



Written by [Steve Bonta](#) on July 25, 2023

Published in the August 14, 2023 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 39, No. 15

A Senate Stalwart and the Freedom Index

With high-profile interviews, we've learned to expect the unexpected. So when Wisconsin's senior senator, Ron Johnson, in a recent face-to-face interview with *TNA*, unexpectedly lavished praise on [The Creature from Jekyll Island](#) — a book that, unbeknownst to him, was originally published by American Opinion Publishing, which is also the publisher of this magazine — we were pleasantly surprised. We often wonder how many of the movers and shakers on Capitol Hill fully appreciate the gravity of our national predicament. In Senator Johnson, we found a three-term senator and former accountant who is genuinely concerned about a range of serious issues, from Covid vaccines to the shaky foundation of our national finances, that many on both sides of the aisle seem to dismiss.

Senator Johnson, who was first elected to the senate in 2010 as a political novice, has clearly been on a steep learning curve during his time in office. To his down-to-earth temperament and Midwestern manners Senator Johnson has added a keen understanding of national and world affairs and a sound appreciation of both the U.S. Constitution and the principles of liberty that inform our entire system of government. And his voting record mirrors that appreciation. In our most recent Freedom Index for a full congressional session, the 117th Congress, Senator Johnson finished with a 90 percent cumulative score, one of the highest in the Senate. For the first 10 votes of the Freedom Index for the ongoing 118th Congress, tabulated in this issue, Senator Johnson is off to a promising start, in a 13-way tie for second place with an 80 percent score on the first 10 votes. After reading our interview with him, you'll understand why. Senator Johnson is one of the staunchest supporters of both the Second and 10th Amendments in Congress (he has a framed illustration of the latter on his office wall), and has one of the soundest understandings of public finance, including the pernicious mechanism of inflation, of any current elected official. Moreover, in defiance of the usual trends, his voting record has improved with longevity in office.

As for the voting records of his congressional colleagues, our first Freedom Index for the new [118th Congress](#) suggests a continuation of the positive trends from [the 117th](#). For the first 10 votes, we had three senators who scored 100 percent, and 13 more, including Johnson, at 80 percent. In the House, a further 21 representatives scored 100 percent, with four of them — Luna (Fla.), Brecheen (Okla.), Ogles (Tenn.), and Hageman (Wy.) — being promising freshmen. It was Hageman who replaced RINO Liz Cheney and Luna who forced a vote to censure the odious and deserving Adam Schiff. Besides these, an additional 19 representatives scored 90 percent, and most of them, like the usually reliable Thomas Massie and Marjorie Taylor Greene, voted in favor of the contentious debt-limit bill, a piece of legislation on which many honest people did disagree.

While there is yet ample room for improvement, there's a lot to like in the 118th Congress, as both Senator Johnson and the Freedom Index will attest.

— *Steve Bonta*



Written by [Steve Bonta](#) on July 25, 2023

Published in the August 14, 2023 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 39, No. 15

Subscribe to the New American

Get exclusive digital access to the most informative, non-partisan truthful news source for patriotic Americans!

Discover a refreshing blend of time-honored values, principles and insightful perspectives within the pages of "The New American" magazine. Delve into a world where tradition is the foundation, and exploration knows no bounds.

From politics and finance to foreign affairs, environment, culture, and technology, we bring you an unparalleled array of topics that matter most.



[Subscribe](#)

What's Included?

- 24 Issues Per Year
- Optional Print Edition
- Digital Edition Access
- Exclusive Subscriber Content
- Audio provided for all articles
- Unlimited access to past issues
- Coming Soon! Ad FREE
- 60-Day money back guarantee!
- Cancel anytime.