

# Key to 2006 Scorecard — House of Delegates Votes Friendly or Unfriendly to Taxpayers

- 1 Eliminate the Budget Digest** which had become a tool for the Democrat leadership in the House to reward their favored delegates. Millions of dollars were allocated behind closed doors with tax dollars being used for political campaign purposes. (HB 4019) 1/24/06 [RC#29](#) (90-5).
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- 2 Motion to replace food tax with service tax** — This motion was to dispense with committee reference to take up the bill to eliminate the food tax (HB 4334) which would be replaced with a provider fee or sales tax on lawyers and other professional services. 2/1/06 [RC#44](#) (25-71).
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- 3 Complete elimination of the food tax** on June 30, 2006. This motion to discharge the bill (HB 4088) from committee would have eliminated the remaining five cents with a loss of revenues of about \$125 million dollars at a time the state is expecting a surplus of about \$400 million. Border counties of the state would not face the competitive disadvantage with four neighboring states with no food tax and Virginia at 2.5% in a final phase-out. This would have saved the public enough money to help offset the rising cost of drugs, gas and utilities. It was promoted as saving enough in a year to provide 18 days of free food (365x5%). (HB 4088) [RC#121](#) 2/20/06 (31-66). See [www.nofoodtax.com](http://www.nofoodtax.com).
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- 4 Authorizing counties to impose countywide service fees** to pay for the special infrastructure projects such as roads or sewer and water projects. Traditionally these projects are paid for by other sources such as the state gas tax for roads or user fees for water and sewer. This could add on additional fees for these services. (SB 673) 3/7/06 [RC#353](#) (87-11).
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- 5 \$10,000 pay raise for county elected officials** except \$5000 for County Commissioners. For larger counties this would take the County Commissioners to \$35,800, the Sheriff to \$47,000 (plus the assessment portion), County and Circuit Clerks to \$56,200, Assessors to \$47,000 and Prosecuting Attorneys to over \$90,000. (HB4100) 3/7/06 [RC#355](#) (92-7).
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- 6 Health Department fee increases** — Amendment to reject a number of substantial fee increases in a rules bill. This bill allows (does not require) new fees as well as the doubling of some current fees by local health departments on schools, restaurants, grocery stores and other entities and was justified since these fees have not been increased since 1991. (SB 350) 3/8/06 [RC#402](#) (28-70).
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- 7 Pay raises for appointed state officials** some as high as \$20,000 such as the “Super Secretaries” and included a large number of department directors, commissioners, and board members. (SB 558) 3/10/06 [RC#514](#) (73-22).
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- 8 Farmland protection funds set to only be used for preserving usable farmland and to purchase easements** This amendment would avoid funds meant to go to preserving farmland from being diverted to other causes or the outright purchase of land not usable as farmland. In one county farmland preservation funds from the real estate transfer fee were used to purchase an historic property in the middle of a city. This would stop that abuse from occurring with a state board. (SB 299) 3/11/06 [RC#556](#) (24-73).
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- 9 Rules change to allow 12 delegates to require a bill to be taken up and considered.** This creates a new procedure where 12 delegates sign a petition requesting the issue be taken up. Each delegate could only sign one petition per year. The committee would have seven calendar days to report the bill out of the committee and to the full House, and five days to place it on the active calendar for the full House to consider. This would allow issues year after year ignored by the leadership to be taken up and considered, to at least be debated and voted on. The only current option is to discharge a bill from a committee. HR 9 would give the committee time to study the bill and if need be improve it. The committee could vote the bill out with a positive, neutral or unfavorable recommendation. It will also give the leadership time to fit it into their floor session schedule. (HR 9) 3/11/06 [RC#604](#) (70-28).
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- 10 Budget Bill** with an almost 14% increase from last year going to \$3,629,100,000 in FY 2007 from \$3,190,336,810. There is no broad-base tax relief for West Virginians despite a surplus from last year and significant growth in revenues for the coming year. (SB 125) 3/19/06 [RC#681](#) (92-6). See also [RC#576](#).