



## LEGISLATORS FOLLOW LEADERSHIP LIKE SHEEPLE

Despite policies that have caused the Ocean State to suffer the 50<sup>th</sup>-ranked business climate, the 48<sup>th</sup>-ranked Family Prosperity Index (FPI), and the 47<sup>th</sup>-ranked Jobs & Opportunity Index (JOI), a new report today demonstrates that there is scant dissent among Rhode Island lawmakers who vote for the policies that have produced these results.

The 2016 "Sheeple" index, a collaboration between WatchdogRI.org and the RI Center for Freedom & Prosperity, ranked how often state representatives and senators voted in lock-step with leadership. Even with the 2016 General Assembly scoring -54.1 on a scale of -100 to +100 on the Center's annual Freedom Index, there was little opposition as more than half of all lawmakers voted with the House speaker or the Senate president over 95% of the time.

"In a healthy democracy, there should be a rigorous debate of diverse views. Sadly, and conversely in Rhode Island, it seems that when leadership authorizes bills to move forward, legislators feel compelled to automatically support them," commented Mike Stenhouse, CEO for the Center. "The statistics in this report present a stunning pattern of elected officials blindly following the leader. Voters this November must decide if this is how they want their government to be run."

Of the 489 House bills examined for 2016, excluding resolutions and marriage solemnizations, 24 representatives voted at least 98% of the time with the speaker, with the worst five "sheeple" offenders being John DeSimone (99.8%), Ray

Johnston (99.8%), Michael Morin (99.6%), Brian Kennedy (99.4%), and Lauren Carson (99.2%).

Of the Senate's 487 bills, 11 Senators surpassed the 98% sheeple threshold, with Susan Sosnowski (99.6%), Dominick Ruggerio (99.2%), Erin Lynch Prata (99.2%), Steve Archambault (98.8%), and Hanna Gallo (98.6%) as the five least independent when it came to casting votes in lock-step with the Senate president.

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' Sheeple Votes, 2016

	District	Votes Cast with President			Sided with President on Non-Unanimous Votes		
		Count	%	Rank	Count	%	Rank
Teresa Paiva-Weed	13	487			101		
Dennis Algiere	38	449	92.2%	22	87	86.1%	25
Steve Archambault	22	481	98.8%	4	97	96.0%	11
Frank Ciccone	7	456	93.6%	21	93	92.1%	21
William Conley	18	474	97.3%	12	94	93.1%	19
Marc Cote	24	472	96.9%	13	92	91.1%	23
Cynthia Coyne	32	479	98.4%	6	101	100.0%	1
Elizabeth Crowley	16	399	81.9%	29	91	90.1%	24
Daniel DaPonte	14	465	95.5%	17	98	97.0%	8
Lou DiPalma	12	478	98.2%	9	99	98.0%	4
James Doyle	8	405	83.2%	28	93	92.1%	21
Walter Felag	10	472	96.9%	13	96	95.0%	14
Paul Fogarty	23	479	98.4%	6	98	97.0%	8
Hanna Gallo	27	480	98.6%	5	98	97.0%	8
Mark Gee	35	448	92.0%	23	82	81.2%	28
Gayle Goldin	3	460	94.5%	19	96	95.0%	14
Maryellen Goodwin	1	466	95.7%	16	96	95.0%	14
Paul Jabour	5	477	97.9%	10	97	96.0%	11
Nicholas Kettle	21	373	76.6%	34	48	47.5%	36
Frank Lombardi	26	393	80.7%	30	54	53.5%	33
Frank Lombardo	25	387	79.5%	31	50	49.5%	34
Erin Lynch Prata	31	483	99.2%	2	99	98.0%	4
Michael McCaffrey	29	477	97.9%	10	99	98.0%	4
Harold Metts	6	471	96.7%	15	95	94.1%	17
Joshua Miller	28	409	84.0%	27	85	84.2%	27
Elaine Morgan	34	385	79.1%	32	62	61.4%	31
Donna Nesselbush	15	358	73.5%	36	50	49.5%	34
Edward O'Neill	17	321	65.9%	37	36	35.6%	37
John Pagliarini	11	378	77.6%	33	61	60.4%	32
Ryan Pearson	19	464	95.3%	18	97	96.0%	11
Roger Picard	20	479	98.4%	6	99	98.0%	4
Juan Pichardo	2	431	88.5%	25	95	94.1%	17
Leonidis Raptakis	33	369	75.8%	35	76	75.2%	29
Dominick Ruggerio	4	483	99.2%	2	100	99.0%	2
Adam Satchell	9	460	94.5%	19	94	93.1%	19
James Sheehan	36	438	89.9%	24	87	86.1%	25
Susan Sosnowski	37	485	99.6%	1	100	99.0%	2
William Walaska	30	411	84.4%	26	64	63.4%	30

Notes: Legislation does not include resolutions and marriage solemnization bills. Missed votes count as not voted with leadership.

### Rhode Island Representatives' Sheeple Votes, 2016

	District	Votes Cast with Speaker			Sided with Speaker on Non-Unanimous Votes		
		Count	%	Rank	Count	%	Rank
Nicholas Mattiello	15	489			159		
Marvin Abney	73	480	98.2%	19	155	97.5%	13
Mia Ackerman	45	481	98.4%	15	153	96.2%	21
Edith Ajello	1	439	89.8%	47	149	93.7%	37
Joe Almeida	12	395	80.8%	60	99	62.3%	55
Gregg Amore	65	456	93.3%	42	149	93.7%	37
Samuel Azzinaro	37	474	96.9%	30	150	94.3%	35
Jean Barros	59	452	92.4%	44	126	79.2%	50
David Bennett	20	480	98.2%	19	158	99.4%	2
Chris Blazejewski	2	482	98.6%	13	156	98.1%	9
Dennis Canario	71	426	87.1%	51	100	62.9%	53
John Carnevale	13	255	52.1%	72	68	42.8%	63
Lauren Carson	75	485	99.2%	5	159	100.0%	1
Stephen Casey	50	485	99.2%	5	156	98.1%	9
Mike Chippendale	40	344	70.3%	71	46	28.9%	72
Arthur Corvese	55	350	71.6%	69	90	56.6%	60
Doreen Costa	31	421	86.1%	53	96	60.4%	57
Gregory Costantino	44	414	84.7%	56	96	60.4%	57
David Coughlin Jr.	60	475	97.1%	25	154	96.9%	17
Bob Craven Sr.	32	467	95.5%	36	151	95.0%	30
John DeSimone	5	488	99.8%	1	158	99.4%	2
Grace Diaz	11	481	98.4%	15	152	95.6%	24
Jay Edwards IV	70	477	97.5%	24	154	96.9%	17
Deborah Fellela	43	453	92.6%	43	148	93.1%	40
Blake Filippi	36	377	77.1%	63	64	40.3%	66
Kathleen Fogarty	35	475	97.1%	25	151	95.0%	30
Raymond Gallison Jr.	69	61	12.5%	74	20	12.6%	73
Anthony Giarrusso	30	412	84.3%	57	95	59.7%	59
Art Handy	18	469	95.9%	34	152	95.6%	24
Joy Hearn	66	463	94.7%	38	142	89.3%	47
Ray Hull	6	473	96.7%	32	149	93.7%	37
Robert Jacquard	17	433	88.5%	49	144	90.6%	44
Raymond Johnston Jr.	61	488	99.8%	1	158	99.4%	2
Katherine Kazarian	63	466	95.3%	37	152	95.6%	24
Cale Keable	47	481	98.4%	15	152	95.6%	24
Brian Kennedy	38	486	99.4%	4	156	98.1%	9
Robert Lancia	16	415	84.9%	55	90	56.6%	60
Charlene Lima	14	481	98.4%	15	156	98.1%	9

Notes: Legislation does not include resolutions and marriage solemnization bills. Missed votes count as not voted with leadership.

### Rhode Island Representatives' Sheeple Votes, 2016 (Continued)

	District	Votes Cast with Speaker			Sided with Speaker on Non-Unanimous Votes		
		Count	%	Rank	Count	%	Rank
Nicholas Mattiello	15	489			159		
John Lombardi	8	407	83.2%	59	98	61.6%	56
Karen MacBeth	52	360	73.6%	68	53	33.3%	70
Shelby Maldonado	56	483	98.8%	11	155	97.5%	13
Jan Malik	67	475	97.1%	25	153	96.2%	21
Mike Marcello	41	470	96.1%	33	147	92.5%	42
Kenneth Marshall	68	412	84.3%	57	134	84.3%	49
Carol McEntee	33	478	97.8%	22	153	96.2%	21
Daniel McKiernan	7	462	94.5%	39	148	93.1%	40
James McLaughlin	57	468	95.7%	35	147	92.5%	42
Joseph McNamara	19	424	86.7%	52	100	62.9%	53
Helio Melo	64	485	99.2%	5	157	98.7%	7
Mary Messier	62	483	98.8%	11	154	96.9%	17
Patricia Morgan	26	380	77.7%	62	59	37.1%	67
Michael Morin	49	487	99.6%	3	158	99.4%	2
Bobby Nardolillo III	28	443	90.6%	46	119	74.8%	51
Eileen Naughton	21	484	99.0%	9	157	98.7%	7
Brian Newberry	48	392	80.2%	61	68	42.8%	63
Jared Nunes	25	374	76.5%	64	78	49.1%	62
William O'Brien	54	437	89.4%	48	151	95.0%	30
Jeremiah O'Grady	46	419	85.7%	54	135	84.9%	48
Thomas Palangio	3	77	15.7%	73	14	8.8%	74
Bob Phillips	51	485	99.2%	5	155	97.5%	13
Justin Price	39	370	75.7%	65	59	37.1%	67
Aaron Regunberg	4	458	93.7%	40	143	89.9%	46
Dan Reilly	72	345	70.6%	70	68	42.8%	63
Sherry Roberts	29	368	75.3%	66	52	32.7%	71
Deb Ruggiero	74	429	87.7%	50	104	65.4%	52
Patricia Serpa	27	479	98.0%	21	155	97.5%	13
Joe Shekarchi	23	484	99.0%	9	154	96.9%	17
Scott Slater	10	475	97.1%	25	152	95.6%	24
Joseph Solomon Jr.	22	482	98.6%	13	158	99.4%	2
Teresa Tanzi	34	475	97.1%	25	151	95.0%	30
Carlos Tobon	58	457	93.5%	41	150	94.3%	35
Joseph Trillo	24	361	73.8%	67	56	35.2%	69
Stephen Ucci	42	449	91.8%	45	144	90.6%	44
Anastasia Williams	9	478	97.8%	22	152	95.6%	24
Thomas Winfield	53	474	96.9%	30	151	95.0%	30

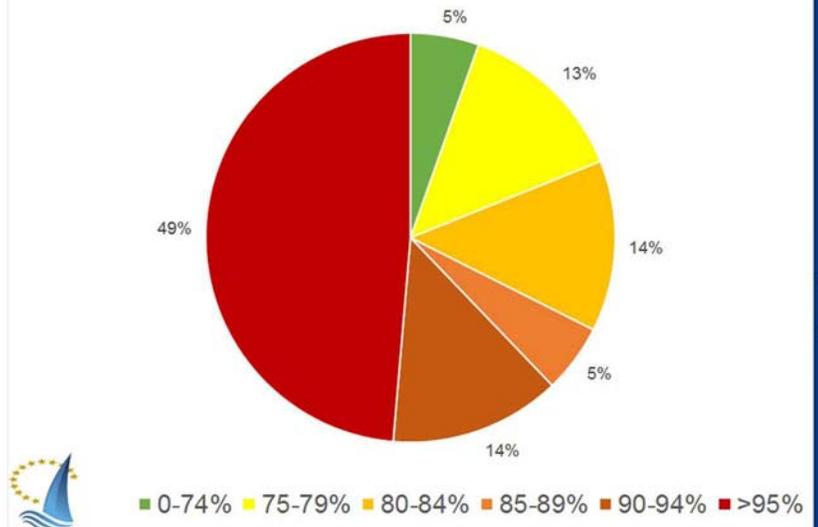
Notes: Legislation does not include resolutions and marriage solemnization bills. Missed votes count as not voted with leadership.



## Frequency of Votes with the Senate President

*Nearly 50% of Rhode Island senators voted with the Senate President more than 95% of the time, and only 5% of them voted with her less than 75% of the time.*

Rhode Island Senators' Degree of Sheepleness, 2016



## Frequency of Votes with the Speaker of the House

*Fully 50% of Rhode Island representatives voted with the speaker more than 95% of the time, and only 11% of them voted with him less than 75% of the time.*

Rhode Island Representatives' Degree of Sheepleness, 2016

