



Rates Congress

115th Congress, 2017

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ABOUT NTU RATES CONGRESS

Every year National Taxpayers Union (NTU) rates U.S. Representatives and Senators on their actual votes--every vote that affects taxes, spending, and debt. Unlike most organizations that publish ratings, we refuse to play the "rating game" of focusing on only a handful of congressional votes on selected issues. The NTU voting study is the fairest and most accurate guide available on congressional spending. It is a completely unbiased accounting of votes.

NTU has no partisan axe to grind. All members of Congress are treated the same regardless of political affiliation. Our only constituency is the overburdened American taxpayer. Grades are given impartially, based on the Taxpayer Score.

Taxpayer Score

The Taxpayer Score measures the strength of support for reducing spending and opposing higher taxes. In general, a higher score is better because it means a member of Congress voted to spend less money.

The Taxpayer Score can range between zero and 100. We do not expect anyone to score a 100, nor has any legislator ever scored a perfect 100 in the multi-year history of the comprehensive NTU scoring system. A high score does not mean that the member of Congress was opposed to all spending or all programs. High-scoring members have indicated that they would vote for many programs if the amount of spending were lower or if the budget were balanced. A member who wants to increase spending on some programs can achieve a high score if he or she votes for offsetting cuts in other programs. A zero score would indicate that the member of Congress approved every spending proposal and opposed every pro-taxpayer reform.

NTU believes a score qualifying for a grade of "A" indicates the member is one of the strongest supporters of responsible tax and spending policies. We are pleased to give these members of Congress our "Taxpayers' Friend Award."

A score qualifying for a grade of "B" represents a "good" voting record on controlling spending and taxes. A "B" grade indicates that the member voted for taxpayers most of the time, but slightly less than those who attained the grade of "A."

A score qualifying for a grade of "C" represents a minimally acceptable

voting record on controlling taxes and spending. To qualify for a grade of “C” a member must have a Taxpayer Score of at least 50 percent. While such score may be “satisfactory,” there is clearly room for improvement.

We also issue pluses and minuses for the grades of “B” and “C” in order to better recognize the differences in the voting records of members with these grades.

A score qualifying for a grade of “D” indicates the member has a “poor” voting record on controlling taxes and spending.

A score significantly below average qualifies for a grade of “F.” This failing grade places the member into the “Big Spender” category.

Taxpayer Scores		
Senate		House
44%	Average	51%
62%	Median	72%
94%	High	92%
1%	Low	6%
Party Scores		
Senate Democrats Avg.		4%
House Democrats Avg.		15%
Senate Republicans Avg.		81%
House Republicans Avg.		79%

Computation

NTU's federal budget experts assigned a weight to each vote. A low weight was assigned to votes that had relatively little effect on the size of the federal budget, while a high weight was assigned to votes with the most significant effect on federal spending.

Weights were based solely on the relative effect of each vote on the total amount of federal spending. Consideration was given to the political effect of a vote on the future federal spending, even though relatively little spending might be immediately at issue.

Scores were computed by dividing the weighted total of votes cast against higher spending (or taxes or for lower spending or taxes), by the weighted total number of spending and tax issues on which the member of Congress voted. Average scores for each state were also computed using the weighted total of votes cast by each state delegation.

In computing these scores, we included only those votes on which the member actually voted for or against a bill, resolution, or amendment. Paired votes, announced positions, and absences were excluded. Because some members were absent frequently, cast certain votes to permit the usage of procedural tools, (or otherwise failed to vote yes or no), their scores, based on relatively few votes, may not accurately reflect spending attitudes. The members falling into this category are noted.

United States Senate

KEY		
SCORE	GRADE	COMMENTS
85% or more	A	Taxpayers' Friend
84 - 79	B+	
78 - 74	B	Good
73 - 68	B-	
67-62	C+	
61 - 56	C	Satisfactory
55 - 50	C-	
49 - 32	D	Poor
< 32	F	Big Spender
* Score based on less than 90%, but more than 75%, of weighted total votes cast.		
** Score based on less than 75%, but more than 50%, of weighted total votes.		
N/A Voted on 50% or less of weighted total votes cast; score and grade not issued.		
Based on every roll call vote affecting fiscal policy; see front pages for methodology.		

We analyzed every roll call vote taken in the First Session of the 115th Congress and selected all votes that could significantly affect the amounts of federal taxes, spending, debt, or regulatory impact. A total of 91 Senate and 198 House votes were selected. We included votes cast on appropriations bills, authorization bills, budget target resolutions, tax bills, amendments, and certain procedural votes that could affect the burden on taxpayers. Votes that simply shifted equal amounts of spending from one area to another were excluded. Also excluded were votes where there was a significant difference of opinion on how to vote to reduce or control government and unanimous votes.

Alabama

Shelby	81%	B+
Strange*	82%	B+
State Average	81%	

Alaska

Murkowski	62%	C+
Sullivan	82%	B+
State Average	72%	

Arizona

Flake	94%	A
McCain	70%	B-
State Average	82%	

Arkansas

Boozman	78%	B
Cotton	81%	B+
State Average	80%	

California

Feinstein*	3%	F
Harris	5%	F
State Average	4%	

Colorado

Bennet	5%	F
Gardner	78%	B
State Average	41%	

Connecticut

Blumenthal	3%	F
Murphy	4%	F
State Average	4%	

Delaware

Carper	5%	F
Coons	4%	F
State Average	5%	

Florida

Nelson	1%	F
Rubio	87%	A
State Average	44%	

Georgia

Isakson	77%	B
Perdue	84%	B+
State Average	80%	

Hawaii

Hirono	5%	F
Schatz	3%	F
State Average	4%	

Idaho

Crapo	85%	A
Risch	90%	A
State Average	88%	

Illinois

Duckworth	3%	F
Durbin	6%	F
State Average	4%	

Indiana

Donnelly	8%	F
Young	80%	B+
State Average	44%	

Iowa

Ernst	82%	B+
Grassley	82%	B+
State Average	82%	

Kansas

Moran	82%	B+
Roberts	78%	B
State Average	80%	

Kentucky

McConnell	N/A	N/A
Paul	86%	A
State Average	86%	

Louisiana			New Hampshire			South Carolina		
Cassidy	75%	B	Hassan	3%	F	Graham	83%	B+
Kennedy	80%	B+	Shaheen	3%	F	Scott	85%	A
State Average	78%		State Average	3%		State Average	84%	
Maine			New Jersey			South Dakota		
Collins	54%	C-	Booker	7%	F	Rounds	79%	B+
King	3%	F	Menendez*	6%	F	Thune	80%	B+
State Average	28%		State Average	6%		State Average	79%	
Maryland			New Mexico			Tennessee		
Cardin	3%	F	Heinrich	6%	F	Alexander	73%	B-
Van Hollen	3%	F	Udall	3%	F	Corker	80%	B+
State Average	3%		State Average	4%		State Average	76%	
Massachusetts			New York			Texas		
Markey	5%	F	Gillibrand	8%	F	Cornyn	78%	B
Warren	5%	F	Schumer	4%	F	Cruz	81%	B+
State Average	5%		State Average	6%		State Average	80%	
Michigan			North Carolina			Utah		
Peters	1%	F	Burr	79%	B+	Hatch	81%	B+
Stabenow	1%	F	Tillis	81%	B+	Lee	92%	A
State Average	1%		State Average	80%		State Average	87%	
Minnesota			North Dakota			Vermont		
Franken	3%	F	Heitkamp	9%	F	Leahy	5%	F
Klobuchar	1%	F	Hoeven	78%	B	Sanders	8%	F
State Average	2%		State Average	44%		State Average	6%	
Mississippi			Ohio			Virginia		
Cochran	81%	B+	Brown	3%	F	Kaine	3%	F
Wicker	80%	B+	Portman	75%	B	Warner	6%	F
State Average	81%		State Average	39%		State Average	4%	
Missouri			Oklahoma			Washington		
Blunt	76%	B	Inhofe	86%	A	Cantwell	5%	F
McCaskill	3%	F	Lankford	94%	A	Murray	5%	F
State Average	40%		State Average	90%		State Average	5%	
Montana			Oregon			West Virginia		
Daines	90%	A	Merkley	6%	F	Capito	73%	B-
Tester	8%	F	Wyden	5%	F	Manchin	9%	F
State Average	49%		State Average	6%		State Average	41%	
Nebraska			Pennsylvania			Wisconsin		
Fischer	82%	B+	Casey	5%	F	Baldwin	3%	F
Sasse	88%	A	Toomey	91%	A	Johnson	88%	A
State Average	85%		State Average	48%		State Average	45%	
Nevada			Rhode Island			Wyoming		
Cortez Masto	6%	F	Reed	4%	F	Barrasso	85%	A
Heller	71%	B-	Whitehouse	3%	F	Enzi	85%	A
State Average	39%		State Average	3%		State Average	85%	

United States House of Representatives

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Eshoo	17%	F
Garamendi	12%	F
Gomez**	21%	F
Huffman	16%	F
Hunter	81%	B+
Issa	73%	B-
Khanna	14%	F
Knight	75%	B
LaMalfa	82%	B+
Lee	12%	F
Lieu*	12%	F
Lofgren	18%	F
Lowenthal	11%	F
Matsui	15%	F
McCarthy	77%	B
McClintock	82%	B+
McNerney	14%	F
Napolitano**	8%	F
Nunes	75%	B
Panetta	14%	F
Pelosi*	12%	F
Peters	27%	F
Rohrabacher	78%	B
Roybal-Allard	8%	F
Royce	80%	B+
Ruiz	18%	F
Sanchez	12%	F
Schiff	10%	F
Sherman	15%	F
Speier	15%	F
Swalwell	16%	F
Takano	13%	F
Thompson	18%	F
Torres	16%	F
Valadao	74%	B
Vargas	15%	F
Walters	81%	B+
Waters	9%	F
State Average	32%	
Colorado		
Buck	87%	A
Coffman	77%	B
DeGette	22%	F
Lamborn	86%	A

Alabama		
Aderholt	78%	B
Brooks	88%	A
Byrne	83%	B+
Palmer	88%	A
Roby	79%	B+
Rogers	77%	B
Sewell	12%	F
State Average	72%	

Arkansas		
Crawford	79%	B+
Hill	85%	A
Westerman	85%	A
Womack	79%	B+
State Average	82%	

California		
Aguilar	16%	F
Barragan	14%	F
Becerra	N/A	N/A
Bass	12%	F
Bera	22%	F
Brownley	18%	F
Calvert	79%	B+
Carbajal	15%	F
Cardenas	16%	F
Chu	15%	F
Cook	74%	B
Correa	27%	F
Costa*	38%	D
Davis	16%	F
Denham	75%	B
DeSaulnier	11%	F

Alaska		
Young	72%	B-
State Average	72%	

Arizona		
Biggs	85%	A
Franks	86%	A
Gallego	12%	F
Gosar	90%	A
Grijalva	12%	F
McSally	78%	B
O'Halleran	23%	F
Schweikert	88%	A
Sinema	30%	F
State Average	56%	

Perlmutter	17%	F
Polis	22%	F
Tipton	83%	B+
State Average	56%	

Connecticut

Courtney	16%	F
DeLauro	11%	F
Esty	16%	F
Himes	17%	F
Larson	12%	F
State Average	14%	

Delaware

Blunt Rochester	13%	F
State Average	13%	

Florida

Bilirakis	82%	B+
Buchanan	77%	B
Castor	12%	F
Crist	15%	F
Curbelo	71%	B-
Demings	10%	F
DeSantis	87%	A
Deutch	15%	F
Diaz-Balart	77%	B
Dunn	82%	B+
Frankel*	8%	F
Gaetz	81%	B+
Hastings	10%	F
Lawson	12%	F
Mast	72%	B-
Murphy	28%	F
Posey	84%	B+
Rooney, F.	85%	A
Rooney, T.	80%	B+
Ros-Lehtinen*	64%	C+
Ross*	84%	B+
Rutherford*	76%	B
Soto	13%	F
Wasserman Schultz	10%	F
Webster	85%	A
Wilson*	10%	F
Yoho	87%	A
State Average	52%	

Georgia

Allen	82%	B+
Bishop	18%	F
Carter	83%	B+
Collins	84%	B+
Ferguson	82%	B+
Graves	85%	B+
Handel**	71%	C+
Hice	87%	A
Johnson	14%	F
Lewis	14%	F
Loudermilk	88%	A
Price	N/A	N/A
Scott, D.	12%	F
Scott, S.	80%	B+
Woodall	84%	B+
State Average	63%	

Hawaii

Gabbard	16%	F
Hanabusa	12%	F
State Average	14%	

Idaho

Labrador	86%	A
Simpson	73%	B-
State Average	80%	

Illinois

Bost	74%	B
Bustos	18%	F
Davis, D.	13%	F
Davis, R.	76%	B
Foster	18%	F
Gutierrez	15%	F
Hultgren	85%	A
Kelly	13%	F
Kinzinger	75%	B
Krishnamoorthi	16%	F
LaHood	84%	B+
Lipinski	20%	F
Quigley	16%	F
Roskam	82%	B+
Rush*	23%	F
Schakowsky	14%	F
Schneider	22%	F
Shimkus	78%	B
State Average	41%	

Indiana

Banks	87%	A
Brooks	77%	B
Bucshon	78%	B
Carson	14%	F
Hollingsworth	88%	A
Messer	90%	A
Rokita	89%	A
Visclosky	18%	F
Walorski	84%	B+
State Average	69%	

Iowa

Blum	78%	B
King	79%	B+
Loeb sack	17%	F
Young	81%	B+
State Average	64%	

Kansas

Estes**	81%	B+
Jenkins	81%	B+
Marshall	80%	B+
Pompeo	N/A	N/A
Yoder	82%	B+
State Average	81%	

Kentucky

Barr	85%	A
Comer	88%	A
Guthrie	83%	B+
Massie	84%	B+
Rogers	75%	B
Yarmuth	13%	F
State Average	71%	

Louisiana

Abraham	80%	B+
Graves	80%	B+
Higgins	82%	B+
Johnson	83%	B+
Richmond	15%	F
Scalise**	91%	A
State Average	72%	

Maine

Pingree	10%	F
Poliquin	74%	B
State Average	42%	

United States House of Representatives

Maryland		
Brown	12%	F
Cummings**	6%	F
Delaney	19%	F
Harris	90%	A
Hoyer	11%	F
Raskin	14%	F
Ruppersberger	17%	F
Sarbanes	12%	F
State Average	23%	

Massachusetts		
Capuano	15%	F
Clark	14%	F
Keating	16%	F
Kennedy	15%	F
Lynch	12%	F
McGovern	15%	F
Moulton	18%	F
Neal	13%	F
Tsongas	17%	F
State Average	15%	

Michigan		
Amash	88%	A
Bergman	83%	B+
Bishop	83%	B+
Conyers	16%	F
Dingell	9%	F
Huizenga	85%	A
Kildee	14%	F
Lawrence	14%	F
Levin	17%	F
Mitchell	79%	B+
Moolenaar	78%	B
Trott	76%	B
Upton	75%	B
Walberg	81%	B+
State Average	57%	

Minnesota		
Ellison	16%	F
Emmer	86%	A
Lewis	85%	A
McCollum	11%	F
Nolan	13%	F
Paulsen	78%	B

Peterson	43%	D
Walz	16%	F
State Average	44%	

Mississippi		
Harper	79%	B+
Kelly	85%	A
Palazzo	77%	B
Thompson	10%	F
State Average	63%	

Missouri		
Clay	14%	F
Cleaver*	10%	F
Graves	84%	B+
Hartzler	80%	B+
Long	83%	B+
Luetkemeyer	79%	B+
Smith	86%	A
Wagner	83%	B+
State Average	65%	

Montana		
Gianforte**	62%	C+
Zinke	N/A	N/A
State Average	62%	

Nebraska		
Bacon	79%	B+
Fortenberry	76%	B
Smith	83%	B+
State Average	79%	

Nevada		
Amodei	78%	B
Kihuen	16%	F
Rosen	20%	F
Titus*	14%	F
State Average	32%	

New Hampshire		
Kuster	17%	F
Shea-Porter	16%	F
State Average	17%	

New Jersey		
Frelinghuysen	70%	B-
Gottheimer	29%	F
Lance	62%	C+
LoBiondo	52%	C-
MacArthur	68%	B-

Norcross	13%	F
Pallone	13%	F
Pascrell	12%	F
Payne	13%	F
Sires	12%	F
Smith	50%	C-
Watson	14%	F
Coleman		
State Average	34%	

New Mexico		
Lujan	9%	F
Lujan Grisham	13%	F
Pearce	80%	B+
State Average	34%	

New York		
Clarke	14%	F
Collins	74%	B
Crowley	14%	F
Donovan	60%	C
Engel	11%	F
Espaillet	13%	F
Faso	65%	C+
Higgins	11%	F
Jeffries	12%	F
Katko	64%	C+
King	61%	C
Lowey	14%	F
Maloney, C.	13%	F
Maloney, S.	17%	F
Meeks	14%	F
Meng	12%	F
Nadler	13%	F
Reed	73%	B-
Rice	18%	F
Serrano	12%	F
Slaughter	12%	F
Stefanik	63%	C+
Suozzi	23%	F
Tenney	73%	B-
Tonko	12%	F
Velazquez	13%	F
Zeldin	74%	B
State Average	32%	

North Carolina			DeFazio	17%	F	DesJarlais	88%	A
Adams	10%	F	Schrader	32%	D	Duncan	88%	A
Budd	88%	A	Walden	76%	B	Fleischmann	80%	B+
Butterfield	11%	F	State Average	32%		Kustoff	85%	A
Foxx	84%	B+	Pennsylvania			Roe	81%	B+
Holding	86%	A	Barletta	73%	B-	State Average	70%	
Hudson	87%	A	Boyle	13%	F	Texas		
Jones	56%	C	Brady	12%	F	Arrington	82%	B+
McHenry	81%	B+	Cartwright	12%	F	Babin	82%	B+
Meadows	88%	A	Costello	67%	C+	Barton	85%	A
Pittenger	85%	A	Dent	68%	B-	Brady	80%	B+
Price	13%	F	Doyle	13%	F	Burgess	83%	B+
Rouzer	85%	A	Evans	9%	F	Carter	78%	B
Walker	87%	A	Fitzpatrick	58%	C	Castro	16%	F
State Average	66%		Kelly	77%	B	Conaway	82%	B+
North Dakota			Marino	73%	B-	Cuellar	43%	D
Cramer	77%	B	Meehan	65%	C+	Culberson	81%	B+
State Average	77%		Murphy**	71%	B-	Doggett	12%	F
Ohio			Perry	88%	A	Farenthold	82%	B+
Beatty	12%	F	Rothfus	82%	B+	Flores	83%	B+
Chabot	87%	A	Shuster	75%	B	Gohmert	82%	B+
Davidson	88%	A	Smucker	78%	B	Gonzalez	18%	F
Fudge	12%	F	Thompson	76%	B	Granger	77%	B
Gibbs	83%	B+	State Average	56%		Green, A.	7%	F
Johnson	76%	B	Rhode Island			Green, G.	16%	F
Jordan	88%	A	Cicilline	14%	F	Hensarling	87%	A
Joyce	72%	B-	Langevin	14%	F	Hurd	72%	B-
Kaptur	10%	F	State Average	14%		Jackson Lee	9%	F
Latta	82%	B+	South Carolina			Johnson, E.	8%	F
Renacci	82%	B+	Clyburn*	8%	F	Johnson, S.**	86%	A
Ryan	11%	F	Duncan	86%	A	Marchant	85%	A
Stivers	74%	B	Gowdy	83%	B+	McCaul	81%	B+
Tiberi	77%	B	Mulvaney	N/A	N/A	Olson	82%	B+
Turner	72%	B-	Norman**	81%	B+	O'Rourke	19%	F
Wenstrup	87%	A	Rice	83%	B+	Poe	81%	B+
State Average	63%		Sanford	87%	A	Ratcliffe	85%	A
Oklahoma			Wilson	81%	B+	Sessions	83%	B+
Bridenstine**	88%	A	State Average	73%		Smith	83%	B+
Cole	77%	B	South Dakota			Thornberry	79%	B+
Lucas	76%	B	Noem	82%	B+	Veasey	15%	F
Mullin	84%	B+	State Average	82%		Vela	17%	F
Russell	80%	B+	Tennessee			Weber	83%	B+
State Average	81%		Black	85%	A	Williams	85%	A
Oregon			Blackburn	87%	A	State Average	62%	
Blumenauer	17%	F	Cohen	14%	F			
Bonamici	17%	F	Cooper	25%	F			

United States House of Representatives

Utah					
Bishop	80%	B+	Grothman	85%	A
Chaffetz	N/A	N/A	Kind	19%	F
Love	83%	B+	Moore	15%	F
Stewart	86%	A	Pocan*	14%	F
State Average	83%		Ryan	N/A	N/A
			Sensenbrenner	92%	A
			State Average	56%	

Vermont		
Welch	15%	F
State Average	15%	

Wyoming		
Cheney	80%	B+
State Average	80%	

Virginia		
Beyer	11%	F
Brat	88%	A
Comstock	69%	B-
Connolly	16%	F
Garrett*	90%	A
Goodlatte	88%	A
Griffith	86%	A
McEachin	11%	F
Scott	9%	F
Taylor	82%	B+
Wittman	82%	B+
State Average	57%	

Washington		
DelBene	15%	F
Heck	15%	F
Herrera Beutler	72%	B-
Jayapal	14%	F
Kilmer	18%	F
Larsen	14%	F
McMorris Rodgers	81%	B+
Newhouse	79%	B+
Reichert	65%	C+
Smith	11%	F
State Average	38%	

West Virginia		
Jenkins	77%	B
McKinley	73%	B-
Mooney	83%	B+
State Average	78%	

Wisconsin		
Duffy	81%	B+
Gallagher	83%	B+

KEY		
SCORE	GRADE	COMMENTS
85% or more	A	Taxpayers' Friend
84 - 79	B+	Good
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73 - 68	B-	
67-62	C+	Satisfactory
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N/A Voted on 50% or less of weighted total votes cast; score and grade not issued.		
Based on every roll call vote affecting fiscal policy; see front pages for methodology.		





Since 1969, National Taxpayers Union (NTU), has been the "Voice of America's Taxpayers." The nation's oldest taxpayer advocacy organization, NTU fights for lower taxes, smaller budgets, and economic freedom at all levels of government. As taxpayers' lobbyists, we work to ensure that all Americans are able to pursue their dreams without the heavy hand of government holding them back.

NTU is a nonpartisan 501 (c) (4) nonprofit, advocating on behalf of taxpayers, not political parties.

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