



Posted October 31, 2016

## Spotlight on Top House Votes

# Research Your Reps on 20 Top Votes Since Paul Ryan Became Speaker on Oct. 29, 2015

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Voterama in Congress

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**1. Bias in Auto Lending:** The House on Nov. 18, 2015, voted, 332-96, to nullify Consumer Financial Protection Bureau regulation of auto-lending practices alleged to discriminate against minorities. While the bureau claims authority under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to oversee indirect (third-party) auto lending, critics say it is barred by the 2010 Dodd-Frank law from regulating auto dealerships. A yes vote was to send HR 1737 to the Senate.

Vote 1 Yeas and Nays: [bit.ly/2eOhQW2](http://bit.ly/2eOhQW2)

**2. More Checks on Syrian Refugees:** The House on Nov. 19, 2015, voted, 289-137, to require the heads of the Department of Homeland Security and FBI and the director of national intelligence to clear each refugee applicant from Syria and Iraq. A yes vote was to pass a bill (HR 4038) that adds several steps to a two-year-long vetting process already in place for these individuals.

Vote 2 Yeas and Nays: [bit.ly/2eCSPgj](http://bit.ly/2eCSPgj)

**3. To Kill Rule on Carbon Emissions:** Voting 242-180, the House on Dec. 1, 2015, adopted a GOP-drafted measure that would kill a new Environmental Protection Agency rule designed to limit carbon emissions from existing coal- and gas-fired power plants. A yes vote was to send the measure (SJ Res 24) to President Obama and his expected veto.

Vote 3 Yeas and Nays: [bit.ly/2eil8gP](http://bit.ly/2eil8gP)

**4. Elementary, Secondary Education:** The House on Dec. 2, 2015, adopted, 359-64, the conference report on a bill that would extend federal K-12 programs for four years while devolving considerable authority to states and localities. A yes vote backed a bill that would continue No Child Left Behind test requirements but with more state and local control over steps to improve scores. (S 1177).

Vote 4 Yeas and Nays: [bit.ly/2dOvCsd](http://bit.ly/2dOvCsd)

**5. \$622 Billion Tax Breaks, Deficits:** The House on Dec. 17, 2015, voted, 318-109, to extend several dozen tax deductions and credits that benefit families, special interests, individuals, businesses and other parties. The bill would expand deficits by \$622 billion over 10 years, or more than \$700 billion when Treasury borrowing costs are factored in. A yes vote was to pass GOP-drafted HR 2029.

Vote 5 Yeas and Nays: [bit.ly/2eYXiXg](http://bit.ly/2eYXiXg)

**6. Rollback of Iran Nuclear Deal:** The House on Feb. 2, 2016, voted, 246-181, to require detailed congressional approval of steps by President Obama to lift U.S. economic sanctions on Iran under terms of a six-nation nuclear deal now in effect. A yes vote was to send the Senate a GOP-drafted bill (HR 3662) aimed at rolling back the agreement under which Iran is dismantling its nuclear-arms apparatus.

Vote 6 Yeas and Nays: [bit.ly/2eCOsBP](http://bit.ly/2eCOsBP)

**7. Gun-Violence Research:** The House on Feb. 10, 2016, refused, 177-241, to designate gun-violence research as a National Science Foundation priority, so that science could potentially help reduce gun deaths as it has done for smoking and highway mortality. A yes vote was to adopt the Democratic-sponsored amendment to HR 3293.

Vote 7 Yeas and Nays: [bit.ly/2eOno2R](http://bit.ly/2eOno2R)

**8. House Immigration Stance:** The House on March 17, 2016, voted, 234-186, to file a Supreme Court brief in *United States vs. Texas*, which concerns a presidential order to block deportation of parents of citizens born before Nov. 20, 2014. A yes vote was to join arguments against the president's immigration program. (H Res 639).

Vote 8 Yeas and Nays: [bit.ly/2eimt7m](http://bit.ly/2eimt7m)

**9. Updated War Authority:** The House on May 18, 2016, defeated, 138-285, an amendment to HR 4909 that sought to revoke the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) as the legal authority for combat against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and replace it with an up-to-date war authorization. A yes vote was to adopt the amendment.

Vote 9 Yeas and Nays: [bit.ly/2e4aZH6](http://bit.ly/2e4aZH6)

**10. Affirmation of LGBT Order:** The House on May 25, 2016, voted, 223-195, to affirm an executive order by President Obama prohibiting companies receiving federal contracts from discriminating against employees based on the fact that they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT). The amendment was added to the 2017 energy and water appropriations bill (HR 5055). A yes vote was to affirm the president's LGBT order.

Vote 10 Yeas and Nays: [bit.ly/2eYUA4k](http://bit.ly/2eYUA4k)

**11. Guns, Terrorist Watch Lists:** Voting 236-171, the House on June 14, 2016, blocked a parliamentary tactic by Democrats designed to bring to the floor a bill (HR 1076) that would prohibit the sale of firearms or explosives to individuals on FBI terrorist watch lists. Such transactions are now legal. Backed by The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence and opposed by the National Rifle Association, the bill had been shelved in the GOP-controlled Judiciary Committee since February 2015. A yes vote opposed a procedural move by Democrats to bring gun legislation to the House floor.

Vote 11 Yeas and Nays: [bit.ly/2eOrrw6](http://bit.ly/2eOrrw6)

**12. IRS Scrutiny of Political Money:** Voting 240-182, the House on June 14, 2016, passed a GOP-sponsored bill (HR 5053) that would reduce IRS scrutiny of campaign-finance activity by nonprofit groups receiving tax-exempt status under Section 501(c) of the tax code. A yes vote was to repeal an existing requirement that these groups disclose their donors to the IRS but not to the public.

Vote 12 Yeas and Nays: [bit.ly/2eMlwoA](http://bit.ly/2eMlwoA)

**13. Pentagon Climate Policy:** Voting 216-205, the House on June 16, 2016, stripped the fiscal 2017 military appropriations bill (HR 5293) of funding to implement President Obama's directive of January 2016 that the Department of Defense must identify and assess the impact of climate change on national security and build climate-related risk-management into its decisions. A yes vote was to eliminate the climate-policy funding.

Vote 13 Yeas and Nays: [bit.ly/2eOxabc](http://bit.ly/2eOxabc)

**14. Mental-Health Programs Overhaul:** The House on July 6, 2016, voted, 422-2, to make major changes to federal programs that help Americans cope with mental illness and substance abuse. In part, the bill would expand Medicare and Medicaid coverage of mental-health services in a way officially projected to add at least \$3 billion, and possibly tens of billions of dollars, to annual deficits through fiscal 2025. A yes vote was to send HR 2646 to the Senate.

Vote 14 Yeas and Nays: [bit.ly/2eXaKfw](http://bit.ly/2eXaKfw)

**15. Rules for Payday Lenders:** Voting 182-240, the House on July 6, 2016, defeated a Democratic bid to advance a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau rule, then in draft stage, that would begin federal regulation of companies that provide high-interest "payday loans" and similar credit secured by the borrower's future paychecks. The amendment was offered to HR 5485. A yes vote was to advance the payday-lending rule.

Vote 15 Yeas and Nays: [bit.ly/2eUkEPI](http://bit.ly/2eUkEPI)

**16. Defunding Climate Research:** The House on July 12, 2016, defeated, 208-217, an amendment to strip HR 5538 of its \$83.3 million budget for an Environmental Protection Agency program that funds research into technologies to combat climate change and develop clean energy. A yes vote backed the funding cut.

Vote 16 Yeas and Nays: [bit.ly/2eUIbkA](http://bit.ly/2eUIbkA)

**17. Dispute Over Abortion:** The House on July 13, 2016, passed, 245-182, a GOP-sponsored bill that would allow sponsors of health-insurance plans and others to refrain from involvement in abortions on the basis of their religious beliefs or moral convictions. The bill establishes a right to file civil lawsuits to uphold conscience-based objections to abortion. A yes vote was to send S 304 to the Senate, where it was likely to fail.

Vote 17 Yeas and Nays: [bit.ly/2e4f3He](http://bit.ly/2e4f3He)

**18. Bigger Tax Breaks for Health Costs:** The House on Sept. 13, 2016, voted, 261-147, to expand the federal income tax deduction for medical costs. The GOP-sponsored legislation (HR 3590) would allow all taxpayers to deduct health-care expenses that exceed 7.5 percent of their adjusted gross income. The current threshold is 10 percent of AGI for those under 65. A yes vote was to increase the deductibility of unreimbursed medical expenses while reducing tax revenue by an estimated \$32.7 billion over 10 years.

Vote 18 Yeas and Nays: [bit.ly/2dOBOAu](http://bit.ly/2dOBOAu)

**19. Lawsuits Against Saudi Arabia:** Voting 348-77, the House on Sept. 28, 2016, overrode President Obama's veto of a bill (S 2040) that would give families of 9/11 victims standing to sue Saudi Arabia in federal court for any role it had in the attacks 15 year earlier. A yes vote was to allow the bill to become law.

Vote 19 Yeas and Nays: [bit.ly/2dT750t](http://bit.ly/2dT750t)

**20. Expanded Overtime Pay:** The House on Sept. 28, 2016, passed, 246-177, a GOP-sponsored bill (HR 6094) that would kill a Department of Labor rule due to take effect in December that sharply raises the salary level for qualifying for overtime pay. Now, salaried workers must make under \$455 per week or \$23,660 annually to receive overtime. The new rule raises the thresholds to \$913 and \$47,476. Overtime consists of time-and-a-half paid for hours worked over 40 in a given week. A yes vote opposed the overtime rule.

Vote 20 Yeas and Nays: [bit.ly/2eX9MA6](http://bit.ly/2eX9MA6)