



# Jesse Helms

Senator  
North Carolina  
Republican





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This legislator voted constitutionally on **50%** of the votes shown below.


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★ Constitutional   ✗ Unconstitutional   ? Did not Vote   CPH   Vote


**1. SJR 4 Constitutional Amendment: Political Speech** (Rejected 40 to 56 on 3/26/2001, Roll Call 47). Would adopt a constitutional amendment to give Congress "power to set reasonable limits" on federal campaign contributions and expenditures. See U.S. Const., amend. 1. **No** 

**2. Sen. Chuck Schumer's (D-NY) amendment to HR 2620 Gun Buyback Programs** (Tabled 65 to 33 on 8/2/2001, Roll Call 267). To make available \$15 million for "gun buyback initiatives." See U.S. Const., amend. 2. **Yes** 

**3. HR 3162 Anti-Terrorism Authority** (Passed 98 to 1 on 10/25/2001, Roll Call 313). Would create the "USA Patriot Act," giving law enforcement and intelligence agencies vast new powers to combat terrorism. See U.S. Const., amend. 4. **Yes** 

**4. HR 1 Education** (Passed 87 to 10 on 12/18/2001, Roll Call 371). Would, as the "No Child Left Behind Act," overhaul education proposals to increase school accountability and reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for six years. See U.S. Const., amend. 10. **\$1,248** **None** 

**5. S 2578 Debt Limit** (Passed 68 to 29 on 6/11/2002, Roll Call 148). Would increase the public debt limit by \$450 billion for a new ceiling of \$6.4 trillion. See U.S. Const., Art. 1, Sec. 8. **\$4,117** **None** 

**6. HJR 114 War Authorization Against Iraq** (Passed 77 to 23 on 10/11/2002, Roll Call 237). Authorizes the use of U.S. military force against Iraq, including to enforce any related UN Security Council resolutions. **Yes** 



## CONGRESSIONAL SCORECARD BASED ON THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

**Sen. Jesse Helms**  
Lifetime Score: 79%

**Scorecard 107-1**  
107th Session Score: 73%

The Congressional Scorecard is a nationwide educational program of The John Birch Society. Its purpose is to create an informed electorate on how members of Congress are voting. The Scorecard is nonpartisan; it does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are selected for their constitutional implications and cost to the taxpayers.

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U.S. Constitution, Amendment I --- 11 C.F.R. §114(4)(c)(4) --- 616 F.2d 45 (2d Cir. 1980)

The following scorecard lists several key votes in the 107th Congress (January 3, 2001 - January 3, 2003) and ranks congressmen based on his or her fidelity to constitutional and limited-government principles.



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# Bill Descriptions for the Votes that Affect You

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## 1. Constitutional Amendment to Allow Federal Regulation of Political Speech

This vote was on the adoption of a constitutional amendment to give Congress "power to set reasonable limits on the amount of contributions that may be accepted by, and the amount of expenditures that may be made by, in support of, or in opposition to, a candidate for nomination for election to, or for election to, Federal office."

The amendment is an outright attack on the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Senator Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) explained that "the Hollings constitutional amendment [sums] up the reformers' agenda for the past quarter century as they have sought to root out of American political life any speech or activity which could conceivably affect an election or be of value to a politician."

## 2. Gun Buyback Programs

Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) offered an amendment to make available \$15 million from the Housing Drug Elimination Program section of the VA-HUD appropriations bill "for the BuyBack America program, enabling gun buyback initiatives undertaken by public housing authorities and their local police departments."

Federally-funded gun buyback programs exceed Congress' constitutional authority and undermine the Second Amendment's guarantee that the "right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

## 3. Anti-Terrorism Authority

H.R. 3162, known as the "USA Patriot Act," was passed by the House on October 24th, passed by the Senate the next day, and signed into law the day after that. The Act, introduced in response to the September 11th terrorist attacks, gives law enforcement and intelligence agencies vast new powers to combat terrorism.

This bill expands the list of crimes deemed terrorist acts; increases the ability of law enforcement to secretly search homes and business records; expands the FBI's wiretapping and surveillance authority; and provides for nationwide jurisdiction for search warrants and electronic surveillance devices, including the legal extension of those devices to e-mail and the Internet.

## 4. Education

The final version (conference report) of H.R. 1 would overhaul education proposals to increase school accountability and reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for six years. This bill would require states to test students in reading and math in grades three through eight annually, provide new accountability measures for schools that fail to make adequate yearly progress, and give schools greater flexibility to spend federal funds. It would include about \$26.3 billion for federal elementary and secondary education programs and \$13.5 billion for Title I programs for disadvantaged children in fiscal 2002.

The federal government has no constitutional authority over education.

## 5. Debt Limit Increase

This bill (S. 2578) would increase the public debt limit by \$450 billion for a new ceiling of \$6.4 trillion on the National Debt.

The supposed need for increasing the debt ceiling by \$450 billion demonstrates that the federal government is still on a trajectory of out-of-control spending. Instead of raising the legal limit on what the federal government may borrow, Congress should cut spending.

## 6. War Authorization Against Iraq

This joint resolution (House Joint Resolution 114) authorizes the president "to use the Armed Forces of the United States as he determines to be necessary and appropriate in order to -- (1) defend the national security of the United States against the continuing threat posed by Iraq; and (2) enforce all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq."

The purpose of the resolution is to enforce UN Security Council dictates. Since the Constitution gives Congress the sole responsibility for declaring war, this resolution represents congressional abdication of its responsibility.