

Senator Lamar Alexander's Legislative Scorecard

Fifty Important Votes During His 2nd Term

2009-2013

"If I were making a scorecard for Sen. Alexander, I would start with his 'A' rating from the NRA, his 100 percent rating with National Right to Life, and his 100 percent rating with the United States Chamber of Commerce."

David Keene, founder and former chairman, American Conservative Union; former chairman, NRA

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"Each January it seems like everyone in Washington creates a scorecard picking a few votes to illustrate the records of United States senators. On some of these my score is high, such as my 'A' rating from the NRA and 100 percent ratings from National Right to Life and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. On other scorecards there is room for disagreement. So, I thought I would create a scorecard of my own to help you come to your own conclusions. Below are 50 of the most important votes during the first five years of my second term, along with the overriding principle upon which I based each vote. On my website, Alexander.Senate.Gov, you can find more information about these votes and where I stand on other issues. I hope you find this information useful."

Lamar Alexander
January 14, 2014

VOTES IN 2009

- 1. OPPOSED PASSAGE OF OBAMACARE:**
 - Principles: Limited government, Fiscal responsibility, Protecting human life
 - "[Obamacare] would make health care more expensive, create onerous new burdens for businesses, hamper economic recovery, and implement a vast array of unwarranted new taxes." – U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- 2. OPPOSED OBAMA'S \$1.2 TRILLION STIMULUS BILL:**
 - Principles: Limited government, Fiscal responsibility
 - Who agrees: American Conservative Union
- 3. OPPOSED OBAMA BUDGET, WHICH INCLUDED OBAMACARE:**
 - Principles: Limited government, Fiscal responsibility
 - Who agrees: Americans for Limited Government, Americans for Tax Reform
- 4. OPPOSED CONFIRMATION OF HHS SECRETARY KATHLEEN SEBELIUS:**
 - Principles: Limited government, Protecting human life
 - "The selection of an extreme pro-abortionist ... is tragic" – National Right to Life
- 5. OPPOSED USING TAXPAYER FUNDS FOR ABORTION OVERSEAS:**
 - Opposed overturning the "Mexico City Policy" and allowing federal funds to be used to promote abortion overseas
 - Principle: Protecting human life
 - "[T]axpayer funds should not be used to pay for abortions or advocate or actively promote abortion, either here or abroad." – President George W. Bush
- 6. OPPOSED TRANSFER OF TERRORISTS TO U.S. PRISONS:**
 - Supported prohibiting the transfer of Guantanamo Bay detainees to U.S. prisons
 - Principle: National security
 - Moving prisoners would make U.S. prisons "ground zero for Jihadist terrorist plots, recruitment, and radicalization." – U.S. Senator Mark Kirk (R-Ill.)
- 7. OPPOSED RAIDING MEDICARE:**
 - Opposed raiding Medicare to pay for new entitlement programs
 - Principle: Fiscal responsibility
 - "The deepest spending cuts in [Obamacare] are in Medicare." – Douglas Holtz-Eakin, former director of the Congressional Budget Office (2003-2005)

8. SUPPORTED CONSCIENCE PROTECTION:

- Supported legislation preventing the federal government from forcing health care providers to sell contraceptives and violate their conscience and religious beliefs
- Principles: First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, Limited government
- Who agrees: National Right to Life

9. OPPOSED "FAIRNESS DOCTRINE":

- Supported ban on FCC's "Fairness Doctrine" that would have limited free speech
- Principle: First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution
- "I guess the idea is that, if you can't compete in the world of ideas, you pass a law that forces radio stations to air your views." – Fred Thompson (R-Tenn.), former U.S. Senator (1994-2002)

10. OPPOSED USING TAXPAYER FUNDS FOR ABORTION:

- Principle: Protecting human life
- Who agrees: National Right to Life & U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

11. SUPPORTED CONFIRMATION OF SONIA SOTOMAYOR:

- Principle: Separation of Powers
- Sotomayor has had "a distinguished record on the bench and she should be entitled to fair hearings." – President George H.W. Bush

VOTES IN 2010

12. OPPOSED OBAMACARE:

- Opposed Budget Reconciliation that included Obamacare
- Principles: Limited government, Fiscal responsibility
- "Instead of upholding the will of the American people, you have instead chosen to abuse Senate rules to achieve the radical, ideological goal of taking over the nation's health care system." – William Wilson, president, Americans for Limited Government

13. SUPPORTED NEW START TREATY:

- Supported the New Start treaty to allow the U.S. to monitor Russian nuclear activity and modernize and reduce our nation's nuclear weapons stockpile
- Principle: National security
- Former GOP Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger, George Shultz, James Baker, Lawrence Eagleburger and Colin Powell: Ratification "is clearly in our national interest" and New Start would provide "a valuable window into Russia's nuclear arsenal...[because our] military planners increasingly lack the best possible insight into Russia's activity."

14. SUPPORTED IRAN SANCTIONS:

- Principle: National security
- Who agrees: AIPAC, United Against Nuclear Iran

15. SUPPORTED DISASTER RELIEF FOR TENNESSEE:

- Voted for federal disaster assistance to help Tennessee recover from a 1,000-year flood
- Principle: Equal opportunity
- "...there's no question that federal aid is needed in the wake of this devastating flood." – Governor Bill Haslam of Tennessee

16. OPPOSED CONFIRMATION OF ELENA KAGAN:

- Principle: Rule of law
- "Ms. Kagan's career up to this point shows a willingness to bend the law and the facts to advance her own beliefs. And I fear this trend will continue in an activist tenure on the Supreme Court." – U.S. Senator John Cornyn (R-Texas)

17. SUPPORTED REPEAL OF OBAMACARE "1099" PROVISION:

- Supported repeal of the "1099" Obamacare provision requiring businesses to report every transaction of \$600 or more to the IRS
- Principles: Limited government, Free enterprise
- "[This] new requirement would add to an already extensive federal paperwork burden on small businesses." – National Federation of Independent Business

18. OPPOSED EXPANSION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEE UNIONS:

- Opposed giving collective bargaining rights to public safety officers
- Principle: States' rights (Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution)
- Who agrees: National Right to Work Committee, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Tennessee Municipal League

19. OPPOSED DODD-FRANK FINANCIAL REGULATION LAW:

- Principles: Limited government, Free enterprise
- “[Dodd-Frank] would fail to fix effectively the outdated, broken financial regulatory system, would unnecessarily affect companies that had nothing to do with the financial crisis ...” – U.S. Chamber of Commerce

VOTES IN 2011

20. SUPPORTED REP. PAUL RYAN'S BUDGET:

- Principles: Fiscal responsibility, Limited government
- “Paul Ryan has put forward a bill that reduces \$6 trillion of Obama’s overspending during the next 10 years.” – Grover Norquist, president, Americans for Tax Reform

21. SUPPORTED BUDGET CONTROL ACT:

- Supported the Budget Control Act to reduce federal spending and put discretionary spending on a controlled path over 10 years
- Principles: Fiscal responsibility, Limited government
- “[The] Budget Control Act ... reins in spending and does not raise taxes on Americans and American businesses.” – Al Cardenas, chairman, American Conservative Union

22. SUPPORTED CLEAN AIR FOR TENNESSEE:

- Supported regulations to prevent air pollution from crossing state lines
- Principles: States’ rights (Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution), Protecting human life
- Who agrees: National Parks Conservation Association & American Lung Association

23. OPPOSED EPA REGULATION OF GREENHOUSE GASES:

- Opposed efforts by the EPA to regulate greenhouse gases without Congressional approval
- Principle: Separation of powers
- “America could end up with a regulatory regime more costly and intrusive than any climate bill or treaty the Senate has declined to pass or ratify, yet without people’s representatives ever voting on it.” – Competitive Enterprise Institute

24. SUPPORTED BALANCED BUDGET CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT:

- Principles: Fiscal responsibility, Limited government
- “ACU has long supported [a balanced budget] amendment of this kind ... and the lack of one has led to unrestrained growth in federal spending and a growth in the national debt that threatens the economic security of our country.” – David Keene, former chairman, American Conservative Union (1984-2011)

25. SUPPORTED KOREA, PANAMA, AND COLOMBIA FREE TRADE TREATIES:

- Principle: Free trade
- Who agrees: U.S. Chamber of Commerce

26. OPPOSED FUNDING FOR “FAST AND FURIOUS”:

- Supported prohibiting funding for Operation Fast and Furious “gunwalking” programs that resulted in misplaced weapons used in crimes
- Principle: National security
- Who agrees: National Rifle Association

VOTES IN 2012

27. SUPPORTED LOWER TAXES FOR 99 PERCENT OF AMERICANS:

- Supported the American Taxpayer Relief Act to make lower tax rates permanent for 99 percent of Americans
- Principle: Limited government
- Who agrees: Americans for Tax Reform & U.S. Chamber of Commerce

28. OPPOSED EXPANSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS:

- Voted against raiding Social Security to pay for extending unemployment benefits and the payroll tax holiday
- Principle: Fiscal responsibility
- “We just added \$100 billion [to the debt] ... on a payroll tax holiday that economists will tell you is not going to have any influence on the creation of jobs or helping our economy.” – Charles Krauthammer, conservative Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist

29. OPPOSED EPA REGULATIONS ON BOILERS:

- Supported giving industrial, commercial and institutional boiler operators more time to comply with EPA regulations
- Principles: Limited government, Free enterprise
- Who agrees: National Association of Manufacturers

30. OPPOSED WIND SUBSIDIES:

- Sponsored amendment to end the wind production tax credit and prevent wind projects from receiving multiple federal subsidies for the same project
- Principle: Limited government
- Who Agrees: American Conservative Union

31. OPPOSED LIMITATIONS ON FREE SPEECH IN CAMPAIGNS:

- Opposed efforts to limit campaign donations from individuals and businesses
- Principle: First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution
- “This legislation is a threat to First Amendment rights of businesses across the country.” – U.S. Chamber of Commerce

32. SUPPORTED FEDERAL HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS:

- Principles: Economic growth, Free enterprise
- “Transportation infrastructure is a core government responsibility.” – U.S. Chamber of Commerce

33. SUPPORTED PROHIBITION ON CONGRESSIONAL INSIDER TRADING:

- Supported prohibiting members of Congress and staff from using information from official duties for personal benefit (STOCK Act)
- Principle: Rule of law
- Who agrees: U.S. Senator Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) & Tennessee House Delegation

34. SUPPORTED PERSONAL OWNERSHIP OF MAILBOXES:

- Supported effort to end the monopoly of the U.S. Postal service on personal mailboxes
- Principles: Limited government, Individual liberty
- “[This] would grant individual owners of mailboxes the right to make decisions about their mailboxes.” – U.S. Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.)

35. OPPOSED UN TREATY ON DISABILITIES:

- Opposed ratification of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities
- Principle: National sovereignty
- “This treaty is unnecessary to sign. The U.S. is the world leader in protecting the rights of those with disabilities.” – Home School Legal Defense Association

VOTES IN 2013

36. SUPPORTED PERMANENT REPEAL OF DEATH TAX:

- Principles: Individual liberty, Free enterprise
- Who agrees: Americans for Tax Reform, American Conservative Union, Farm Bureau

37. SUPPORTED MARKETPLACE FAIRNESS ACT:

- Principle: States’ rights (Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution)
- “I don’t think Congress should be in the business of picking winners and losers. Inaction by Congress today results in a system today that does pick winners and losers.” – Governor Mike Pence of Indiana

38. SUPPORTED WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT:

- Supported improving national waterway transportation system and Tennessee waterways
- Principle: Economic growth
- Who agrees: Farm Bureau, National Association of Manufacturers, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

39. SUPPORTED IMMIGRATION REFORM:

- Principles: Rule of law, E Pluribus Unum
- Who agrees: Tennessee Farm Bureau
- “Let me be clear about the choices we face. They are: A continuation of our current unacceptable executive fiat or a bipartisan solution which may be imperfect but at the very least significantly improves the status quo.” – Al Cardenas, chairman, American Conservative Union

- 40. SUPPORTED MAKING STUDENT LOANS CHEAPER, SIMPLER AND MORE CERTAIN:**
- Supported student loan agreement to help students and limit taxpayer subsidies
 - Principle: Equal opportunity
 - “I am glad to support a permanent solution ... that prevents student loan interest rates from doubling.” – Rep. Phil Roe (R-Tenn.)
- 41. OPPOSED DEMOCRAT RULES CHANGE ON NOMINATIONS:**
- Opposed efforts to change the rules of the Senate on confirmations
 - Principle: Rule of Law
 - “This was a disgraceful violation of more than two centuries of precedent. If a bare majority can change the fundamental rules that govern an institution, then there are no rules.” – Charles Krauthammer, conservative Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist
- 42. SUPPORTED FARM BILL:**
- Principle: Economic growth
 - “[The] farm bill will eliminate direct payments to farmers while strengthening needed risk-management tools and a viable economic as well as natural resource safety net.” – Lacy Upchurch, president, Tennessee Farm Bureau
- 43. OPPOSED UN SMALL ARMS TRADE TREATY:**
- Principles: National sovereignty, Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution
 - Who agrees: National Rifle Association & John Bolton, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations (2005-2006)
- 44. SUPPORTED COBURN AMENDMENT TO CONSOLIDATE DUPLICATIVE FEDERAL PROGRAMS:**
- Supported Senator Coburn’s amendment to consolidate more than 1,000 duplicative and overlapping federal programs
 - Principle: Fiscal responsibility, Limited government
 - Who agrees: Citizens Against Government Waste
- 45. OPPOSED GUN BACKGROUND CHECKS:**
- Opposed the Manchin-Toomey-Schumer gun background check amendment that could have resulted in a national gun registry
 - Principle: Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution
 - Who agrees: National Rifle Association, Gun Owners of America, National Shooting Sports Federation
- 46. SUPPORTED DENYING FUNDS FOR OBAMACARE:**
- Supported Senator Cruz’s amendment prohibiting federal funding for Obamacare
 - Principles: Limited Government, Fiscal responsibility
 - Who agrees: American Conservative Union
- 47. SUPPORTED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT:**
- Principles: Rule of law, Individual liberty
 - Who agrees: Law Enforcement Officers, Tennessee District Attorneys
- 48. SUPPORTED CONSTRUCTION OF KEYSTONE XL PIPELINE:**
- Principles: Economic growth, National security
 - “Congress must seize the reins and approve the Keystone Pipeline.” – Grover Norquist, president, Americans for Tax Reform
- 49. SUPPORTED PHOTO ID FOR ELECTIONS:**
- Supported requiring valid photo ID for voting in federal elections
 - Principle: Rule of Law
 - Who agrees: American Conservative Union
- 50. SUPPORTED INCREASING SAFETY OF COMPOUNDED DRUGS:**
- Led effort to make compounded drugs safer for all Americans by clarifying federal oversight of compounding pharmacies
 - Principle: Protecting human life
 - “[E]fforts to bolster oversight of compounding pharmacies ...are vital to protecting Americans.” – U.S. Chamber of Commerce