



# Filemon Vela

**Representative**  
**Texas** District 34th  
**Democrat**

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Scan for  
Lifetime Score

This legislator voted constitutionally on of the votes shown below.

### CPH: Estimated cost per household.

| ★ Constitutional  | ✗ Unconstitutional | ? Did not Vote | CPH            | Vote    |
|---|--------------------|----------------|----------------|---------|
| <b>1. HR 776 Conservation Programs</b> (Passed 361 to 56 on 2/4/2025, Roll Call 29). Reauthorizes a federal conservation program (the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003) through fiscal 2030. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8.           |                    |                |                |         |
|   |                    |                | <b>\$0.45</b>  | --<br>? |
| <b>H J Res 35 EPA Emissions Rule</b> (Passed 220 to 206 on 2/26/2025, Roll Call 52). Overturns an EPA rule that imposed annual fees on oil and gas facilities that emit methane above certain thresholds. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8.        |                    |                |                |         |
|   |                    |                | <b>+\$0.05</b> | --<br>? |
| <b>3. HR 1402 Event-ticket Pricing</b> (Passed 409 to 15 on 4/29/2025, Roll Call 107). Imposes federal regulations on ticket sellers. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8.  |                    |                |                |         |
|   |                    |                | <b>\$0.03</b>  | --<br>? |
| <b>4. HR 1263 Quad Countries</b> (Passed 334 to 51 on 5/19/2025, Roll Call 132). Directs the U.S. secretary of state to deepen America's entanglement in the "Quad," including by creating a Quad Inter-Parliamentary Working Group.              |                    |                |                |         |
|   |                    |                |                | --<br>? |
| <b>5. HR 4 Fiscal 2025 Rescissions</b> (Passed 214 to 212 on 6/12/2025, Roll Call 168). Rescinds \$9.4 billion in funding previously appropriated by Congress for fiscal 2025. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8.                                   |                    |                |                |         |
|   |                    |                | <b>+\$71</b>   | --<br>? |
| <b>6. HR 2056 Washington, D.C., "Sanctuary City" Law</b> (Passed 224 to 194 on 6/12/2025, Roll Call 171). Prohibits the District of Columbia from limiting its cooperation with federal immigration enforcement. See U.S. Const., Art. I, Sec. 8. |                    |                |                |         |
|   |                    |                |                | --<br>? |



## CONGRESSIONAL SCORECARD

BASED ON THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

**Rep. Filemon Vela**  
**Lifetime Score: 22%**

**Scorecard 119-1**

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.

**Please share this Scorecard in your district to inform people about the constitutionality of their congressman's votes.**

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 119th Congress (January 3, 2025 - January 3, 2027) and ranks congressmen based on his or her fidelity to constitutional and limited-government principles.

**Federal debt equals \$323,053 per taxpayer, as of July 30, 2025.**



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Wednesday, July 30, 2025

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# Bill Descriptions for the Votes that Affect You

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## 1. Conservation Programs

Representative Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.) made a motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 776, which would reauthorize the Nutria Eradication and Control Act of 2003 through fiscal 2030. This law enables the U.S. Department of the Interior to provide funding to states in order to eradicate nutria — large, invasive, semiaquatic rodents native to South America — and restore wetlands damaged by them.

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution does not authorize Congress to establish or fund conservation programs. The 10th Amendment reserves any such powers to “the States respectively, or to the people.”

## 2. EPA Emissions Rule

H. J. Res. 35 would overturn the Environmental Protection Agency’s 2024 “Waste Emissions Charge” rule, which imposed annual fees on oil and gas facilities that emit methane above certain thresholds. The resolution blocks the EPA from imposing this rule — intended to curb greenhouse-gas emissions — on petroleum and natural-gas systems.

Neither the EPA nor its methane emissions-fee rule are authorized under the Constitution. Moreover, the rule was driven by the false climate-change narrative that serves as a pretext for implementing the UN’s Agenda 2030, which undermines national sovereignty and promotes centralized, global control.

## 3. Event-ticket Pricing

Representative Gus Bilirakis (R-Fla.) made a motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1402, the “Transparency In Charges for Key Events Ticketing (TICKET) Act,” which would require ticket sellers, including those in the secondary market, to clearly display the total ticket price, including all fees. The bill mandates an itemized breakdown of the base ticket price and additional fees before purchase completion, bans speculative ticketing, and requires refunds for canceled or significantly postponed events.

The Constitution does not authorize the federal government to regulate private industries such as ticketing. This legislation imposes unnecessary federal mandates, duplicating existing, market-driven industry practices. Such regulations would likely increase operational costs for ticket sellers, leading to higher ticket prices for consumers and placing undue burdens on smaller vendors.

## 4. Quad Countries

Representative Bill Huizenga (R-Mich.) made a motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1263, the “Strengthening the Quad Act,” which would, in part, direct the U.S. secretary of state to “enter into negotiations with the Governments of Australia, India, and Japan (collectively, with the United States, known as the ‘Quad’) with the goal of reaching a written agreement to establish a Quad Inter-Parliamentary Working Group.”

This bill risks creating a permanent framework that deepens U.S. entanglements in the Indo-Pacific. This would contravene the Founders’ original intent of avoiding entangling alliances and risk undermining Congress’ constitutional powers. Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution grants Congress — not the executive branch or a regional international body — the power to declare war and regulate foreign affairs.

## 5. Fiscal 2025 Rescissions

H.R. 4, the “Rescissions Act of 2025,” would rescind \$9.4 billion in federal funding, including \$8.3 billion in foreign aid and \$1.1 billion for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The foreign-aid rescissions include \$800 million for migration and refugee assistance, \$361 million for international peacekeeping operations, and \$169 million for international organizations.

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution authorizes Congress to neither establish or fund public media nor send financial aid to foreign countries. Although \$9.4 billion is a small number compared to the total amount of federal spending, it is a good first step toward reining in unconstitutional, reckless spending.

## 6. Washington, D.C., “Sanctuary City” Law

H.R. 2056 would prohibit the District of Columbia from limiting its cooperation with federal immigration enforcement, effectively repealing the “Sanctuary Values Amendment Act of 2020.”

Illegal aliens are, by definition, criminals who ought to be deported from the United States. They should not be permitted sanctuary anywhere in the country. Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution grants Congress the power to not only “establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization,” but provide for the execution of the “Laws of this Union” and protection against “Invasion.” Moreover, Clause 17 of Article I, Section 8 gives Congress the ability to “exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever” involving D.C.