



Congressional Scorecard

U.S. Senate

American Federation
of State, County
and Municipal
Employees



How to Judge a Member's Voting Record

AFSCME selects a few roll-call votes from the hundreds cast by members of Congress every session. In choosing these votes, AFSCME attempts to fairly represent a lawmaker's position on issues determined to be important to AFSCME members — first and foremost as workers, but also as citizens and union brothers and sisters.

This voting scorecard is one of the key factors used in making judgments on AFSCME campaign support, endorsements, or contributions from PEOPLE — AFSCME's Political Action Committee or PAC. Other important factors often include the member's official leadership position, chairmanship or seniority on important committees, leadership in a state's congressional delegation, and accessibility and responsiveness to AFSCME's lobbying efforts.

Please visit AFSCME's website at www.afscme.org to obtain AFSCME Action Alerts, weekly reports, letters to congressional members, and votes. Questions concerning the selection of the votes or other aspects of a member's record are welcome. Write to AFSCME Legislation Department, 1625 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC, 20036-5687, or call 800.732.8120.

Senate Vote Descriptions

1. Upholding Civil Rights And Labor Lawsuits

AFSCME Position: Yes

The Senate rejected an amendment by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA) to the class action lawsuit bill (S. 5) that would have protected the ability of employees to bring complaints against their employers in state courts for violations of employment laws on issues such as appropriate hours worked, exemptions from pay laws, overtime pay eligibility and back pay. This amendment would have changed a provision in the class action bill that would have shifted many of such cases from state to federal courts that offer less protections for employers. Senate Vote 6.

AFSCME supported the amendment, which the Senate rejected by a vote of 59-40 on February 9, 2005. (A three-fifths majority or 60 votes is needed to end a filibuster.)

2. Providing Livable Wages

AFSCME Position: Yes

The Senate rejected an amendment by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA) to the bankruptcy reform bill (S. 256) that would have raised the minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25 an hour over a period of 26 months. This would have been the first increase in seven years. Senate Vote 26.

AFSCME supported the amendment, which the Senate rejected by a vote of 49-46 on March 7, 2005.

3. Preventing Cuts In Medicaid

AFSCME Position: Yes

The Senate adopted an amendment by Sen. Gordon Smith (R-OR) to the Fiscal 2006 Budget Resolution (S. Con. Res. 18) that would strike \$14 billion in Medicaid cuts which would hurt elderly, disabled and low-income Americans. The amendment also provided for the creation of a 23-member Bipartisan Medicaid Commission to study Medicaid before any cuts could occur. Senate Vote 58.

AFSCME supported the amendment, which the Senate adopted by a vote of 52-48 on March 17, 2005.

4. Reversing Drastic Education Funding Cuts

AFSCME Position: Yes

The Senate adopted an amendment by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA) to the Fiscal 2006 Budget Resolution (S. Con. Res. 18) that would have restored drastic education program cuts that would harm our nation's students and paid for the cuts by decreasing the Bush tax cuts by \$5.4 billion. Senate Vote 68.

AFSCME supported the amendment, which the Senate adopted by a vote of 51-49 on March 17, 2005.

5. Imposing Deep Cuts To Services For Working Families

AFSCME Position: No

The Senate approved a five-year budget plan (H. Con. Res. 95) that would slash funding for domestic services for lower- and middle-income workers while providing more than \$70 billion in tax cuts that go primarily to the wealthy. Senate Vote 114.

AFSCME opposed the budget plan, which the Senate adopted by a vote of 52-47 on April 28, 2005.

6. Providing Crucial Funding For First Responders

AFSCME Position: Yes

The Senate rejected a procedural motion by Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-HI) to the Fiscal 2006 Homeland Security spending bill (H.R. 2360) that would have added \$487 million for state and local government first-responder grant programs. Senate Vote 178.

AFSCME supported the motion, which the Senate rejected by a vote of 55-42 on July 13, 2005. (A three-fifths majority or 60 votes was needed to waive the Budget Act.)

7. Slashing Medicare And Medicaid Programs

AFSCME Position: No

The Senate approved the omnibus budget bill (S. 1932) that would slash funding for Medicare and Medicaid programs to help pay for tax cuts for upper-income individuals. Medicare, which provides health care to seniors, was cut by \$4.26 billion and Medicaid, which provides health care for low-income Americans and nursing home care for seniors, was cut by \$5.78 billion. Senate Vote 303.

AFSCME opposed the legislation, which the Senate approved by a vote of 52-47 on November 3, 2005.

8. Rewarding Upper-Income Individuals With Tax Cuts

AFSCME Position: No

The Senate approved a tax bill (S. 2020) that would extend a series of tax cuts primarily aimed at the wealthy that would have expired between 2005 and 2010. These tax cuts to the wealthy come at the expense of working families, seniors and lower-income Americans and threaten the jobs of thousands of AFSCME members. Senate Vote 347.

AFSCME opposed the legislation, which the Senate approved by a vote of 64-33 on November 18, 2005.

Senate Voting Record 2005

Vote Number	Workers Rights		Livable Wages		Preventing Medicaid Cuts		Reversing Education Cuts		Federal Services Cuts		Funding First Responders		Medicare and Medicaid Cuts		Tax Breaks for the Wealthy		Session support (percent)	Career Cumulative Record			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		Right	Wrong	Percent Right	
AFSCME Position	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N													
Alabama																					
Sessions, J. (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	4	71	5	
Shelby (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	48	123	28	
Alaska																					
Murkowski (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	5	19	21	
Stevens (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	62	218	22	
Arizona																					
Kyl (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	0	84	0	
McCain (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	29	140	17	
Arkansas																					
Lincoln (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	88	47	10	82	
Pryor (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	88	22	2	92	
California																					
Boxer (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	107	2	98	
Feinstein (D)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	75	97	17	85	
Colorado																					
Allard (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	1	73	1	
Salazar, K. (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	88	7	1	88	
Connecticut																					
Dodd (D)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	88	204	26	89	
Lieberman (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	138	29	83	
Delaware																					
Biden (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	233	42	85	
Carper (D)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	75	38	6	86	
Florida																					
Martinez (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	0	8	0	
Nelson, Bill (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	88	40	4	91	
Georgia																					
Chambliss (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	1	23	4	
Isakson (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	0	0	8	0	

Key: ✓ voted with AFSCME's position; X voted against AFSCME's position; ? did not vote.

Senate Voting Record 2005

Vote Number	Workers Rights		Livable Wages		Preventing Medicaid Cuts		Reversing Education Cuts		Federal Services Cuts		Funding First Responders		Medicare and Medicaid Cuts		Tax Breaks for the Wealthy		Session support (percent)	Career Cumulative Record			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		Right	Wrong	Percent Right	
AFSCME Position	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N													
Hawaii																					
Akaka (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	138	3	98	
Inouye (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	247	20	93	
Idaho																					
Craig (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	13	5	134	4	
Crapo (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	1	54	2	
Illinois																					
Durbin (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	73	2	97	
Obama (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	8	0	100	
Indiana																					
Bayh (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	52	5	91	
Lugar (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	30	232	11	
Iowa																					
Grassley (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	24	211	10	
Harkin (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	176	14	93	
Kansas																					
Brownback (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	1	74	1	
Roberts (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	1	74	1	
Kentucky																					
Bunning (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	4	53	7	
McConnell (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	17	187	8	
Louisiana																					
Landrieu (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✗	✗									71	60	14	81	
Vitter (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	0	8	0	
Maine																					
Collins (R)	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗									38	19	56	25	
Snowe (R)	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗									38	31	62	33	
Maryland																					
Mikulski (D)	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓									100	174	7	96	
Sarbanes (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									100	263	4	99	

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		Right	Wrong	Percent Right	
AFSCME Position	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N													
Massachusetts																					
Kennedy, E. (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	266	12	96	
Kerry (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	182	13	93	
Michigan																					
Levin, C. (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	232	16	94	
Stabenow (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	88	43	1	98	
Minnesota																					
Coleman (R)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	50	6	18	25	
Dayton (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	88	43	1	98	
Mississippi																					
Cochran (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	30	215	12	
Lott (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	?	✗	?	✗	?	✗	?	✗	?	?	?	0	8	155	5	
Missouri																					
Bond (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	28	156	15	
Talent (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	3	21	13	
Montana																					
Baucus, M. (D)	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	86	192	52	79	
Burns (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	17	141	11	
Nebraska																					
Hagel (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	4	69	5	
Nelson, Ben (D)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	63	28	16	64	
Nevada																					
Ensign (R)	✗	?	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	1	41	2	
Reid, H. (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	166	18	90	
New Hampshire																					
Gregg (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	5	108	4	
Sununu (R)	?	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	0	23	0	
New Jersey																					
Corzine (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	100	42	0	100	
Lautenberg (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	24	0	100	

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	AFSCME Position	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N		N	Right	Wrong
New Mexico												
Bingaman (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	195	18	92
Domenici (R)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	13	48	232	17
New York												
Clinton (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	88	42	1	98
Schumer (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	88	54	3	95
North Carolina												
Burr (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	13	1	7	13
Dole (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	3	20	13
North Dakota												
Conrad (D)	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	86	159	26	86
Dorgan (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	102	8	93
Ohio												
DeWine (R)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	63	14	79	15
Voinovich (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	25	9	47	16
Oklahoma												
Coburn (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	0	8	0
Inhofe (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	2	91	2
Oregon												
Smith, G. (R)	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	13	13	61	18
Wyden (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	73	3	89
Pennsylvania												
Santorum (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	2	91	2
Specter (R)	✗	?	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	29	119	100	54
Rhode Island												
Chafee (R)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	75	27	24	53
Reed, J. (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	73	1	99
South Carolina												
DeMint (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	0	8	0
Graham (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	1	23	4

Key: ✓ voted with AFSCME's position; ✗ voted against AFSCME's position; ? did not vote.

Senate Voting Record 2005

Vote Number	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Workers Rights</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Livable Wages</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Preventing Medicaid Cuts</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Reversing Education Cuts</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Federal Services Cuts</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Funding First Responders</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Medicare and Medicaid Cuts</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Tax Breaks for the Wealthy</div> </div>								Session support (percent)	Career Cumulative Record			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		Right	Wrong	Percent Right	
AFSCME Position	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N					
South Dakota													
Johnson, Tim (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	88	68	4	94
Thune (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	0	8	0
Tennessee													
Alexander, L. (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	1	23	4
Frist (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	4	91	4
Texas													
Cornyn (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	1	23	4
Hutchison (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	8	101	7
Utah													
Bennett (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	7	107	6
Hatch (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	29	232	11
Vermont													
Jeffords (I)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	102	60	63
Leahy (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	253	25	91
Virginia													
Allen, G. (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	2	42	5
Warner (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	39	199	16
Washington													
Cantwell (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	88	41	3	93
Murray (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	103	8	93
West Virginia													
Byrd (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	251	42	86
Rockefeller (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	185	15	93
Wisconsin													
Feingold (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100	105	9	92
Kohl (D)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	88	143	26	85
Wyoming													
Enzi (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	2	72	3
Thomas, C. (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0	3	92	3

Key: ✓ voted with AFSCME's position; ✗ voted against AFSCME's position; ? did not vote.