



Written by [Larry Greenley](#) on January 10, 2023

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Saving Our Freedoms With Voter Education

As most of us realize, we are rapidly losing our rights and freedoms due to the increasing disregard for the Constitution by our elected leaders. There is a name for this evil: usurpation, the illegal seizure of powers not granted by the Constitution.

George Washington pointed out in his Farewell Address that usurpation “is the customary weapon by which free governments are destroyed.”

In a September 1820 letter, Founding Father Thomas Jefferson pointed to the best remedy for usurpations:

When the legislative or executive functionaries act unconstitutionally, they are responsible to the people in their elective capacity.... I know no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society, but the people themselves; and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion by education. This is the true corrective of abuses of constitutional power.

That is, Jefferson was pointing out that even when elected officials act unconstitutionally, they are still subject to reelection by the people, and that the only safe depository of this ultimate power of society is the people themselves. His remedy for a situation such as ours, where the voters aren't enlightened enough to demand adherence to the Constitution by our elected officials, is to “inform their discretion by education.”

For many decades, *The New American* and its parent organization, The John Birch Society, have been fighting usurpations by providing a tool for educating voters, namely “The Freedom Index: A Congressional Scorecard Based on the U.S. Constitution.” The Freedom Index is published twice a year. Each issue of the Freedom Index analyzes 10 key votes in the House and 10 key votes in the Senate, and rates each vote based on its constitutionality, yielding a score for all 535 members of Congress based on the constitutionality of their 10 votes. The scores range from 0 (completely unconstitutional) to 100 percent (completely constitutional). The latest edition of the Freedom Index can be found on [here](#).

The key House votes included in the latest Freedom Index are U.S. Military in Syria; Abortion Access; Expanding NATO; Semiconductor Incentives; Assault Weapons Ban; Inflation Reduction Act; Electoral Count Procedures; Federal Police Grants; Marriage; and Omnibus 2023 Spending. The key Senate votes are Semiconductor Incentives; Foreign Aid; Declaration of War; Expanding NATO; Targeting Parents as Domestic Terrorists; Inflation Reduction Act; Hydrofluorocarbons Reduction; Terminate Covid-19 National Emergency; Marriage; and Omnibus 2023 Spending.

As you'd expect, the latest Freedom Index scores are low. The average score for the House is 38 percent; the average score for the Senate is 31 percent. House Republicans averaged 71 percent and Democrats averaged seven percent. In the Senate, Republicans averaged 60 percent; Democrats two percent; and Independents 10 percent. Notice that although the Republicans received higher scores than the Democrats on average, the Republicans still have a great deal of room for improvement. The Freedom Index also effectively exposes the “RINOs” (Republicans in Name Only). For example, in the



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House, Liz Cheney scored 22 percent and in the Senate Mitt Romney scored 30 percent.

A couple years ago we started publishing online the Congressional Scorecard, with six votes for each Scorecard instead of the 10 votes on each Freedom Index. This Scorecard is formatted so that you can print out a four-page Congressional Scorecard for one representative or one senator at a time. You can find these Scorecards [here](#).

In the past few months we've added another exciting voter education tool, the Legislative Scorecard, designed to educate voters about the constitutionality of their state legislators' votes. Find these Scorecards [here](#). As of now, we have Scorecards for 33 states.

We invite you to help save our freedoms by fighting usurpations with our voter education tools!



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