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## **SOUTH DAKOTA Congressional Voting Record**

117<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session  
January 2022 — December 2022

*A Special Report on Legislation  
Vital to American Retirees*

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# SENATE VOTES

The following is a list of ten key votes selected as representative of the votes of critical importance to retirees taken by the U.S. Senate:

## 1 Voting Rights

The Senate voted on a motion to debate the House-passed Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act, introduced by Rep. Beyer, D-VA. The bill would expand voter registration, voting access and limit the removal of voters from voter rolls. This bill also increases access to vote by mail and early voting, and restores provisions of the Voting Rights Act. The motion failed 51-49. Sixty votes are needed to proceed. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 5746, Roll Call 9, January 19, 2022.

## 2 Defund Vaccine Mandate

The Senate voted on an amendment to a spending bill by Senator Mike Lee, R-UT, to prohibit federal funding to implement the COVID-19 vaccine mandate. COVID vaccines help protect Americans, particularly older Americans, who are the most susceptible to serious illness or death. The amendment was rejected 46-47. A **NO** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. Amdt. 4929 to H.R. 6617, Roll Call 61, February 17, 2022.

## 3 Postal Service Reform

The Senate voted on the House passed Postal Service Reform Act, introduced by Rep. Maloney, D-NY. The bill is critical to retirees since older Americans rely more heavily on the postal service for at-home delivery of medications and election ballots. The bill passed 79-19. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 3076, Roll Call 71, March 8, 2022.

## 4 Government Funding

The Senate voted on the FY 22 appropriations bill to fund the government. The spending bill provides critical funding increases in many areas including dementia and Alzheimer's research, the Administration for Community Living and the Social Security Administration. The bill passed 68-31. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2471, Roll Call 78, March 10, 2022.

## 5 Veterans Health Care I

The Senate voted on a motion to debate the Honoring Our PACT Act, introduced by Senator Kaine, D-VA. The bill expands VA health care and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. The motion failed 55-42. Sixty votes are needed to proceed. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. 3373, Roll Call 272, July 27, 2022.

## 6 Veterans Health Care II

The Senate voted on final passage of the Honoring Our PACT Act. The bill expands VA health care and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. The bill passed 86-11. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. 3373, Roll Call 280, August 2, 2022.

## 7 Inflation Reduction Act

The Senate voted on a motion to proceed to the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Among several benefits changes, the bill allows Medicare to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices. The motion passed 51-50. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 5376, Roll Call 287, August 6, 2022.

## 8 Insulin Price Caps

Senator Lindsay Graham, R-SC, moved to strike the language containing \$35 monthly insulin caps for people with private insurance plans. The amendment failed 57-43. Sixty votes are needed to keep the caps in the bill. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. S. Amdt. 5194 to H.R. 5376, Roll Call 314, August 7, 2022.

## 9 Medicare Drug Negotiation

The Senate voted on passage of the Inflation Reduction Act. The bill allows Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices, caps annual prescription drug expenditures for Medicare beneficiaries at \$2,000, caps insulin prices at \$35 per month, and provides free vaccines for Medicare Part D beneficiaries. The bill passed 51-50. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 5376, Roll Call 325, August 7, 2022.

## 10 Government Funding

The Senate voted on the omnibus FY 23 Consolidated Appropriations Act to fund the government. The spending bill increases funding for the Social Security Administration, the Administration for Community Living and Senior Nutrition Programs. It also includes a \$25 million increase in NLRB funding. The measure passed 68-29. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2617, Roll Call 421, December 22, 2022.

# HOUSE VOTES

The following is a list of ten key votes selected as representative of the votes of critical importance to retirees taken by the U.S. House of Representatives:

## 1 Voting Rights

The House voted on the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act, introduced by Rep. Beyer, D-VA, to expand voter registration and voting access and limit the removal of voters from voter rolls. This bill increases access to vote by mail and early voting and restores provisions of the Voting Rights Act. The bill passed 220-203. A **YES** vote is a pro-retiree vote. H.R. 5746, Roll Call 9, January 13, 2022.

## 2 Postal Service Reform

The House voted on the Postal Service Reform Act, introduced by Rep. Maloney, D-NY. The bill is critical to retirees since older Americans often rely on the postal service for at-home delivery of medications and election ballots. The bill passed 342-92. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 3076, Roll Call 38, February 8, 2022.

## 3 Veterans Health Care

The House voted on the Honoring Our PACT Act, introduced by Rep. Takano, D-CA. The bill expands VA health care and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. The bill passed 256-174. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 3967, Roll Call 57, March 3, 2022.

## 4 Government Funding

The House voted on the FY 22 appropriations bill to fund the government. The spending bill provides critical funding increases in many areas including dementia and Alzheimer's research, the Administration for Community Living and the Social Security Administration. The measure passed 260-191. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2471, Roll Call 66, March 9, 2022.

## 5 Pension Restoration

The House voted on a bill introduced by Rep. Kildee, D-MI, to restore the full vested monthly benefits for eligible participants of certain pension plans sponsored by Delphi Corporation. The legislation helps retirees already receiving benefits and ensures all beneficiaries will receive their full earned benefits. The bill passed 254-175. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 6929, Roll Call 396, July 27, 2022.

## 6 Medicare Drug Negotiation

The House voted on passage of the Inflation Reduction Act. The bill allows Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices, caps annual prescription drug expenditures for Medicare beneficiaries at \$2,000, caps insulin prices at \$35 per month, and provides free vaccines for Medicare Part D beneficiaries. The bill passed 220-207. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 5376, Roll Call 420, August 12, 2022.

## 7 Accurate Census Count

The House voted on the Ensure a Fair and Accurate Census Count Act, introduced by Rep. Maloney, D-NY. The measure strengthens the independence of the Census Bureau and puts safeguards in place to help protect it from partisan manipulation. The legislation ensures that any new questions added to a decennial census are vigorously researched and tested. The bill passed 220-208. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 8326, Roll Call 435, September 15, 2022.

## 8 Election Reform

In response to the events of January 6, 2021, the House voted on The Presidential Election Reform Act introduced by Rep. Lofgren, D-CA. The bill alters the 1887 Electoral Count Act and would raise the threshold needed for electoral objections by lawmakers to receive a vote and mandates that governors transmit state results to Congress. The legislation was part of the FY 23 omnibus appropriations bill, which passed 229-203. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 8873, Roll Call 449, September 21, 2022.

## 9 VA Employee Fairness

The House voted on a bill introduced by Rep. Takano, D-CA, to ensure that VA healthcare professionals who serve veterans have the same workplace rights granted to other VA clinicians and federal employees. The bill allows VA health staff to better serve veterans' health care needs. The bill passed 219-201. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 1948, Roll Call 530, December 15, 2022.

## 10 Government Funding

The House voted on the omnibus FY 23 Consolidated Appropriations Act to fund the government. The spending bill increases funding for the Social Security Administration, the Administration for Community Living and Senior Nutrition Programs. It also includes a \$25 million increase in NLRB funding. The measure passed 225-201. A **YES** vote is the pro-retiree vote. H.R. 2617, Roll Call 549, December 23, 2022.

# SENATE VOTES

1. Voting Rights 2. Defund Vaccine Mandate 3. Postal Service Reform 4. Government Funding 5. Veterans' Health Care I 6. Veterans' Health Care II 7. Inflation Reduction Act 8. Insulin Price Caps 9. Medicare Drug Negotiation 10. Government Funding Pro-Retiree Score '22 Lifetime Score													1. Voting Rights 2. Defund Vaccine Mandate 3. Postal Service Reform 4. Government Funding 5. Veterans' Health Care I 6. Veterans' Health Care II 7. Inflation Reduction Act 8. Insulin Price Caps 9. Medicare Drug Negotiation 10. Government Funding Pro-Retiree Score '22 Lifetime Score												
Alliance Position	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	%	%	Alliance Position	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	%	%
Thune (R)	X	X	✓	✓	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	40	13	Rounds (R)	X	X	✓	X	X	✓	X	X	X	✓	30	16

# HOUSE VOTES

1. Voting Rights 2. Postal Service Reform 3. Veterans Health Care 4. Government Funding 5. Pension Restoration 6. Medicare Drug Negotiation 7. Accurate Census Count 8. Election Reform 9. VA Employee Fairness 10. Government Funding Pro-Retiree Score '22 Lifetime Score												
Alliance Position	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	%	%
AL Johnson (R)	X	✓	X	X	X	X	X	X	?	X	11	10

## How To Read This Record

Democrat (D) Republican (R) Independent (I)  
 ✓ Voted With Alliance Policy  
 X Voted Against Alliance Policy  
 S Speaker Did Not Vote  
 P Present  
 ? Did Not Vote

O Not Eligible Member  
 + Announced For  
 - Announced Against  
 AL At-Large

The number before each name indicates Congressional District.  
 100% Best Score Possible

