

Know the Score!

Tennessee Conservation Voters (TCV) is the only statewide, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated solely to protecting Tennessee's environment and preserving our natural resources through effective legislative and administrative advocacy. TCV turns conservation values into Tennessee priorities by advocating for strong environmental protection policies and holding elected officials accountable.



The scorecard provides factual information about legislators' actions on a range of conservation and environmental issues. We hope this will continue to encourage advocates to remain informed and act by contacting legislators and other policy makers.

Thanks to our Environmental Champions in the General Assembly!

Each year we recognize legislators with the best voting and sponsorship records for demonstrating strong dedication to conservation values. We look forward to their continued commitment and protecting Tennessee's precious environment.

Not everyone had equal opportunity to make positive votes, but the following legislators had the best voting and sponsorship records. We list them below by net score and alphabetically where there is a tie.

Senators: Harris (5), Yarbro (5), Dickerson (4), Kyle (3), Norris (3)

Representatives: Akbari (5), Cooper (5), DeBerry (4), Fitzhugh (4), Powell (4), Turner (4), Gilmore (3), Hardaway (3), Love (3), Stewart (3)



Roots to Build On & Growing Concerns

- The General Assembly passed helpful legislation regarding open records, a key issue for environmental advocates.
- The General Assembly amended some bad bills to make them less bad (for instance, counties were allowed, although not required, to continue to require auto emissions).
- After years of successful efforts by advocates to stop bills removing direct federal supervision and enforcement of coal mining protection, the legislature passed such a bill.
- 2018 was not an easy year, though some of the worst bills were stopped, delayed, or significantly modified.
- Those who seek to maximize personal profits at the cost of everyone's health and wellbeing have increased their skill and reach. The conservation community must match this engagement or we can expect continued dangerous results!

Action & Advocacy

Developing good relationships with decision-makers, contacting them in appropriate and timely fashion, and holding them accountable for how they vote are keys to moving forward. Our advocacy efforts are essential to guarantee that legislators are well-informed on the importance and value of safeguarding our clean air, clean water, and open spaces. The more they hear from representatives of TCV, our member groups, and especially from citizens and voters like you, the more we can successfully support clean water, clean air and our wild and scenic areas!

Here are three things you can do today to help us meet this challenge:

- Commit to asking at least 3 people to join our TCV Legislative Email Updates list at www.tnconservationvoters.org. When we are well-organized and informed on conservation issues, our message and impact on legislation is more successful.
- Send a polite and professional email to your legislators today and when they arrive back in session on January 8, 2019 letting them know you care about the environment. No matter how good or how bad your legislators' past votes have been on our issues, they need to know that their constituents care.
- Continue working and planning together to make sure we stand unified in the face of unprecedented threats to our environment.



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The Environmental Voice

Member organizations:

Cumberland Harpeth Chapter of the Audubon Society
Harpeth Conservancy
League of Women Voters of Tennessee
Scenic Tennessee
Sierra Club-Tennessee Chapter
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association
Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning
Tennessee Environmental Council
Tennessee Native Plant Society
Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association
Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association




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To receive updates on state environmental legislation, e-mail: admin@tnconservationvoters.org

For more information about our priorities and how to take action, join our free Legislative Update email list at www.tnconservationvoters.org

Reading the Scorecard:

Most scorecards are based on floor votes (entire House or Senate) on selected bills. However, in the Tennessee General Assembly, most of the important legislative work and votes occur within the committee system. To have a more complete picture, this scorecard evaluates votes of legislators but also evaluates their work by giving positive and negative points for key committee votes and bill sponsorships.

While the scorecard gives a good general sense of the extent to which legislators supported the environment, legislators' scores should not be directly compared unless they had an opportunity to vote on the same bills. (A legislator on a relevant committee will have more chances to earn both trees and stumps.)

Scorecard Key	
+	: pro-environment vote or sponsorship
-	: anti-environment vote or sponsorship
Every two + actions =	
Every two - actions =	

To review the previous scorecards, go to www.tnconservationvoters.org/scorecard

Scored Legislation

Throughout the session, TCV tracks and takes positions on priority legislation. After the session we examine the votes and determine a selection of bills that best illustrates where legislators stand on environmental issues. Do your legislators support environmental protections? Review their votes in the chart.

SB295/HB362 – Water Quality: Allows the General Assembly to meddle with technical postconstruction stormwater regulations. Proper postconstruction stormwater regulations ensure that pollutants don't rush into our water supply and also limit the risk of property damage after rain. Enacted as Public Chapter 496 effective February 22, 2018. *Negative points for sponsorship and aye vote in the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee. Positive points for no vote in House Agriculture Committee.*

SB619/HB631 – Water Quality in Public Schools: Requires public schools to develop a policy to implement programs to reduce potential sources of lead contamination in drinking water. Enacted as Public Chapter 977 effective January 1, 2019. *Positive points for sponsorship and aye floor vote.*

SB686/HB571 – Coal Mining: Removes direct federal supervision and enforcement of coal mining protections. Commonly referred to as the Primacy Bill. Enacted as Public Chapter 839 effective April 25, 2018. *Negative points for sponsorship and aye vote on floor and committees. Positive points for no vote on floor and committees.*

SB1489/HB1545 – Open Records: Exempts information concerning low level radioactive waste from being classified and not open for public inspection. Did not pass. (A similar bill did pass which is positive from a purely open records viewpoint. We did not include that bill as last minute changes broadened this bill's focus in questionable ways unrelated to radioactive waste. See SB2239/HB1815 below in "Worth Noting" section.) *Positive points for sponsorship.*

SB1573/HB2437 – Public Hearings: Requires agencies, when statutorily required to hold a public hearing as part of their rulemaking process, to make copies of the rule available in redline form to persons in attendance at the hearing. Enacted as Public Chapter 611 effective July 1, 2018. *Positive points for sponsorship.*

SB1724/HB1608 – Rules Regarding Public Records: Requires agency public records policies to be adopted as official rules. Enacted as Public Chapter 712 effective April 12, 2018. *Positive points for sponsorship.*

SB2065/HB1846 – Drinking Water in Schools: Requires a school and any local governmental entity conducting a water sample test to notify parents, guardians, etc. of children attending the school when water sample test indicates that specified levels for lead have been exceeded. Did not pass. *Positive points for sponsorship and aye vote in House Ed. Administration & Planning. Negative points for no vote in House Ed. Administration & Planning.*

SB2354/ HB2361 – Alternative Fuel: Urges General Services Department to submit a report that contains the number of purchases and leases of government owned/operated vehicles capable of using alternative fuel and other relevant data. Bill did not pass. *Positive points for sponsorship and aye vote in committees. Negative points for no vote in committees.*

SB2397/ HB2432 – Report On Utilizing Energy Savings Performance Contracting: Authorizes state procurement agencies to enter into an energy performance or guaranteed energy savings contract using alternative procurement or contracting vehicles for purposes of developing and implementing pilot projects for state owned buildings and facilities. Enacted as Public Chapter 902 effective July 1, 2018. *Positive points for sponsorship.*

SB2240/HB1816 – Water Recreation: Authorizes TDEC commissioner to expend funds from the Ocoee River recreation and economic development fund; gives Commissioner sole authority to make expenditures from the fund for certain management and administrative expenses. (Impact is to allow continued recreational use of the Ocoee.) Enacted as Public Chapter 753 effective April 18, 2018. *Positive points for sponsorship.*

SB2627/ HB2074 – Mass Transit: Requires community engagement in development of a report detailing plans or initiatives to increase public transportation system access and service to economically disadvantaged areas within a transportation authority; requires municipalities to reassess certain delayed projects and prioritize completion if in the best interest of the community. Bill did not pass. *Positive points for sponsorship and aye vote in committees. Negative points for no vote in committees.*

SJR861 – Harpeth River: Encourages stakeholders to work collaboratively to restore impaired waters of Harpeth River. Resolution was withdrawn. *Positive points for sponsorship.*

Worth Noting:



























































































SB1335/ HB0785 – Recreational Paddling: Directs TWRA to develop regulations for vendors for nonmotorized vessels including canoes, kayaks, standup paddle boards, tubes, and any other vessels. (Does not directly impact paddlers.) There have been problems on certain rivers between property owners and some users of those rivers which caught the attention of sponsors. Enacted as Public Chapter 969 effective July 1, 2018.

SB2239/ HB1815 – Open Records: Records regarding radioactive materials as confidential. Narrows the public records exception for records of the Department of Environment and Conservation concerning radioactive materials to those records that are confidential under federal law, regulation, or guidance. Classifies as confidential records relating to the location of a historical site or artifact when necessary to prevent damage to the site, artifact, or private property. Enacted as Public Chapter 630 effective April 2, 2018.

SB2656/ HB 1782 – Air Quality: Abolishes certain vehicle inspection and maintenance programs to maintain compliance with national ambient air quality standards and enacts related provisions. We opposed this bill for obvious reasons. A helpful amendment was adopted to allow some local control. Enacted as Public Chapter 953 effective May 15, 2018.

Contemplated resolution on "Park and Float": Would have requested that TDEC and TDOT meet with Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association and others to reestablish a "Park and Float" program to facilitate cooperation in allowing construction and repair roads to be left as "access" roads to facilitate use of waterways for paddling, fishing, etc. Resolution was not filed as a legislator held an informal meeting with relevant groups and obtained informal but clear commitments by the two departments to proceed.

2018 Score

House of Representatives	SB295/ HB362	SB619/ HB631	SB686/ HB571	SB1489/ HB1545	SB1573/ HB2437	SB1724/ HB1608	SB2065/ HB1846	SB2354/ HB2361	SB2397/ HB2432	SB2240/ HB1816	SB2627/ HB2074	SJR861	RATING
Speaker Harwell, R-56													
Akbari, D-91		++	+				+					+	
Alexander, R-39		+						-					
Beck, D-51		+	+										
Boyd, R-46		+	-										
H. Brooks, R-19		+	-				-						
K. Brooks, R-24		+	---										
Butt, R-64		+	---										
Byrd, R-71		+	---										
Calfee, R-32		-	+	---									
Camper, D-87		++	++										
Carr, R-12		+	---				+						
Carter, R-29		+	---										
Casada, R-63		+	-							+			
Clemmons, D-55		+	+										
Coley, R-97		+	---										
Cooper, D-86		+	+					+			++		
Crawford, R-1		+	---										
Curcio, R-69		+	---										
Daniel, R-18		+	---										
DeBerry, D-90		+	++				+						
Doss, R-70		-	+	---				+			-		
Dunn, R-16		+	---					+					
Eldridge, R-73		+	-										
Faison, R-11		-	+	-	+	+							
Farmer, R-17			---										
Favors, D-28							+						
Fitzhugh, D-82		++	++										
Forgety, R-23		+	---										
Gant, R-94		+	---	+									
Gilmore, D-54		+	+				+						
Goins, R-10		+	-										
Gravitt, R-30													
Halford, R-79		--	+	---									
Hardaway, D-93		+	+	+									
Hawk, R-5		--	+	---						+			
Hazlewood, R-27		+	-										
Hicks, R-9		+	---	+									
M. Hill, R-7		+	---										
T. Hill, R-3		+	-					-					
Holsclaw, R-4		+	-										
Holt, R-76		--	+	---									
Howell, R-22		+	---							+			
Hulsey, R-2		-	+	---									
Jernigan, D-60		+	+										
Johnson, R-68		+	---										
Jones, D-59		+	+										
Kane, R-89		+	-					-					
Keisling, R-38		+	---					+					
Kumar, R-66		++	-										
Lamberth, R-44		+	-										
Littleton, R-78		+	---										
Lollar, R-99		--	+	---									
Love, D-58		+	++										
Lynn, R-57		+	---										
Marsh, R-62		-	+	---									
Matheny, R-47		-	+	---									
Matlock, R-21		+	---			+							
McCormick, R-26		+	---										
McDaniel, R-72		-	+	---									
Miller, D-88		+	-										
Mitchell, D-50		--	+	---						+			
Moody, R-81		+	---					+					
Moon, R-8		+	-										
Parkinson, D-98		+	+										
Pitts, D-67		+	+										
Powell, D-53		++	+				+						
Powers, R-36		-	+	---									
Ragan, R-33		+	---										
Ramsey, R-20		+	-										
Reedy, R-74		--	+	---									
Rogers, R-45		+	---					-			-		
Rudd, R-34		+	-										
Sanderson, R-78		+	-					+					
Sargent, R-61		+	++										
C. Sexton, R-25		+	---										
J. Sexton, R-35		+	---					+			-		
Shaw, D-80		-	+	---									
Sherrell, R-43		-	+	---									
Smith, R-13		+	---					++					
Sparks, R-49		+	---										
Staples, D-15		-	++	+			+						
Stewart, D-52		++	+										
Terry, R-48		+	---										
Thompson, D-96		+	+										
Tillis, R-92		--	+	---									
Towns, D-84		+	+										
Travis, R-31		+	---					+					
Turner, D-85		+	+				+	+					
Van Huss, R-6		+	-										
Vaughan, R-95		+	-										
Weaver, R-40		+	---				+	-				-	