



CITIZENS for Limited Taxation

41 Years as the Voice of Massachusetts Taxpayers
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Legislative Ratings — 2015-2016 Session

Basis for CLT Legislative Ratings — 2015-2016 Session

Citizens for Limited Taxation rates state representatives and state senators on direct and indirect taxpayer issues for which there are roll call votes.

During the 2015 session the Senate voted to freeze the income tax rate, and chose not to abolish the death tax. The following year the Senate voted for a paint tax, and against a two-thirds vote needed to release money from the stabilization fund.

Both the House and Senate collectively took three votes in Constitutional Convention on May 18, 2016. The first vote was to cut the income tax rate to 5% by Jan, 1, 2019, the second to tax individuals making under \$1 million at a 5% tax rate, and third was to move forward the *Graduated Income Tax. Only this last vote, a potential tax increase, was passed.

The House attempted to “reform” the Legislature with votes on more House transparency, an online audit of the Legislature, a two-thirds vote requirement for a tax hike, and an 8-year term limit for legislators — all were defeated. Unlike the Senate, the House was recorded on votes addressing public housing eligibility, reducing the sales tax to 5%, and the tax on “Ride-for-Hire.”

Both branches voted on establishing an Independent Redistricting Commission, but as in previous sessions, it too was defeated. A pro-business vote to study the costs of the onerous inventory tax failed in the House, but identifying obstacles to business passed in the Senate. Attempts to reform the anti-business “treble damages” which overly punishes employers on the issue of employee compensation were decisively defeated in the House and Senate. Votes to delay the start of the earned sick time law to allow employers time to adjust to this new law were voted down in both branches. Conforming to the Federal Real ID law was thwarted in the Senate with a further amendment, but a tightening of the ID law, with the Governor’s amendment, was later accepted in the House.

* The Graduated Income Tax amendment, to eventually advance it to the ballot, needed a minimum 25% vote of both branches meeting in a Constitutional Convention. It passed with a 135 to 57 vote. The next step is another vote in a Constitutional Convention during the 2017-2018 legislative session, with the same 25% vote requirement. Assuming it receives the 25%, the graduated income tax will be on the 2018 state wide ballot.

2015-2016 Key House Roll Calls

Roll Call	Date	CLT Favored	Description
1	1/29/2015	Y	Expand House Transparency
4	1/29/2015	Y	Online Audit of Legislature
5	1/29/2015	Y	Two-thirds Vote for Tax Increase
12	1/29/2016	Y	Eight-Year Term Limit for MA Legislators
38	4/28/2015	Y	Treble Damages - Decided by Judge
43	4/28/2015	N	Further Amendment on Public Housing Eligibility
48	4/29/2015	Y	90-Days to Implement Earned Sick Time
197	2/3/2016	Y	Independent Redistricting Commission
222	4/25/2016	N	Further Amendment on Sales Tax Reduction to 5%
249	5/18/2016	Y	Income Tax Rate to 5%
250	5/18/2016	Y	Under \$1M Income Rate 5%
253	5/18/2016	N	Graduated Income Tax Amendment
279	6/15/2016	Y	Study Cost/Benefits of Inventory Tax
304	7/14/2016	Y	Tighten Real ID Law
556	7/31/2016	N	Tax on Ride-for-Hire

2015-2016 Key Senate Roll Calls

Roll Call	Date	CLT Favored	Description
21	5/19/2015	N	Freeze Income Tax Rate
23	5/19/2015	Y	Delay Start of Earned Sick Time Law
24	5/19/2015	Y	Abolishes Death Tax
215	1/21/2016	N	Paint Tax Engrossment
235	2/3/2016	Y	Two-thirds vote for Stabilization Fund Expenditure
236	2/3/2016	Y	Independent Redistricting Commission
266	3/31/2016	Y	Study Obstacles to Business
299	5/18/2016	Y	5% Income Tax Rate by Jan. 1, 2019
300	5/18/2016	Y	5% Income Tax Rate Under \$1M Income
303	5/18/2016	N	Graduated Income Tax Amendment
306	5/24/2016	Y	Reverse Law Mandating Treble Damages
334	5/26/2016	N	Further Amendment on Real ID

2015-2016 CLT HOUSE RATING

REPRESENTATIVE	PARTY/DISTRICT	RATING
Arciero	(D-Westford)	7%
Ashe	(D-Longmeadow)	13%
Atkins	(D-Concord)	7%
Ayers	(D-Quincy)	27%
Balser	(D-Newton)	0%
Barber	(D-Somerville)	0%
Barrows	(R-Mansfield)	93%
Benson	(D-Lunenburg)	7%
Berthiaume	(R-Spencer)	100%
Boldyga	(R-Southwick)	100%
Bradley	(D-Hingham)	0%
Brodeur	(D-Melrose)	7%
Cabral	(D-New Bedford)	7%
Cahill	(D-Lynn)	17%
Calter	(D-Kingston)	27%
Campanale	(R-Leicester)	90%
Campbell	(D-Methuen)	7%
Cantwell	(D-Marshfield)	13%
Cariddi	(D-No. Adams)	7%
Carvalho	(D-Boston)	0%
Cassidy	(D-Brockton)	14%
Chan	(D-Quincy)	7%
Collins	(D-Boston)	7%
Coppinger	(D-Boston)	8%
Crighton	(D-Lynn)	7%
Cronin	(D-Easton)	7%
Cullinane	(D-Boston)	0%
Cusack	(D-Braintree)	7%
Cutler	(D-Duxbury)	20%
Day	(D-Stoneham)	7%
Decker	(D-Cambridge)	0%
DeCoste	(R-Norwell)	100%
DeLeo	(D-Winthrop)	7%

D'Emilia	(R-Bridgewater)	93%
Dempsey	(D-Haverhill)	7%
Devers	(D-Lawrence)	0%
Diehl	(R-Whitman)	100%
DiZoglio	(D-Methuen)	20%
Donahue	(D-Worcester)	7%
Donato	(D-Medford)	7%
Dooley	(R-Norfolk)	93%
DuBois	(D-Brockton)	0%
Durant	(R-Spencer)	100%
Dwyer	(D-Woburn)	53%
Dykema	(D-Holliston)	13%
Ehrlich	(D-Marblehead)	7%
Farley-Bouvier	(D-Pittsfield)	0%
Ferguson	(R-Holden)	93%
Fernandes	(D-Milford)	13%
Ferrante	(D-Gloucester)	13%
Finn	(D-West Springfield)	13%
Fiola	(D-Fall River)	7%
Fox	(D-Boston)	0%
Frost	(R-Auburn)	93%
Galvin	(D-Canton)	13%
Garballey	(D-Arlington)	7%
Garlick	(D-Needham)	7%
Garry	(D-Dracut)	53%
Gentile	(D-Sudbury)	0%
Gifford	(R-Wareham)	93%
Golden	(D-Lowell)	14%
Gonzalez	(D-Springfield)	0%
Gordon	(D-Bedford)	7%
Gregoire	(D-Marlboro)	13%
Haddad	(D-Somerset)	7%
Harrington	(R-Groton)	93%
Hay	(D-Fitchburg)	14%
Hecht	(D-Watertown)	7%
Heroux	(D-Attleboro)	7%
Hill	(R-Ipswich)	93%

Hogan	(D-Stow)	7%
Holmes	(D-Boston)	0%
Honan	(D-Boston)	7%
Howitt	(R-Seekonk)	93%
Hunt, D	(D-Boston)	7%
Hunt, R	(R-Sandwich)	100%
Jones	(R-North Reading)	93%
Kafka	(D-Stoughton)	7%
Kane	(R-Shrewsbury)	90%
Kaufman	(D-Lexington)	0%
Keefe	(D-Worcester)	0%
Kelcourse	(R-Amesbury)	93%
Khan	(D-Newton)	0%
Kocot	(D-Northampton)	0%
Koczera	(D-New Bedford)	7%
Kulik	(D-Worthington)	7%
Kuros	(R-Uxbridge)	100%
Lawn	(D-Watertown)	7%
Linsky	(D-Natick)	7%
Livingstone	(D-Boston)	0%
Lombardo	(R-Billerica)	100%
Lyons	(R-Andover)	100%
Madaro	(D-Boston)	0%
Madden	(D-Nantucket)	7%
Mahoney	(D-Worcester)	7%
Malia	(D-Boston)	0%
Mannal	(D-Barnstable)	0%
Mariano	(D-Quincy)	13%
Mark	(D-Hancock)	7%
Markey	(D-Darmouth)	13%
McGonagle	(D-Everett)	7%
McKenna	(R-Charleton)	100%
McMurtry	(D-Dedham)	7%
Miceli	(D-Wilmington)	13%
Michlewitz	(D-Boston)	7%
Mirra	(R-West Newbury)	100%
Mom	(D-Lowell)	7%

Moran, F	(D-Lawrence)	0%
Moran, M	(D-Boston)	7%
Muradian	(R-Grafton)	93%
Muratore	(R-Plymouth)	93%
Murphy, J	(D-Weymouth)	7%
Nangle	(D-Lowell)	13%
Naughton	(D-Clinton)	8%
O'Connell	(R-Taunton)	100%
O'Day	(D-West Boylston)	7%
Orrall	(R-Lakeville)	100%
Parisella	(D-Beverly)	7%
Peake	(D-Provincetown)	7%
Peisch	(D-Wellesley)	7%
Petrolati	(D-Ludlow)	13%
Pignatelli	(D-Lenox)	13%
Poirier	(R-North Attleboro)	93%
Provost	(D-Somerville)	8%
Puppolo	(D-Springfield)	13%
Rogers, D.	(D-Cambridge)	0%
Rogers, J.	(D-Norwood)	21%
Rosa	(D-Leominster)	47%
Roy	(D-Franklin)	7%
Rushing	(D-Boston)	0%
Ryan, D	(D-Boston)	0%
Sanchez	(D-Boston)	0%
Sannicandro	(D-Ashland)	0%
Scaccia	(D-Boston)	7%
Schmid	(D-Westport)	7%
Scibak	(D-South Hadley)	7%
Silvia	(D-Fall River)	7%
Smizik	(D-Brookline)	0%
Smola	(R-Palmer)	100%
Speliotis	(D-Danvers)	7%
Stanley	(D-Waltham)	20%
Story	(D-Amherst)	0%
Straus	(D-Mattapoisett)	7%
Swan	(D-Springfield)	0%

Timilty	(D-Milton)	53%
Toomey	(D-Cambridge)	0%
Tosado	(D-Springfield)	0%
Tucker	(D-Salem)	8%
Ultrino	(D-Malden)	7%
Vega	(D-Holyoke)	0%
Velis	(D-Westfield)	27%
Vieira	(R-Falmouth)	93%
Vincent	(D-Revere)	7%
Wagner	(D-Chicopee)	7%
Walsh, C	(D-Framingham)	7%
Walsh, T	(D-Peabody)	14%
Whelan	(R-Brewster)	93%
Whipps-Lee	(R-Athol)	93%
Wong	(R-Saugus)	93%
Zlotnik	(D-Gardner)	60%

2015-2016 CLT SENATE RATING

SENATOR	PARTY/DISTRICT	RATING
Barrett	(D-Lexington)	9%
Boncore	(D-Winthrop)	0%
Brady	(D-Brockton)	11%
Brownsberger	(D-Belmont)	8%
Chandler	(D-Worcester)	8%
Chang-Diaz	(D-Boston)	8%
Creem	(D-Newton)	8%
deMacedo	(R-Plymouth)	100%
DiDomenico	(D-Everett)	9%
Donnelly	(D-Arlington)	8%
Donoghue	(D-Lowell)	25%
Downing	(D-Pittsfield)	8%
Eldridge	(D-Acton)	17%
Fattman	(R-Webster)	100%
Flanagan	(D-Leominster)	50%
Forry	(D-Boston)	8%
Gobi	(D-Spencer)	42%

Humason	(R-Westfield)	100%
Ives	(D-Newburyport)	17%
Jehlen	(D-Somerville)	17%
Joyce	(D-Milton)	18%
Keenan	(D-Quincy)	25%
L'Italien	(D-Andover)	8%
Lesser	(D-Longmeadow)	9%
Lewis	(D-Winchester)	8%
Lovely	(D-Salem)	25%
McGee	(D-Lynn)	8%
Montigny	(D-New Bedford)	8%
Moore, M	(D-Millbury)	42%
O'Connor	(R-Weymouth)	80%
Pacheco	(D-Taunton)	8%
Roderigues	(D-Westport)	25%
Rosenberg*	(D-Amherst)	N/A
Ross	(R-Wrentham)	100%
Rush	(D-Boston)	9%
Spilka	(D-Ashland)	8%
Tarr	(R-Gloucester)	100%
Timilty	(D-Walpole)	50%
Welch	(D-West Springfield)	8%
Wolf	(D-Harwich)	0%

* *The Senate President usually does not vote.*