



NTU

National Taxpayers Union

Rates Congress

112th Congress, Second Session (2012)

UNITED STATES SENATE †

GRADE	SCORE	GRADE	SCORE	GRADE	SCORE	GRADE	SCORE
ALABAMA		IOWA		NEW HAMPSHIRE		TEXAS	
Sessions.....	B+81%	Grassley.....	B-73%	Ayotte.....	B78%	Cornyn.....	B+81%
Shelby.....	B-70%	Harkin.....	F13%	Shaheen.....	F10%	Hutchison.....	C59%
State Average.....	75%	State Average.....	43%	State Average.....	44%	State Average.....	70%
ALASKA		KANSAS		NEW JERSEY		UTAH	
Begich.....	F10%	Moran.....	C+69%	Lautenberg.....	F15%	Hatch.....	A90%
Murkowski.....	C52%	Roberts.....	C62%	Menendez.....	F11%	Lee.....	A98%
State Average.....	31%	State Average.....	66%	State Average.....	13%	State Average.....	94%
ARIZONA		KENTUCKY		NEW MEXICO		VERMONT	
Kyl.....	A86%	McConnell.....	B77%	Bingaman.....	F10%	Leahy.....	F8%
McCain.....	B+85%	Paul.....	A95%	Udall.....	F6%	Sanders.....	F9%
State Average.....	85%	State Average.....	86%	State Average.....	8%	State Average.....	8%
ARKANSAS		LOUISIANA		NEW YORK		VIRGINIA	
Boozman.....	C+68%	Landrieu.....	F16%	Gillibrand.....	F7%	Warner.....	D19%
Pryor.....	D20%	Vitter.....	B77%	Schumer.....	F7%	Webb.....	D21%
State Average.....	43%	State Average.....	46%	State Average.....	7%	State Average.....	20%
CALIFORNIA		MAINE		NORTH CAROLINA		WASHINGTON	
Boxer.....	F7%	Collins.....	D30%	Burr.....	B78%	Cantwell.....	F8%
Feinstein.....	F9%	Snowe.....	D38%	Hagan.....	F12%	Murray.....	F8%
State Average.....	8%	State Average.....	34%	State Average.....	45%	State Average.....	8%
COLORADO		MARYLAND		NORTH DAKOTA		WEST VIRGINIA	
Bennet.....	F15%	Cardin.....	F8%	Conrad.....	F7%	Manchin.....	D23%
Udall.....	F13%	Mikulski.....	F10%	Hoeven.....	C-48%	Rockefeller.....	F7%
State Average.....	14%	State Average.....	9%	State Average.....	28%	State Average.....	15%
CONNECTICUT		MASSACHUSETTS		OHIO		WISCONSIN	
Blumenthal.....	F8%	Brown.....	D35%	Brown.....	F9%	Johnson.....	A92%
Lieberman.....	F13%	Kerry.....	F9%	Portman.....	B77%	Kohl.....	F13%
State Average.....	11%	State Average.....	22%	State Average.....	43%	State Average.....	53%
DELAWARE		MICHIGAN		OKLAHOMA		WYOMING	
Carper.....	D17%	Levin.....	F7%	Coburn.....	A89%	Barrasso.....	B79%
Coons.....	F12%	Stabenow.....	F12%	Inhofe.....	B79%	Enzi.....	B77%
State Average.....	15%	State Average.....	10%	State Average.....	84%	State Average.....	78%
FLORIDA		MINNESOTA		OREGON		SENATE KEY	
Nelson.....	F10%	Franken.....	F7%	Merkley.....	F11%	SCORE	GRADE
Rubio.....	B+84%	Klobuchar.....	F11%	Wyden.....	F12%	COMMENTS	
State Average.....	47%	State Average.....	9%	State Average.....	11%	86% or more	A Taxpayers' Friend
GEORGIA		MISSISSIPPI		PENNSYLVANIA		80%-85%	B+
Chambliss.....	B-71%	Cochran.....	C53%	Casey.....	F14%	75%-79%	B Good
Isakson.....	C+69%	Wicker.....	C63%	Toomey.....	A86%	70%-74%	B-
State Average.....	70%	State Average.....	58%	State Average.....	50%	65%-69%	C+
HAWAII		MISSOURI		RHODE ISLAND		50%-64%	C Satisfactory
Akaka.....	F9%	Blunt.....	C59%	Reed.....	F11%	40%-49%	C-
Schatz.....	N.A.N.A. **	McCaskill.....	D18%	Whitehouse.....	F11%	17%-39%	D Poor
State Average.....	9%	State Average.....	39%	State Average.....	11%	16% or less	F Big Spender
IDAHO		MONTANA		SOUTH CAROLINA		SENATE KEY	
Crapo.....	A86%	Baucus.....	F11%	DeMint.....	A98% #	SCORE	GRADE
Risch.....	A87%	Tester.....	F11%	Graham.....	B+80%	COMMENTS	
State Average.....	87%	State Average.....	11%	State Average.....	89%	86% or more	A Taxpayers' Friend
ILLINOIS		NEBRASKA		SOUTH DAKOTA		80%-85%	B+
Durbin.....	F10%	Johanns.....	C63%	Johnson.....	F8%	75%-79%	B Good
Kirk.....	No Votes in 2012	Nelson.....	F16%	Thune.....	B-70%	70%-74%	B-
State Average.....	10%	State Average.....	39%	State Average.....	38%	65%-69%	C+
INDIANA		NEVADA		TENNESSEE		50%-64%	C Satisfactory
Coats.....	B77%	Heller.....	C59%	Alexander.....	C62%	40%-49%	C-
Lugar.....	C57%	Reid.....	F10%	Corker.....	B+82%	17%-39%	D Poor
State Average.....	67%	State Average.....	34%	State Average.....	73%	16% or less	F Big Spender

SENATE KEY

SCORE	GRADE	COMMENTS
86% or more	A	Taxpayers' Friend
80%-85%	B+	
75%-79%	B	Good
70%-74%	B-	
65%-69%	C+	
50%-64%	C	Satisfactory
40%-49%	C-	
17%-39%	D	Poor
16% or less	F	Big Spender

*Score based on less than 75%, but more than 50%, of weighted total of votes cast.

** Voted on 50% or less of weighted total of votes cast; score and grade not issued.

#: Resigned; seat was vacant prior to end of voting.

† Based on every roll call vote affecting fiscal policy; see back page for methodology.

UNITED STATES HOUSE

	GRADE	SCORE
ALABAMA		
Aderholt.....	C+	66%
Bachus.....	C+	66%
Bonner.....	C+	66%
Brooks.....	B+	83%
Roby.....	C+	68%
Rogers.....	C+	66%
Sewell.....	F	11%
State Average		61%
ALASKA		
Young.....	C	64%
ARIZONA		
Barber.....	N.A.	N.A. **
Flake.....	A	90%
Franks.....	A	86%
Gosar.....	A	87%
Grijalva.....	F	16%
Pastor.....	F	10%
Quayle.....	A	86%
Schweikert.....	A	87%
State Average		66%
ARKANSAS		
Crawford.....	C+	67%
Griffin.....	B-	74%
Ross.....	C-	44%
Womack.....	C	64%
State Average		63%
CALIFORNIA		
Baca.....	F	12%
Bass.....	F	17%
Becerra.....	F	16%
Berman.....	F	12%
Bilbray.....	C	62%
Bono Mack.....	B-	70%
Calvert.....	C+	65%
Campbell.....	A	91%
Capps.....	F	17%
Cardoza.....	D	29% *#
Chu.....	F	15%
Costa.....	D	32%
Davis.....	F	13%
Denham.....	B-	70%
Dreier.....	C+	68%
Eshoo.....	F	20%
Farr.....	F	17%
Filner.....	N.A.	N.A. **#
Gallegly.....	C+	65%
Garamendi.....	F	18%
Hahn.....	F	15%
Herger.....	B	79%
Honda.....	F	18%
Hunter.....	B	78%
Issa.....	B	79%
Lee.....	F	15%
Lewis.....	B-	70%
Lofgren.....	F	20%
Lungren.....	C+	68%
Matsui.....	F	16%
McCarthy.....	B-	72%
McClintock.....	A	93%
McKeon.....	C+	69%
McNerney.....	F	18%
Miller, Gary.....	B-	74%
Miller, George.....	F	19%
Napolitano.....	F	14%
Nunes.....	B-	73%
Pelosi.....	F	15%
Richardson.....	F	13%
Rohrabacher.....	A	88%

	GRADE	SCORE
Roybal-Allard.....	F	15%
Royce.....	A	87%
Sanchez, Linda.....	F	17%
Sanchez, Loretta.....	F	14%
Schiff.....	F	14%
Sherman.....	F	16%
Speier.....	D	22%
Stark.....	F	16%
Thompson.....	F	18%
Waters.....	F	15%
Waxman.....	F	12%
Woolsey.....	F	18%
State Average		38%
COLORADO		
Coffman.....	B	78%
DeGette.....	F	18%
Gardner.....	B+	82%
Lamborn.....	A	85%
Perlmutter.....	D	21%
Polis.....	D	23%
Tipton.....	B	76%
State Average		55%
CONNECTICUT		
Courtney.....	F	12%
DeLauro.....	F	13%
Himes.....	D	24%
Larson.....	F	10%
Murphy.....	D	22%
State Average		16%
DELAWARE		
Carney.....	F	20%
FLORIDA		
Adams.....	B+	83%
Bilirakis.....	B-	71%
Brown.....	F	8%
Buchanan.....	B-	72%
Castor.....	F	16%
Crenshaw.....	C+	65%
Deutch.....	F	10%
Diaz-Balart.....	C	61%
Hastings.....	F	14%
Mack.....	B+	80% *
Mica.....	B	78%
Miller.....	B+	80%
Nugent.....	B-	74%
Posey.....	B+	82%
Rivera.....	C+	67%
Rooney.....	B	78%
Ros-Lehtinen.....	C	62%
Ross.....	A	84%
Southerland.....	B	78%
Stearns.....	A	87%
Wasserman Schultz.....	F	12%
Webster.....	B-	71%
West.....	B	75%
Wilson.....	F	14%
Young.....	C+	67%
State Average		60%
GEORGIA		
Barrow.....	C-	47%
Bishop.....	D	24%
Broun.....	A	85%
Gingrey.....	B+	82%
Graves.....	A	87%
Johnson.....	F	10%
Kingston.....	B+	80%
Lewis.....	F	16%
Price.....	A	84%
Scott, A.....	B+	81%

	GRADE	SCORE
Scott, D.....	F	12%
Westmoreland.....	B+	83%
Woodall.....	A	84%
State Average		60%
HAWAII		
Hanabusa.....	F	12%
Hirono.....	F	9%
State Average		11%
IDAHO		
Labrador.....	A	90%
Simpson.....	C+	67%
State Average		78%
ILLINOIS		
Biggett.....	C+	67%
Costello.....	D	24%
Davis.....	F	16%
Dold.....	C	56%
Gutierrez.....	F	18%
Hultgren.....	B	77%
Jackson.....	N.A.	N.A. **#
Johnson.....	B-	73%
Kinzinger.....	C+	65%
Lipinski.....	F	18%
Manzullo.....	B	78%
Quigley.....	D	22%
Roskam.....	C+	69%
Rush.....	F	16%
Schakowsky.....	F	14%
Schilling.....	C+	69%
Schock.....	C+	65%
Shimkus.....	C+	68%
Walsh.....	A	84%
State Average		50%
INDIANA		
Bucshon.....	B-	73%
Burton.....	B+	82%
Carson.....	F	17%
Donnelly.....	C-	40%
Pence.....	B+	81%
Rokita.....	A	85%
Stutzman.....	A	86%
Visclosky.....	F	14%
Young.....	B	76%
State Average		62%
IOWA		
Boswell.....	D	30%
Braley.....	F	20%
King.....	B	79%
Latham.....	C+	67%
Loeb sack.....	D	27%
State Average		44%
KANSAS		
Huelskamp.....	A	87%
Jenkins.....	B+	81%
Pompeo.....	A	85%
Yoder.....	B+	83%
State Average		84%
KENTUCKY		
Chandler.....	D	32%
Guthrie.....	B-	72%
Massie.....	N.A.	N.A. **
Rogers.....	C	64%
Whitfield.....	C+	65%
Yarmuth.....	F	17%
State Average		50%
LOUISIANA		
Alexander.....	C	64%
Boustany.....	B	77%
Cassidy.....	B	77%

	GRADE	SCORE
Fleming.....	A	84%
Landry.....	B+	82%
Richmond.....	F	16%
Scalise.....	B+	82%
State Average		69%
MAINE		
Michaud.....	D	24%
Pingree.....	F	16%
State Average		20%
MARYLAND		
Bartlett.....	B-	72%
Cummings.....	F	14%
Edwards.....	F	15%
Harris.....	B+	83%
Hoyer.....	F	13%
Ruppersberger.....	F	14%
Sarbanes.....	F	13%
Van Hollen.....	F	15%
State Average		30%
MASSACHUSETTS		
Capuano.....	F	15%
Frank.....	F	20%
Keating.....	F	19%
Lynch.....	F	19%
Markey.....	F	15%
McGovern.....	F	17%
Neal.....	F	16%
Olver.....	F	16%
Tierney.....	F	17%
Tsongas.....	F	19%
State Average		17%
MICHIGAN		
Amash.....	A	92%
Benishek.....	B	78%
Camp.....	B-	72%
Clarke.....	F	15%
Conyers.....	F	15%
Curson.....	N.A.	N.A. **
Dingell.....	F	12%
Huizenga.....	A	87%
Kildee.....	F	7%
Levin.....	F	12%
Miller.....	B	75%
Peters.....	F	17%
Rogers.....	B-	70%
Upton.....	B	76%
Walberg.....	A	84%
State Average		51%
MINNESOTA		
Bachmann.....	A	85%
Cravaack.....	C+	67%
Ellison.....	F	18%
Kline.....	B	76%
McCollum.....	F	14%
Paulsen.....	B-	72%
Peterson.....	C-	49%
Walz.....	D	21%
State Average		50%
MISSISSIPPI		
Harper.....	B-	70%
Nunnelee.....	B	77%
Palazzo.....	B-	74%
Thompson.....	F	15%
State Average		60%
MISSOURI		
Akin.....	A	88% *

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES †

	GRADE	SCORE
Carnahan.....	F	16%
Clay.....	F	15%
Cleaver.....	F	15%
Emerson.....	C+	66%
Graves.....	B	78%
Hartzler.....	B	78%
Long.....	B+	80%
Luetkemeyer.....	B-	71%
State Average		55%

MONTANA

Rehberg.....	C+	66%
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NEBRASKA

Fortenberry.....	C+	68%
Smith.....	B-	74%
Terry.....	B-	70%
State Average		71%

NEVADA

Amodei.....	B	78%
Berkley.....	F	17%
Heck.....	C+	67%
State Average		54%

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Bass.....	C	58%
Guinta.....	B	76%
State Average		67%

NEW JERSEY

Andrews.....	F	13%
Frelinghuysen.....	C	63%
Garrett.....	A	84%
Holt.....	F	13%
Lance.....	B	78%
LoBiondo.....	C	55%
Pallone.....	F	15%
Pascrell.....	F	11%
Payne.....	N.A.	N.A. **
Rothman.....	F	10%
Runyan.....	C	61%
Sires.....	F	11%
Smith.....	C	59%
State Average		40%

NEW MEXICO

Heinrich.....	F	16%
Lujan.....	F	16%
Pearce.....	B	75%
State Average		36%

NEW YORK

Ackerman.....	F	13%
Bishop.....	F	19%
Buerkle.....	B+	83%
Clarke.....	F	15%
Crowley.....	F	15%
Engel.....	F	11%
Gibson.....	C	55%
Grimm.....	C	64%
Hanna.....	C+	67%
Hayworth.....	C	62%
Higgins.....	F	20%
Hinchey.....	F	11%
Hochul.....	D	30%
Israel.....	F	13%
King.....	C	63%
Lowey.....	F	15%
Maloney.....	F	17%
McCarthy.....	F	14%
Meeks.....	F	13%
Nadler.....	F	14%

	GRADE	SCORE
Owens.....	D	34%
Rangel.....	F	15%*
Reed.....	C+	67%
Serrano.....	F	16%
Slaughter.....	F	16%
Tonko.....	F	17%
Towns.....	F	12%
Turner.....	C+	66%
Velazquez.....	F	17%
State Average		31%

NORTH CAROLINA

Butterfield.....	F	14%
Coble.....	B+	80%
Ellmers.....	B-	74%
Foxx.....	A	84%
Jones.....	C+	67%
Kissell.....	D	39%
McHenry.....	B+	81%
McIntyre.....	C-	48%
Miller.....	F	12%
Myrick.....	B	78%
Price.....	F	12%
Shuler.....	D	34%
Watt.....	F	12%
State Average		49%

NORTH DAKOTA

Berg.....	C+	68%
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OHIO

Austria.....	C+	68%
Boehner.....	N.A.	N.A. **
Chabot.....	A	85%
Fudge.....	F	13%
Gibbs.....	B-	70%
Johnson.....	C+	69%
Jordan.....	A	87%
Kaptur.....	F	9%
Kucinich.....	F	20%
LaTourette.....	C	59%
Latta.....	B	75%
Renacci.....	C+	69%
Ryan.....	F	12%
Schmidt.....	B	78%
Stivers.....	B-	71%
Sutton.....	F	15%
Tiberi.....	B-	70%
Turner.....	C+	65%
State Average		55%

OKLAHOMA

Boren.....	C	56%
Cole.....	C+	66%
Lankford.....	B	78%
Lucas.....	C	64%
Sullivan.....	B	78%
State Average		68%

OREGON

Blumenauer.....	D	23%
Bonamici.....	F	19%
DeFazio.....	D	27%
Schrader.....	D	30%
Walden.....	B-	73%
State Average		35%

PENNSYLVANIA

Altmire.....	D	27%
Barletta.....	C	64%
Brady.....	F	9%
Critz.....	D	26%
Dent.....	C	64%
Doyle.....	F	15%
Fattah.....	F	13%

	GRADE	SCORE
Fitzpatrick.....	C	62%
Gerlach.....	C	61%
Holden.....	F	19%
Kelly.....	C+	66%
Marino.....	C+	68%
Meehan.....	C	63%
Murphy.....	B-	70%
Pitts.....	B-	74%
Platts.....	C	56%
Schwartz.....	F	15%
Shuster.....	C+	69%
Thompson.....	C+	69%
State Average		48%

RHODE ISLAND

Cicilline.....	F	16%
Langevin.....	F	15%
State Average		16%

SOUTH CAROLINA

Clyburn.....	F	11%
Duncan.....	A	86%
Gowdy.....	A	85%
Mulvaney.....	A	90%
Scott.....	A	85%
Wilson.....	B+	83%
State Average		74%

SOUTH DAKOTA

Noem.....	B-	70%
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TENNESSEE

Black.....	B+	83%
Blackburn.....	B+	81%
Cohen.....	F	15%
Cooper.....	D	32%
DesJarlais.....	B	78%
Duncan.....	B+	81%
Fincher.....	B+	83%
Fleischmann.....	B+	80%
Roe.....	B	77%
State Average		68%

TEXAS

Barton.....	B	76%
Brady.....	B	79%
Burgess.....	A	85%
Canseco.....	B	78%
Carter.....	C+	68%
Conaway.....	B+	82%
Cuellar.....	D	33%
Culberson.....	B	76%
Doggett.....	F	16%
Farenthold.....	B	79%
Flores.....	B+	83%
Gohmert.....	B+	83%
Gonzalez.....	F	15%
Granger.....	C+	67%
Green, A.....	F	14%
Green, G.....	D	22%
Hall.....	B	76%
Hensarling.....	A	84%
Hinojosa.....	F	19%
Jackson Lee.....	F	9%
Johnson, E.....	F	13%
Johnson, S.....	B	78%
Marchant.....	B+	82%
McCaul.....	B	76%
Neugebauer.....	A	87%
Olson.....	B+	80%
Paul.....	A	92%*
Poe.....	B+	80%
Reyes.....	F	10%
Sessions.....	B	79%

	GRADE	SCORE
Smith.....	B-	72%
Thornberry.....	B	78%
State Average		62%

UTAH

Bishop.....	B	78%
Chaffetz.....	A	84%
Matheson.....	C	61%
State Average		74%

VERMONT

Welch.....	F	18%
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VIRGINIA

Cantor.....	B-	74%
Cannolly.....	F	15%
Forbes.....	B-	72%
Goodlatte.....	A	84%
Griffith.....	B+	80%
Hurt.....	B	78%
Moran.....	F	16%
Rigell.....	B	76%
Scott.....	F	13%
Wittman.....	B-	70%
Wolf.....	C	62%
State Average		58%

WASHINGTON

DelBene.....	N.A.	N.A. **
Dicks.....	F	12%
Hastings.....	C+	67%
Herrera Beutler.....	C+	66%
Larsen.....	F	20%
McDermott.....	F	17%
McMorris Rodgers.....	B	76%
Reichert.....	C	62%
Smith.....	F	15%
State Average		46%

WEST VIRGINIA

Capito.....	C	64%
McKinley.....	C+	65%
Rahall.....	D	24%
State Average		51%

WISCONSIN

Baldwin.....	F	20%
Duffy.....	B	76%
Kind.....	D	25%
Moore.....	F	15%
Petri.....	B+	81%
Ribble.....	A	84%
Ryan.....	B	77%
Sensenbrenner.....	A	89%
State Average		59%

WYOMING

Lummis.....	A	86%
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HOUSE KEY

SCORE	GRADE	COMMENTS
84% or more	A	Taxpayers' Friend
80%-83%	B+	
75%-79%	B	Good
70%-74%	B-	
65%-69%	C+	
50%-64%	C	Satisfactory
40%-49%	C-	
21%-39%	D	Poor
20% or less	F	Big Spender

* Score based on less than 75%, but more than 50%, of weighted total of votes cast.

** Voted on 50% or less of weighted total of votes cast; score and grade not issued.

#: Resigned; seat was vacant prior to end of voting.

† Based on every roll call vote affecting fiscal policy; see back page for methodology.

Every year National Taxpayers Union (NTU) rates U.S. Representatives and Senators on their actual votes — every vote that significantly affects taxes, spending, debt, and regulatory burdens on consumers and taxpayers. 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 fiscal policies. It is a completely unbiased accounting of votes.

NTU assigned weights to the votes, reflecting the importance of each vote’s effect.*

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 regulation and opposing higher taxes. In general, a higher score is better because it means a Member of Congress voted to lessen or limit the burden on taxpayers. The Taxpayer Score can range between 0 and 100. We do not expect anyone to score a 100, nor has any legislator ever achieved a 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. 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” (subject to minimum attendance criteria).

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 a score may be “satisfactory,” there is clearly room for improvement.

We are also issuing 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.

VOTE SELECTION

We analyzed every roll call vote taken in the Second Session of the 112th Congress (through 1/1/2013) and selected all votes that could significantly affect the amounts of federal taxes, spending, debt, or regulatory impact. A total of 274 House and 127 Senate 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.

We believe the number of votes used in the analysis, the objective and nonpartisan weighting of the votes, computerized calculations, and many error checks all combine to ensure the highest possible standards of accuracy.

OTHER FACTORS

Although we believe this voting analysis is the most accurate guide available on Congressional fiscal performance, no study of roll call votes can fully evaluate a Member’s overall record. A Member’s committee work, leadership, and effectiveness with other Members also affect his or her influence on the amount of federal spending, taxes, debt, and regulatory impact. Because of the complexity of the calculations and the number of votes involved, we do not have space to reprint the votes of each Representative and Senator here. A list of votes used in the study, including the weight assigned to each, is available on our website at www.ntu.org.

* Computation

NTU’s federal budget experts assigned a weight to each vote ranging from 0 to 100. A low weight was assigned to votes that had relatively little effect, while a high weight was assigned to votes with the most significant effect on federal spending, taxes, debt, and regulation.

Weights were based solely on the relative effect of each vote on the total amount of federal spending, taxes, debt, or regulatory impact. Consideration was given to the long-term effect of a vote, even though relatively little might be immediately at issue. A vote with average importance should have a weight close to 10.

Scores were computed by dividing the weighted total of votes cast against higher spending, taxes, or regulation or for lower spending, taxes, or regulation, by the weighted total number of fiscal issues on which the Member of Congress voted. Average state scores were also computed, using the weighted total of votes cast by each 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 (or otherwise failed to vote yes or no), their scores and grades, based on relatively few votes, may not accurately reflect fiscal attitudes. The Members falling into this category are noted.

TAXPAYER SCORES

SENATE		HOUSE	
40%	Average	50%	
19%	Median	64%	
98%	High	93%	
6%	Low	7%	
PARTY SCORES			
11%	Democratic Average	18%	
10%	Democratic Median	16%	
72%	Republican Average	75%	
77%	Republican Median	76%	