

112th Congress Second Session • 2012

How to Judge a Member's Voting Record

Congressional Scorecard



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.



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

Visit AFSCME's website at afcme.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.

2012 Senate Vote Descriptions

1. Fair Share Tax Rates AFSCME Position: YES

The “Paying a Fair Share Act of 2012,” (S. 2230) would implement the so-called “Buffett Rule”—a common sense proposition that the effective federal income tax rate for people who make more than \$1 million should be at least 30 percent in a first step towards restoring fairness to the tax code. The measure was rejected on April 16 by a vote of 51-45, as 60 votes were needed to move the legislation forward: (R: 1-44; D: 49-1; I: 1-0). Roll Call vote 65.

2. NLRB Election Rules AFSCME Position: NO

In 2011, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) implemented new democratic union election rules that limit the ability of private sector employers to unfairly delay elections, especially through frivolous and duplicative litigation that forced workers to wait months, or even years, before being allowed to vote on joining a union. Sen. Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.) introduced a resolution to prevent the NLRB from implementing the new fair union election rules. The motion was rejected on April 24 by a vote of 45-54 (R: 45-1; D: 0-51; I: 0-2). Roll Call vote 68.



3. Senate Vote on Ryan Budget AFSCME Position: NO

The U.S. Senate voted on the Ryan budget resolution, H.Con.Res. 112, that would cap federal spending and make major cuts in Medicare, Medicaid and other vital programs, while cutting tax rates for the richest Americans and Wall Street. The resolution was rejected by the Senate on May 16 by a vote of 41-58 (R: 41-5; D: 0-51; I: 0-2). Roll Call vote 98.

4. RAISE Act AFSCME Position: NO

Under the guise of “strengthening” collective bargaining rights, Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) offered an amendment to the

Farm Bill that would give employers the right to circumvent provisions on wage increases in collective bargaining agreements. The RAISE Act would do nothing to link pay or benefit increases to individual achievement, despite claims by proponents. Instead, the RAISE Act would eliminate current protections against favoritism, cronyism, and arbitrary action by employers. The amendment was defeated on June 21 by vote of 45-54: (R: 45-1; D: 0-51; I: 0-2). Roll Call vote 163.

5. Middle Class Tax Cuts AFSCME Position: YES

S. 3412 would extend tax cuts on income under \$250,000 for joint filers (\$200,000 for individuals) or about 98 percent of taxpayers as well as 97 percent of small business owners. It would end the Bush tax breaks for the richest 2 percent and save the federal

government nearly \$1 trillion over the next 10 years; provide much-needed revenue that could be invested in jobs, infrastructure improvements, education, and protecting programs like Medicare and Medicaid. The middle class tax cut was passed on July 25 by a vote of 51-48: (R: 0-46; D: 50-1; I: 1-1). Roll Call vote 184.

6. Super Storm Sandy Aid AFSCME Position: YES

Passage of the bill (H.R. 1) would provide \$60.4 billion in emergency spending for communities hit by Hurricane Sandy. The bill passed on Dec. 28 by a vote of 62-32. (R:12-32; D:48-0; I:2-0). Roll Call vote 248.



Senate Voting Record 2012

Vote Number	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Fair Share Tax Rates</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">NLRB Election Rules</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Senate Vote on Ryan Budget</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">RAISE Act</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Middle Class Tax Cuts</div> <div style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Super Storm Sandy Aid</div> </div>						Session Support (percent)	Career Cumulative Record		
	AFSCME Position	Right	Wrong	% Right						

Alabama

Shelby (R)	X	X	X	X	X	✓	17%	50	176	22%
Sessions, J. (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	0%	4	125	3%

Alaska

Murkowski (R)	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	50%	17	62	22%
Begich (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	32	0	100%

Arizona

McCain (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	0%	30	184	14%
Kyl (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	0%	0	141	0%

Arkansas

Pryor (D)	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	83%	72	8	90%
Boozman (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	0%	0	13	0%

California

Feinstein (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	152	18	89%
Boxer (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	100%	161	2	99%

Colorado

Udall, M. (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	107	4	96%
Bennet (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	30	2	94%

Connecticut

Lieberman (I)	?	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	80%	187	34	85%
Blumenthal (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	13	0	100%

Delaware

Carper (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	91	8	92%
Coons (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	16	0	100%

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

Senate Voting Record 2012

Vote Number	Issue						Session Support (percent)	Career Cumulative Record		
	1	2	3	4	5	6		Right	Wrong	% Right
AFSCME Position	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y				

Florida

Nelson (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	92	7	93%
Rubio (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	0	13	0%

Georgia

Chambliss (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	3	76	4%
Isakson (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	1	61	2%

Hawaii

Inouye (D) — deceased —	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	n/a	100%	301	20	94%
Akaka (D)	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	192	4	98%
Schatz (D) — 12/27/12 —	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	✓	100%	1	0	100%

Idaho

Crapo (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	1	110	1%
Risch (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	?	0%	0	31	0%

Illinois

Durbin (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	129	2	98%
Kirk (R)	?	?	?	?	?	?	0%	17	74	19%

Indiana

Lugar (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	17%	38	280	12%
Coats (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	0	13	0%

Iowa

Grassley (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	30	261	10%
Harkin (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	232	14	94%

Senate Voting Record 2012

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	1	2	3	4	5	6		Right	Wrong	% Right
AFSCME Position	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y				

Kansas

Roberts (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	0%	4	126	3%
Moran, Jerry (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	0%	14	112	11%

Kentucky

McConnell (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	0%	19	241	7%
Paul (R)	X	X	✓	X	X	X	17%	3	10	23%

Louisiana

Landrieu (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	113	17	87%
Vitter (R)	X	X	X	X	X	✓	17%	1	62	2%

Maine

Snowe (R)	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	33%	57	94	38%
Collins (R)	✓	X	✓	X	X	✓	50%	46	88	34%

Maryland

Mikulski (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	230	7	97%
Cardin (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	48	0	100%

Massachusetts

Kerry (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	238	13	95%
Brown, Scott (R)	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	33%	4	19	17%

Michigan

Levin, C. (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	288	16	95%
Stabenow (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	99	1	99%

Minnesota

Klobuchar (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	48	0	100%
Franken (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	25	0	100%

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AFSCME Position	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y				

Mississippi

Cochran (R)	X	X	X	X	X	✓	17%	34	267	11%
Wicker (R)	X	X	X	X	X	✓	17%	2	39	5%

Missouri

McCaskill (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	46	1	98%
Blunt (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	0%	4	119	3%

Montana

Baucus (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	244	55	82%
Tester (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	45	3	94%

Nebraska

Nelson, Ben (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	68	32	68%
Johanns (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	0%	1	28	3%

Nevada

Reid, H. (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	222	18	93%
Heller (R)	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	33%	8	38	17%

New Hampshire

Shaheen (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	32	0	100%
Ayotte (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	0%	0	13	0%

New Jersey

Lautenberg (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	100%	70	0	100%
Menendez (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	56	0	100%

New Mexico

Bingaman (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	251	18	93%
Udall, T. (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	113	0	100%

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	AFSCME Position	Right	Wrong	% Right						

New York

Schumer (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	108	3	97%
Gillibrand (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	48	0	100%

North Carolina

Burr (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	1	62	2%
Hagan (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	31	1	97%

North Dakota

Conrad (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	213	28	88%
Hoeven (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	17%	1	12	8%

Ohio

Brown, Sherrod (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	48	0	100%
Portman (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	0	13	0%

Oklahoma

Inhofe (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	2	144	1%
Coburn (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	0	62	0%

Oregon

Wyden (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	128	10	93%
Merkley (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	32	0	100%

Pennsylvania

Casey (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	48	0	100%
Toomey (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	0	13	0%

Rhode Island

Reed, J. (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	129	1	99%
Whitehouse (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	48	0	100%

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AFSCME Position	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y				

South Carolina

Graham (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	0%	4	75	5%
DeMint (R)	X	X	X	X	X	?	0%	1	62	2%

South Dakota

Johnson, Tim (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	115	7	94%
Thune (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	0%	2	62	3%

Tennessee

Alexander, L. (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	0%	7	73	9%
Corker (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	0%	3	45	6%

Texas

Hutchison (R)	X	X	X	X	X	✓	17%	14	149	9%
Cornyn (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	0%	1	78	1%

Utah

Hatch (R)	?	X	X	X	X	X	0%	33	283	10%
Lee, M. (R)	X	X	X	X	X	X	0%	1	12	8%

Vermont

Leahy (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	308	25	92%
Sanders (I)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	47	0	100%

Virginia

Webb (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	83%	45	23	66%
Warner (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	100%	28	1	97%

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	AFSCME Position	Right	Wrong	% Right						
Washington										
Murray (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	159	8	95%
Cantwell (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	95	5	95%
West Virginia										
Rockefeller (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	236	15	94%
Manchin (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	15	1	94%
Wisconsin										
Kohl (D)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	199	26	88%
Johnson, R. (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	0	13	0%
Wyoming										
Enzi (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	3	126	2%
Barrasso (R)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	0%	1	43	2%

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