



Liberty Brief

No. 009

June 2012

Key Liberty Votes 2012

by Charles Curley

Introduction

Welcome to the 2012 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 the 2011 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 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 2012 bill information is available at
<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2012/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 unless otherwise noted. 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.

Bills Considered in Both Houses

Public records (SF 25)

This bill extends governmental accountability and public access to records. Without information about what the government is up to, the people cannot hold it to account.

An Aye vote is a vote for liberty. Senate passed 19-11; House passed 54-5.

State parks – acquisition of LX Bar ranch (SF 36)

Let me see if I have this right: We are seeing declining revenue due to natural gas price declines. We are likely to see cuts in federal money. So the Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources Committee is asking us to accept the donation of a 25 acre ranch and spend \$280,000.00 (\$11,200/acre) on its "restoration"? Either this is a complete luxury piece of fluff we have no business getting into, or it is a corporate welfare subsidy for the tourism industry.

Next year, we need a bill to rename it the White Elephant Ranch.

A Nay vote is a vote for liberty. Senate passed 22-8; House passed 38-20.

ATM Fees (SF 82)

A small bit of deregulation. The bill allows pricing of ATM transactions by the marketplace rather than by the bank commissioner. Competition among banks; what a concept!

An Aye vote is a vote for liberty. Senate passed 25-5; House passed 51-7.

Expenditure of public funds and government competition (SF 77)

Modifies the public finance website to provide a process for lodging concerns regarding competition by government entities with the private sector. The bill also requires an annual report. It is more symbolic than anything else because there is no mechanism to deal with the complaints. But it will provide grist for both pro-free market and budget conscious legislators.

An Aye vote is a vote for liberty. Senate passed 24-6; House passed 56-0.

Bills Considered in the House of Representatives

REAL I.D. – repeal (HB 117)

This bill failed introduction, but the vote would have succeeded as a third reading vote. (Introduction of non-budget bills requires a two thirds vote in budget sessions.) Real ID has been an abject failure at the federal level, with half the states either failing to implement it, being granted waivers, or outright refusing to implement it. Meanwhile, it costs Wyoming residents time at the DMV and unnecessary, overly intrusive paperwork. We should get rid of it.

An Aye is a vote for liberty. House failed 32-26.

Day care facilities-certification exemption (HB 93)

This bill expands the exemption from certification for day care facilities. The present maximum is for three minors; the bill would have changed that to five minors. A good bill but not a great bill. We'll take pro-liberty increments over the usual "regulate an industry" bill of the year. However minor the bill is, it was further watered down by Rep. Teeters' amendment, HB0093HS001, which provided that no more than two of the five minors could be under the age of 12 months. Alas, HB 93 later died in the Senate Labor, Health & Social Services committee, graveyard of a number of good bills in 2012.

An Aye is a vote for liberty. House passed 35-24.

Bills Considered in the Senate

Ethanol tax credit (SF 8)

One for the good guys. Ending corporate welfare in the form of a sales tax exemption for ethanol producers. In addition to the corporate welfare issue, ethanol takes up corn that could be feeding people. The main excuse for ethanol in our gasoline was anthropogenic global warming, which has completely collapsed as a scientific hypothesis, and gone the way of the dinosaur. The original Senate version would have been a clean kill, immediately putting the program out of our misery. This is the version we track. The House then let the program limp on for a few years, which the Senate later accepted.

An Aye vote is a vote for liberty. Senate passed 24-5.

Meningococcal vaccination (SF 54)

A bill to require every college student in Wyoming to get a vaccination in order to attend class, with narrow exceptions. It passed the vote to introduce. The Senate Labor, Health & Social Services Committee reported favorably, but it never came to the floor. We track the vote to introduce here. This is an egregiously bad bill. In addition to invading the health care choices of college and university students (and their parents), it creates yet another bureaucracy and more bureaucratic burden on both students and medical practitioners.

A Nay vote is a vote for liberty. Senate passed 24-6.

Wyoming House 2012

Public records (SF 25) State parks-acquisition of LX Bar ranch. (SF 36) ATM fees (SF 82) Expenditure of public funds and government competition (SF 77) REAL I.D.-repeal (HB 117) Day care facilities-certification exemption (HB 93)

<u>Representative</u>	Aye for liberty	Nay for liberty	Aye for liberty	Aye for liberty	Aye for liberty	Aye for liberty	Total Votes for Liberty
Joseph Barbuto	A	A	N	N	N	N	1
Rosie Berger	A	A	A	A	A	N	4
Stan Blake	A	A	N	A	N	E	2
Gregg Blikre	A	A	A	A	N	A	4
Dave Bonner	A	A	A	A	N	N	3
Jonathan Botten	A	A	A	A	N	A	4
Bob Brechtel	N	N	A	A	A	A	5
Kermit Brown	A	A	A	A	N	N	3
Edward Buchanan	A	N	A	N	A	A	5
Donald Burkhardt, Jr	A	N	A	A	A	A	6
James Byrd	A	A	N	A	N	N	2
Rita Campbell	A	A	A	A	A	A	5
Richard Cannady	A	A	A	A	N	A	4
Pat Childers	A	A	A	A	N	A	4
Cathy Connolly	A	A	A	A	N	N	3
Bernadine Craft	A	A	N	A	N	N	2
Kathy Davison	A	N	A	A	A	A	6
Amy Edmonds	A	N	A	A	A	A	6
John Eklund	A	N	A	A	A	A	6
Ken Esquibel	A	A	N	N	N	N	1
John Freeman	A	A	A	A	N	N	3
Gerald Gay	N	N	A	A	E	A	4
Keith Gingery	A	N	A	A	A	N	5
W. Patrick Goggles	E	E	E	N	N	N	0
Mike Greear	A	A	A	A	A	A	5
Matthias Greene	A	A	A	A	A	A	5
Steve Harshman	A	A	A	A	E	N	3
Elaine Harvey	A	A	A	A	A	A	5
Hans Hunt	A	N	A	A	A	N	5
Peter S. "Pete" Illoway	A	A	A	A	N	N	3
Allen Jaggi	A	N	A	A	A	N	5
Norine Kasperik	A	A	A	A	N	A	4
Kendell Kroeker	A	N	A	A	A	A	6
Samuel Krone	A	N	A	A	A	N	5
Thomas Lockhart	A	A	A	A	N	A	4
Bunky Loucks	A	N	A	A	A	A	6

Wyoming House 2011 (con't)

Public records (SF 25) State parks-acquisition of LX Bar ranch. (SF 36) ATM fees (SF 82) Expenditure of public funds and government competition (SF 77) REAL I.D.-repeal (HB 117) Day care facilities-certification exemption (HB 93)

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

Average 4.1

Ayes	54	38	51	56	32	35
Nays	<u>5</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>24</u>
Total	59	58	58	60	58	59

Legend:

Red is a vote for liberty	Blue is a vote against Liberty	A: Aye; N: Nay; E: Excused / Absent
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Wyoming Senate 2012

Public records (SF 25) State parks-acquisition of LX Bar ranch. (SF 36) ATM fees (SF 82) Expenditure of public funds and government competition (SF 77) Ethanol tax credit (SF 8) Meningo-coccal vaccination (SF 54)

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

Average 3.5

Ayes	19	22	25	24	24	24
Nays	<u>11</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
Total	30	30	30	30	29	30

Legend:

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

All 2012 bill information is available at

<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2012/billindex/BillCrossRef.aspx?type=ALL>

Specific bill information includes:

Ethanol tax credit (SF 8):

Bill: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2012/Enroll/SF0008.pdf>

Voting Record: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2012/Digest/SF0008.htm>

Public records (SF 25):

Bill: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2012/Enroll/SF0025.pdf>

Voting Record: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2012/Digest/SF0025.htm>

State parks-acquisition of LX Bar ranch. (SF 36):

Bill: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2012/Enroll/SF0036.pdf>

Voting Record: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2012/Digest/SF0036.htm>

REAL I.D. repeal (HB 117):

Bill: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2012/Introduced/HB0117.pdf>

Voting Record: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2012/Digest/HB0117.htm>

Day care facilities-certification exemption (HB 93):

Bill: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2012/Engross/HB0093.pdf>

Voting Record: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2012/Digest/HB0093.htm>

Meningococcal vaccination (SF 54):

Bill: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2012/Introduced/SF0054.pdf>

Voting Record: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2012/Digest/SF0054.htm>

Expenditure of public funds and government competition. (SF 77):


Bill: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2012/Enroll/SF0077.pdf>

Voting Record: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2012/Digest/SF0077.htm>

ATM fees (SF 82):

Bill: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2012/Enroll/SF0082.pdf>

Voting Record: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2012/Digest/SF0077.htm>



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