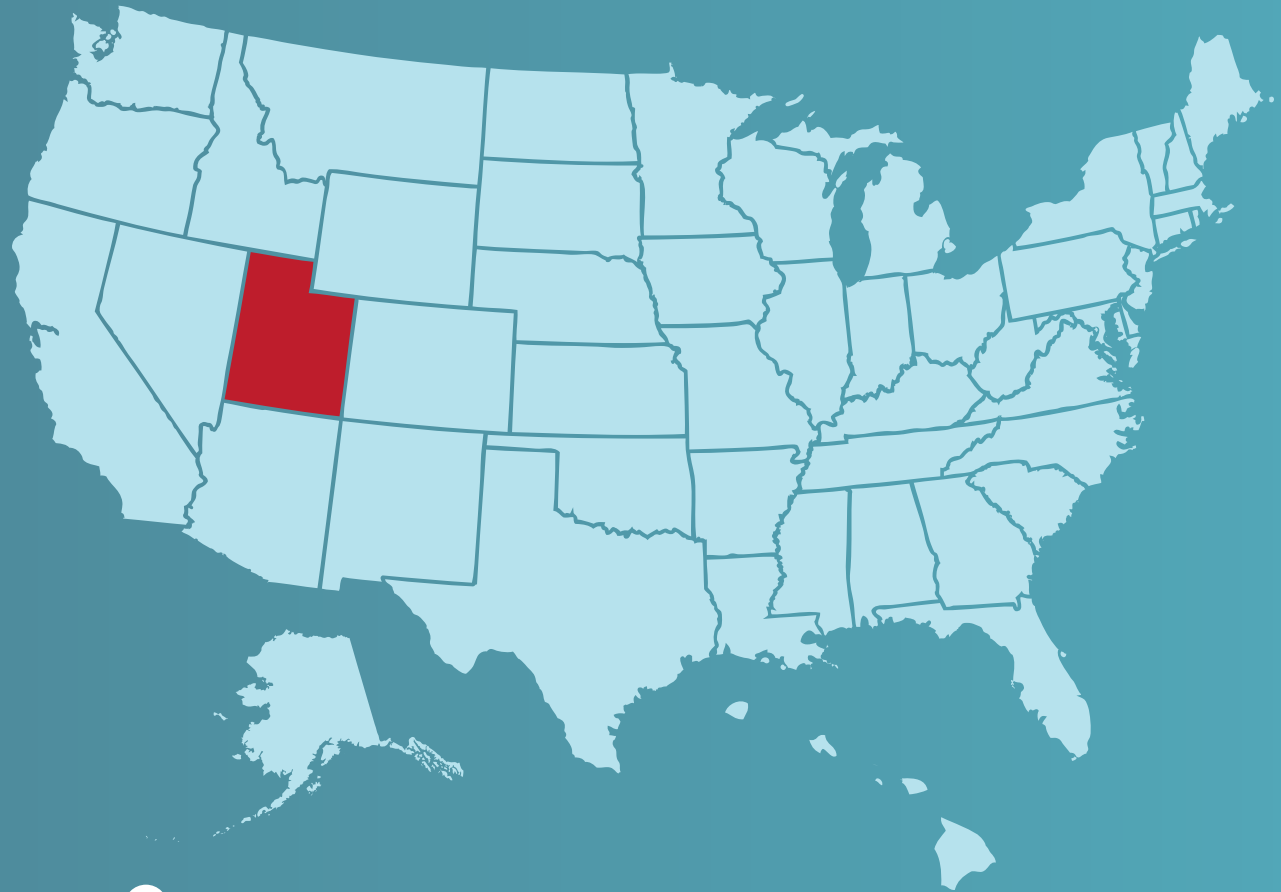




THE AMERICAN CONSERVATIVE UNION

# 2015 RATINGS of UTAH



 ACUConservative

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## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Fellow Conservatives,

I am pleased to present the American Conservative Union Foundation's ratings for the 2015 meeting of the Utah State Legislature. Like our Congressional Ratings, our State Ratings reflect how elected officials view the role of government in an individual's life. The Utah legislators with the strongest scores voted most consistently with the ideals articulated in the US Constitution: limited and transparent government, individual rights, personal responsibility, and a healthy culture.

The 2014 election completed a political transformation that began in 2010 and resulted in voters of almost half the states, 23 in all, entrusting Republicans with the governorships as well as control of both chambers in the respective state, the biggest sweep since the first half of the 20th Century.

By examining all our State Ratings (which cover a wide variety of issues) we can see which states have best used their Republican majorities to apply conservative principles, how others have struggled, and in yet other states, how conservatives have stood up against liberal majorities. I know that this guide will provide you with the most comprehensive evaluative tool to learn how your legislators measure up.

Sincerely,

Matt Schlapp  
Chairman  
American Conservative Union





## ACU BOARD MEMBERS

Matt Schlapp <i>Chairman</i>	Larry Beasley	Kellyanne Conway	Michael Long
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	Muriel Coleman	James Lacy	Ed Yevoli

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Van Hipp, Jr. <i>Treasurer</i>	Amy Frederick	
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	Charlie Gerow	
	Colin Hanna	
	Willes Lee	

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## SELECTING THE VOTES


ACU researched and selected a range of bills before the Utah State Legislature that determine a member's adherence to conservative principles. We selected bills that focus on Ronald Reagan's philosophy of the "three-legged stool": 1) *fiscal and economic*: taxes, budgets, regulation, spending, healthcare, and property; 2) *social and cultural*: 2nd amendment, religion, life, welfare, and education; and 3) *government integrity*: voting, individual liberty, privacy, and transparency. This wide range of issues are designed to give citizens an accurate assessment that conveys which of Utah's elected leaders best defend the principles of a free society: Life, Liberty and Property.




## 2015 WINNERS & LOSERS

**90-100%** AWARD FOR CONSERVATIVE EXCELLENCE 

SENATE	HOUSE
HENDERSON	GREENE
MADSEN	

**80-89%** AWARD FOR CONSERVATIVE ACHIEVEMENT 

SENATE	HOUSE
CHRISTENSEN	ANDEREGG
DAYTON	STRATTON
JENKINS	
OSMOND	
STEPHENSON	

**<10%** COALITION OF THE RADICAL LEFT 

SENATE	HOUSE
Dabakis	Arent
Iwamoto	Moss
Mayne	
Robles-Escamilla	



## UTAH SENATE VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

1. **SB 97 Property Taxes.** This bill increases property taxes to help “equalize” education spending across the state. ACU opposes raising taxes especially when there is a \$700 million surplus in the state and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on February 18, 2015 by a vote of 20-9.

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2. **SB 104 Education Reform.** This bill establishes partisan elections for the State Board of Education. ACU supports election reforms that give voters greater transparency and simply lets them make more informed decision and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on February 18, 2015 by a vote of 19-8.

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3. **SB 164 Obamacare Implementation.** This bill would greatly expand the Medicaid program under Obamacare. ACU opposes the expansion with no reforms of a program rife with waste and abuse and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on February 25, 2015 by a vote of 17-11.

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4. **SB 256 Concealed Carry.** This bill allows persons at least 21 years of age, and not prohibited by law from possessing a firearm, to carry concealed firearms without a permit. ACU supports the expansion of Second Amendment rights and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 9, 2015 by a vote of 21-6.

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5. **SB 260 Education Reform.** This bill makes it easier to remove badly under-performing teachers by requiring the State Board of Education to develop teacher termination procedures. It also expands the probationary period for new teachers from three to five years. ACU supports efforts to improve teacher quality and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 9, 2015 by a vote of 20-8.

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6. **SB 297 Same Sex Marriage.** This bill allows county clerk's to opt out of performing same sex marriages. However, the county would be required to provide an individual who will perform the marriage. ACU supports the protection of individual rights and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 9, 2015 by a vote of 24-5.

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7. **HB 447 Parental Rights.** This bill requires a school to obtain prior written consent from a parent before the school can provide human sexuality instruction to a student. ACU supports strengthening parental rights especially on matters of morals and values and supported this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 11, 2015 by a vote of 21-7.

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8. **HB 362 Gas Tax.** This bill raises the gas tax by 5 cents a gallon and then sets up a new sales tax on fuel, 12 percent of the wholesale price. ACU opposes what may become a major tax increase on fuel should the price of gasoline rise especially at a time when the state is running a \$700 million surplus and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 12, 2015 by a vote of 20-8.

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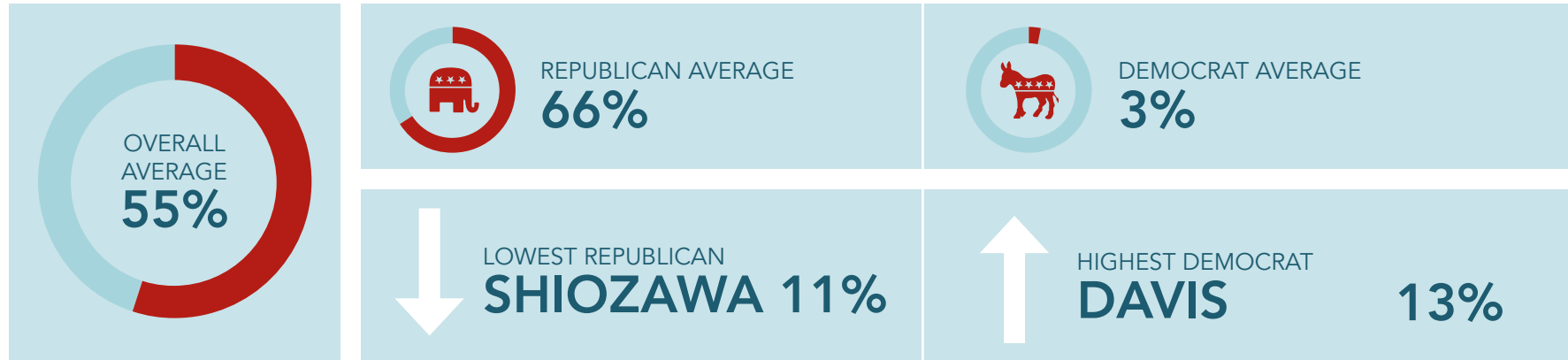
9. **HB 48 Powdered Alcohol.** This bill bans the sale of powdered alcohol. ACU opposes this interference in the free market regarding a product the FDA has found to be safe to use and opposed this bill. The Senate passed the bill on March 12, 2015 by a vote of 24-4.

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# UTAH SENATE SCORES

## UTAH SENATE STATISTICS



## UTAH SENATE VOTE DETAIL

	Party	District	SB 97	SB 104	SB 164	SB 256	SB 260	SB 297	HB 447	HB 362	HB 48	ACU Votes	Votes Cast	2015 %
ADAMS	R	22	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	5	9	56%
BRAMBLE	R	16	+	+	-	X	+	+	+	-	-	5	8	63%
CHRISTENSEN	R	19	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	-	7	8	88%
Dabakis	D	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	9	0%
Davis	D	3	-	-	X	+	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	13%
DAYTON	R	15	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	8	9	89%
HARPER	R	6	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	5	9	56%
HENDERSON	R	7	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	8	8	100%
HILLYARD	R	25	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	5	9	56%
HINKINS	R	27	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	5	9	56%
Iwamoto	D	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	9	0%
JACKSON	R	14	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	7	9	78%
JENKINS	R	20	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	8	9	89%
KNUDSON	R	17	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	5	9	56%
MADSEN	R	13	+	X	+	X	X	+	+	+	+	6	6	100%
Mayne	D	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	9	0%
MILLNER	R	18	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	5	9	56%

**UTAH SENATE VOTE DETAIL**

	Party	District	SB 97	SB 104	SB 164	SB 256	SB 260	SB 297	HB 447	HB 362	HB 48	ACU Votes	Votes Cast	2015 %
NIEDERHAUSER	R	9	-	X	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	4	8	50%
OKERLUND	R	24	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	5	9	56%
OSMOND	R	10	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	8	9	89%
Robles-Escamilla	D	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	9	0%
SHIOZAWA	R	8	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	1	9	11%
STEPHENSON	R	11	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	8	9	89%
STEVENSON	R	21	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	5	9	56%
THATCHER	R	12	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	6	9	67%
URQUHART	R	29	-	+	+	+	+	+	X	-	-	5	8	63%
VAN TASSELL	R	26	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	4	9	44%
VICKERS	R	28	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	6	9	67%
WEILER	R	23	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	5	9	56%



## UTAH HOUSE VOTE DESCRIPTIONS

1. **HB 330 New Taxing Authority.** This bill gives new authority to some local entities to levy taxes and issue new debt through general obligation bonds after a referendum. ACU opposes adding a new level of government to existing tax authority and opposed this bill. The House defeated the bill on March 3, 2015 by a vote of 30-42.

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2. **SB 104 Education Reform.** This bill establishes partisan elections for the State Board of Education. ACU supports election reforms that give voters greater transparency and simply lets them make more informed decisions and supported this bill. The House defeated the bill on March 4, 2015 by a vote of 31-43.

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3. **HB 328 Tax Reform.** This bill prevents automatic rate increases on taxpayers by removing commodity based centrally assessed properties from calculations of new growth. ACU opposes automatic tax rate increases without accountability and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on March 6, 2015 by a vote of 40-30.

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4. **HB 48 Powdered Alcohol.** This bill bans the sale of powdered alcohol. ACU opposes this interference in the free market regarding a product the FDA has found to be safe to use and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on March 9, 2015 by a vote of 68-5.

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5. **SB 297 Same Sex Marriage.** This bill allows county clerk's to opt out of performing same sex marriages. However, the county would be required to provide an individual who will perform the marriage. ACU supports the protection of individual rights and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on March 11, 2015 by a vote of 66-9.

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6. **SB 97 Property Taxes.** This bill increases property taxes to help "equalize" education spending across the state. ACU opposes raising taxes especially when there is a \$700 million surplus in the state and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on March 11, 2015 by a vote of 43-31.

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7. **HB 447 Parental Rights.** This bill requires a school to obtain prior written consent from a parent before the school can provide human sexuality instruction to a student. ACU supports strengthening parental rights especially on matters of morals and supported this bill. The House passed the bill on March 11, 2015 by a vote of 40-31.

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8. **SB 260 Education Reform.** This bill makes it easier to remove badly under-performing teachers by requiring the State Board of Education to develop teacher termination procedures. It also expands the probationary period for new teachers from three to five years. ACU supports efforts to improve teacher quality and supported this bill. The House defeated the bill on March 12, 2015 by a vote of 20-49.

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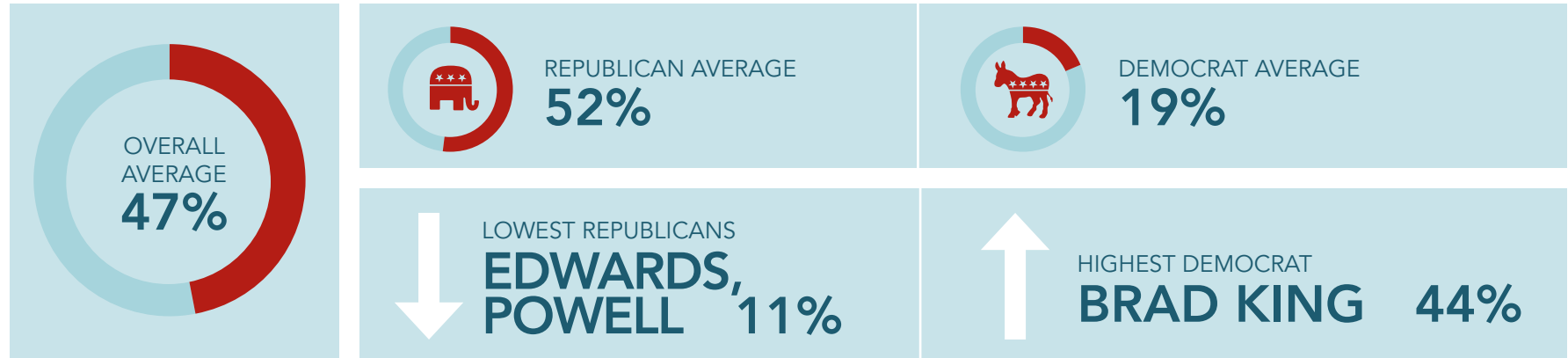
9. **HB 362 Gas Tax.** This bill raises the gas tax by 5 cents a gallon and then sets up a new sales tax on fuel, 12 percent of the wholesale price. ACU opposes what may become a major tax increase on fuel should the price of gasoline rise especially at a time when the state is running a \$700 million surplus and opposed this bill. The House passed the bill on March 12, 2015 by a vote of 44-29.

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# UTAH HOUSE SCORES

## UTAH HOUSE STATISTICS



## UTAH HOUSE VOTE DETAIL

	Party	District	HB 330	SB 104	HB 328	HB 48	SB 297	SB 97	HB 447	SB 260	HB 362	ACU Votes	Votes Cast	2015 %
ANDEREGG	R	6	X	+	+	-	+	X	+	+	+	6	7	86%
ANDERSON	R	34	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	2	9	22%
Arent	D	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	9	0%
BARLOW	R	17	+	+	-	-	+	+	-	-	+	5	9	56%
Briscoe	D	25	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	11%
BROWN	R	53	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	6	9	67%
Chavez-Houck	D	24	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	2	9	22%
CHEW	R	55	-	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	5	9	56%
CHRISTENSEN	R	32	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	6	9	67%
CHRISTOFFERSON	R	56	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	4	9	44%
COLEMAN	R	42	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	6	9	67%
COX, F.	R	30	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	7	9	78%
COX, J.	R	58	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	3	9	33%
CUNNINGHAM	R	50	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	4	9	44%
CUTLER	R	44	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	2	9	22%
DAW	R	60	-	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	5	9	56%
DEE	R	11	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	5	9	56%



## UTAH HOUSE VOTE DETAIL

	Party	District	HB 330	SB 104	HB 328	HB 48	SB 297	SB 97	HB 447	SB 260	HB 362	ACU Votes	Votes Cast	2015 %
DiCARO	R	31	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	-	4	9	44%
DRAXLER	R	3	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	X	-	3	8	38%
Duckworth	D	22	+	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	3	9	33%
DUNNIGAN	R	39	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	5	9	56%
EDWARDS	R	20	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	1	9	11%
ELIASON	R	45	+	-	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	6	9	67%
FAWSON	R	7	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	7	9	78%
FROERER	R	8	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	3	9	33%
GIBSON†	R	65	+	-	-	X	+	+	X	X	X	3	5	n/a
GREENE	R	57	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	X	8	8	100%
GROVER	R	61	-	+	X	-	+	+	+	+	+	6	8	75%
HALL	R	33	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	4	9	44%
HANDY	R	16	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	2	9	22%
HAWKES	R	18	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	6	9	67%
Hollins	D	23	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	2	9	22%
HUGHES	R	51	X	+	-	-	+	+	+	X	-	4	7	57%
HUTCHINGS	R	38	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	6	9	67%
IPSON	R	75	-	+	X	-	+	-	+	+	-	4	8	50%
IVORY	R	47	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	6	9	67%
KENNEDY	R	27	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	6	9	67%
King, Brad	D	69	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	4	9	44%
King, Brian	D	28	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	2	9	22%
KNOTWELL	R	52	+	+	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	6	9	67%
LAST	R	71	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	5	9	56%
LIFFERTH	R	2	-	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	6	9	67%
McCAY	R	41	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	5	9	56%
McIFF	R	70	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	2	9	22%
McKELL	R	66	+	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	+	5	9	56%
Miller	D	40	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	2	9	22%
Moss	D	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	0	8	0%
NELSON	R	68	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	2	9	22%



## UTAH HOUSE VOTE DETAIL

	Party	District	HB 330	SB 104	HB 328	HB 48	SB 297	SB 97	HB 447	SB 260	HB 362	ACU Votes	Votes Cast	2015 %
NOEL	R	73	X	+	-	-	+	-	+	+	-	4	8	50%
ODA	R	14	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	6	9	67%
PERRY	R	29	-	-	-	X	+	-	+	-	-	2	8	25%
PETERSON, J.	R	9	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	X	+	5	8	63%
PETERSON, V.	R	59	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	7	9	78%
PITCHER	R	10	-	-	X	-	+	-	X	-	-	1	7	14%
Poulson	D	46	+	-	X	-	+	-	-	-	-	2	8	25%
POWELL	R	54	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	1	9	11%
RAY	R	13	+	+	+	-	+	+	X	+	-	6	8	75%
REDD	R	4	+	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	2	9	22%
ROBERTS	R	67	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	7	9	78%
Romero	D	26	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	11%
SAGERS	R	21	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	3	9	33%
SANDALL	R	1	-	+	-	-	+	-	X	-	+	3	8	38%
SANPEI	R	63	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	6	9	67%
SHULIZ	R	12	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	5	9	56%
SNOW	R	74	+	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	3	9	33%
SPENDLOVE	R	49	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	6	9	67%
STANARD	R	62	+	+	X	-	+	+	+	-	+	6	8	75%
STRATTON	R	48	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	8	9	89%
TANNER	R	43	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	3	9	33%
THURSTON	R	64	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	-	+	5	9	56%
WARD	R	19	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	X	-	1	8	13%
WEBB	R	5	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	5	9	56%
WESTWOOD	R	72	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	2	9	22%
Wheatley	D	35	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	1	9	11%
WILSON	R	15	+	X	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	6	8	75%

† Legislator did not vote on enough of the selected bills and as a result the 2015 percentage was not rated.