



HOW TO USE THE TAXPAYERS LEAGUE SCORECARD

This scorecard reports key votes lawmakers cast on taxes and spending. A “+” vote denotes a pro-taxpayer position. The rating reflects the percentage of pro-taxpayer votes cast. Also reported is the cumulative score for each state legislator for years 1997-2004.

The Taxpayers League of Minnesota is a nonpartisan nonprofit grassroots taxpayer advocacy organization representing thousands of Minnesotans. It fights for lower taxes, limited government and the full empowerment of taxpaying citizens in accordance with Constitutional principles. Nothing in this scorecard implies endorsement of any candidate for public office.

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- MN House Switchboard: (651) 296-2146
- Toll Free: (800) 657-3550
- MN Senate Switchboard: (651) 296-0504
- Governor’s Office (651) 296-3391
- U.S. House of Reps Switchboard (202) 225-3121
- U.S. Senate Switchboard (202) 224-3121

PLEASE JOIN US IN FIGHTING FOR LOWER TAXES

If you’re tired of Minnesota’s high taxes and big government – and you want to join the fight to change it – the Taxpayers League would like your help. To support our cause, we suggest a gift of \$25 or more be sent to:

TAXPAYERS LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA
 One Carlson Parkway, Ste. 120
 Plymouth, MN 55447
 (763) 249-5950
 Fax: (763) 249-5960
 Visit our website at:
www.taxpayersleague.org



OUR MISSION

Michael Wigley
Chairman, Taxpayers League

"The Taxpayers League's mission is to represent Minnesotans who believe in limited government, low taxation, local control, free enterprise and the Constitutional principles set forth by our nation's founders.

The Taxpayers League is fighting to reduce and reform taxation, eliminate government waste and improve efficiency. It serves as a strong voice for all taxpaying citizens in Minnesota."

THE 2004 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



Linda Runbeck
Vice-President

Taxpayers won again at the Capitol in 2004. No new taxes and precious little new spending resulted. But many needed reforms were left on the table too, leaving much work to be done. Our best hope is a "Taxpayers Bill of Rights" which would constitutionally limit government growth to inflation-plus-population.

POSITIONED TO INFLUENCE

The Taxpayers League has become the leading voice for conservatives in Minnesota—because of support from people like you! Each year, our message gets heard by more and more people, and it has made a real difference in tax and spending policies. Now our plan for "Making Minnesota Work" will bring dynamic government reforms to the table.



David Strom
President

The Taxpayers League of Minnesota
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TAXPAYERS
LEAGUE
of Minnesota

2004 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

*A Guide to
Minnesota Lawmakers'
Votes on Taxes
and Spending*

United States Congress Scorecard - 108th Congress 2003-04



U.S. Senator	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Score
Norm Coleman (R)	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	81%
Mark Dayton (D)	+	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	27%



U.S. Senate Votes

- Ban Internet Taxes (Roll Call 77)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to ban taxation of the internet.
- Repatriate Foreign Earnings (Roll Call 91)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to support this proposal to temporarily lower the corporate tax rate on foreign profits, which is estimated to bring \$400 billion in capital and investment back into the U.S. - creating up to 660,000 jobs.
- Reduce Spending & Cut the Deficit (Roll Call Vote 58)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to support the 2005 budget resolution which enacts limits on discretionary spending and provides \$82 billion in tax relief.
- Reject Costly Climate Change Act (Roll Call 420)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject the McCain-Lieberman "Climate Stewardship Act" which would put strict greenhouse effect controls on American industry, severely crippling our economy.
- Don't Ban Outsourcing (Roll Call 32)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject this proposal to ban overseas outsourcing by the federal government, a move which would raise costs for government and taxpayers.
- Reject Pork-Barrel Spending (Roll Call 3)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject the \$820 billion omnibus budget bill which includes everything from \$50 million for an indoor rain forest in Iowa to \$100,000 for an International Storytelling Center in Tennessee.
- Promote Free Trade/Reject Drug Reimportation (Roll Call 156)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to support a free trade agreement which bans the reimportation of drugs (and foreign price controls) back into the U.S.
- Protect Overtime Benefits for Low-Wage Workers (Roll Call 79)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject this attempt to deny an extension of overtime pay to 1.3 million low-wage workers.
- Class Action Reform (Roll Call 154)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to overhaul class action litigation rules which benefit trial lawyers at the expense of consumers.
- Welfare to Work (Roll Call 65)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to extend the welfare-to-work program which helps people get off welfare and into steady-paying jobs.
- Control Health Care Costs (Roll Call 66)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to help control health care costs by reducing frivolous lawsuits against health care providers.

U.S. Representative	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Score
Gil Gutknecht (R-1st)	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	91%
Mark Kennedy (R-6th)	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	91%
John Kline (R-2nd)	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	91%
Jim Ramstad (R-3rd)	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	82%
Collin Peterson (D-7th)	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	55%
Betty McCollum (D-4th)	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9%
James Oberstar (D-8th)	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9%
Martin Sabo (D-5th)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0%

U.S. House of Representatives Votes

- Repatriate Foreign Earnings (Roll Call 259)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to support this proposal to temporarily lower the corporate tax rate on foreign profits, which is estimated to bring \$400 billion in capital and investment back into the U.S. - creating up to 660,000 jobs.
- Eliminate Marriage Penalty (Roll Call 138)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to permanently eliminate the marriage tax penalty on working families.
- Control Spending (Part 1) (Roll Call 315)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to support the Family Budget Protection Act, which caps growth in entitlement and discretionary spending and ensures that savings from spending cuts are used for deficit reduction and tax cuts - not transferred to other programs.
- Reject Pork-Barrel Budget Bill (Roll Call 676 - Dec. 8, 2003)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject the \$820 billion omnibus budget bill which includes everything from \$50 million for an indoor rain forest in Iowa to \$100,000 for an International Storytelling Center in Tennessee.
- Cap Regulatory Costs (Roll Call 188)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to place a limit on the amount of regulatory costs federal agencies can impose on the private sector.
- Improve Health Care Access (Roll Call 130)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to enable individuals to make tax-free contributions to health savings accounts, increasing consumer choice and improving access to health care.
- Promote Free Trade/Reject Drug Reimportation (Roll Call 375)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to support a free trade agreement with Australia which bans the reimportation of drugs (and foreign price controls) back into the U.S.
- Lower Health Care Costs (Roll Call 166)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to help control health care costs by reducing frivolous lawsuits against health care providers.
- No Fast Food Lawsuits (Roll Call 54)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to support this legislation which makes individual eating habits a personal responsibility - not the fault of the fast-food industry.
- Control Spending (Part 2) (Roll Call 318)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to support the Spending Control Act which imposes a cap on federal government spending.
- Enhance Our Energy Security (Roll Call 239)** The taxpayer friendly vote was to enhance our energy security by increasing domestic oil supply through drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

+ = Taxpayer Friendly Vote

- = Taxpayer Unfriendly Vote

* = Not Voting

VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

MINNESOTA STATE SENATE (SJ=Senate Journal Page #)

- NO NEW TAXES.** (SJ 3804) The taxpayer friendly vote was to oppose this plan to increase taxes by \$108 million, including a \$56 million tax increase on "foreign-operating corporations" (FOCs) (passed 35-32)
- CONFIRM COMMISSIONER YECKE.** (SJ 4920) The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject Washington-style politics and confirm Cheri-Pierson Yecke as Education Commissioner (failed 31-35)
- ABOLISH THE STATE LOTTERY.** (SJ 3914) The taxpayer friendly vote was to abolish the state lottery, enhancing government accountability (failed 19-44)
- REJECT BAN ON OVERSEAS OUTSOURCING.** (SJ 3090) The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject a ban on overseas outsourcing by the state government, which would have raised costs for government and taxpayers (passed 42-19)
- PROMOTE SCHOOL CHOICE.** (SJ 4268) The taxpayer friendly vote was to allow parents to use education tax credits for tuition expenses, allowing their kids to attend the school of their choice (failed 32-34)
- DON'T INCREASE BUSINESS COSTS.** (SJ 4274) The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject reducing the tax deduction for motor vehicle depreciation (failed 14-52)
- STREAMLINE ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT PROCESS.** (SJ 4626) The taxpayer friendly vote was to streamline the environmental permit process to allow a high-tech iron-ore processing facility to be built in Northern Minnesota (passed 62-0)
- PRESERVE MINNESOTA JOBS.** (SJ 3926) The taxpayer-friendly vote was to reject increasing the minimum wage, which would destroy jobs (passed 36-30)
- NO MORE DEBT.** (SJ 4454) The taxpayer-friendly vote was to reject the Senate DFL bonding bill which would have saddled taxpayers with nearly \$1 billion in new debt (failed 39-28)
- NO PUBLIC FUNDS FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES.** (SJ 4462) The taxpayer-friendly vote was to prohibit school districts from using taxpayer dollars to campaign in favor of levy referendums (failed 29-36)
- GIVE SUPERINTENDENTS POWER TO ASSIGN TEACHERS.** (SJ 4461) The taxpayer-friendly vote was to support providing superintendents, not the Unions, the authority to assign teachers (failed 32-34)
- DON'T INCREASE SUBSIDIES FOR CITIES.** (SJ 4268) The taxpayer-friendly vote was to reject increasing state aid to cities (failed 16-50)

MINNESOTA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HJ=House Journal Page #)

- NO NEW TAXES.** (HJ 7034) The taxpayer friendly vote was to oppose this plan to increase taxes on "foreign-operating corporations" (FOCs) (failed 54-76)
- REFORM THE TAX CODE.** (HJ 7042) The taxpayer friendly vote was to support this bill which includes several important reforms including tax-free health savings accounts and a single-factor sales tax for business (passed 107-25)
- DON'T EXTEND LOCAL SALES TAX AUTHORITY.** (HJ 7040) The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject this proposal to give cities increased authority to impose local sales taxes (failed 34-97)
- NO NORTHSTAR.** (HJ 7117) The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject state funding for the boondoggle Northstar Commuter Rail project (failed 55-78)
- STOP UNFUNDED MANDATES ON LOCAL GOV'TS.** (HJ 6562) The taxpayer friendly vote was to allow local governments to opt out of unfunded state mandates (passed 93-36)
- PRESERVE MINNESOTA JOBS.** (HJ 6603) The taxpayer-friendly vote was to reject increasing the minimum wage, which would destroy jobs (failed 55-71)
- PROMOTE INNOVATIVE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS.** (HJ 6453) The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject a ban on toll projects such as FAST Lanes, which gives motorists the option of paying a fee to avoid traffic (failed 55-77)
- STREAMLINE ENVIRONMENTAL PERMIT PROCESS.** (HJ 7554) The taxpayer friendly vote was to streamline the environmental permit process to allow a high-tech iron-ore processing facility to be built in Northern Minnesota, (passed 128-3)
- REJECT HEALTH CARE RATIONING.** (HJ 7098) The taxpayer-friendly vote was to reject this proposal for a rationed health care plan for state-sponsored health care (failed 79-49; two-thirds vote required)
- HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS.** (HJ 6403) The taxpayer-friendly vote was to increase consumer choice in health care by giving state employees the option to use health savings accounts (failed 53-76)
- DON'T BAN PHOSPHOROUS.** (HJ 6756) The taxpayer friendly vote was to reject a statewide ban on phosphorous fertilizer for lawns (passed 88-40)
- KILL THE PROPANE COUNCIL.** (HJ 7556) The taxpayer friendly vote was to oppose making the Propane Council a permanent gov't program (passed 109-23)

BONUS POINTS (HOUSE & SENATE) (5 points each)

SIGNED TAXPAYER PROTECTION PLEDGE (PLEDGE 1): "I, _____, pledge to the taxpayers of the ____ district of the state of Minnesota, and to the people of this state that I will oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes."

SIGNED TAXPAYERS BILL OF RIGHTS (TABOR) PLEDGE (PLEDGE 2): "I pledge to the People of Minnesota to support and promote an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution that limits Government Spending Increases"

Legend: "+"= pro-taxpayer vote "-"= anti-taxpayer vote "*"= not voting

STATE SENATE

Name	Party/ District													PLEDGE 1	PLEDGE 2	RATING		
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			2004	97-'04	
Ellen Anderson	D66	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	9		
Michele Bachmann	R52	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	✓	✓	100	96
Thomas Bakk	D6	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	25	20
Bill Belanger Jr.	R40	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	83	72
Linda Berglin	D61	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	7
Don Betzold	D51	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	22
Salveer Chaudhary	D50	-	-	*	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	23
Richard Cohen	D64	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	14
Dick Day	R26	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	83	82
Scott Dibble	D60	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	15
Steve Dille	R18	+	+	*	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55	60
Michelle Fischbach	R14	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	75	80
Leo Foley	D47	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	12
Dennis Fredrickson	R21	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	83	66
David Gaither	R43	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	✓	✓	97	98
David Hann	R42	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	✓	✓	100	100
Linda Higgins	D58	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	8
John Hottinger	D23	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	8
Dean Johnson	D13	-	-	-	-	*	*	+	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	11	34
Debbie Johnson	R49	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	92	90
Mike Jungbauer	R48	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	✓	✓	100	95
Steve Kelley	D44	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	13
Bob Kierlin	R31	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	*	+	-	-	✓	✓	78	72
Sheila Kiscaden	IP30	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67	59
Dave Kleis	R15	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	✓	✓	85	79
David Knutson	R37	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	✓	✓	97	82
Paul Koering	R12	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	✓	✓	77	79
Gary Kubly	D20	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	31
Keith Langseth	D9	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	14
Cal Larson	R10	+	+	-	-	*	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	80	76
Brian LeClair	R56	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	✓	✓	100	100
Warren Limmer	R32	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	✓	✓	100	94
Becky Lourey	D8	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	9
Sharon Marko	D57	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	*	*	-	-	-	-	30	31
John Marty	D54	-	-	+	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	19
Mike McGinn	R38	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	✓	✓	97	94
James Metzen	D39	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	19
Geoff Michel	R41	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	✓	✓	97	98
Mee Moua	D67	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	14
Steve Murphy	D28	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	11
Thomas Neuville	R25	+	+	-	*	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	✓	✓	87	79
Sean Nienow	R17	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	✓	✓	88	81
Gen Olson	R33	+	+	*	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	✓	✓	100	86
Julianne Ortman	R34	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	✓	✓	97	94
Mark Ourada	R19	+	+	-	+	+	+	*	+	+	+	+	+	-	✓	✓	78	74
Sandra Pappas	D65	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	7
Pat Pariseau	R36	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	✓	✓	97	88
Lary Pogemiller	D59	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	6
Jane Ranum	D63	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	9
Mady Reiter	R53	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	✓	✓	100	94
Ann Rest	D45	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	17	24
Claire Robling	R35	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	83	80
Julie Rosen	R24	+	+	-	*	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	82	78
Carrie Ruud	R4	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	83	79
Dallas Sams	D11	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	30	24
Tom Saxhaug	D3	-	*	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	22
Linda Scheid	D46	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	14
Dave Senjem	R29	+	+	-	*	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	73	78
Rod Skoe	D2	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	28
Wes Skoglund	D62	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	17
Yvonne Solon	D7	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	23
Dan Sparks	D27	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	29
LeRoy Stumpf	D1	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	14
David Tomassori	D5	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	18
Jim Vickerman	D22	-	-	*	-	-	-	+	+	*	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	25	20
Betsy Wergin	R16	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	75	75
Charles Wiger	D55	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	32

