 8%

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South Carolina 2025 | Senate Scorecard

Name	District	Party	Score	Lifetime	H3309	H3333	H4025	H4025 AMDT 17A	H4025 AMDT 36	S0062	S0062 AMDT 27	S0102	S0163	S0244	S0318	Rank
PRO-GROWTH POSITION					Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	
POINTS					10	8	12	8	10	10	8	8	6	10	10	
Adams, Brian	SD-44	R	62%	44%	10	-	-	8	-	10	8	-	6	10	10	16
Alexander, Thomas	SD-01	R	72%	41%	10	-	-	8	10	10	8	-	6	10	10	8
Allen, Karl	SD-07	D	8%	16%	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	6	X	-	46
Bennett, Sean	SD-38	R	72%	42%	10	-	-	8	10	10	8	-	6	10	10	8
Blackmon, Allen	SD-27	R	46%	46%	-	X	-	8	-	X	X	-	6	10	10	32
Campsen, George	SD-43	R	58%	44%	-	-	-	8	X	10	8	-	6	10	10	24
Cash, Richard	SD-03	R	62%	49%	-	-	-	8	10	10	8	-	6	10	10	16
Chaplin, JD	SD-29	R	70%	70%	10	-	-	8	-	10	8	8	6	10	10	14
Climer, Wes	SD-15	R	84%	55%	10	-	12	8	10	10	8	-	6	10	10	2
Corbin, Thomas	SD-05	R	46%	51%	-	-	-	8	-	10	8	-	-	10	10	32
Cromer, Ronnie	SD-18	R	54%	40%	10	-	-	-	-	10	8	-	6	10	10	27
Davis, Tom	SD-46	R	72%	41%	10	-	-	8	10	10	8	-	6	10	10	8
Devine, Tameika	SD-19	D	14%	13%	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	45
Elliott, Jason	SD-06	R	54%	35%	10	-	-	-	-	10	8	-	6	10	10	27
Fernandez, Tom	SD-39	R	88%	88%	10	-	12	8	10	10	X	X	X	X	10	1
Gambrell, Michael	SD-04	R	50%	35%	10	-	-	-	-	10	8	X	X	X	10	31
Garrett, Billy	SD-10	R	58%	39%	10	-	-	8	-	10	8	-	6	X	10	24
Goldfinch, Stephen	SD-34	R	77%	42%	10	-	X	X	X	10	8	-	6	10	10	7
Graham, Jeffrey	SD-35	D	16%	16%	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	43
Grooms, Lawrence	SD-37	R	69%	36%	10	-	-	8	10	10	8	-	6	10	X	15
Hembree, Greg	SD-28	R	56%	35%	10	-	-	-	-	10	8	X	X	10	10	26

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Name	District	Party	Score	Lifetime	H3309	H3333	H4025	H4025 AMDT 17A	H4025 AMDT 36	S0062	S0062 AMDT 27	S0102	S0163	S0244	S0318	Rank
PRO-GROWTH POSITION					Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	
POINTS					10	8	12	8	10	10	8	8	6	10	10	
Hutto, Brad	SD-40	D	20%	17%	10	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	6	-	-	40
Jackson, Darrell	SD-21	D	26%	26%	10	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	X	10	-	38
Johnson, Michael	SD-16	R	80%	49%	10	-	12	X	X	10	8	-	6	10	10	5
Kennedy, Carlisle	SD-23	R	82%	82%	10	-	X	8	10	10	8	-	6	10	10	4
Kimbrell, Josh	SD-11	R	72%	48%	10	-	-	8	10	10	8	-	6	10	10	8
Leber, Matthew	SD-41	R	62%	43%	10	-	-	8	-	10	8	-	6	10	10	16
Martin, Shane	SD-13	R	36%	35%	-	X	-	-	-	-	8	X	X	10	10	35
Massey, A. Shane	SD-25	R	54%	51%	-	-	-	8	10	10	-	-	6	10	10	27
Matthews, Margie	SD-45	D	31%	20%	10	X	12	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	-	37
Nutt, Roger	SD-12	R	62%	51%	10	-	-	8	-	10	8	-	6	10	10	16
Ott, Russell	SD-26	D	33%	15%	10	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	6	10	-	36
Peeler, Harvey	SD-14	R	62%	40%	-	-	-	8	10	10	8	-	6	10	10	16
Rankin, Luke	SD-33	R	59%	36%	10	-	X	-	X	10	-	-	6	10	10	22
Reichenbach, Mike	SD-31	R	84%	56%	10	-	12	8	10	10	8	-	6	10	10	2
Rice, Rex	SD-02	R	62%	43%	-	-	-	8	10	10	8	-	6	10	10	16
Sabb, Ronnie	SD-32	D	18%	18%	10	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	41
Stubbs, Everett	SD-17	R	78%	78%	10	-	-	8	X	10	8	8	6	10	10	6
Sutton, Ed	SD-20	D	16%	16%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	10	-	43
Tedder, Deon	SD-42	D	17%	14%	10	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	42
Turner, Ross	SD-08	R	72%	43%	10	-	-	8	10	10	8	-	6	10	10	8
Verdin, Danny	SD-09	R	54%	45%	10	-	-	X	-	X	8	-	6	10	10	27

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PRO-GROWTH POSITION					Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	
POINTS					10	8	12	8	10	10	8	8	6	10	10	
Walker, Overture	SD-22	D	21%	21%	10	-	-	-	-	-	8	X	X	-	-	39
Williams, Kent	SD-30	D	44%	24%	10	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	6	10	10	34
Young, Tom	SD-24	R	72%	42%	10	-	-	8	10	10	8	-	6	10	10	8
Zell, Jeff	SD-36	R	59%	59%	10	-	-	8	-	10	X	-	6	10	10	22

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H. 3309

RELIABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill significantly expands South Carolina’s prioritization of reliable energy. Specifically, the legislation streamlines the regulatory review process for energy projects to 6 months, authorizes a pilot program for small modular nuclear reactors pending approval by the Nuclear Advisory Council, and greenlights the conversion of a retired coal plant into a new natural gas facility. While the bill also establishes a new “economic development” research center at the University of South Carolina, overall, it maintains a strong focus on promoting a stable grid through reliable dispatchable energy sources such as nuclear and natural gas. Unreliable and costly green energy schemes threaten the integrity of the grid and drive utility costs up for hardworking families. The South Carolina House passed the bill, 88-13, on May 1, 2025. The South Carolina Senate passed it, 35-11, on May 7, 2025.

H. 3333

GOVERNMENT HOUSING TAX SCHEME

(CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill authorizes a significant government housing expansion. Specifically, the legislation expands the types of projects that can be undertaken in the redevelopment of federal military installations to include low-income government housing. The bill allows existing redevelopment authorities to direct all property tax revenue within a dedicated tax increment financing (TIF) district to government housing for households whose income does not exceed 80 percent of the area’s median income. Further, the bill extends TIF property tax obligations for these projects from 15 to 35 years. Lawmakers should refrain from policies that further entrench the government in the housing market. The South Carolina House passed the bill, 80-16, on April 9, 2025. The South Carolina Senate passed it, 42-0, on April 29, 2025.

H. 4025

BIG SPENDING BUDGET AGREEMENT

(CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill allocates \$41.6 billion in total spending for the state budget. The legislation represents a 4.8 percent increase in the year-over-year recurring base of the general fund, including a 7.8 percent increase in the Department of Social Services, a 3.6 percent increase in Medicaid spending, a 4.2 percent increase in the Department of Education, and a 67 percent increase for the State Museum Commission. Additionally, the bill incorporates \$106 million in additional spending for government employee health plans and an across-the-board 3.2 percent meritless pay raise for all teachers. While the legislation modestly lowers the individual income tax from 6.2 percent to 6 percent, the overall budget once again implements record spending for failed government welfare programs at the expense of hardworking taxpayers. The South Carolina House passed the bill, 88-25, on May 28, 2025. The South Carolina Senate passed it, 37-5, on the same day.

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H. 4025 AMDT 17A

TABLING FOOD STAMP NUTRITIONAL RESTRICTIONS

(CFGF OPPOSES)

This amendment to the budget imposes new restrictions on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), better known as food stamps. Specifically, the legislation prohibits the use of food stamps to purchase sugary drinks and candy. These reforms are a positive step in ending taxpayer subsidies for junk food, which significantly contribute to rising obesity rates and healthcare costs. This kind of common-sense reform will diminish long-term costs in both federal and state welfare programs. The South Carolina Senate rejected tabling the amendment, 16-26, on April 23, 2025. The South Carolina House did not take it up.

H. 4025 AMDT 36

INCREASED LEGISLATOR EXPENSE ACCOUNTS

(CFGF OPPOSES)

This amendment to the budget increases

spending allowances for state legislators. Specifically, the legislation increases monthly “in-district” expenses from \$1,000 to \$2,500, at an annual cost to taxpayers of \$3 million. The South Carolina Senate passed the amendment, 24-15, on April 23, 2025. The South Carolina House did not take it up.

S. 62

SIGNIFICANT SCHOOL CHOICE EXPANSION

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill significantly empowers parents and students in K-12 programs. Specifically, the legislation restores the state’s school choice program by establishing the Education Scholarship Trust Fund, which provides a per-pupil allocation of \$7,500 for tutoring, textbooks, private school tuition, and other eligible education expenses. This bill greatly increases eligibility for low-income students, erasing geographic restrictions and raising the income limit from 300 percent of the federal poverty level to 500 percent over two years, making 85 percent of K-12 students in South Carolina eligible. After a court struck down

the state’s previous school choice program, lawmakers crafted a pathway to ensure constitutional muster so that parents, not government bureaucrats, are given the tools to provide quality education for students stuck in failing school systems. The South Carolina House passed the bill, 80-32, on February 27, 2025. The South Carolina Senate passed it, 31-9, on February 4, 2025.

S. 62 AMDT 27

TABLING GOVERNMENT SCHOOL ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This amendment to the school choice bill imposes new restrictions on eligibility for the Education Scholarship Trust Fund. Specifically, the legislation requires that students have attended a government school for at least three months during the previous school year to receive access to the \$7,500 per-pupil allocation for eligible education expenses. This provision imposes an arbitrary criterion that punishes parents who move their children out of failing government schools sooner than a state senator demands.

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The South Carolina Senate tabled the amendment, 30-11, on January 29, 2025. The South Carolina House did not take it up.

S. 102

PROPERTY TAX INCREASES

(CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill authorizes significant property tax increases throughout South Carolina. Specifically, the legislation allows municipalities without a property tax millage rate or those who choose to incorporate one after January 1, 2025, to impose a tax sufficient enough to generate 33 percent of a municipality’s general fund expenses. Further, the bill provides for localities that previously repealed their millage rates to reimpose them at the new increased rate. Estimates suggest at least 15 municipalities in the state without an operating millage rate plan to implement new taxes on their citizens. While the bill requires that any new or increased taxes receive majority support from voters during a general election referendum, the legislation nevertheless greenlights mechanisms for new tax hikes throughout the state. The South Carolina

Senate passed the bill, 37-2, on May 1, 2025. The South Carolina House did not take it up.

S. 163

CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY PROHIBITION

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill implements prohibitions on a prospective central bank digital currency (CBDC). Specifically, the legislation prohibits a federally-recognized CBDC from being used as legal tender in the state of South Carolina. Further, the bill prohibits political subdivisions of the state from participating in tests of CBDCs carried out by the Federal Reserve or other branches and agencies of the federal government. This is an important protection for families, workers, and consumers, as a central digital currency would, in effect, give the federal government control over every citizen’s bank account in a massive reorganization of the relationship between citizens and government. The South Carolina Senate passed the bill, 38-1, on May 1, 2025. The South Carolina House did not take it up.

S. 244

SIGNIFICANT TORT REFORM

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill implements reforms to the state’s civil liability laws. Specifically, the legislation eliminates a loophole that allows a party with as little as 1 percent fault being forced to pay 100 percent of damages, ensures that a verdict will benefit a defendant if a plaintiff bears more than 50 percent responsibility, provides for additional defendants to be selected as a setoffs or for nonparties who may have contributed to damages to be listed on the jury verdict form, prohibits venue shopping, and preserves the ability for defendants to argue liability for non-party defendants. Tort reform is critical for lowering insurance premiums, protecting businesses from destructive lawsuits, and creating a stable legal environment that ends the cost-driving impact of unchecked lawsuit abuse. The South Carolina Senate passed the bill, 35-7, on March 26, 2025. The South Carolina House did not take it up.

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S. 318

GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY TASK FORCE

(CFGF SUPPORTS)

This resolution implements the state Delivery of Government Efficiency (DOGE) Commission to reduce wasteful spending in South Carolina. Specifically, the legislation authorizes the DOGE Commission to study and review government operations, regulations, and budget authority with recommendations for legislative action to reduce spending, eliminate duplicative programs, rollback burdensome regulations, and streamline state bureaucracy. The codification of state-level DOGE provisions is a significant step forward to protect families from profligate and harmful state programs and policies. The South Carolina Senate passed the resolution, 34-11, on May 8, 2025. The South Carolina House did not take it up.

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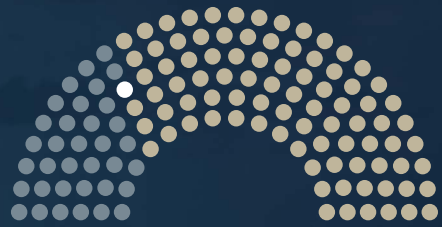
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124 MEMBERS

South Carolina House Snapshot

88 Republicans

35 Democrats

1 Vacancy

Average Republican Score: 51%

Average Democrat Score: 25%

HIGHEST-RATED REPUBLICANS

17 Republicans scored **100%**

LOWEST-RATED REPUBLICAN

Neal Collins (HD-5) | **14%**

HIGHEST-RATED DEMOCRAT

Jermaine Johnson (HD-52) | **58%**

LOWEST-RATED DEMOCRAT

Jackie Hayes (HD-55) | **11%**

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Name	District	Party	Score	Lifetime	H3021	H3309	H3333	H3645	H3927	H4025	H4025 AMDT 58A	H4025 AMDT 75A	H4025 AMDT 76A	H4216	S0062	Rank
PRO-GROWTH POSITION					Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	
POINTS					8	10	8	8	6	12	8	10	10	10	10	
Alexander, Terry	HD-059	D	48%	35%	X	10	X	-	6	X	X	-	-	10	X	27
Anderson, Carl	HD-103	D	30%	15%	8	10	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	87
Atkinson, Lucas	HD-057	D	20%	16%	8	10	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	101
Bailey, William	HD-104	R	37%	29%	8	10	X	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	50
Ballentine, Nathan	HD-071	R	35%	28%	X	10	X	-	6	-	-	-	-	X	10	60
Bamberg, Justin	HD-090	D	15%	14%	X	10	-	-	X	-	-	X	-	X	-	113
Bannister, Bruce	HD-024	R	37%	25%	8	10	X	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	50
Bauer, Heather	HD-075	D	18%	8%	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	107
Beach, Thomas	HD-010	R	100%	97%	X	10	8	8	6	12	8	10	10	10	10	1
Bernstein, Beth	HD-078	D	20%	11%	8	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	101
Bowers, Phillip	HD-003	R	36%	36%	8	X	-	8	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	59
Bradley, Jeffrey	HD-123	R	37%	28%	8	10	-	X	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	50
Brewer, Gary	HD-114	R	37%	26%	8	10	-	X	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	50
Brittain, Thomas	HD-107	R	41%	24%	8	10	X	-	6	-	-	-	X	-	10	42
Burns, James	HD-017	R	100%	69%	8	10	8	X	6	12	8	10	10	X	10	1
Bustos, Joseph	HD-112	R	41%	31%	8	10	-	X	6	-	-	-	X	-	10	42
Calhoon, Paula	HD-087	R	30%	33%	8	10	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	10	87
Caskey, Micajah	HD-089	R	39%	30%	8	10	-	-	6	X	-	-	-	-	10	47
Chapman, Donald	HD-008	R	34%	28%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	61
Chumley, William	HD-035	R	100%	75%	X	X	8	8	6	12	8	10	10	10	X	1
Clyburn, William	HD-082	D	39%	16%	8	10	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	10	-	47

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PRO-GROWTH POSITION					Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	
POINTS					8	10	8	8	6	12	8	10	10	10	10	
Cobb-Hunter, Gilda	HD-095	D	30%	17%	8	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	10	-	87
Collins, Neal	HD-005	R	14%	14%	X	10	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	114
Cox, Bobby	HD-021	R	n/a	46%	X	10	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	10	
Cox, Brandon	HD-092	R	34%	30%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	61
Crawford, Heather	HD-068	R	37%	30%	8	10	X	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	50
Cromer, April	HD-006	R	100%	99%	8	X	8	8	6	12	8	10	10	10	10	1
Davis, Sylleste	HD-100	R	34%	31%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	61
Dillard, Chandra	HD-023	D	28%	14%	8	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	92
Duncan, Adam	HD-002	R	100%	100%	8	10	8	8	6	12	8	10	10	10	10	1
Edgerton, Sarita	HD-034	R	100%	100%	8	10	8	8	6	12	8	10	10	10	10	1
Erickson, Shannon	HD-124	R	34%	24%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	61
Forrest, Cally	HD-039	R	34%	32%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	61
Frank, Stephen	HD-020	R	100%	100%	8	10	X	8	X	12	8	10	10	10	10	1
Gagnon, Craig	HD-011	R	34%	28%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	61
Garvin, Kambrell	HD-077	D	12%	11%	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	X	117
Gatch, Gil	HD-094	R	37%	18%	8	10	X	-	X	-	-	X	-	-	10	50
Gibson, Daniel	HD-012	R	49%	30%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	X	10	-	10	26
Gilliam, Leon	HD-042	R	42%	41%	8	10	-	8	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	40
Gilliard, Wendell	HD-111	D	28%	16%	8	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	92
Gilreath, Thomas Lee	HD-007	R	100%	100%	8	X	8	8	6	12	8	10	10	10	10	1
Govan, Jerry	HD-093	D	30%	25%	8	10	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	87
Grant, Hamilton	HD-079	D	20%	20%	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	10	-	101

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PRO-GROWTH POSITION					Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	
POINTS					8	10	8	8	6	12	8	10	10	10	10	
Guest, Thomas	HD-106	R	37%	25%	8	10	X	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	50
Guffey, Brandon	HD-048	R	47%	35%	8	10	-	X	6	-	-	-	X	X	10	30
Haddon, Patrick	HD-019	R	52%	59%	8	10	-	X	6	-	X	10	-	-	10	25
Hager, William	HD-122	R	27%	22%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	X	94
Hardee, Kevin	HD-105	R	33%	30%	8	X	X	-	6	-	-	-	X	-	10	81
Harris, Robert	HD-036	R	86%	93%	X	X	8	8	6	X	8	10	10	10	-	19
Hart, Christopher	HD-073	D	n/a	19%	8	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	
Hartnett, Thomas	HD-110	R	44%	30%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	10	-	10	33
Hartz, Charles	HD-081	R	34%	34%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	61
Hayes, Jackie	HD-055	D	11%	11%	X	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	120
Henderson-Myers, Rosalyn	HD-031	D	18%	13%	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	107
Herbkersman, William	HD-118	R	34%	24%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	61
Hewitt, Lee	HD-108	R	38%	26%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	X	10	49
Hiott, David	HD-004	R	41%	37%	8	10	-	X	6	-	-	X	-	-	10	42
Hixon, William	HD-083	R	53%	32%	8	10	X	X	6	-	-	X	X	-	10	24
Holman, Harriet	HD-102	R	34%	34%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	61
Hosey, Lonnie	HD-091	D	23%	11%	8	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	X	100
Howard, Leon	HD-076	D	33%	22%	8	10	X	-	-	-	X	-	-	10	-	81
Huff, William	HD-028	R	100%	100%	8	10	8	8	6	12	8	10	10	10	10	1
Johnson, Jeffrey	HD-058	R	44%	30%	8	X	X	X	6	-	-	-	X	X	10	33
Johnson, Jermaine	HD-052	D	58%	23%	8	10	-	-	-	12	8	-	10	10	-	22
Jones, Wendell	HD-025	D	33%	15%	8	-	-	-	-	12	X	-	-	10	-	81

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PRO-GROWTH POSITION					Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	
POINTS					8	10	8	8	6	12	8	10	10	10	10	
Jordan, Jay	HD-063	R	37%	33%	8	10	-	X	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	50
Kilmartin, John	HD-085	R	100%	96%	8	10	8	X	6	12	8	10	10	10	10	1
King, John	HD-049	D	48%	17%	8	X	-	-	-	12	X	X	X	10	-	27
Kirby, Roger	HD-101	D	31%	14%	8	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	10	-	84
Landing, Kathy	HD-080	R	44%	31%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	10	-	10	33
Lawson, Brian	HD-030	R	44%	31%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	10	-	10	33
Ligon, Thomas	HD-043	R	34%	26%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	61
Long, Steven	HD-037	R	34%	38%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	61
Lowe, Phillip	HD-060	R	27%	29%	8	X	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	94
Luck, Jason	HD-054	D	20%	20%	8	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	101
Magnuson, Josiah	HD-038	R	100%	97%	8	10	8	8	6	12	8	10	10	10	10	1
Martin, David	HD-026	R	24%	24%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	99
May, RJ	HD-088	R	100%	99%	8	10	8	8	6	12	8	10	10	10	10	1
McCabe, Donald	HD-096	R	100%	93%	8	X	8	8	6	X	8	10	10	X	X	1
McCravy, John	HD-013	R	91%	56%	8	10	-	X	6	12	8	10	10	10	10	18
McDaniel, Annie	HD-041	D	30%	14%	8	10	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	10	-	87
McGinnis, Timothy	HD-056	R	48%	35%	8	10	X	-	6	-	-	-	10	-	10	27
Mitchell, Cody	HD-065	R	56%	35%	8	10	-	X	6	12	-	X	-	-	10	23
Montgomery, Scott	HD-032	R	27%	27%	8	X	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	X	10	94
Moore, JA	HD-015	D	13%	11%	X	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	116
Moore, Travis	HD-033	R	41%	29%	8	10	X	-	6	-	-	X	-	-	10	42
Morgan, T. Alan	HD-018	R	100%	100%	8	10	8	X	6	12	8	10	10	10	10	1

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PRO-GROWTH POSITION					Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	
POINTS					8	10	8	8	6	12	8	10	10	10	10	
Moss, Dennis	HD-029	R	16%	25%	8	X	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	112
Murphy, Christopher	HD-098	R	n/a	17%	8	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Neese, Mike	HD-044	R	34%	24%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	61
Newton, Brandon	HD-045	R	34%	24%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	61
Newton, Weston	HD-120	R	40%	26%	8	10	X	X	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	46
Oremus, Melissa	HD-084	R	70%	63%	8	10	-	-	6	-	X	10	10	10	10	20
Pace, Jordan	HD-117	R	100%	99%	8	X	X	8	6	12	8	10	10	10	10	1
Pedalino, Fawn	HD-064	R	34%	29%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	61
Pope, Thomas	HD-047	R	27%	23%	8	X	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	94
Rankin, Luke	HD-014	R	31%	31%	X	10	-	-	6	-	X	-	-	-	10	84
Reese, Robert	HD-070	D	12%	12%	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	X	117
Rivers, Michael	HD-121	D	18%	12%	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	107
Robbins, Robby	HD-097	R	34%	25%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	61
Rose, Seth	HD-072	D	18%	12%	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	107
Rutherford, J. Todd	HD-074	D	14%	11%	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	114
Sanders, Richard	HD-009	R	34%	34%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	61
Schuessler, Carla	HD-061	R	37%	25%	8	10	X	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	50
Sessions, Heath	HD-046	R	44%	28%	8	X	X	-	6	12	-	-	-	-	10	33
Smith, G. Murrell	HD-067	R	34%	27%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	61
Smith, Marvin	HD-099	R	46%	31%	8	10	-	-	6	12	-	-	-	-	10	32
Spann-Wilder, Tiffany	HD-109	D	20%	20%	8	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	101
Stavrinakis, Leonidas	HD-119	D	18%	8%	8	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	107

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PRO-GROWTH POSITION					Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	
POINTS					8	10	8	8	6	12	8	10	10	10	10	
Taylor, Bill	HD-086	R	43%	32%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	X	X	-	10	38
Teeple, James	HD-116	R	66%	66%	8	10	-	-	6	12	-	10	10	-	10	21
Terribile, Jackie	HD-066	R	100%	100%	8	10	8	8	6	12	8	10	10	10	10	1
Vaughan, David	HD-027	R	34%	35%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	61
Waters, Courtney	HD-113	D	12%	12%	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	I	117
Weeks, J. David	HD-051	D	26%	14%	8	10	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	X	98
Wetmore, Elizabeth	HD-115	D	20%	9%	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	X	101
White, Joseph	HD-040	R	100%	98%	8	X	8	8	6	12	8	10	10	10	10	1
Whitmire, William	HD-001	R	42%	32%	8	10	-	8	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	40
Wickensimer, Paul	HD-022	R	47%	47%	8	10	-	X	6	-	-	X	X	-	10	30
Williams, Robert	HD-062	D	31%	13%	8	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	10	-	84
Willis, Mark	HD-016	R	34%	30%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	61
Wooten, Chris	HD-069	R	34%	31%	8	10	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10	61
Yow, Richard	HD-053	R	43%	38%	8	10	-	X	6	X	-	-	-	-	10	38

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H. 3021

SIGNIFICANT STATE REGULATORY REFORMS (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill gives the legislature new tools for reining in excessive state regulations. Specifically, the legislation requires the Legislature to approve any regulation with an estimated fiscal impact of \$1 million or more over five years. Further, the bill automatically sunsets all administrative regulations seven years after their enactment unless affirmatively authorized by the Legislature, and prohibits the courts from applying Chevron deference when interpreting agency rules. This approach mirrors the federal REINS Act and provides an important check on unaccountable bureaucrats attempting to impose their ideological agenda through agency edicts. The South Carolina House passed the bill, 108-0, on March 6, 2025. The South Carolina Senate did not take it up.

H. 3309

RELIABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill significantly expands South Carolina’s prioritization of reliable energy. Specifically, the legislation streamlines the regulatory review process for energy projects to 6 months, authorizes a pilot program for small modular nuclear reactors pending approval by the Nuclear Advisory Council, and greenlights the conversion of a retired coal plant into a new natural gas facility. While the bill also establishes a new “economic development” research center at the University of South Carolina, overall, it maintains a strong focus on promoting a stable grid through reliable dispatchable energy sources such as nuclear and natural gas. Unreliable and costly green energy schemes threaten the integrity of the grid and drive utility costs up for hardworking families. The South Carolina House passed the bill, 88-13, on May 1, 2025. The South Carolina Senate passed it, 35-11, on May 7, 2025.

H. 3333

GOVERNMENT HOUSING TAX SCHEME (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill authorizes a significant government housing expansion. Specifically, the legislation expands the types of projects that can be undertaken in the redevelopment of federal military installations to include low-income government housing. The bill allows existing redevelopment authorities to direct all property tax revenue within a dedicated tax increment financing (TIF) district to government housing for households whose income does not exceed 80 percent of the area’s median income. Further, the bill extends TIF property tax obligations for these projects from 15 to 35 years. Lawmakers should refrain from policies that further entrench the government in the housing market. The South Carolina House passed the bill, 80-16, on April 9, 2025. The South Carolina Senate passed it, 42-0, on April 29, 2025.

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H. 3645

EXPANDED PARENTAL LEAVE MANDATE (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill expands a paid leave benefit for state employees. Specifically, the legislation extends a taxpayer-funded paid leave program to state employees who work at agencies, commissions, boards, and higher education institutions. Further, the bill doubles the existing six weeks of paid leave for government employees who give birth to twelve weeks, and provides four weeks of paid leave for eligible employees who do not give birth. While the total cost of this program expansion is unknown, taxpayer-funded paid leave mandates are regressive. These mandates often necessitate new taxes, routinely cost far more than initial estimates, are prone to continued expansion, and compound pressures on already overburdened American workers and taxpayers. The South Carolina House passed the bill, 86-18, on April 30, 2025. The South Carolina Senate did not take it up.

H. 3927

DISMANTLING TAXPAYER-FUNDED DEI INFRASTRUCTURE (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill prohibits state agencies, K-12 elementary and secondary schools, and higher education institutions from promoting or practicing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives and programs. Specifically, the legislation prohibits these taxpayer-funded entities from operating woke DEI offices and programs that promote race essentialism, including prohibiting the expenditure of any funds from any source that advances critical theory-infused directives. Further, the bill protects students, contractors, and employees from being compelled to participate in activities or training that affirm destructive race essentialism. Hardworking families should not be compelled to fund bureaucracies that engage in explicit discrimination and espouse neo-Marxist concepts. The South Carolina House passed the bill, 82-32, on April 2, 2025. The South Carolina Senate did not take it up.

H. 4025

BIG SPENDING BUDGET AGREEMENT (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill allocates \$41.6 billion in total spending for the state budget. The legislation represents a 4.8 percent increase in the year-over-year recurring base of the general fund, including a 7.8 percent increase in the Department of Social Services, a 3.6 percent increase in Medicaid spending, a 4.2 percent increase in the Department of Education, and a 67 percent increase for the State Museum Commission. Additionally, the bill incorporates \$106 million in additional spending for government employee health plans and an across-the-board 3.2 percent meritless pay raise for all teachers. While the legislation modestly lowers the individual income tax from 6.2 percent to 6 percent, the overall budget once again implements record spending for failed government welfare programs at the expense of hardworking taxpayers. The South Carolina House passed the bill, 88-25, on May 28, 2025. The South Carolina Senate passed it, 37-5, on the same day.

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H. 4025 AMDT 58A

TABLING CRONY SLUSH FUND REPEAL

(CFGF OPPOSES)

This amendment to the budget repeals the authority for the Coordinating Council for Economic Development to transfer state appropriations to hand-selected corporate welfare projects without legislative oversight. This entity operates in an opaque manner, allowing taxpayer-funded benefits to flow to well-connected business interests with minimal accountability. The South Carolina House tabled the amendment, 90-20, on May 6, 2025. The South Carolina Senate did not take it up.

H. 4025 AMDT 75A

TABLING MASSIVE SPENDING REDUCTIONS

(CFGF OPPOSES)

This amendment to the budget requires all state subdivisions to prepare a plan for significant spending reductions. Specifically, the legislation requires each agency and political subdivision to develop and submit a plan for a 10 percent reduction in General Fund baseline spending to the Governor and the state Legislature.

Estimates suggest that such reductions would result in annual spending cuts equal to more than \$1.4 billion. The South Carolina House tabled the amendment, 87-22, on May 6, 2025. The South Carolina Senate did not take it up.

H. 4025 AMDT 76A

TABLING GOVERNMENT WORKFORCE REDUCTIONS

(CFGF OPPOSES)

This amendment to the budget requires the state to enact a reduction-in-force for selected government positions. Specifically, the legislation requires that, no later than 90 days after the budget is enacted, the Executive Budget Office must eliminate full-time employment positions that have been vacant for at least one year. For each position eliminated, the agency’s base budget is reduced by the commensurate amount and transferred into an Income Tax Relief Fund for taxpayers. The South Carolina House tabled the amendment, 80-27, on May 6, 2025. The South Carolina Senate did not take it up.

H. 4216

DESTRUCTIVE FAKE INCOME TAX REFORMS

(CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill severely undermines tax reform in South Carolina. Specifically, the legislation implements a flat income tax rate of 3.99 percent, condensed from the existing three tiers of 6.2 percent, 3 percent, and 0 percent. Additionally, the bill creates a perverse trigger for future income tax rate reductions, set at 5 percent annual year-over-year increases in tax revenue. Estimates suggest that the bill provides an overall \$216 million in tax cuts, but does so at the expense of 60 percent of South Carolina families, who face nearly \$940 million in tax hikes. A flat, significantly reduced income tax is important for economic growth, but the construction of this bill raises taxes for the majority of taxpayers, creates a trigger that necessitates bigger government, and feeds progressive tropes about “tax cuts for the rich” that undermine the important work of providing relief for hardworking families. The South Carolina House passed the bill, 64-47, on

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South Carolina 2025 | House Vote Descriptions

May 7, 2025. The South Carolina Senate passed the bill, 39-5, on February 24, 2026, and the vote will be included on the 2026 scorecard. The South Carolina Senate passed the bill, 39-5, on February 24, 2026.

S. 62

SIGNIFICANT SCHOOL CHOICE EXPANSION (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill significantly empowers parents and students in K-12 programs. Specifically, the legislation restores the state's school choice program by establishing the Education Scholarship Trust Fund, which provides a per-pupil allocation of \$7,500 for tutoring, textbooks, private school tuition, and other eligible education expenses. This bill greatly increases eligibility for low-income students, erasing geographic restrictions and raising the income limit from 300 percent of the federal poverty level to 500 percent over two years, making 85 percent of K-12 students in South Carolina eligible. After a court struck down the state's previous school choice program, lawmakers crafted a pathway to ensure

constitutional muster so that parents, not government bureaucrats, are given the tools to provide quality education for students stuck in failing school systems. The South Carolina House passed the bill, 80-32, on February 27, 2025. The South Carolina Senate passed it, 31-9, on February 4, 2025.

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

METHODOLOGY 2025 SOUTH CAROLINA

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