

Ned Lamont Is Right On The Issues You Care About

Issue	Ned Lamont	Joe Lieberman
Missed Senate Votes	Senator Lieberman failed to do his job. He missed over 400 votes with the 2nd worst voting attendance record in the U.S. Senate. "In my world, in the private sector, you've got to show up for work." "I don't know any reason why the U.S. Senate is any different." "It's astonishing that Senator Lieberman has missed the same amount of votes that he criticized Weicker for, in half the time." " <u>Connecticut needs a senator who is there,</u> " Lieberman said in 1988. "I couldn't agree more with Senator Lieberman's words from 18 years ago".	Has the 2nd worst voting attendance record in the U.S. Senate, missing over 400 votes since 1999 and over 300 since 2003. This includes missing 33 of the 63 votes on the Iraq War (e.g., votes for additional funding for body armor, oversight of reconstruction spending, investigating pre-war intelligence failures, and increased involvement by our allies), 90% of votes on Medicare prescription drug coverage (e.g., vote to close the \$2,850 annual out-of-pocket "donut hole"), and many other votes important to CT's people.
Cheney Energy Bill	Would have voted against bill which gives billions to the oil, coal, and nuclear power industries; weakens environmental regulations; does far too little for fuel economy, conservation, and alternative energy; and limits CT's oversight authority for the proposed Long Island Sound LNG terminal.	Supported the Bush Administration by being the only New England Senator (Democrat or Republican) to vote for the Cheney Energy bill. Received campaign contributions from Enron, an LNG industry company, utility companies, and other energy industry companies.
Healthcare	Supports universal coverage. Believes all Americans have a fundamental right to healthcare. Supports coverage for all uninsured children, all full-time employees through their employers, collective buy-in pools to reduce costs for small businesses, and assistance for those who can't afford it.	Has opposed universal coverage legislation in the Senate. Received millions in campaign contributions from insurance, pharmaceutical, healthcare companies, and healthcare providers. 47 million Americans, nearly 1 in 6, have no health insurance, while U.S. Senators have an excellent health plan.
Social Security (SS)/ Medicare	Opposes SS privatization which puts benefits at risk in the stock market and adds trillions in debt to SS. Opposes increasing SS retirement age. Supports modest changes to protect SS benefits and keep SS solvent thru the 21st century. Opposes Medicare privatization which would waste billions.	Has supported privatizing SS, increasing SS retirement age, privatizing Medicare, increasing the Medicare eligibility age, and taxing Medicare benefits. Received millions in campaign contributions from investment firms, and health insurance and other healthcare companies.
Women's Reproductive Rights	Fully supports women's right to reproductive freedom. Will fight to make the morning after pill available over-the-counter, and for requiring all hospitals to make emergency contraception available to all rape victims. Will fight to support the nomination and appointment of pro-choice judges.	Opposes full access to emergency contraception. Supports hospitals that decline on religious grounds to dispense emergency contraception to rape victims, callously saying "it shouldn't take more than a short ride to get to another hospital". Received major campaign contributions from hospitals.
Public Education/ No Child Left Behind (NCLB)	Supports increased pre-K and after-school programs, increased investment in science and math, and making college more affordable. Opposes vouchers which weaken the public school system by giving public money to private schools. Sees problems with standardized testing over-emphasis in NCLB.	Sided with conservatives to support school vouchers. Voted for President Bush's NCLB, but failed to secure the needed funding, costing CT schools millions and forcing the CT Attorney General to sue the federal government. Voted against funding to reduce class size and hire and train more teachers.
Campaign Finance Reform	Supports publicly funded campaigns to reduce corrupting influence of PACs, corporations, and lobbyists on the political process. Does NOT seek or accept campaign contributions from PACs or special interest lobbyists.	Failed to support publicly funded campaigns. Received millions in campaign contributions from corporate-backed special interest lobbyists and PACs (80% of it from outside of CT) that he continues to loyally pass legislation for.
Alito Supreme Court Nomination	Would have fought hard to filibuster and block the Alito nomination which unacceptably shifted the court's fundamental balance, and threatens civil rights and women's reproductive rights.	Sided with the Bush Administration to cast a key vote to defeat an attempt to filibuster and block the Alito nomination. Alito is anti-abortion and has ruled to limit the rights of workers, the disabled, voters, and victims of discrimination.
Detainee Torture And Trial Bill	Would have opposed this unconstitutional, un-American violation of basic human rights which puts our own troops at risk, will not bear legal scrutiny, and further delays bringing terrorists to justice. It allows President Bush to secretly interpret the Geneva Conventions torture definition, gives amnesty to CIA agents guilty of torture, and denies basic rights essential for a fair trial.	Joined Bush loyalists to vote for this atrocious bill which retroactively legalizes the President's ongoing illegal and immoral program of indefinite detainee imprisonment and torture. The bill allows the continued secret imprisonment and torture of detainees at a network of secret CIA prisons in violation of the Geneva Conventions, without oversight, review, or many basic legal rights.
Jobs/Trade	Supports labor, wage, and environmental provisions in trade agreements that create a level playing field where U.S. workers can fairly compete. Would invest in CT's education system and infrastructure to retain and grow jobs. Opposes tax breaks for outsourcing. Endorsed by majority of CT's union members.	Voted for NAFTA and Tom DeLay-sponsored CAFTA free trade agreements that put American workers at an unfair competitive disadvantage and led to the loss of over one million U.S. jobs. Voted for billions in tax breaks for corporations (including his contributors) that outsource U.S. jobs overseas.

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Earmarks/ Lobbying Corruption	Ban corrupt practices of earmarks and lobbyist gifts, require public recording of meetings with lobbyists, and make other serious reforms. Does NOT seek or accept campaign contributions from PACs or special interest lobbyists.	Supports earmarks as a way to bring money back to CT. CT ranks 49th in the proportion of its federal tax dollars that come back to the state. Twice voted against lobbyist gift bans. Received millions from lobbyists and PACs.
Bankruptcy Bill	Would have voted against this anti middle class bill which enriches lender and credit card company profits by making bankruptcy unfairly burdensome for most Americans, while less burdensome for the wealthy.	Sided with the Bush Administration to cast a key vote to block an attempt to defeat this anti middle class bill. Received millions in campaign contributions from banking, credit card, and other financial corporations.
Lawsuit Reform/ Consumer Rights	Would have opposed these bills which limit consumer protection and unfairly limit individuals' rights to sue, while reducing corporate accountability.	Voted for bills that limited consumer rights and ability to sue when wronged. Received millions in campaign contributions from corporations that benefited.
Accounting Reform	Would have supported requiring stock options to be expensed to protect stock holders and prevent corporations from artificially inflating profits.	Opposed reform, helping to fuel 2001 stock market crash and Enron scandal. Received millions in campaign contributions from corporations that benefited.
NSA Warrantless Domestic Surveillance	Supports surveillance to fight terrorism, but insists that President Bush respect constitutional rights and obtain warrants in compliance with the FISA Act. Supports censure of the President if he violated the law.	Sided with Bush loyalists by failing to support efforts by other Senators to censure President Bush for wiretapping American citizens without FISA warrants.
Affirmative Action	Strongly supports affirmative action and equal rights for all Americans.	Supported eliminating affirmative action and stated that it is "un-American".
Gay Rights/ Gay Marriage	Supports the rights of all individuals and less government intrusion in our private lives. Against any constitutional amendment to outlaw gay marriage.	Voted with conservatives to cut-off all federal funding of schools that counsel suicidal gay teens that it's OK to be gay or refer them to gay support groups.
End of Life Issues/ Terry Schiavo Case	Would have voted against intervening in Terry Schiavo case. Supports less government intrusion in our private lives.	Sided with the Bush Administration to support the federal government's intervention in the Terry Schiavo case.
Iraq War	Believes the Bush Administration rushed to war and misled the American people on WMD, that Iraq posed an imminent threat, that U.S. troops would be greeted as liberators, that we would be safer from terrorism, and that the war would pay for itself. Numerous inexcusable strategic errors were made that fueled the insurgency and terrorism and greatly increased the risk to our brave U.S. soldiers who are now stuck in the middle of a bloody civil war.	Failed to question the need for war, voted for the war resolution, and vocally supported the war and President Bush every step of the way. Has criticized anyone who questions the war or Bush Administration Iraq policy and stated: "we undermine the President's credibility at our nation's peril." Received major campaign contributions from defense and Iraq reconstruction contractors. Obtained multiple deferments to avoid serving in the Vietnam War.
Iraq Occupation	Supports gradual U.S. troop redeployment, Iraqis stepping-up to defend their own country, U.S. humanitarian and rebuilding aid, and more involvement by other nations. Against permanent U.S. military bases or U.S. control of Iraqi oil. U.S. Troop Deaths: over 2,700 Dramatically Escalating Iraqi Civilian Deaths: Over 45,000 to date, a record 20,600 in 2006 (thru August), a record 6,600 in July/August 2006 alone. Latest Iraqi Poll: 78% believe U.S. troops provoke more violence than they prevent, 61% approve of attacks on U.S. troops, 71% favor U.S. troop withdrawal. It's time to change the course of President Bush's disastrous Iraq policy.	Supports President Bush's open-ended U.S. occupation and permanent U.S. military bases in Iraq, despite the pentagon, numerous U.S. Generals, and all 16 U.S. intelligence agencies now unanimously agreeing that violence is dramatically escalating into civil war, and that the Iraq War has significantly increased global terrorism. Wrote Wall Street Journal editorial "The Troops Must Stay" ardently defending the President's failed stay-the-course policy. Recent U.S. Polls: 61% oppose Iraq war, 53% believe the war was a mistake, 61% favor U.S. troop withdrawal. Cost: \$332 billion to date + \$2 billion more/week.
Abu Ghraib Torture	Believes that the Abu Ghraib torture was yet another regrettable mistake in Iraq, and resulted from the condoning of various types of torture at the highest levels of the Bush Administration, as documented in several White House memoranda.	Supported the Bush Administration and responded by writing Wall Street Journal editorial "Why Rumsfeld Must Stay" defending the Defense Secretary. Defiantly stated in Senate: "Those who were responsible for killing 3,000 Americans on September 11th, 2001, never apologized."