



2018 WALKERS IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Ken Block, Chairman of WatchdogRI.org

Did you ever wonder how many votes your state senator and representative missed this past year?

I never gave it much thought until the last day of the 2016 Rhode Island legislative session, when the last votes were being cast as the sun was rising after an all-night spasm of deal making and lawmaking. Punch drunk representatives staggered home after casting a mind-boggling 209 votes in less than 48 hours, while our senators cast 141 votes.

WatchdogRI and the Gaspee Project teamed up to analyze the voting records of every incumbent legislator for legislative years 2016, 2017, and 2018. Gaspee provided raw data in electronic form from their data provider LegiNation Inc., and WatchdogRI performed the data analytics.

After discarding resolutions and marriage solemnizations, we were left with 466 votes in the House and 362 votes in the Senate for 2018.

In the House, the top 10 legislators with the most missed votes were:

- Katherine Kazarian (D, East Providence): 226
- Helder Cunha (D, East Providence): 223
- Joy Hearn (D, Barrington/East Providence): 215
- Michael Morin (D, Woonsocket): 176
- Jared Nunes (D, Coventry/West Warwick): 172
- Jean Barros (D, Pawtucket): 163
- Ramon Perez (D, Providence/Johnston): 144
- Sherry Roberts (R, West Greenwich/Coventry): 139
- Scott Slater (D, Providence): 96

- Brian Newberry (R, North Smithfield/Burrillville): 92

For the Senate, the top 10 legislators with the most missed votes were:

- Daniel DaPonte (D, East Providence): 188
- Marc Cote (D, North Smithfield/Woonsocket): 122
- Walter Felag (D, Bristol/Tiverton/Warren): 112
- Dennis Algieri (R, Charlestown/South Kingstown/Westerly): 110
- William Conley (D, East Providence/Pawtucket): 109
- Cynthia Coyne (D, Barrington/Bristol/East Providence): 108
- Adam Satchell (D, West Warwick): 87
- Elaine Morgan (R, Charlestown/Exeter/Hopkinton/Richmond/West Greenwich): 87
- Frank Lombardi (D, Cranston): 86
- Mark Gee (R, East Greenwich/North Kingstown/South Kingstown/Narragansett): 75

The practice of pushing most important votes to the end of the legislative session can leave entire legislative districts with no representation. Would you vote for a legislator if you knew he or she would not vote more on than a third of the bills voted upon by the General Assembly in a year? The rules of operation of our General Assembly make it possible for any legislator to miss that many votes if any personal crisis comes up in the tiny 48-hour end-of-session window.

In the seven years that I spent advocating to eliminate the master lever, legislative leadership was fond of explaining away the 50 years it took to get the job done as part of the slow and deliberative legislative process. There is nothing slow or



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deliberative about the final 48-hour frenzy of last-minute bills, amendments, and votes.

Nothing mandates that our legislature operate in such a circus-like manner. Simply passing 10 bills a week over the six-month session would eliminate the end-of-session blitz. Transparency would increase and legislators would theoretically be better informed about the bills they were voting upon.

The legislature should consider a 25-bill weekly limit (not including resolutions and marriage solemnizations). As a deliberative body, no floor votes should occur after 9:30 p.m. — ever.

Rhode Island needs leaders who are dedicated to changing our political culture. Will we get the leadership we need, or will we be perpetually left with an annual legislative hangover?



Rhode Island Senators' Missed Votes, 2016-2018

District	Senator	2018			2017			2017-2018	
		Votes	%	Rank	Votes	%	Rank	%	Rank
	Total votes	362							
38	Dennis Algieri	110	30.4	4	11	3.3	13	17.4	3
22	Steve Archambault	15	4.1	21	0	0.0	35	2.2	27
30	Jeanine Calkin	0	0.0	35	0	0.0	35	0.0	38
8	Sandra Cano	29	8.0	15				4.2	20
7	Frank Ciccone	43	11.9	12	27	8.1	5	10.0	13
18	William Conley	109	30.1	5	3		27	16.1	6
24	Marc Cote	122	33.7	2	5	1.5	19	18.2	2
32	Cynthia Coyne	108	29.8	6	1	0.3	32	15.6	8
0	Betty Crowley	28	7.7	16	46	13.7	3	10.6	12
14	Daniel DaPonte	188	51.9	1	164	49.0	1	50.5	1
12	Lou DiPalma	20	5.5	19	11	3.3	13	4.4	18
13	Dawn Euer	2	0.6	28				0.3	37
10	Walter Felag	112	30.9	3	3	0.9	27	16.5	5
23	Paul Fogarty	28	7.7	16	2		29	4.3	19
27	Hanna Gallo	1	0.3	32	18	5.4	10	2.7	23
35	Mark Gee	75	20.7	10	8	2.4	15	11.9	11
3	Gayle Goldin	35	9.7	14	19	5.7	9	7.7	14
1	Maryellen Goodwin	2	0.6	28	17	5.1	11	2.7	23
5	Paul Jabour	5	1.4	25	1	0.3	32	0.9	30
21	Nicholas Kettle	1	0.3	32	2	0.6	29	0.4	36
26	Frank Lombardi	86	23.8	9	4	1.2	23	12.9	10
25	Frank Lombardo	4	1.1	27	1	0.3	32	0.7	33
31	Erin Lynch Prata	0	0.0	35	4	1.2	23	0.6	35
29	Michael McCaffrey	2	0.6	28	51	15.2	2	7.6	15
6	Harold Metts	8	2.2	24	8	2.4	15	2.3	26
28	Joshua Miller	38	10.5	13	6	1.8	17	6.3	16
34	Elaine Morgan	87	24.0	7	23	6.9	7	15.8	7
15	Donna Nesselbush	9	2.5	23	5	1.5	19	2.0	28
17	Thomas Paolino	16	4.4	20	5	1.5	19	3.0	22
19	Ryan Pearson	10	2.8	22	26	7.8	6	5.2	17
20	Roger Picard	5	1.4	25	2	0.6	29	1.0	29
2	Ana Quezada	2	0.6	28	4	1.2	23	0.9	30
33	Leonidis Raptakis	72	19.9	11	23	6.9	7	13.6	9
4	Dominick Ruggerio	0	0.0	35	6	1.8	17	0.9	30
9	Adam Satchell	87	24.0	7	29	8.7	4	16.6	4
11	James Seveney	0	0.0	35	17	5.1	11	2.4	25
36	James Sheehan	22	6.1	18	5	1.5	19	3.9	21
37	Susan Sosnowski	1	0.3	32	4	1.2	23	0.7	33

Note: Legislation does not include resolutions and marriage solemnization bills.



Rhode Island Representatives' Missed Votes, 2016-2018

District	Representative	2018			2017			2017-2018	
		Votes	%	Rank	Votes	%	Rank	%	Rank
	Total votes	466							
73	Marvin Abney	7	1.5	62	14	2.9	33	2.2	56
45	Mia Ackerman	9	1.9	59	2	0.4	64	1.2	64
1	Edith Ajello	1	0.2	73	3	0.6	62	0.4	72
12	Joe Almeida	53	11.4	25	29	6.1	23	8.7	28
65	Gregg Amore	28	6.0	42	8	1.7	44	3.8	46
37	Samuel Azzinaro	11	2.4	53	1	0.2	66	1.3	63
59	Jean Barros	163	35.0	6	61	12.7	13	23.7	6
20	David Bennett	27	5.8	43	9	1.9	41	3.8	46
2	Chris Blazejewski	31	6.7	40	5	1.0	53	3.8	46
71	Dennis Canario	75	16.1	14	4	0.8	54	8.4	29
75	Lauren Carson	87	18.7	12	8	1.7	44	10.1	22
50	Stephen Casey	46	9.9	27	65	13.6	11	11.7	17
31	Julie Casimiro	10	2.1	57	1	0.2	66	1.2	64
40	Mike Chippendale	69	14.8	19	24	5.0	27	9.8	23
55	Arthur Corvese	11	2.4	53	4	0.8	54	1.6	59
44	Gregory Costantino	46	9.9	27	240	50.1	2	30.3	3
60	David Coughlin	67	14.4	20	32	6.7	19	10.5	21
32	Bob Craven	7	1.5	62	6	1.3	52	1.4	62
64	Helder Cunha	223	47.9	2	46	9.6	15	28.5	4
11	Grace Diaz	73	15.7	16	150	31.3	4	23.6	7
69	Susan Donovan	32	6.9	38	10	2.1	39	4.4	42
70	Jay Edwards	16	3.4	49	10	2.1	39	2.8	53
43	Deborah Fellela	9	1.9	59	33	6.9	18	4.4	42
36	Blake Filippi	33	7.1	37	55	11.5	14	9.3	27
35	Kathleen Fogarty	32	6.9	38	4	0.8	54	3.8	46
30	Anthony Giarrusso	6	1.3	65	9	1.9	41	1.6	59
18	Art Handy	15	3.2	50	34	7.1	17	5.2	39
66	Joy Hearn	215	46.1	3	101	21.1	5	33.4	2
6	Ray Hull	35	7.5	35	4	0.8	54	4.1	45
17	Robert Jacquard	89	19.1	11	19	4.0	29	11.4	19
61	Raymond Johnston	0	0.0	75	0	0.0	70	0.0	75
63	Katherine Kazarian	226	48.5	1	249	52.0	1	50.3	1
47	Cale Keable	6	1.3	65	18	3.8	30	2.5	54
38	Brian Kennedy	31	6.7	40	14	2.9	33	4.8	41
67	Jason Knight	3	0.6	68	7	1.5	48	1.1	67
16	Robert Lancia	71	15.2	17	2	0.4	64	7.7	31
14	Charlene Lima	11	2.4	53	7	1.5	48	1.9	58

Note: Legislation does not include resolutions and marriage solemnization bills.



Rhode Island Representatives' Missed Votes, 2016-2018 (Continued)

District	Representative	2018			2017			2017-2018	
		Votes	%	Rank	Votes	%	Rank	%	Rank
8	John Lombardi	27	5.8	43	4	0.8	54	3.3	52
56	Shelby Maldonado	2	0.4	70	0	0.0	70	0.2	73
68	Kenneth Marshall	26	5.6	45	40	8.4	16	7.0	32
52	Alex Marszalkowski	15	3.2	50	4	0.8	54	2.0	57
15	Nicholas Mattiello	9	1.9	59	0	0.0	70	1.0	68
33	Carol McEntee	47	10.1	26	4	0.8	54	5.4	38
7	Daniel McKiernan	37	7.9	33	9	1.9	41	4.9	40
57	James McLaughlin	13	2.8	52	11	2.3	37	2.5	54
19	Joseph McNamara	7	1.5	62	7	1.5	48	1.5	61
72	Kenneth Mendonca	11	2.4	53	0	0.0	70	1.2	64
62	Mary Messier	42	9.0	31	13	2.7	35	5.8	36
26	Patricia Morgan	62	13.3	21	16	3.3	31	8.3	30
49	Michael Morin	176	37.8	4	8	1.7	44	19.5	9
28	Bobby Nardolillo	34	7.3	36	1	0.2	66	3.7	50
48	Brian Newberry	92	19.7	10	25	5.2	26	12.4	15
25	Jared Nunes	172	36.9	5	28	5.8	24	21.2	8
54	William O'Brien	61	13.1	22	73	15.2	8	14.2	14
46	Jeremiah O'Grady	61	13.1	22	77	16.1	6	14.6	13
13	Ramon Perez	144	30.9	7	4	0.8	54	15.7	11
51	Bob Phillips	2	0.4	70	230	48.0	3	24.6	5
39	Justin Price	18	3.9	48	74	15.4	7	9.7	24
41	Bob Quattrocchi	43	9.2	29	16	3.3	31	6.2	34
5	Marcia Ranglin-Vassell	75	16.1	14	31	6.5	21	11.2	20
4	Aaron Regunberg	24	5.2	46	32	6.7	19	5.9	35
29	Sherry Roberts	139	29.8	8	8	1.7	44	15.6	12
74	Deb Ruggiero	55	11.8	24	0	0.0	70	5.8	36
27	Patricia Serpa	2	0.4	70	7	1.5	48	1.0	68
24	Evan Shanley	23	4.9	47	11	2.3	37	3.6	51
23	Joe Shekarchi	1	0.2	73	0	0.0	70	0.1	74
10	Scott Slater	96	20.6	9	62	12.9	12	16.7	10
22	Joseph Solomon	3	0.6	68	3	0.6	62	0.6	70
34	Teresa Tanzi	36	7.7	34	26	5.4	25	6.6	33
58	Carlos Tobon	42	9.0	31	70	14.6	9	11.9	16
42	Stephen Ucci	43	9.2	29	66	13.8	10	11.5	18
21	Camille Vella-Wilkinson	5	1.1	67	1	0.2	66	0.6	70
3	Moira Walsh	78	16.7	13	13	2.7	35	9.6	26
9	Anastasia Williams	10	2.1	57	31	6.5	21	4.3	44
53	Thomas Winfield	70	15.0	18	22	4.6	28	9.7	24

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