



Top 10 Bad Votes by John Cornyn

1. Cornyn Voted to Let Harry Reid Fund ObamaCare

(2013, RCV 206) Senator John Cornyn of Texas voted to end debate and allow Senate Democrats to re-insert funding for ObamaCare into the Continuing Resolution to fund the federal government. Although Cornyn did vote against the final bill, he and all Republicans knew that voting for cloture to end debate would allow Senator Harry Reid to fund ObamaCare by a party-line vote, and thus a vote for cloture was a *de facto* vote to fund ObamaCare.

2. Cornyn Voted for the Wall Street Bailout (T.A.R.P.)

(2008, RCV 213) Senator Cornyn voted for the \$700 billion bailout of Wall Street. Taxpayers should have never been forced to pay for the mistakes of the big banks. He continues to make excuses for why he voted for the massive bank bailout. Cornyn has defended his vote, saying in 2010 that, "I'm responsible and proud of the vote I cast at the time because I thought it was a public necessity."¹

3. Cornyn Voted for Medicare Part D

Senator Cornyn voted to pass Medicare Part D, a massive entitlement expansion that conservatives rightly predicted would tremendously expand the deficit and add trillions of dollars in unfunded liabilities to the federal rolls. (2003, RCV 457)

4. Cornyn Voted to Increase the Federal Minimum Wage

(2007, RCV 42) Senator Cornyn voted for the Fair Minimum Wage Act that increased the federal minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$7.25 per hour in 2007. Raising the minimum wage is a bad idea because it reduces employment especially among low-skilled workers. The cost of raising the minimum wage is passed onto consumers in the form of higher prices for goods and services.

5. Cornyn Voted for the Fiscal Cliff Tax Hike

(2012, RCV 251) The fiscal cliff was a fake crisis created by Congress and the president. Senator Cornyn voted for the infamous New Year's Day 2013 fiscal cliff deal that raised taxes on 77 percent of U.S. households and contained no real spending cuts.

¹ <http://politicalticker.blogs.cnn.com/2010/05/17/cornyn-weighs-in-on-key-senate-races-explains-bailout-vote/>



6. Cornyn Voted against Fiscally Conservative Budgets

Senator Cornyn voted against three of the best, most fiscally conservative budgets ever proposed in the United States Senate. He voted against Senator Mike Lee of Utah's FY 2013 budget proposal to balance the budget in five years and save \$7 trillion over ten years. (2012, RCV 101) He also voted against Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky's FY 2012 and FY 2013 budget proposals to balance the budget in five years and save more than \$8 trillion over ten years. (2011, RCV 80; 2012, RCV 100) Instead, he favored budget plans that either fail to balance the budget or fail to specify clearly how balance would be achieved.

7. Cornyn Supported Intrusive Internet Regulations (PIPA)

Although he later withdrew his support (under withering fire from internet freedom advocates across the political spectrum), Senator Cornyn voted for the Protect Intellectual Privacy Act (PIPA) in committee.² His vote helped move PIPA to the Senate floor, where it met a well-deserved defeat. Under PIPA, the government would have the power to shut down millions of websites. This is economically destructive and a gross violation of our constitutional right to free speech.

8. Cornyn Voted to Allow Warrantless Data Collection on American Citizens

In 2007, Senator Cornyn voted for the FISA Amendments Act, which granted immunity to U.S. telecommunication companies for giving information about their customers to the government without a warrant. This is one of the key provisions that allowed the NSA to conduct its now-publicized warrantless blanket surveillance of American citizens.

9. Cornyn Has Voted to Raise the Debt Ceiling Eight Times

Since entering office in 2002, Senator Cornyn has voted to raise the debt ceiling eight times.³ Raising the debt limit only encourages reckless spending in Washington. Congress needs to cut spending and balance the budget—not continue to increase our national debt without any spending reforms or reductions.

10. Cornyn Voted to Reauthorize the Patriot Act

(2006, RCV 25) Although he was not present in Congress when the original USA-PATRIOT Act was passed, Senator Cornyn has been an enthusiastic supporter of the controversial law, voting to permanently reauthorize most of its provisions in 2006. Despite its attractive-sounding title, the so-called Patriot Act violates our Fourth Amendment right to privacy, authorizing unprecedented surveillance powers that permit the federal government to spy on U.S. citizens without a warrant.

² <http://www.leahy.senate.gov/press/senate-judiciary-committee-unanimously-approves-bipartisan-bill-to-crack-down-on-rogue-websites>

³ http://www.thepoliticalguide.com/Profiles/Senate/Texas/John_Cornyn/Views/Debt,_Deficit,_Spending,_and_the_Size_of_Government/. In addition, Cornyn voted to raise the debt ceiling as part of the deal to fund ObamaCare (see point number 1).

