# Young Conservatives of Texas

Young Conservatives of Texas has prepared this "rating of the 66th Texas Legislature" as a public service to the citizens of Texas so that they may be better informed as to the activities of the Legislature and specifically the activities of individual lawmakers.

In order to meet this objective, Young Conservatives of Texas has prepared a Legislative Rating Index of the recorded votes of the state legislators for the purpose of presenting the record to the public so that they can better understand the nature of their representation. Without such information, citizens must cast their votes on the basis of campaign propoganda, party affiliation, and personal contacts. YCT hopes this index will supplement these considerations and provide a different indication of the nature of a legislature.

The Rating Index is not for the purpose of endorsement of any party. The index applies equally to all legislators and is clearly for the public's information.

# Rate the 66th Texas Legislature

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Young Conservatives of Texas has selected the following bills which it believes accurately serve to gauge a legislator's philosophy in light of YCT's principles.

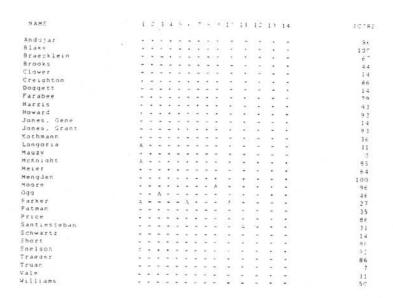
These bills are the basis of our Legislative Voting Index.

In the Index, "t" indicates that the legislator voted FOR the conservative position as determined by YCT. "-" indicates that the legislator voted AGAINST the conservative position.

A "P" indicates that the legislator was present but did not vote, and an "E" indicates an excused absence. A blank indicates a non-excused absence. No penalty is accessed for excused absences, however, non-excused absences and present not voting are counted as a negative vote.

The higher the score, the better the legislator promotes the conservative position of limited government and individual freedom.

## Senate Votes — Senate Bill Descriptions



- 1. HCR64 Resolution supporting the International Year of the Child (IYC). The resolution would have morally, but not legally, committed the state to carry out the questionable "goals and objectives" of the U.N. sponsored IYC. YCT-No. Represents government encroachment on the family.
- CSSB981 Would have authorized electronic surveillance in the area of narcotic violations (except marijuana possession). A court order from the Court of Criminal Appeals would be required to institute the surveillance.
  YCT - Yes. Good crime prevention measure.
- CSSB891 Would have allowed a corporation to provide its own workmen's compensation insurance. YCT -Yes.
- SJR39 Gives the Governor budget execution power and allows him to reduce specific items of appropriation. YCT - Yes. Provides for possible budget reductions.

- 5. CSSB22 Would prohibit abuse of unemployment compensation by denying compensation payments to those who voluntarily quit their jobs or are fired for theft or gross misconduct. Those denied compensation could be eligible for benefits if they return to work at old or new jobs for 15 weeks. YCT Yes.
- 6. HB1052 Bill creating the Texas Human Rights Commission. YCT No. Provides for more costly state bureaucracy and duplicates existing federal mandates.
- 7. Amendment to CSHB558 which would have increased the appropriations to the Department of Human Resources by \$116,330,084. YCT No. Wasteful government spending.
- 8. CSSB195 MANDATES an extension of bi-lingual education for an additional two grades (4-5) with an allowance that would let the Texas Education Agency require bilingual education in grades 6-12. YCT - No. Damages local control

- of schools and further encourages cultural separatism.
- 9. SB303 This bill mandates that local school boards adopt a tenure policy for teachers, as opposed to present state law which allows school board to establish a tenure policy at their own option. YCT No. Interferes in local control of education and makes it difficult to discharge incompetent teachers.
- 10. SB284 Provided that any foreign student convicted of rioting, destruction of property, or desecration of the flag would be expelled from any state university, and would have the additional effect of causing that student to be deported. YCT Yes.
- 11. SB117 Defines for abortion purposes exactly when a life comes under legal protection. Thus, this bill tends to protect those children who survive an abortion from being killed or allowed to die of neglect. YCT Yes.
- 12. Would have extended comparative negligence or fault to products liability cases provided a "state-of-the-art" at the time of manufacture defense in determining damages. Under present law a manufacturer is strictly liable for injuries caused by his product even if it was modified, altered, abused, or misused by the injured party. YCT -
- 13. SB357 Amendments to the Deceptive Trade Practices-Consumer Protection Act which eliminates automatic treble damage payments except where fault is proven on the part of the businessman. YCT Yes. The requirement of automatic treble damages encourages unjustified lawsuits which aim to take advantage of the unusually high damage payments.
- 14. SB409 This bill would increase the ceiling on interest rates for home mortgages thus allowing the free market to provide loan money at a rate more accurately reflecting the actual cost of money. YCT Yes. Market should determine interest rates, not government.

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### House Votes - House Bill Descriptions

- 1. HJR97 Resolution granting the state a limited right of appeal in criminal cases. This resolution grants the state the right to appeal adverse rulings on the constitutionality of a statute, motions to quash indictments, and motions to suppress evidence. YCT Yes. Measure to prevent criminals from going free on the basis of a technicality.
- SB117 Defines for abortions purposes exactly when a life comes under legal protection. Thus, this bill tends to protect those children who survive an abortion from being killed or allowed to die of neglect. YCT Yes.
- 3. HB454 This bill provides for "longevity pay" for state employees such that millions of dollars of bonuses for state employees will be paid on the basis of length of employment rather than productivity. YCT - No. Salaries should be determined by merit and productivity rather than length of employment by government.
- HB1052 Bill creating the Texas Human Rights Commission. YCT - No. Provides for more costly state bureaucracy and duplicates existing federal mandates.
- HB482 This bill continues the licensing and regulation of barbers by state government. YCT - No. Unnecessary regulation of the private sector.
- 6. Adoption of Coleman Amendment to SB530, which would exempt all foreign students from having to pay the same tuition as out of state students. YCT-No. Foreign students should pay the higher tuition fees as do out of state students and not be subsidized by state taxpayers.
- 7. HB409 This bill would increase the ceiling on interest rates for home mortgages thus allowing the free market to provide loan money at a rate more accurately reflecting the actual cost of money. YCT Yes. Market should determine interest rates, not government.
- 8. CSHB491 This bill would provide homeowners with the right to refinance their homesteads, as is the case in most other states. YCT Yes.
- 9. HB3 This bill permits citizens to petition for a referendum on local property tax increases that exceed 5 percent over the previous year. YCT-Yes. Allows citizens to have more control over their tax rates.

- 10. HB4 This bill requires the State Depository Board to invest public money in interest bearing accounts. YCT Yes. Assures tax money does not lie idle when it could be drawing interest.
- 11. HJR102 Proposed a constitutional amendment which would prohibit a state income tax. YCT Yes. Good restraint on excessive taxing and spending by state government.
- 12. SB356 This bill would increase the yearly tuition equalization grant available to students attending non-public colleges and universities. YCT Yes. Non-public schools and students wishing to receive state funds can take advantage of taxes they pay to finance state education.
- 13. SB417 This bill would exempt intrastate trucking firms from federal anti-trust laws, including anti-trust price fixing provisions. YCT No. Retains competition in a regulated industry.
- 14. SCR30 Resolution which memorializes Congress to pass a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced federal budget. YCT Yes.
- 15. CSHB554 Motion to postpone bill which exempts child care facilities having the power of guardian conservatorship over children from certain state licensing requirements. The postpone-

- ment effectively kills the bill. YCT No. Excessive government regulation of private child care facilities should be prevented.
- 16. Motion to table HB1098 which would have eliminated the requirement that the wage scale for state construction projects must be the prevailing wage scale of union employees. YCT No. Paying mandatory high union wage rates would greatly increase construction costs.
- 17. Motion to table Amendment to CSHB558, which would have made a 7 percent across the board cut in the appropriation bill. YCT No. Taxes and government expenditures should be reduced whenever possible.
- 18. Motion to table the Peveto Amendment to the Labor Amendment to CSHB558, which would have cut the Commission for the Arts and Humanities by \$3,538,000. YCT No. The Arts should be funded through private sources, not by taxpayers.
- 19. Motion to table Green-Polumbo Amendment to CSHB558, which would have reduced judicial salary increases from 13 percent to 5.1 percent, the increase all other state employees received. YCT No. Helps curb government spending.

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- 20. SB357 Amendments to the Deceptive Trade Practices-Consumer Protection Act which eliminates automatic treble damage payments except where fault is proven on part of businessman. YCT Yes. The requirement of automatic treble damages encourages unjustified lawsuits which aim to take advantage of the unusually high damage payments.
- 21. SCR28 Resolution which encourages the federal government to remove the needless federal regulation of energy production. YCT Yes. Government regulation hampers energy production.
- 22. Motion to table the Emmett Amendment to CSHB558, which would have eliminated a section of the appropriations bill granting each member of the legislature one free set of license plates. YCT No. Legislators should pay for their plates just as private citizens do.
- 23. HB499 This bill would have eliminated the statute requiring that all schools with a certain percentage of disadvantaged children must provide those children with free breakfasts. YCT Yes. Local school districts can better determine community needs than state government can.

#### YOUNG CONSERVATIVES OF TEXAS

Young Conservatives of Texas is a completely independent organization which raises its own funds, maintains its own office, and generally functions as any similar "adult" organization, with one exception, Young Conservatives of Texas is run solely by "young" men and women.

YCT believes that there is no better way to educate and train young citizens as to the workings of the political process than to have them directly participate in it.

Some of the ways YCT participates in the political process includes:

Elections: YCT leaders are constantly involved in the electoral process at every level. YCT members not only provide the manpower so necessary in running a campaign, but many YCT leaders are hired as staff and some are candidates themselves.

Lobbying: YCT is the only statewide conservative group which has consistently coordinated statewide campaigns on behalf of conservative legislation.

YCT organizes letter writing campaigns; lobbies legislators personally; testifies before legislative committees; holds press conferences; utilizes direct mail;

Conventions/Conferences: YCT hosts an annual State Convention featuring state and national speakers. YCT also holds regular seminars ranging from such issues as

"economics" to "campaigns."

In addition to these projects, individual school and community YCT chapters hold regular meetings featuring prominent speakers, films, etc.

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