

# New Jersey Equitable Opportunity Scorecard

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# Scorecard Objectives

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## Scoring the Legislature

**1** Identify, collect, and analyze the voting and advocacy behavior or current and former New Jersey House and Senate members on legislation affecting NJBEC's seven pillars: Healthcare, Economics, Open and Fair Elections, Criminal Justice, Education, Housing, and Environmental Justice.

## Analyzing the Legislature

**2** After scoring legislators, we can determine which members of the NJ state legislature support NJBEC's agenda in each of the pillar areas.

# Methodology

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**1** After collecting bill information from NJ Legislative sessions since 2020, each member was scored on whether they voted on bills that advanced NJBEC's agenda and on sponsorship looking at whether members sponsored bills that were positive for or detrimental to each NJBEC issue area. Legislators were then given a score on each of those two areas.

**2** Sponsorship and voting scores were then combined to create a cumulative score for each legislator in each pillar area. Individual letter grades are determined by the cumulative score in each category. Legislators with the highest and lowest cumulative scores are labeled here as top or worst legislators.

**3** Top sponsor went to the legislators with the highest rate of bill sponsorship in each area. Excluded from worst legislator contention were legislators who had joined the chamber halfway through session due to legislator deaths.

# Methodology



## SCORES

### Vote Score

For each bill that made it to a floor vote, every legislator who was in office at the time received either 1 point for voting along with NJBEC's priorities, or 0 points for failing to vote with NJBEC's priorities. Every legislator's points total was divided by the total number of votes they were in office for. Legislators' final vote score was out of 100.

### Committee Score

Legislators who sat on a committee were awarded 1 point for voting along with NJBEC's priorities at the committee level, and subtracted 1 point for voting against NJBEC's priorities. Legislators who did not have committee votes on a certain issue area were not awarded or subtracted any points.

### Sponsorship Score

Legislators were awarded 1 net point for sponsoring or co-sponsoring a bill that aligned with NJBEC's priorities. Legislators were also subtracted one point for sponsoring or co-sponsoring legislation that was antithetical to NJBEC's policy priorities, in an attempt to hold legislators accountable for promoting such legislation.

The three scores were added up for each legislator into a total score. The total scores were graded on a curve for each issue area, resulting in each legislator's final grade.

## EXAMPLES

Legislator A voted for 21 of the 25 Criminal Justice bills that made it to the floor. 21 divided by 25 is 84 percent, giving the legislator a vote score of 84 for Criminal Justice.

Like many legislators, Legislator A was not on a committee that voted on Criminal Justice bills, so his Committee Score was 0 for Criminal Justice. Other legislators scored between -2 and 4 on their Committee Score for Criminal Justice, with most legislators also scoring 0.

Legislator A sponsored or co-sponsored 5 pieces of Criminal Justice legislation that aligned with NJBEC's policy agenda. His sponsorship score was 5 points.

Legislator A received a total score of 89 (84+0+5) in the Criminal Justice policy area, which was a B when graded on a curve.

# Key Findings



1

**A large majority of bills that align with the New Jersey Black Empowerment Coalition’s policy agenda never make it to a committee vote.**

HIT Strategies analyzed 997 pieces of introduced legislation across seven issue areas. Of those bills, 75% were introduced and then received no further action, failing to get a committee vote. That means that many policies that could have significant impact on the lives of Black New Jerseyans are not supported through the legislative process.

2

**Black legislators are leading the way in advocating for legislation that will benefit Black people.**

Many Black legislators stand out as top advocates for policies that will help Black New Jerseyans, across all seven issue areas. Of the 20 legislators who did not score below a B across all issue areas, 9 are Black and 5 others are People of Color. Black Assemblywomen Angela McKnight and Verlina Reynolds-Jackson stand out as the only two legislators to score an A in all seven issue areas.

3

**New Jersey Republicans are not reliable partners when it comes to supporting a policy agenda for Black residents.**

Analysis shows that New Jersey Republicans are not supportive of policies that would help Black New Jerseyans. A strong majority of New Jersey Republicans (40 out of 48) received at least one “F” grade across the seven issue areas. Even Republicans representing moderate districts that voted for President Biden fail to score well on NJBEC’s policy agenda.

4

**Democratic leadership in New Jersey is not prioritizing legislation that aligns with NJBEC’s policy agenda.**

As Democratic leadership in New Jersey has especially strong control over what bills come up for votes, they may have a hand in priority legislation not receiving a vote. Of the 19 members of leadership across the Senate and House, 14 received a C, D, or F in at least one of the issue areas. Most scored moderately well in general but did not stand out as prominent sponsors of beneficial legislation.

5

**Attendance is a problem for the New Jersey state legislature. Missing votes resulted in poor scores for Democrats and Republicans alike.**

Across issue areas, legislators missed votes on important legislation that would help Black New Jerseyans. Since vote scores were determined on how often a legislator voted along with NJBEC’s policy agenda, the failure to vote on multiple pieces of legislation in an issue area could cause a legislator’s overall score to drop. Both Democrats and Republicans were affected by low attendance, but it especially hurt Democrats who otherwise typically supported legislation that would help Black New Jerseyans. Democrats who scored a D or an F in an issue area were almost always negatively affected by multiple missed votes that dragged their score down.





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# Education





# Education

Defining Descriptives

## Bills Examined

158

## Top Legislators

- Mila Jasey (D)
- Teresa Ruiz (D)
- Angela V. McKnight (D)
- Verlina Reynolds-Jackson (D)

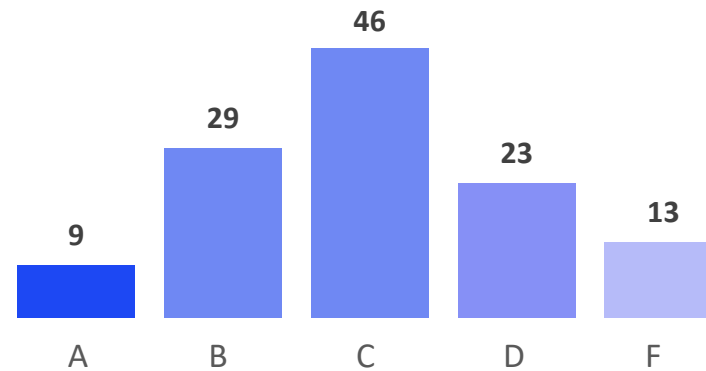
## Worst Legislators

- Joseph Pennacchio (R)
- Doug Steinhardt (R)
- Parker Space (R)
- Erick Peterson (R)

## Top Sponsors

- Angela V. McKnight (D)
- Teresa Ruiz (D)
- Mila Jasey (D)
- Verlina Reynolds-Jackson (D)

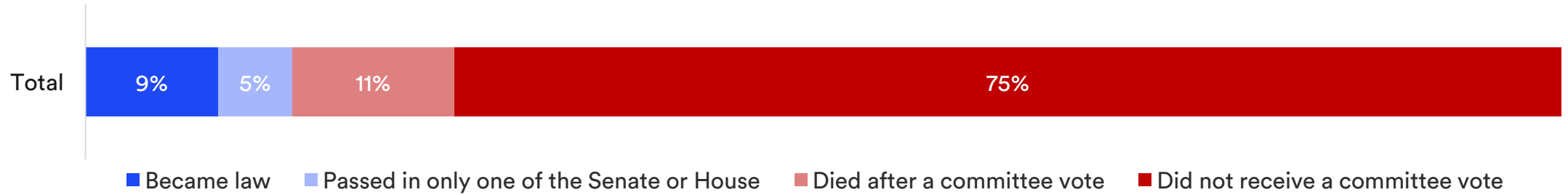
## Grade Distribution



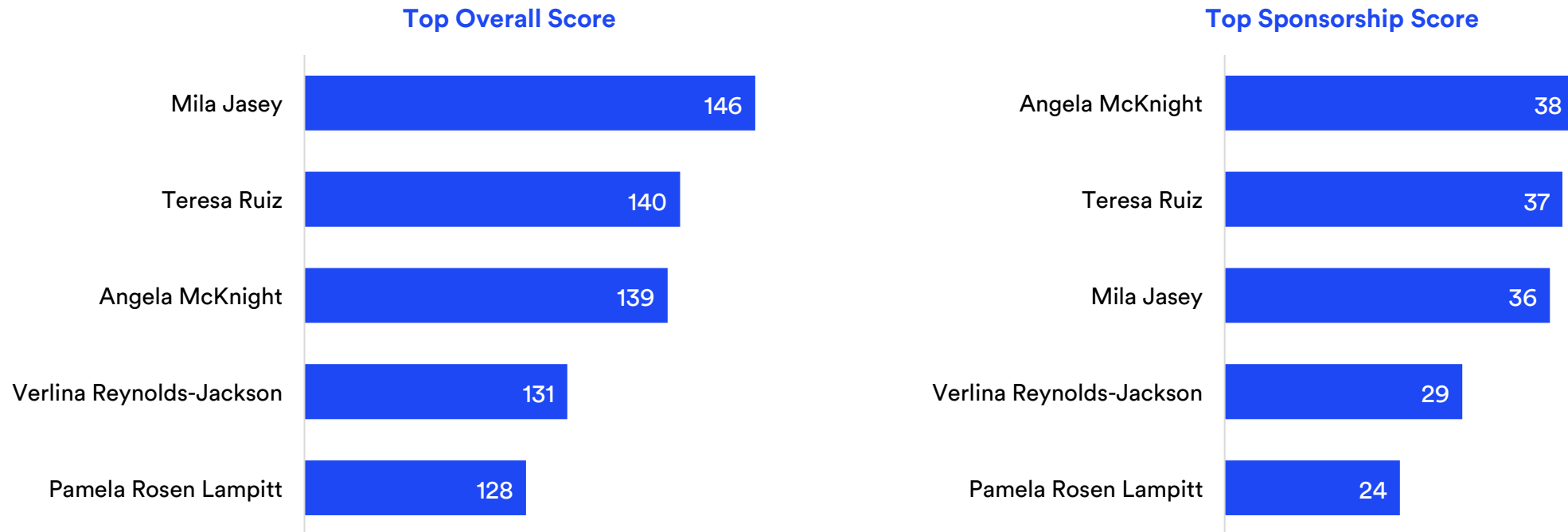
# Education Scores



What happened to the 158 Education bills that were analyzed?



How did the top legislators score in the Education issue area?



## Notable Education Legislation

### POSITIVE BILLS THAT PASSED

S2356 (2020-2021): Provides relief to students receiving State financial aid to address special circumstances due to 2020 public health state of emergency.

A32368 (2022-2023): Requires schools to provide free school breakfasts and lunches to students from working class, middle-income families; designated as "Working Class Families' Anti-Hunger Act."

S2811 (2020-2021): Requires school report card to include information concerning number of mental health professionals and school safety specialists employed by each school district.

S2486 (2020-2021): Establishes Clayton Model Pilot Program in DOE to provide school-based social emotional learning to students in grades kindergarten through five at certain public schools.

S1020 (2020-2021): Requires school districts and charter schools to report discipline data on their websites and to Commissioner of Education; requires DOE to establish database and complete annual report concerning student disciplinary actions.

### POSITIVE BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS

A3943 (2022-2023): Requires teachers to biennially complete two hours of professional development related to cultural competence.

A3945 (2022-2023): Establishes "Male Teachers of Color Mentorship Pilot Program;" appropriates \$50,000.

A1280 (2022-2023): Requires candidate for teacher certification to complete course or training on anti-racism in education.

A3954 (2022-2023): Requires school districts to include instruction on significance of Juneteenth Independence Day as part of implementation of New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Social Studies.

A616 (2020-2021): Establishes the Office of Dropout Prevention and Reengagement of Out-of-School Youth in DOE, and the Student Dropout Prevention Task Force.

A3592 (2020-2021): Requires meeting between student and appropriate school personnel after multiple suspensions or proposed expulsion from public school to identify behavior or health difficulties.

### NEGATIVE BILLS THAT WERE INTRODUCED

A783/S598 (2022-2023): Prohibits teaching of critical race theory in public schools; prohibits public school teachers from engaging in political, ideological, or religious advocacy in classroom.

A1418/S585 (2022-2023): Provides that public school parent who objects to learning material or activity that parent considers harmful may receive voucher from school district to enroll student in nonpublic school.

A103 (2022-2023): Eliminates expansion of preschool education programs in "School Funding Reform Act of 2008."

A891 (2022-2023): Limits requirements for school districts to include instructions on diversity and inclusion as part of implementation of New Jersey Student Learning Standards to grades 9 through 12.

S2385/A3824 (2022-2023): Removes diversity and inclusion instruction requirements for students in grades kindergarten through eight.





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# Environmental Justice





# Environmental Justice

Defining Descriptives

## Bills Examined

186

## Top Legislators

Linda Greenstein (D)  
Daniel Benson (D)  
Verlina Reynolds-Jackson (D)  
Lisa Swain (D)

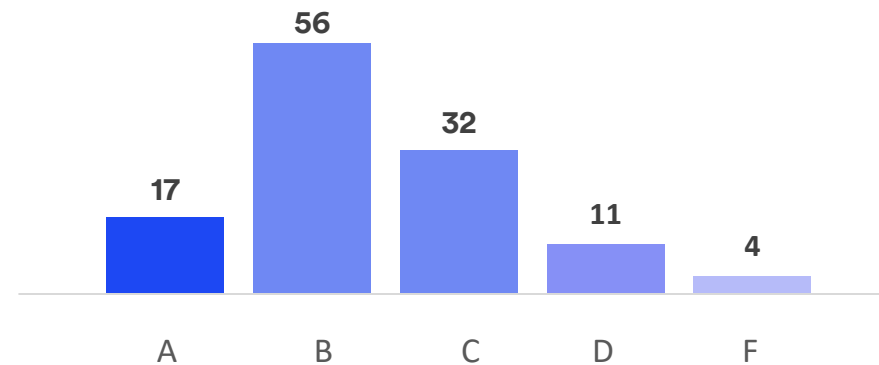
## Worst Legislators

James Holzapfel (R)  
Christian Barranco (R)  
Annette Quijano (D)  
Kristin Corrado (R)

## Top Sponsors

Linda Greenstein (D)  
Daniel Benson (D)  
Verlina Reynolds-Jackson (D)  
Lisa Swain (D)

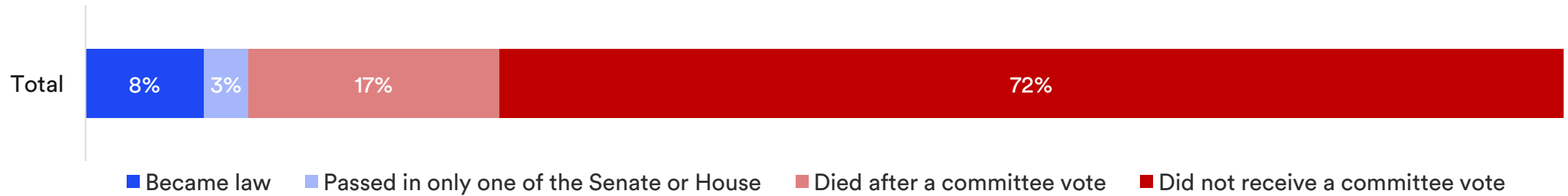
## Grade Distribution



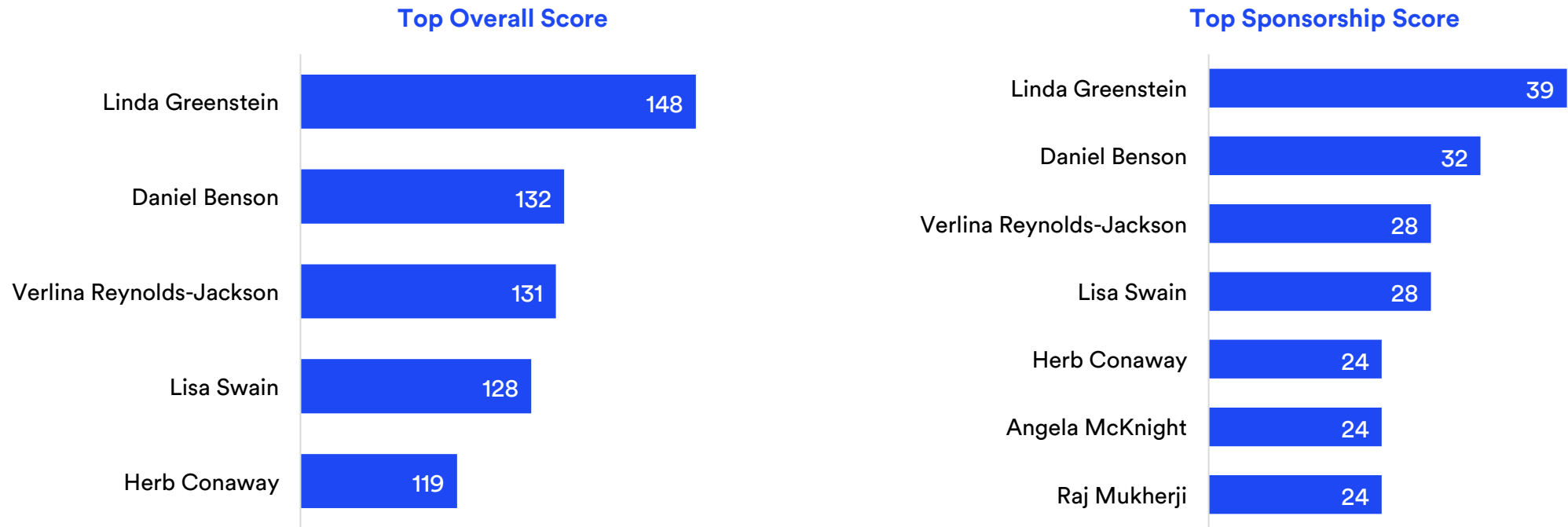
# Environmental Justice Scores



What happened to the 186 Environmental Justice bills that were analyzed?



How did the top legislators score in the Environmental Justice issue area?





## Notable Environmental Justice legislation

### POSITIVE BILLS THAT PASSED

A1115 (2022-2023): Requires DEP to prioritize funding for environmental infrastructure projects for applicants with established program to employ, at project or related facilities, local residents or residents of nearby urban aid qualifying municipalities.

S232 (2020-2021): Requires DEP to evaluate environmental and public health stressors of certain facilities on overburdened communities when reviewing certain permit applications.

A5343 (2020-2021): Requires public community water systems to inventory and replace lead service lines within 10 years; provides for recoupment of costs by investor-owned public water systems.

S968 (2020-2021): Requires public water systems to provide notice of elevated lead levels in drinking water to customers and local officials; requires landlords to notify tenants of elevated lead levels.

A1841 (2020-2021): Allows gross income tax deduction for amounts paid for removal of lead, asbestos, sodium, chloride, and other contaminants from taxpayer's property.

### POSITIVE BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS

S1602 (2022-2023): Authorizes regulation of greenhouse gas emissions under "Air Pollution Control Act (1954)" and "Global Warming Response Act."

A5432/S3683 (2022-2023): Requires schools and child care centers to test drinking water for lead every two years and install filters certified to reduce lead levels.

S741/A1681 (2022-2023): Requires health insurance companies to cover lead screenings for children 16 years of age or younger.

A5797/S3978 (2020-2021): Requires State and county hazard mitigation plans to include climate change-related threat assessments and hazard prevention and mitigation strategies.

A1919 (2022-2023): Requires certain residential property owners, schools, and child care centers to test drinking water for lead every three years.

S280/A4128 (2022-2023): Requires DOE and DCF to establish online reporting systems for schools and child care centers to report lead testing results.

### NEGATIVE BILLS THAT WERE INTRODUCED

A156 (2022-2023)/A183 (2020-2021): Prohibits State's participation in multi-state cap-and-trade program to reduce carbon emissions from transportation sector.

A4096/S2750 (2022-2023): Repeals law that prohibits certain establishments from providing or selling various single-use products to customers.

A5011 (2022-2023): Amends Fiscal Year 2023 annual appropriations act to prohibit use of appropriated moneys for, or to support, certain State litigation related to climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.





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# Housing





# Housing

## Defining Descriptives

### Bills Examined

75

### Top Legislators

Benjie Wimberly (D)  
Troy Singleton (D)  
Verlina Reynolds –  
Jackson (D)  
Mila Jasey (D)

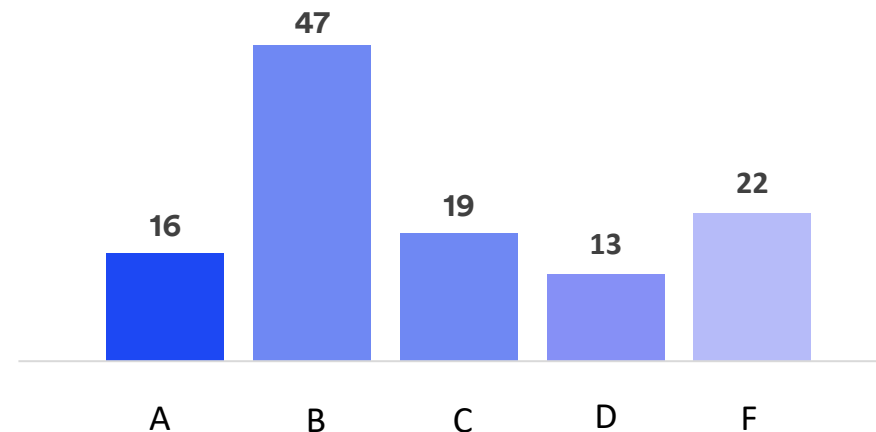
### Worst Legislators

Holly Schepisi (R)  
Joseph Pennacchio (R)  
Erik Peterson (R)  
Samuel Thompson (D)

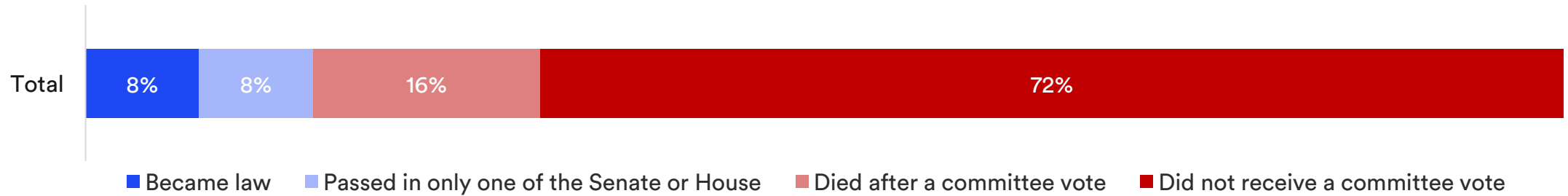
### Top Sponsors

Angela V. McKnight (D)  
Benjie Wimberly (D)  
Britnee Timberlate (D)  
Troy Singleton (D)

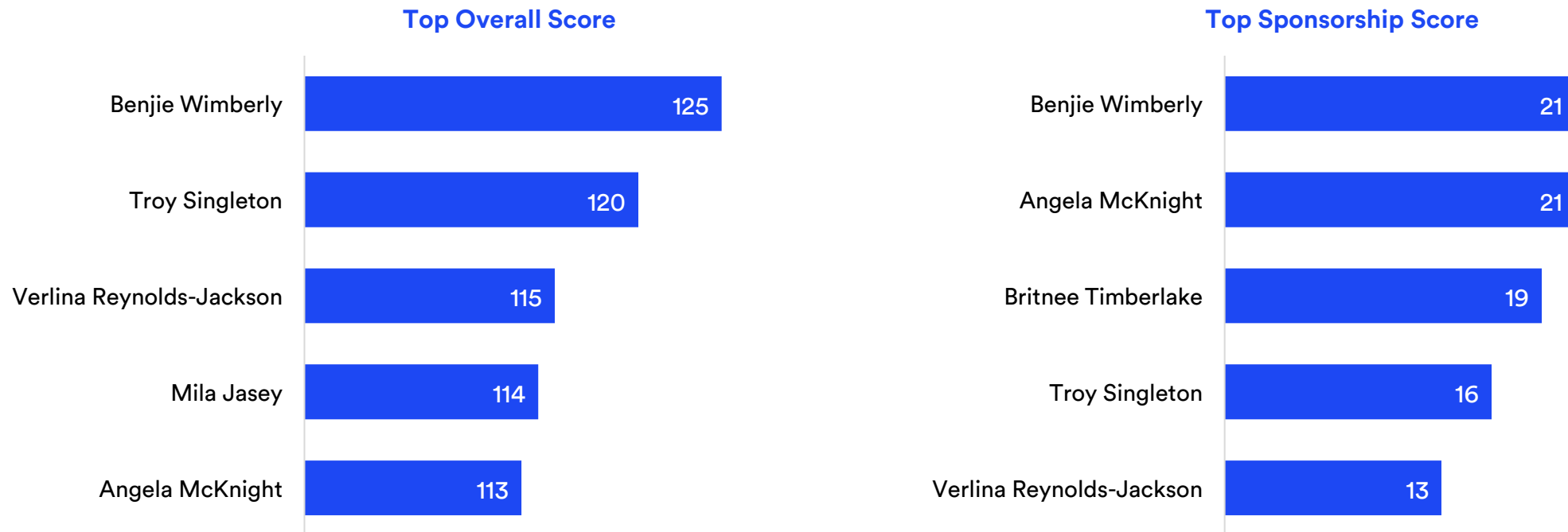
### Grade Distribution



## What happened to the 75 Housing bills that were analyzed?



## How did the top legislators score in the Housing issue area?





## Notable Housing legislation

### POSITIVE BILLS THAT PASSED

S2340 (2020-2021): Provides mortgage payment relief, income tax relief, consumer reporting protection, and eviction protection for residential property owners, tenants, and other consumers, during time of coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

S1055 (2020-2021): Permits qualified municipalities to prohibit conversion of affordable residential rental units to certain forms of ownership housing.

S2527 (2020-2021): Concerns online marketing of affordable housing units.

A5758 (2020-2021): Provides funding for experiential housing advocacy programs to provide legal services for low- and moderate-income tenants in need of housing assistance; appropriates \$2 million.

A3859 (2020-2021): Concerns prohibition of residential tenant eviction and eviction due to residential foreclosure during certain emergency circumstances.

### POSITIVE BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS

A4268 (2022-2023): Permits temporary rental assistance for emergency assistance recipients.

A4105 (2022-2023): Establishes Interagency Council on Homelessness.

A1497 (2022-2023): Establishes the "Safe Sanitary Subsidized Rental Housing Bill of Rights."

A1519 (2022-2023): Concerns discriminatory appraisals of residential property on basis of race or national origin.

A794 (2022-2023): Requires developers of residential housing to provide low, moderate, and middle income housing or pay fee.

A1985 (2022-2023): "The Desegregate New Jersey Act"; promotes equitable residential development throughout State.

S2544/A1050 (2020-2021): Expands financing opportunities for low and moderate income housing.

### NEGATIVE BILLS THAT WERE INTRODUCED

S619/A448 (2022-2023): Allows municipalities to establish affordable housing preference for their residents.

ACR18 (2022-2023): Clarifies housing rights of State residents under State Constitution and prohibits laws requiring municipalities to provide housing opportunities through zoning and land use regulations.

S989 (2022-2023): Imposes moratorium on affordable housing litigation until December 31, 2028.





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# Healthcare





# Healthcare

## Defining Descriptives

### Bills Examined

81

### Top Legislators

Daniel Benson (D)  
 Verlina Reynolds-Jackson  
 (D)  
 Carol Murphy (D)  
 Shanique Speight (D)

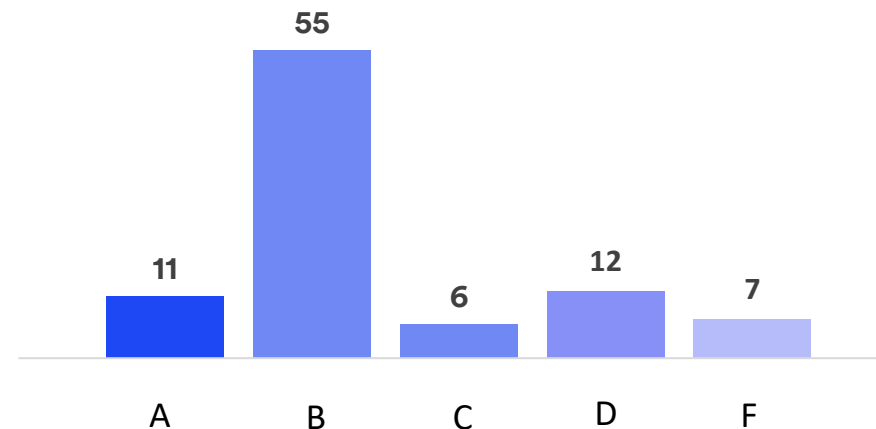
### Worst Legislators

Joseph Pennachio (R)  
 James Beach (D)  
 Sean T Kean (R)  
 Ralph Caputo (D)

### Top Sponsors

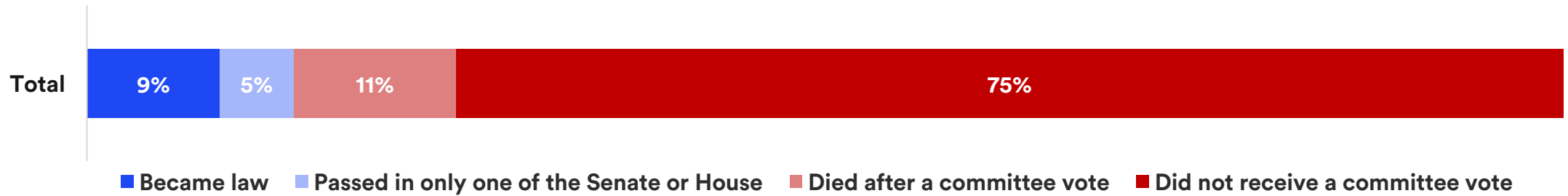
Angela V. McKnight (D)  
 Daniel Benson (D)  
 Verlina Reynolds-Jackson  
 (D)  
 Carol Murphy (D)

### Grade Distribution



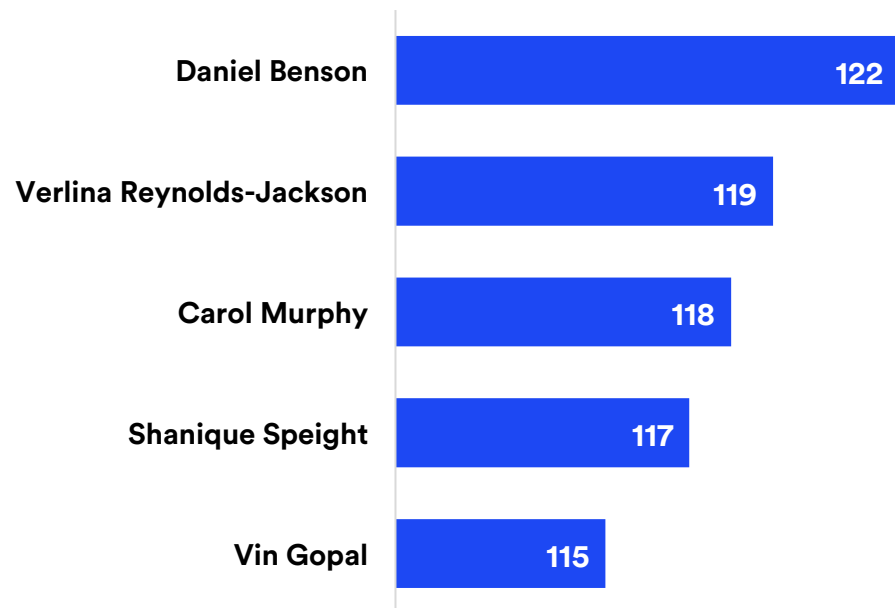


What happened to the 81 Healthcare bills that were analyzed?

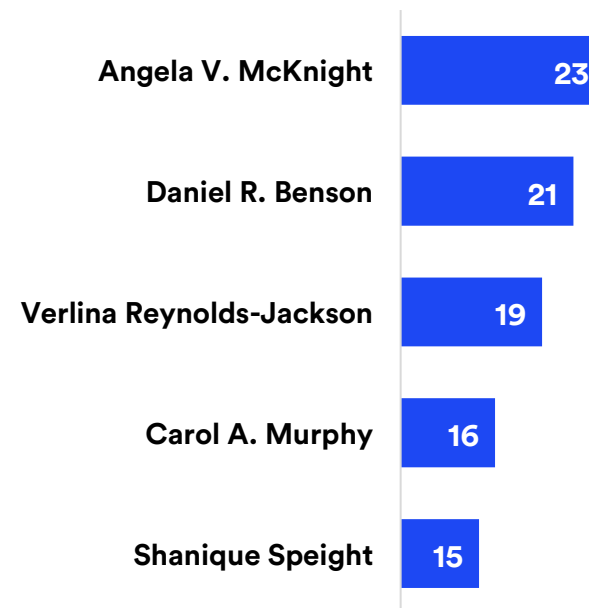


How did the top legislators score in the Healthcare issue area?

Top Overall Score



Top Sponsorship Score





## Notable Healthcare legislation

### POSITIVE BILLS THAT PASSED

**S2344 (2020-2021):** Requires Medicaid and health insurance coverage for certain refills of prescription drugs during state of emergency.

**A3942 (2020-2021):** Requires hospital to permit individual to accompany woman during childbirth.

**S4004 (2020-2021):** Establishes Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic Task Force on Racial and Health Disparities.

**S2712 (2020-2021):** Establishes minimum direct care staff-to-resident ratios in nursing homes.

**S1020 (2020-2021):** Concerns family leave benefits during epidemic-related emergencies.

### POSITIVE BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS

**A2644 (2020-2021):** Requires Medicaid cover emergency contraception without requiring prescription or other authorization.

**A5029 (2020-2021):** "New Jersey Public Option Health Care Act."

**AR53 (2022-2023):** Declares racism a public health crisis in New Jersey.

**A796 (2022-2023):** A796 "Listening to Mothers Survey Act"; requires DOH to establish survey to evaluate and improve maternity care access and services.

**A197 (2020-2021)** Expands availability of NJ Family Care Advantage program.

**A963 (2020-2021):** Establishes central registry for sickle cell trait diagnoses; provides for informational outreach and genetic counseling.

### NEGATIVE BILLS THAT WERE INTRODUCED

**A581 (2020-2021):** Requires proof of lawful presence in the United States to obtain certain benefits.

**A4388 (2020-2021):** Establishes immunity for businesses against damage claims COVID-19 exposure; excludes willful, reckless or intentional conduct; excludes businesses that fail to adhere to safety guidelines.

**A2936 (2020-2021):** Prohibits wrongful life/birth suits.

**A2969 (2020-2021):** Provides for drug testing of adult recipients of Work First New Jersey program benefits.





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# Criminal Justice





# Criminal Justice

## Defining Descriptives

### Bills Examined

152

### Top Legislators

Verlina Reynolds-Jackson (D)  
 Angela V. McKnight (D)  
 Shirley Turner (D)  
 Anthony Verrelli (D)

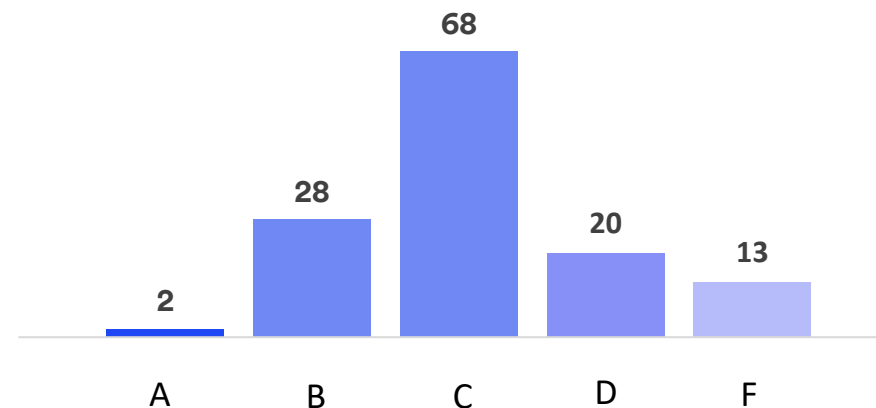
### Worst Legislators

John DiMaio (R)  
 Parker Space (R)  
 Erik Peterson (R)  
 Christian Barranco (R)

### Top Sponsors

Verlina Reynolds-Jackson (D)  
 Angela V. McKnight (D)  
 Benjie Wimberly (D)  
 Shirley Turner (D)

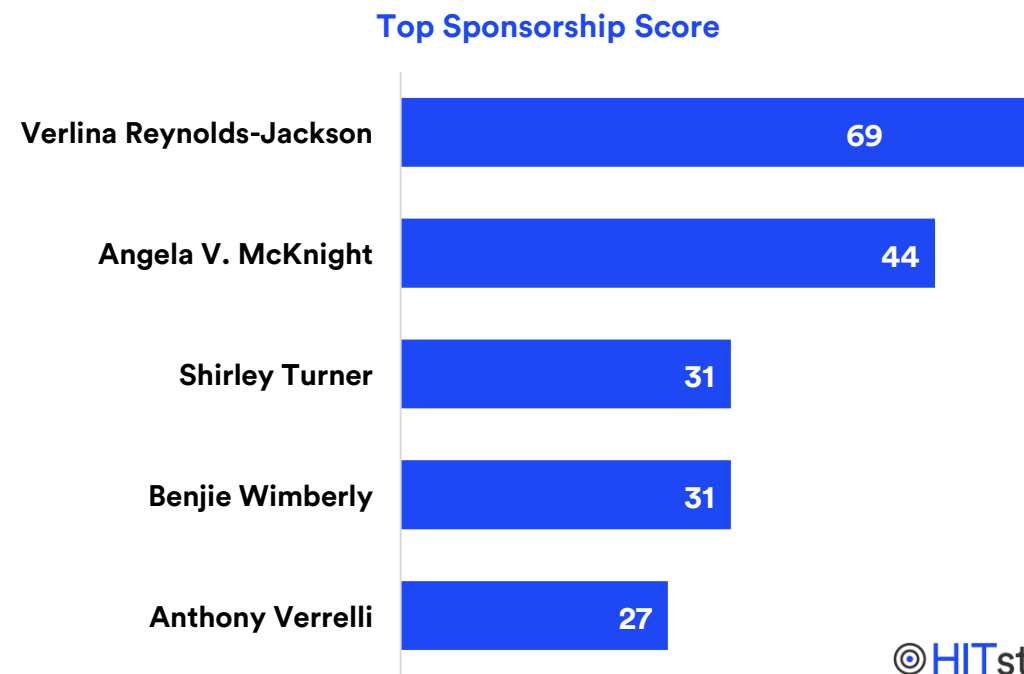
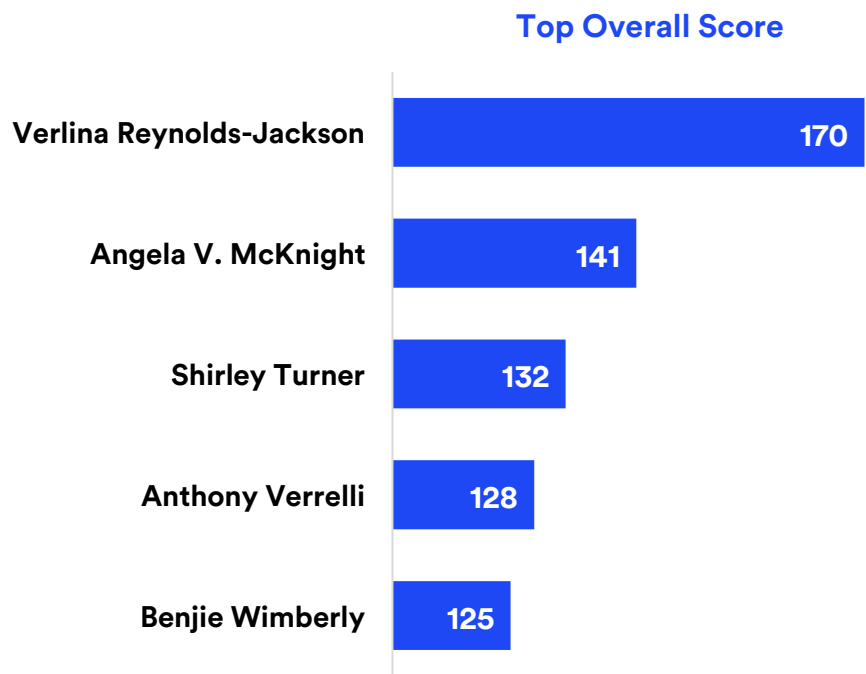
### Grade Distribution



What happened to the 152 Criminal Justice bills that were analyzed?



How did the top legislators score in the Criminal Justice issue area?





## Notable Criminal Justice legislation

### POSITIVE BILLS THAT PASSED

**S2331 (2020-2021):** Assists inmates released from incarceration in obtaining necessary reentry benefits.

**A1906 (2020-2021):** Includes false incrimination and filing false police report as form of bias intimidation; establishes crime of false 9-1-1 call with purpose to intimidate or harass based on race or other protected class.

**A3641 (2020-2021):** Requires DLPS to incorporate implicit bias in cultural diversity training materials for law enforcement officers; makes mandatory cultural diversity and implicit bias training for law enforcement officers.

**A4771 (2020-2021):** Expands offenses eligible for expungement upon successful discharge from drug court.

**S1163 (2020-2021):** Requires law enforcement officers to wear body cameras.

### POSITIVE BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS

**A519 (2020-2021):** Provides voter registration assistance to persons completing parole, probation, and criminal sentences.

**S780 (2022-2023):** Prohibits law enforcement agencies from hiring officer applicants removed from office by former agency for police misconduct.

**S2617 (2020-2021):** Establishes crime of law enforcement officer choking another person; designated as George Floyd's Law.

**S2212 (2022-2023):** Requires chief law enforcement officer of municipal police departments to hold two community roundtables on police relations each year.

**A3293 (2022-2023):** Requires law enforcement agencies to establish review council in internal affairs unit to investigate law enforcement officers who participate in hate groups.

**A4558 (2022-2023):** Requires police misconduct training course be included in police basic training curriculum.

### NEGATIVE BILLS THAT WERE INTRODUCED

**A455 (2022-2023):** Prohibits State aid and grants to municipalities that reduce law enforcement budgets by certain amount.

**A5523 (2020-2021):** Removes criminal liability for law enforcement officers who have investigative encounter with underage person for possession of alcohol or cannabis unless civil rights are violated.

**A150 (2022-2023):** Provides that school district may not prohibit active or retired law enforcement officer or registered security officer from carrying firearm in performance of school security duties if authorized under State law to carry.

**A5833 (2020-2021):** Delays prosecution of law enforcement officers for crime of official deprivation of civil rights related to underage possession or use of cannabis or alcohol for one year.





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# Open and Fair Elections





# Elections

## Defining Descriptives

### Bills Examined

225

### Top Legislators

Shirley Turner (D)  
Verlina Reynolds-Jackson  
(D)  
Linda Greenstein (D)  
Daniel Benson (D)

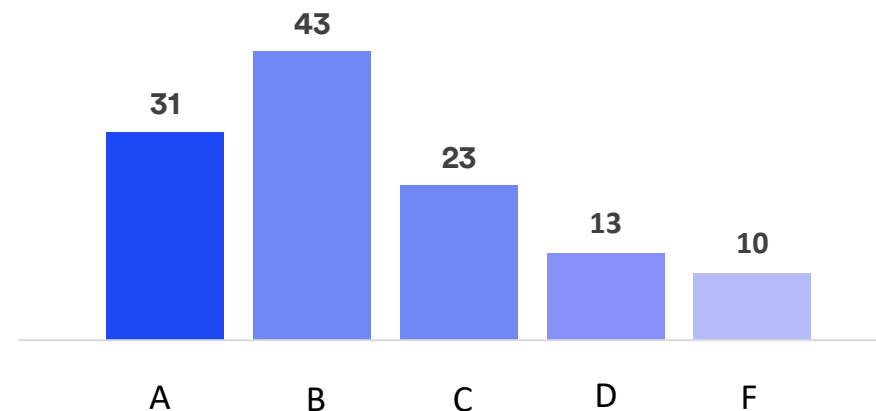
### Worst Legislators

Harold Wirths (R)  
Parker Spance (R)  
John Catalano (R)  
Gregory McCuckin (R)

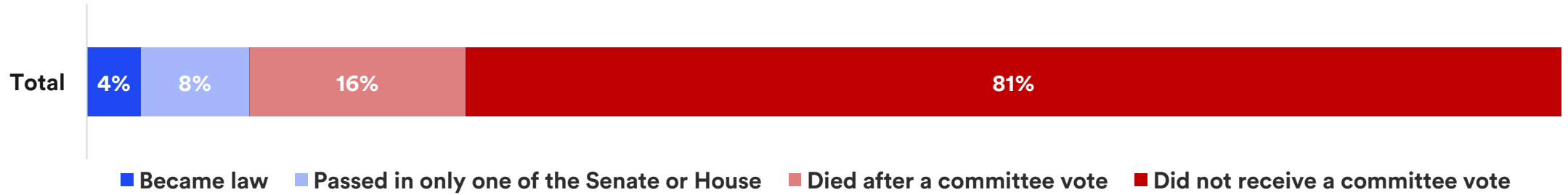
### Top Sponsors

Danel Benson (D)  
Verlina Reynolds-Jackson  
(D)  
Shirley Turner (D)  
Andrew Zwicker (D)

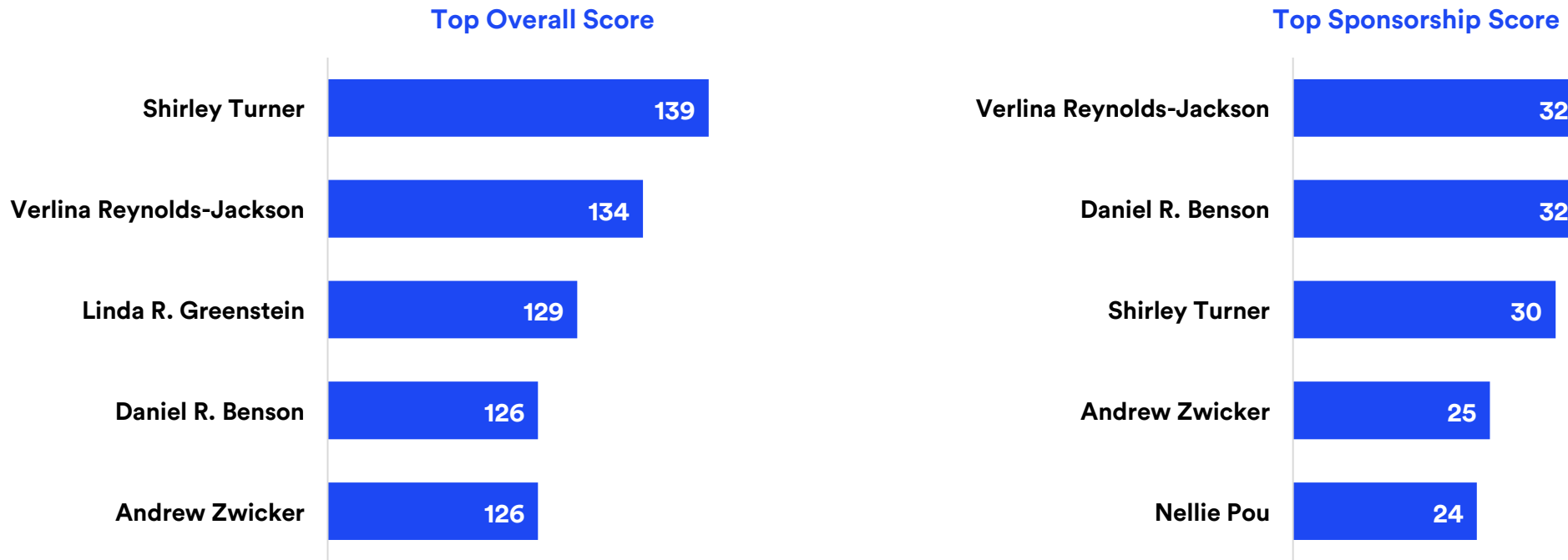
### Grade Distribution



What happened to the 225 Elections bills that were analyzed?



How did the top legislators score in the Elections issue area?





## Notable Elections legislation

### POSITIVE BILLS THAT PASSED

**A4655 (2020-2021):** Limits police presence at polling places and ballot drop boxes; prohibits electioneering within 100 feet of ballot drop box

**S3999 (2020-2021):** Authorizes Secretary of State and New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission to share voter and motor vehicle information with state-based non-profit organization for maintaining accuracy of voter registration information.

**S3203 (2020-2021):** Requires in person early voting period for certain elections; makes appropriation.

**A4320 (2020-2021):** Extends ballot receipt and election certification deadlines; increases certain messenger and bearer ballot limits; requires certain information to increase public awareness and use of voting by mail.\*\*

**A3817 (2022-2023):** Requires ballot privacy sleeves at polling place; makes various changes to early and mail-in voting procedures; creates online form to update name and residence on existing voter registration record. \*

### POSITIVE BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS

**S1542 (2022-2023):** Directs Secretary of State to study wait times at polling places during a general election.

**A4554 (2022-2023):** Establishes "John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New Jersey."

**A844 (2022-2023):** Requires county board of elections to mail notice to mail-in voters after each election confirming ballot was received and counted.

**A3207 (2020-2021):** Permits voter registration at age 16, under certain conditions.

**A4466 (2020-2021):** Permits voters to cure signature defects on mail-in and provisional ballots.

### NEGATIVE BILLS THAT WERE INTRODUCED

**A5205 (2020-2021):** Requires AG to create voting fraud task force.

**S676 (2020-2021):** Increases penalty for certain voting violations from third degree crime to second degree crime when aggravating factors apply..

**A4638 (2022-2023):** Requires voter who wishes to vote by mail to complete application for mail-in ballot each calendar year; repeals automatic vote-by-mail designation and required education program for certain vote-by-mail changes.

**S124 (2022-2023):** Requires registered voters to present photo ID when voting at polling place.

**S2250 (2022-2023):** Suspends automatic voter registration until implementation of standards and procedures to maintain accuracy of voter rolls.





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# Economics





# Economics

## Defining Descriptives

### Bills Examined

100

### Top Legislators

Angela V. McKnight (D)  
Verlina Reynolds-Jackson  
(D)  
Shanique Speight (D)  
Mila Jasey (D)

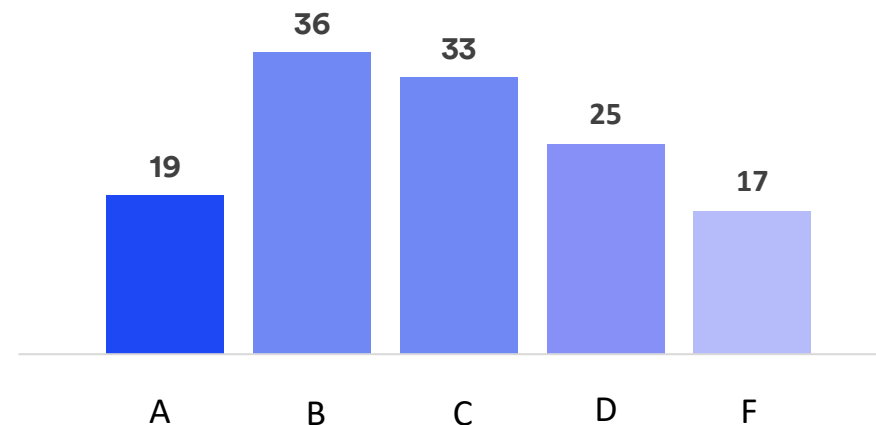
### Worst Legislators

Edward Durr (R)  
Christian Barranco (R)

### Top Sponsors

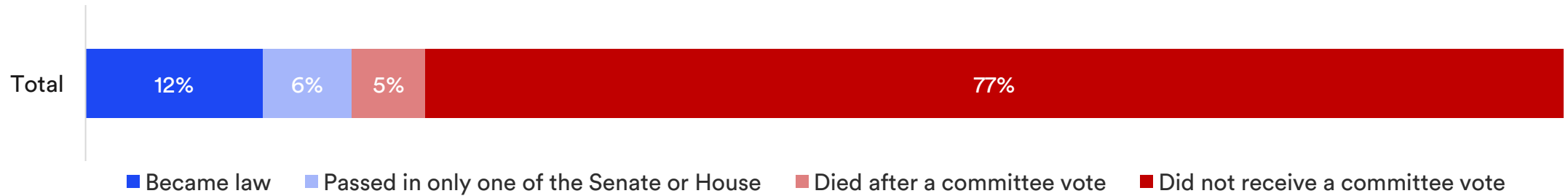
Angela V. McKnight (D)  
Verlina Reynolds-Jackson  
(D)  
Teresa Ruiz (D)  
Shanique Speight (D)

### Grade Distribution



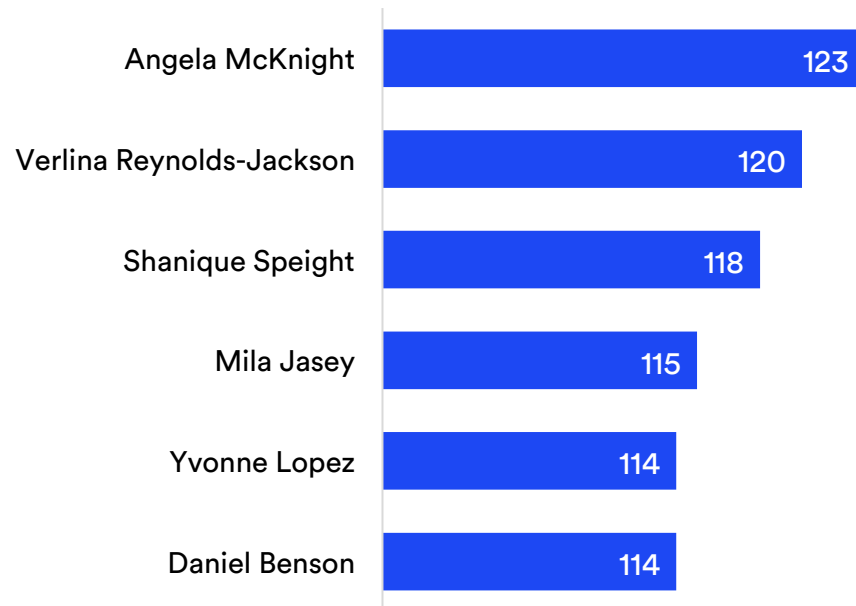


What happened to the 100 Economics bills that were analyzed?

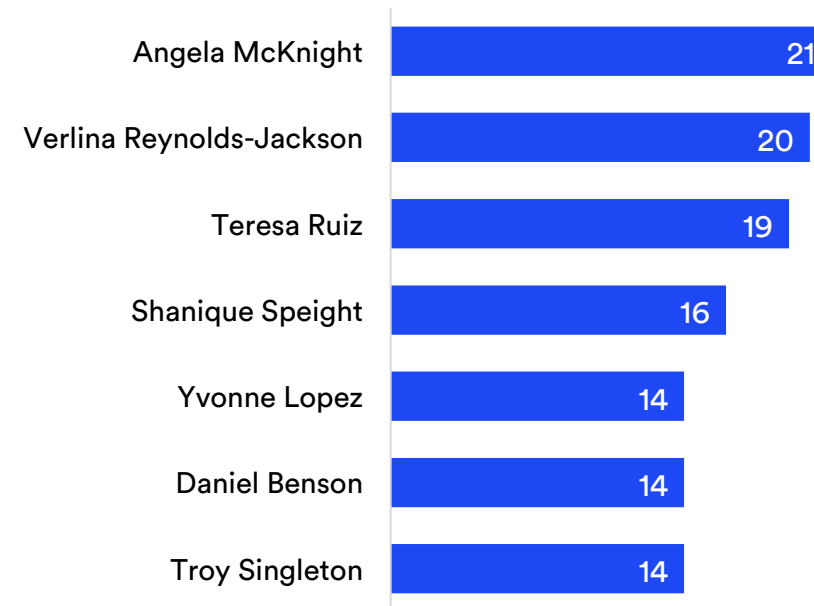


How did the top legislators score in the Economics issue area?

Top Overall Score



Top Sponsorship Score





## Notable Economics legislation

### POSITIVE BILLS THAT PASSED

S973 (2020-2021): Requires Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development to establish apprenticeship mentoring program for women, minorities, and persons with disabilities.

S2768 (2020-2021): Authorizes State Chief Diversity Officer to conduct disparity study concerning utilization of minority-owned and women-owned businesses in State procurement process.

S19 (2020-2021): Designates, as State and public holiday, third Friday in June as Juneteenth Day.

A3845 (2020-2021): Authorizes EDA to make grants during periods of emergency declared by Governor and for duration of economic disruptions due to emergency; allows EDA to grant certain business documentation submission deadline extensions.

A3848 (2020-2021): Concerns time off from work in connection with infectious disease.

ACR165 (2020-2021): Urges DHS to apply for federal waivers to facilitate and increase access to SNAP benefits during coronavirus disease 2019 outbreak.

### POSITIVE BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS

S386/A938 (2022-2023): Establishes "New Jersey Reparations Task Force."

S382/A2761 (2022-2023): Requires entities at every level of government to conduct periodic studies of racial and ethnic disparities in public contracting.

A4310 (2022-2023): Provides right of action for individuals alleging denial of professional credential by State is result of policy or process causing disparate impact on basis of race or ethnicity.

S2559 (2022-2023): Codifies State Workplace Anti-Harassment and Discrimination Policy.

A750 (2022-2023): Creates new offense of theft by financial exploitation of a vulnerable person.

A2922 (2022-2023): Requires employers whose employees are subject to contracts that are amendable and do not expire to provide earned sick leave.

### NEGATIVE BILLS THAT WERE INTRODUCED

A709 (2022-2023): Requires certification that persons directly or indirectly receiving State monies or privileges are not unauthorized aliens.

A2176 (2022-2023): Prohibits local governments from requiring private employers to provide paid sick leave.

A2175 (2022-2023): Prohibits local units of government from adopting increased minimum wage and mandatory paid sick leave for private employers.

A3647/S664 (2022-2023): Prohibits public employers from requiring and funding training courses that pass blame or judgment on basis of race, ethnicity, or sex.



# Key Findings



# 1

## A large majority of bills that align with the New Jersey Black Empowerment Coalition's policy agenda never make it to a committee vote.

HIT Strategies analyzed 997 pieces of introduced legislation across seven issue areas. Of those bills, 75% were introduced and then received no further action, failing to get a committee vote. That means that many policies that could have significant impact on the lives of Black New Jerseyans are not supported through the legislative process.

# 2

## Black legislators are leading the way in advocating for legislation that will benefit Black people.

Many Black legislators stand out as top advocates for policies that will help Black New Jerseyans, across all seven issue areas. Of the 20 legislators who did not score below a B across all issue areas, 9 are Black and 5 others are People of Color. Black Assemblywomen Angela McKnight and Verlina Reynolds-Jackson stand out as the only two legislators to score an A in all seven issue areas.

# 3

## New Jersey Republicans are not reliable partners when it comes to supporting a policy agenda for Black residents.

Analysis shows that New Jersey Republicans are not supportive of policies that would help Black New Jerseyans. A strong majority of New Jersey Republicans (40 out of 48) received at least one "F" grade across the seven issue areas. Even Republicans representing moderate districts that voted for President Biden fail to score well on NJBEC's policy agenda.

# 4

## Democratic leadership in New Jersey is not prioritizing legislation that aligns with NJBEC's policy agenda.

As Democratic leadership in New Jersey has especially strong control over what bills come up for votes, they may have a hand in priority legislation not receiving a vote. Of the 19 members of leadership across the Senate and House, 14 received a C, D, or F in at least one of the issue areas. Most scored moderately well in general but did not stand out as prominent sponsors of beneficial legislation.

# 5

## Attendance is a problem for the New Jersey state legislature. Missing votes resulted in poor scores for Democrats and Republicans alike.

Across issue areas, legislators missed votes on important legislation that would help Black New Jerseyans. Since vote scores were determined on how often a legislator voted along with NJBEC's policy agenda, the failure to vote on multiple pieces of legislation in an issue area could cause a legislator's overall score to drop. Both Democrats and Republicans were affected by low attendance, but it especially hurt Democrats who otherwise typically supported legislation that would help Black New Jerseyans. Democrats who scored a D or an F in an issue area were almost always negatively affected by multiple missed votes that dragged their score down.

# Thank You

## New Jersey Equitable Opportunity Scorecard

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