



Congressional Scorecard

114th Congress First Session • 2015

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, seniority on important committees, leadership in a state's congressional delegation, and accessibility and responsiveness to AFSCME's lobbying efforts.

Visit AFSCME's website at afscme.org to obtain AFSCME 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 Department of Federal Government Affairs, 1625 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036-5687, or call 800-732-8120 or 202-429-5021.



American Federation of State, County
and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

2015 Senate Vote Descriptions

1. Prohibiting Case-by-Case Delays in Deportation

AFSCME Position: No

The bill (S. 534) would prohibit the Obama administration from exercising enforcement discretion to allow certain non-U.S. citizens to remain in the U.S. for at least three years, on a case-by-case basis. In addition, work permits could be granted for this period. The administration has sought to halt deportations of the parents of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents. The motion to restrict the Obama administration required a supermajority of 60 votes. The motion was rejected on February 27 by a vote of 57-42.

2. Nullifying Helpful Labor Rule

AFSCME Position: No

The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) issued a regulation to help reduce delays in private-sector union elections and make them more transparent. Senate Joint Resolution 8 would nullify the NLRB regulation. The resolution was passed on March 4 by a vote of 53-46. Roll Call vote 67.

3. Closing Corporate Tax Loopholes, Investing in Public Infrastructure

AFSCME Position: Yes

This proposed amendment to the Budget Resolution (S. Amdt. 323 to S. Con. Res. 11) would close corporate tax loopholes and invest the savings in job-creating infrastructure improvements. The amendment was rejected on March 24 by a vote of 45-52. Roll Call vote 78.

4. Increasing Taxes on Millionaires, Making College More Affordable

AFSCME Position: Yes

This proposed amendment to the Budget Resolution (S. Amdt. 652 to S. Con. Res. 11) would increase taxes on millionaires and use the funds to reduce the interest rate on student loans. The amendment would make college more affordable for many middle- and low-income families. The amendment was rejected on March 25 by a vote of 46-53. Roll Call vote 86.

5. Amendment to Protect Medicare from Budget Cuts

AFSCME Position: Yes

This proposed amendment to the Budget Resolution (S. Amdt. 601 to S. Con. Res. 11) would prevent harmful changes to Medicare, including increases in out-of-pocket costs for seniors and a loss of guaranteed benefits. The amendment was rejected on March 25 by a vote of 46-53. Roll Call vote 90.

6. Federal Budget Cuts

AFSCME Position: No

The fiscal year 2016 Budget Resolution (S. Con. Res. 11) lays out budget priorities of the Senate Republican leadership. The proposal would eliminate the Affordable Care Act (ACA), slash funding to states for Medicaid, cut funding for Medicare and reduce spending for food stamps. This proposal would shrink federal investments in public health, education, transportation, law enforcement and other programs to the smallest percentages of federal spending on record. The resolution was approved on March 27 by a vote of 52-46. Roll Call vote 135.

7. Trade Promotion Authority or Fast Track

AFSCME Position: No

Trade Promotion Authority or Fast Track (H.R. 1314) provides that the Trans-Pacific Partnership and other trade agreements be considered under special “fast track” procedures, which prohibit Congress from amending a trade agreement. The bill passed on May 22 by a vote of 62-37. Roll Call vote 193.

8. Funding for Public Services

AFSCME Position: Yes

This compromise spending bill (H.R. 2029) provides federal funding for a range of public services carried out by state and local governments, as well as the federal government. The bill provides modest increases in funding for a number of programs including health, education, transportation and law enforcement. The package also includes a renewal of the James Zadroga 911 Health and Compensation Act and delays the implementation of the 40 percent tax on workers’ health benefits. The bill was passed on December 18 by a vote of 65-33. Roll Call vote 339.

2015 Votes



	Prohibiting Case-by-Case Delays in Deportation	Nullifying Helpful Labor Rule	Closing Corporate Tax Loopholes, Investing in Public Infrastructure	Increasing Taxes on Millionaires, Making College More Affordable	Amendment to Protect Medicare from Budget Cuts	Federal Budget Cuts	Trade Promotion Authority or Fast Track	Funding for Public Services	Session Support Percent	Career Cumulative Record		
Vote Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		Right	Wrong	% Right
AFSCME Position	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y				

Alabama

Sessions, J. (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	13%	5	145	3%
Shelby (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	13%	53	194	21%

Alaska

Murkowski (R)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	25%	28	73	27%
Sullivan (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	0	8	0%

Arizona

Flake (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	10	111	8%
McCain (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	34	200	15%

Arkansas

Boozman (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	4	107	4%
Cotton (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	0	25	0%

California

Boxer (D)	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	100%	181	2	99%
Feinstein (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✗	✓	86%	172	19	90%

Colorado

Bennet (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%	51	3	94%
Gardner (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	13%	2	35	5%

Connecticut

Blumenthal (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	35	0	100%
Murphy, C. (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	70	1	99%

Delaware

Carper (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%	184	41	82%
Coons (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%	37	1	97%

Florida

Nelson (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%	158	52	75%
Rubio (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	?	0%	2	31	6%

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

2015 Votes



	Prohibiting Case-by-Case Delays in Deportation	Nullifying Helpful Labor Rule	Closing Corporate Tax Loopholes, Investing in Public Infrastructure	Increasing Taxes on Millionaires, Making College More Affordable	Amendment to Protect Medicare from Budget Cuts	Federal Budget Cuts	Trade Promotion Authority or Fast Track	Funding for Public Services					
Vote Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Session Support Percent	Career Cumulative Record			
AFSCME Position	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y		Right	Wrong	% Right	
Georgia													
Isakson (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	13%	5	125	4%	
Perdue (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	13%	1	7	13%	
Hawaii													
Hirono (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	71	0	100%	
Schatz (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	19	0	100%	
Idaho													
Crapo (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	6	179	3%	
Risch (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	0	53	0%	
Illinois													
Durbin (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	298	12	96%	
Kirk (R)	✗	✗	?	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	14%	23	89	21%	
Indiana													
Coats (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	13%	19	186	9%	
Donnelly (D)	✗	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	86%	61	8	88%	
Iowa													
Ernst (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	0	8	0%	
Grassley (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	36	330	10%	
Kansas													
Moran, Jerry (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	15	132	10%	
Roberts (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	13%	10	210	5%	
Kentucky													
McConnell (R)	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	25%	21	261	7%	
Paul (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	25%	5	30	14%	
Louisiana													
Cassidy (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	0	8	0%	
Vitter (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	3	82	4%	

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Vote Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		Right	Wrong	% Right
AFSCME Position	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y				

Maine

Collins, S. (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	38%	59	97	38%
King, A. (I)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	20	1	95%

Maryland

Cardin (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%	255	11	96%
Mikulski (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	100%	325	13	96%

Massachusetts

Markey (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	88%	340	11	97%
Warren (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	22	0	100%

Michigan

Peters, G. (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	56	3	95%
Stabenow (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	150	2	99%

Minnesota

Franken (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	47	0	100%
Klobuchar (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	70	0	100%

Mississippi

Cochran (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	13%	47	327	13%
Wicker (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	13%	8	171	4%

Missouri

Blunt (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	13%	5	140	3%
McCaskill (D)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	63%	63	4	94%

Montana

Daines (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	1	24	4%
Tester (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	88%	66	4	94%

Nebraska

Fischer (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	1	21	5%
Sasse (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	0	8	0%

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AFSCME Position	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y				

Nevada

Heller (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	25%	16	52	24%
Reid, H. (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	258	26	91%

New Hampshire

Ayotte (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	13%	6	28	18%
Shaheen (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%	53	1	98%

New Jersey

Booker (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	17	0	100%
Menendez (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	192	3	98%

New Mexico

Heinrich (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	53	0	100%
Udall (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	135	0	100%

New York

Gillibrand (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	70	0	100%
Schumer (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	293	10	97%

North Carolina

Burr (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	11	165	6%
Tillis (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	13%	1	7	13%

North Dakota

Heitkamp (D)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	75%	20	2	91%
Hoeven (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	13%	5	30	14%

Ohio

Brown, S. (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	189	5	97%
Portman (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	6	138	4%

Oklahoma

Lankford (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	13%	2	67	3%
Inhofe (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	13%	12	244	5%

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AFSCME Position	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y				

Oregon

Merkley (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	88%	53	1	98%
Wyden (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	75%	300	23	93%

Pennsylvania

Casey (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	69	0	100%
Toomey (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	3	79	4%

Rhode Island

Reed, J. (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	237	4	98%
Whitehouse (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	70	0	100%

South Carolina

Graham, L. (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	13%	7	93	7%
Scott, T. (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	0	35	0%

South Dakota

Rounds (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	13%	1	7	13%
Thune (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	6	126	5%

Tennessee

Alexander (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	13%	11	91	11%
Corker (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	13%	10	60	14%

Texas

Cornyn (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	13%	3	97	3%
Cruz (R)	✗	✗	?	?	?	✓	✗	✗	20%	1	17	6%

Utah

Hatch (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	13%	38	301	11%
Lee, M. (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	13%	2	33	6%

Vermont

Leahy (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	330	25	93%
Sanders (I)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	88%	224	6	97%

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

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Vote Number	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		Right	Wrong	% Right
AFSCME Position	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y				

Virginia

Kaine (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	75%	20	2	91%
Warner (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	75%	48	3	94%

Washington

Cantwell (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%	131	10	93%
Murray (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	88%	179	9	95%

West Virginia

Manchin (D)	✗	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	71%	34	3	92%
Capito (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	13%	26	93	22%

Wisconsin

Baldwin (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	132	0	100%
Johnson, R. (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	13%	1	34	3%

Wyoming

Barrasso (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	13%	2	63	3%
Enzi (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	?	✗	0%	3	147	2%