



## Freedom Principle MO Releases 2023 Legislative Scorecard – Encourages Voters to Use Guide as a Resource to Engage Legislators and Get Connected and Involved in Legislative Process

For Immediate Release

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The Freedom Principle MO is proud to release its 2023 Legislative Scorecard. The Legislative Scorecard serves as a report card for the legislator’s actions on Freedom Principle MO member-approved legislative priorities and the Missouri Republican Platform. “The purpose of this scorecard is to bring greater transparency and citizen engagement into the legislative process,” said Byron Keelin, President of the Freedom Principle MO.

The scorecard is comprised of 25 votes on bills voted on by the House of Representatives and 20 bills voted on by the Senate. The bills reflect Truly Agreed to and Passed (TAP), bills that were sent to the governor for signature, Perfected bills, and key House and/or Senate Amendments. The votes for each legislator were determined by a point system. This point system reflects a weighted system for the types of bills. Votes on the budget appropriations bills were given a lesser score because the legislators are required by the Constitution to vote on the budget and therefore cannot prevent them from coming up for a final vote. For votes against the Freedom Principle MO position, members were subtracted one point, and for absences, members were awarded one point.

The scorecard includes votes on many of the Freedom Principle MO key legislative priorities. Many of these bills focused on crime, initiative petition reform, banning rank-choice voting, personal property tax reform, and votes on key appropriations bills.

Missouri’s 2024 budget is \$50 billion and is the largest budget in Missouri’s history, a \$4.2 billion increase from last year’s budget. “We are probably the only organization that scores the budget appropriations bills as part of their scorecard,” said Keelin. “Many of the legislator’s scores were significantly impacted because they voted for the bloated budget. We want legislators to start listening to the voters and not the special interests and understand we are serious about fiscal responsibility and cutting government spending, not expanding it.”

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The Freedom Principle MO encourages voters to use this guide as a resource to engage their legislators and to get connected and involved in the legislative process. “As Thomas Jefferson said, ‘A well-informed citizenry is the best defense against tyranny’,” said Keelin.

“We appreciate the support of all the legislators who voted for our legislative priorities,” said Keelin. “We want legislators and voters to know that while some legislators may have not voted with the Freedom Principle MO on some of the bills, it does not reflect they are against our priorities, but may have voted against or for a specific bill because of other reasons.”

The Freedom Principle MO was very active in the 2023 legislative session. The Freedom Principle MO monitored more than 265 bills in the 2023 legislative session, conducted monthly legislative days in Jefferson City and testified on more than 50 bills, and issued more than 30 Legislative Action Alerts. Voters can visit the Freedom Principle MO website at <https://www.freedomprinciplemo.org/2023-legislative-scorecard> to see how legislators voted on each bill.

The Freedom Principle MO is a pro-citizen, pro-Missouri First organization. We are a membership-based 501(c)4 organization, acting locally and state-wide, to protect our families and our constitutionally protected liberties. We are fighting for America. We are fighting for Missouri. We are fighting for you. For more information about the Freedom Principle MO visit our website at [www.freedomprinciplemo.org](http://www.freedomprinciplemo.org).

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