



Liberty Brief

No. 004

July 2011

Key Liberty Votes 2011

by Charles Curley

Introduction

Welcome to the 2011 Key Liberty Votes. The purpose of Key Liberty Votes is to capture a snapshot of a Wyoming legislative session by compiling votes on specific bills relating to issues of individual freedom and responsibility. In the tables contained in this brief, the right hand column is the legislator's total pro-liberty votes. Six is the highest possible count. The average tally is at the bottom of this column.

This year, the House has more agreement with Key Liberty Votes. This supports the observation made during this session that the House is more liberty-oriented than the Senate. This may be because in 2010 the entire House was up for election, but only half of the Senate.

We remind legislators and their constituents that a call for a roll call vote is a call for transparency and accountability.

This vote summary is not intended as a replacement for the Wyoming Liberty Index (<http://www.wyominglibertyindex.info/>). The Liberty Index is currently being compiled for the 2011 general session and will cover all final votes in each house. The methodologies are different; the Index allows for finer granulation of the impact of a bill on liberty. Further, this summary may note votes on amendments or procedural votes, whereas the Index is silent on these.

All 2011 bill information is available at
<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2011/billindex/BillCrossRef.aspx?type=ALL>

Charles Curley lives in Thermopolis, trading on his 30 years of experience as a software engineer. He has been involved in politics for many years, including the successful campaign to repeal FDR's gold prohibition. He is widely read in history and philosophy, and brings that to bear in a principled approach to politics.

The Bills

All votes are third reading. A vote on third reading is usually the last vote on a bill in a given house; a favorable vote sends it to the other house or the governor. This year, the same bills are considered for both houses.

Health Care Freedom (SJ 2)

This is a resolution to send to the voters a Constitutional amendment forbidding the state and federal governments from interfering in individuals' medical decisions; the "Health Care Freedom Amendment." It will be on the ballot in the November 2012 general election.

An **Aye** vote is a vote for liberty. House passed 49-11; Senate passed 23-7.

Concealed Weapons (SF 47)

This bill permits people to carry a concealed "deadly weapon" (firearm) without a permit if they meet certain qualifications (minimum age, no physical infirmity, etc.). The qualifications are the same as those for acquiring a concealed carry permit except for the training requirement.

It is now quite clear that the right to keep and bear arms is a constitutionally protected individual right.

An **Aye** vote is a vote for liberty. House passed 49-9; Senate passed 20-10.

Film Industry Financial Incentives Program (SF 41)

This bill extends "incentives" for the film industry. These incentives pay some of the expenses of a film company for working in Wyoming. So, we tax Wyoming Peter to pay California Paul. The program is an example of giving tax money to favored industries, with the legislature presuming it is wiser than the marketplace. In other words, this is corporate welfare.

This program nicely illustrates that "pro business" is not necessarily the same as "pro free market." It is also an example of how sunset clauses just keep being extended in Wyoming.

A **Nay** vote is a vote for liberty. House passed 45-12; Senate passed 17-13.

Wyoming Traditional Food Act (HB 8)

This bill exempts food prepared for a traditional event or activity (as defined by this act) from the licensure and oversight provisions of the Wyoming Food, Drug and Cosmetic Safety Act or any other similar provision of the law. This puts an end to some bureaucratic over-reach.

An **Aye** vote is a vote for liberty. House passed 58-0; Senate passed 23-6.

Health Care Pilot Project Amendments (SF 139)

This bill attempts to expand government run health programs under the "Healthy Frontiers" program. It expands Medicaid entitlements to citizens by raising the qualifying income eligibility level up to 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, and consequently will increase Wyoming's Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirements. MOE requirements are federal conditions that Wyoming maintain a certain level of expenditures for Medicaid. The bill or related amendments must be considered again in the 2012 Budget Session because the program will need additional funding.

Historically, the costs of medical and welfare entitlement programs have almost always expanded far beyond their proponents' original estimates. The proper solution to bloated and unaffordable medical costs is to reduce government involvement in health care by transitioning Medicaid enrollees into low-cost private health insurance enabled by Interstate Insurance Compacts and supplemented with a voucher system.

A **Nay** vote is a vote for liberty. House passed 37-22; Senate passed 29-1.

Public Meetings (HB 120)

This bill amends the existing open meeting statute to set time limits for meeting notices and clarifies the procedure for closing a meeting. It also provides that if a closed meeting involves business other than that for which the meeting was closed, a judge may open that portion of the recording for copying and public review. This is a vote for transparency, accountability and openness.

An **Aye** vote is a vote for liberty. House passed 58-2; Senate failed 14-16.

Wyoming House 2011

Health Care Freedom (SJ 2) Concealed Weapons (SF 47) Film Industry Financial Incentives Program (SF 41) Wyoming Traditional Food Act (HB 8) Health Care Pilot Project Amendments (SF 139) Public Meetings (HB 120)

<u>Representative</u>	Aye for Liberty	Aye for Liberty	Nay for Liberty	Aye for Liberty	Nay for Liberty	Aye for Liberty	Total Votes for Liberty
Joseph Barbuto	N	N	N	A	A	A	3
Rosie Berger	A	N	A	A	A	A	3
Stan Blake	N	A	A	A	A	A	3
Gregg Blikre	A	A	A	A	A	A	4
Dave Bonner	A	A	A	A	A	A	4
Jonathan Botten	A	A	A	A	N	A	5
Bob Brechtel	A	A	N	A	N	A	6
Kermit Brown	A	A	A	A	A	A	4
Edward Buchanan	A	A	E	A	N	A	5
Donald Burkhart, Jr	A	A	A	A	A	A	4
James Byrd	N	N	A	A	A	N	1
Rita Campbell	A	A	A	A	A	A	4
Richard Cannady	A	A	A	A	A	A	4
Pat Childers	A	A	A	A	A	A	4
Cathy Connolly	N	N	A	A	A	A	2
Bernadine Craft	N	N	A	A	A	A	2
Kathy Davison	A	A	A	A	N	A	5
Amy Edmonds	A	A	N	A	N	A	6
John Eklund	A	A	A	A	N	A	5
Ken Esquibel	N	A	A	A	A	A	3
John Freeman	N	A	A	A	A	A	3
Gerald Gay	A	E	N	A	N	A	5
Keith Gingery	A	A	A	A	A	A	4
W. Patrick Goggles	N	A	A	E	A	A	2
Mike Greear	A	A	A	A	N	A	5
Matthias Greene	N	A	A	A	A	A	3
Steve Harshman	A	A	A	A	N	A	5
Elaine Harvey	A	A	A	A	A	A	4
Hans Hunt	A	A	A	E	A	A	3
Peter S. "Pete" Illoway	A	A	A	A	A	A	4
Allen Jaggi	A	A	N	A	N	A	6
Norine Kasperik	A	A	A	A	A	A	4
Kendell Kroeker	A	A	N	A	N	A	6
Samuel Krone	A	A	A	A	A	A	4
Thomas Lockhart	A	A	E	A	A	A	4
Bunky Loucks	A	A	N	A	A	A	5

Wyoming House 2011 (con't)

Health Care Freedom (SJ 2) Concealed Weapons (SF 47) Film Industry Financial Incentives Program (SF 41) Wyoming Traditional Food Act (HB 8) Health Care Pilot Project Amendments (SF 139) Public Meetings (HB 120)

<u>Representative</u>	Aye for Liberty	Aye for Liberty	Nay for Liberty	Aye for Liberty	Nay for Liberty	Aye for Liberty	Total Votes for Liberty
Thomas Lubnau	A	A	A	A	A	A	4
Michael Madden	A	A	A	A	N	A	5
Robert McKim	A	A	A	A	N	A	5
Del McOmie	A	A	A	A	A	A	4
David Miller	A	A	N	A	N	A	6
Glenn Moniz	A	A	A	A	A	A	4
Bob Nicholas	A	A	A	A	A	A	4
John Patton	A	N	A	A	A	A	3
Frank Peasley	A	A	N	A	N	N	5
Bryan Pedersen	A	E	A	A	E	A	3
Owen Petersen	A	A	A	A	A	A	4
Ruth Petroff	N	A	A	A	A	A	3
Lorraine Quarberg	A	A	A	A	N	A	5
Jim Roscoe	A	N	A	A	A	A	3
Mark Semlek	A	A	N	A	N	A	6
Lisa Shepperson	A	A	E	A	N	A	5
William "Jeb" Steward	A	A	A	A	N	A	5
Tim Stubson	A	A	N	A	A	A	5
Matt Teeters	A	A	N	A	N	A	6
Mary Throne	N	N	A	A	A	A	2
Clarence Vranish	A	A	A	A	A	A	4
Sue Wallis	A	A	A	A	N	A	5
Dan Zwonitzer	A	A	A	A	A	A	4
David Zwonitzer	A	N	A	A	N	A	4

Average 4.1

Ayes	49	49	45	58	37	58
Nays	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	60	58	57	58	59	60

Legend:

Red is a vote for Liberty	Blue is a vote against Liberty	A: Aye; N: Nay; E: Excused or Absent
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Wyoming Senate 2011

Health Care Freedom (SJ 2) Concealed Weapons (SF 47) Film Industry Financial Incentives Program (SF 41) Wyoming Traditional Food Act (HB 8) Health Care Pilot Project Amendments (SF 139) Public Meetings (HB 120)

Senator	Aye for Liberty	Aye for Liberty	Nay for Liberty	Aye for Liberty	Nay for Liberty	Aye for Liberty	Total Votes for Liberty
Jim Anderson	A	A	N	A	A	N	4
Paul Barnard	A	A	A	N	A	N	2
Eli Bebout	A	A	N	A	A	N	4
Bruce Burns	A	A	A	A	A	N	3
Cale Case	A	A	N	N	N	A	5
Leland Christensen	N	A	A	A	A	A	3
Henry H.R. "Hank" Coe	A	A	A	A	A	N	3
Stan Cooper	A	A	A	A	A	A	4
Dan Dockstader	A	A	N	A	A	A	5
Ogden Driskill	A	A	A	A	A	N	3
Fred Emerich	N	N	A	E	A	N	0
Floyd Esquibel	N	N	A	N	A	A	1
Gerald Geis	A	N	N	A	A	N	3
John Hastert	N	N	A	A	A	A	2
Larry Hicks	A	A	N	A	A	N	4
John Hines	A	N	N	A	A	N	3
Kit Jennings	A	A	A	A	A	N	3
Wayne Johnson	A	N	N	N	A	N	2
Bill Landen	A	A	A	A	A	N	3
Marty Martin	A	A	A	A	A	A	4
Curt Meier	A	A	A	A	A	A	4
Phil Nicholas	N	A	N	A	A	N	3
Leslie Nutting	A	A	N	A	A	A	5
Drew Perkins	A	A	N	A	A	A	5
R. Ray Peterson	A	A	A	A	A	A	4
Tony Ross	A	A	A	N	A	A	3
Chris Rothfuss	N	N	A	N	A	N	0
John Schiffer	A	N	A	A	A	N	2
Charles Scott	A	N	N	A	A	A	4
Michael Von Flatern	N	N	N	A	A	A	3

Average 3.1

Ayes	23	20	17	23	29	14
Nays	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>16</u>
Total	30	30	30	29	30	30

Legend:	Red is a vote for liberty	Blue is a vote against Liberty	A: Aye; N: Nay; E: Excused or Absent
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Sources

All 2011 bill information is available at

<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2011/billindex/BillCrossRef.aspx?type=ALL>

Specific bill information includes:

Health Care Freedom (SJ 2):

Bill: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2011/Enroll/SJ0002.pdf>

Voting Record: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2011/Digest/SJ0002.htm>

Concealed Weapons (SF 47):

Bill: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2011/Enroll/SF0047.pdf>

Voting Record: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2011/Digest/SF0047.htm>

Film Industry Financial Incentives Program (SF 41):

Bill: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2011/Engross/SF0041.pdf>

Voting Record: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2011/Digest/SF0041.htm>

Wyoming Traditional Food Act (HB 8):

Bill: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2011/Engross/HB0008.pdf>

Voting Record: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2011/Digest/HB0008.htm>

Health Care Pilot Project Amendments (SF 139):


Bill: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2011/Engross/SF0139.pdf>

Voting Record: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2011/Digest/SF0139.htm>

Public Meetings (HB 120):

Bill: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2011/Engross/HB0120.pdf>

Voting Record: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2011/Digest/HB0120.htm>



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by Stephen Klein (May 2011)
- 002. **Interstate Health Insurance Compacts versus PPACA Exchanges on the Roadmap to Health Care Freedom in Wyoming**
by Regina Meena (March 2011)
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