

Senate Commerce Committee

In alphabetic order

Members:

Thune, John (SD), Chairman
Wicker, Roger F. (MS)
Blunt, Roy (MO)
Cruz, Ted (TX)
Fischer, Deb (NE)
Moran, Jerry (KS)
Sullivan, Dan (AK)
Heller, Dean (NV)
Inhofe, James M. (OK)
Lee, Mike (UT)
Johnson, Ron (WI)
Capito, Shelley Moore (WV)
Gardner, Cory (CO)
Young, Todd (IN)

Members:

Nelson, Bill (FL), Ranking Member
Cantwell, Maria (WA)
Klobuchar, Amy (MN)
Blumenthal, Richard (CT)
Schatz, Brian (HI)
Markey, Edward J. (MA)
Udall, Tom (NM)
Peters, Gary C. (MI)
Baldwin, Tammy (WI)
Duckworth, Tammy (IL)
Hassan, Margaret Wood (NH)
Cortez Masto, Catherine (NV)
Tester, Jon (Montana)



John Thune CHAIRMAN

(56) R-SD

elected 2004

United States Senate

SD-511

Phone: (202) 224-2321

SUGGEST NOT REACHING OUT TO SENATOR
THUNE OFFICE. WE THINK HE AND HIS STAFF
WILL THWART AND WORK AGAINST OUR
EFFORTS TO STOP WIRELESS EXPANSION & 5G.

John Thune grew up in Murdo, South Dakota. His interest in politics was sparked at a young age after making five of six free throws during a freshman high school basketball game. He was later greeted by a spectator who said, "I noticed you missed one." That spectator happened to be well-known sports enthusiast and South Dakota U.S. Representative Jim Abdnor. The introduction was the start of a friendship that ignited John's career in public service.

John received his undergraduate degree at Biola University and his Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of South Dakota. Upon completion of his Master's Degree in 1984, he married Kimberley Weems, a native of Doland, South Dakota.

John's attraction to public service took him to Washington, D.C. to work for that sports enthusiast and then-U.S. Senator Jim Abdnor. He then served at the Small Business Administration under an appointment from President Ronald Reagan.

In 1989, John and his family returned to South Dakota, where he served as the Executive Director of the South Dakota Republican Party. In 1991, Governor George S. Mickelson appointed him the State Railroad Director, a position he held until 1993, when he became Executive Director of the South Dakota Municipal League.

In 1996, with a shoestring budget and the support of family and friends, John won his first term as South Dakota's lone member of the U.S. House of Representatives. John was reelected to a

second term by the largest margin in South Dakota history. He returned again to Washington in 2001 to serve his third term in the House.

John then honored his 1996 campaign pledge to serve only three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. After a narrow loss in a U.S. Senate race in 2002, he won his current U.S. Senate seat in 2004, when he made history by defeating a sitting U.S. Senate party leader for the first time in 52 years.

In 2010, John was elected to serve a second term in the U.S. Senate in a rare unopposed race. He was only the third Republican and the only South Dakotan to run unopposed for the U.S. Senate since direct elections were created in 1913. John was elected to a third term in 2016.

For the 115th Congress, Senator Thune serves on the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee; the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee; and the Finance Committee. Thune, who is the senior most Republican on the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, serves as Chairman. Thune also served in Republican leadership as Chairman of the Senate Republican Policy Committee from 2009 – 2011 and now serves as the Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference, the number three position in Senate Republican leadership.

Share a cup of coffee with the South Dakota delegation at South Dakota Sunrise Coffee, which takes place in the Senate office buildings adjacent to the U.S. Capitol. At the event, the delegation gives a short report on current activities in Washington, D.C. and takes pictures with constituents. A complimentary breakfast with coffee and light pastries is provided. Reservations are required and must be submitted by noon on the Tuesday of the desired reservation week.

2/7, 2/14, 2/28 from 9-10AM

Committees:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION & FORESTRY

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE & TRANSPORTATION

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Subcommittee on Commodities, Risk Management and Trade

Subcommittee on Livestock, Marketing and Agriculture Security

Subcommittee on Rural Development and Energy

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security

Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet

Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance and Data Security

Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard

Subcommittee on Space, Science, and Competitiveness

Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security

Committee on Finance

Subcommittee on Health Care

Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness

Subcommittee on Taxation and IRS Oversight

Air Force Caucus

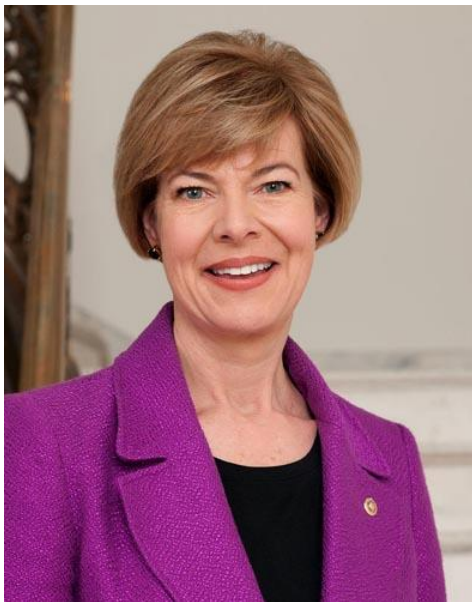
Afterschool Caucus

Bicameral Congressional Caucus on Parkinson's Disease

Congressional Autism Caucus

Bios Senate Commerce Committee

Congressional Border Security and Enforcement First Caucus
 Congressional Brain Injury Task Force
 Congressional Coalition on Adoption
 Congressional Diabetes Caucus
 Congressional Fire Service Caucus
 Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition
 Congressional Internet Caucus
 Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus
 Senate Anti-Methamphetamine Caucus
 Senate Anti-Terrorism Caucus
 Senate Biofuels Caucus
 Senate Cancer Coalition
 Senate Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Caucus
 Senate Friends of Norway Caucus
 Senate Impact Aid Coalition
 Senate Multiple Sclerosis Caucus
 Senate National Guard Caucus
 Senate Republican Capital Markets Task Force
 Senate Republican High Tech Task Force
 Senate Rural Education Caucus
 Senate Rural Health Caucus
 Senate Steering Committee on Telehealth and Healthcare Informatics
 Senate Task Force on Responsible Fatherhood
 Senate Western Caucus
 Congressional Nursing Caucus
 Bicameral Congressional Arthritis Caucus
 Senate Community Pharmacy Caucus
 Congressional Farmer Cooperative Caucus



Tammy Baldwin

(54) D-Wisconsin
 Elected 2012

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 Phone: (202) 224-5653

Director, Scheduling & Executive Assistant:
Carolyn_walser@baldwin.senate.gov

Chief of Staff: Bill_Murat@baldwin.senate.gov
 Health Legislative Assistant: [Ms. Kathleen C. Laird](#)
 Environment: [Ms. Colleene P. Thomas](#)
 Telecommunications: [Mr. Brian Moulton](#)

Committees & Subcommittees:

Senate Committee on Appropriations

Senate Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Senate Subcommittee on Department of Defense

Senate Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security

Senate Subcommittee on Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

Senate Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veteran Affairs, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Senate Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security
Senate Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet
Senate Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard
Senate Subcommittee on Space, Science, and Competitiveness
Senate Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Senate Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety
Senate Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security

Caucuses:

Arthritis Caucus
Bicameral Congressional Caucus on Parkinson's Disease
Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease
Coalition for Autism Research and Education (CARE)
Community College Caucus
Congressional Bicameral High-Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail Caucus
Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus
Congressional Brain Injury Task Force
Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues (Senate)
Congressional Children's Health Care Caucus
Congressional Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Caucus (COPD)
Congressional Coalition on Adoption
Congressional Community Health Center Caucus
Congressional Cranberry Caucus
Congressional Dairy Farmers Caucus
Congressional Farmer Cooperative Caucus
Congressional Fire Services Caucus
Congressional Friends of the National Park Service
Centennial
Congressional Glaucoma Caucus
Congressional HIV/AIDS Caucus
Congressional Land Conservation Caucus
Congressional Medical Technology Caucus
Congressional Philanthropy Caucus
Congressional Prevention Caucus
Congressional Progressive Caucus
Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus
Congressional TRIO Caucus
Congressional Vision Caucus
Congressional Wildlife Refuge Caucus
Congressional Wine Caucus
Great Lakes Task Force
Great Lakes Task Force
International Conservation Caucus (ICC)
Joint Whistleblower Protection Caucus
Midwest High Speed Rail Congressional Caucus
Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus
Senate Bike Caucus
Senate Competitiveness Caucus

Senate National Service Caucus
Senate Small Brewers Caucus
USO Congressional Caucus

Born and Raised in Wisconsin Tammy Baldwin was born in Madison, Wisconsin and raised by her grandparents in the Badger State. Her grandfather was a scientist at the University of Wisconsin and her grandmother was a gifted artist and seamstress who became chief costumer of the UW Theater Department.

When Tammy was nine years old, she was diagnosed with a serious childhood illness similar to spinal meningitis. She spent three months in the hospital.

Her grandparents had health insurance, but they weren't allowed to list Tammy as a dependent. Their insurance wouldn't cover her care. They were forced to make great sacrifices to pay for Tammy's healthcare.

Tammy got better, and her grandparents looked for an insurance policy that would cover her in the future. But they discovered that, because of her previous illness, they couldn't find such a policy. Not from any insurer. Not at any price. Tammy had been branded with the words "pre-existing condition."

Now, because of the Affordable Care Act, championed by Tammy in the U.S. House of Representatives and in the U.S. Senate, children have protections that they didn't have before and can't be denied coverage because of a pre-existing condition.

As her grandmother grew older, Tammy served as her grandmother's primary caregiver – an extremely rewarding, but also challenging responsibility. Growing up in a grandfamily and being a caregiver shaped Tammy's future in public service, as she led the bipartisan effort to support family caregivers by sponsoring and passing the RAISE Family Caregivers Act in the Senate.

A Commitment to Public Service Tammy graduated from Madison West High School and went on to double-major in political science and mathematics at Smith College. In 1989, she received her law degree from UW-Madison.

In 1986, while in law school, she served on the Madison Common Council, filling an aldermanic vacancy. Tammy was elected to four terms (1986-1994) on the Dane County Board of Supervisors. In 1992, Tammy was elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly as a State

to meet problems with solutions. She is a lead cosponsor of the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act, which would allow struggling borrowers to refinance their student loans and take advantage of lower interest rates – the same way people refinance a mortgage, a car loan or business debt. And after holding roundtables with students and recent graduates struggling with the cost of a higher education, Senator Baldwin introduced the America's College Promise Act, the Working Student Act, and spearheaded the bipartisan Senate effort to save the federal Perkins loans aid program for low-income students. In 2016, Senator Baldwin introduced the In The Red Act, a major reform to address college affordability and put America on a path toward debt-free college. The legislation will allow student loan borrowers to refinance outstanding debt at lower rates, increase Pell Grants to keep pace with rising costs and make a new investment in community college.

As a co-chair of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus (CTE), Senator Baldwin has worked across the aisle to introduce reforms that prioritize CTE, STEM education, and offer stronger support for workforce readiness programs.

Senator Baldwin believes that more must be done to build an economy that works for everyone, not just the wealthy few. Tammy has worked to strengthen our manufacturing economy and is a leader in the Senate of the Manufacturing Jobs for America campaign to rally bipartisan support for legislation that would help manufacturers grow and create jobs.

In the proud tradition of Wisconsin's state motto, Forward, she has shown a strong commitment to investing in innovation, science, research and technology so we create stronger growth in advanced manufacturing, small business start-ups and an innovative economy that is built to last and ready to compete with the rest of the world and win.

Senator Baldwin has worked to ensure Washington does more to respect hard work, invest in economic growth, and give the middle class a fair shot at getting ahead. At a time when too many Wall Street millionaires pay a lower effective tax rate than some truck drivers, teachers and nurses, Senator Baldwin has introduced legislation to eliminate the carried interest tax loophole for hedge fund managers on Wall Street and make sure those at the top are paying their fair share.

Throughout her career in public service, Tammy has a strong record of working hard for

Wisconsin's veterans — making sure their service and sacrifice is honored by providing adequate funding for veterans' health, education, and job-training programs.

Senator Baldwin serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP), and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.



Richard Blumenthal

(70) D-Connecticut

Elected 2010

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Committees

Armed Services

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Judiciary

Veterans' Affairs

Special Committee on Aging

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Legislative Assistant Counsel Environment: Zachary_Radford@blumenthal.senate.gov

Senior Policy Advisor Telecommunications: anna_yu@blumenthal.senate.gov

Chief Scheduler; Executive Assistant Michael_Lawson@blumenthal.senate.gov

Committees and Subcommittees:

Senate Committee on Appropriations

Senate Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Senate Subcommittee on Department of Defense

Senate Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Senate Subcommittee on Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

Senate Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

Senate Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Senate Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security

Senate Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet

Senate Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance and Data Security

Senate Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security

Senate Committee on Rules and Administration

Caucuses:

Arthritis Caucus
Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease
Congressional Bicameral High-Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail
Caucus
Congressional Coalition on Adoption
Congressional Fire Services Caucus
Congressional Multiple Sclerosis Caucus
International Conservation Caucus (ICC)
Northeast-Midwest Senate Coalition
Senate Caucus to End Human Trafficking
Senate Defend Social Security Caucus
Senate Democratic Hispanic Task Force (HTF)
Senate General Aviation Caucus
Senate Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Caucus
Senate Law Enforcement Caucus
Senate Marine Corps Caucus
Senate National Guard Caucus
Senate National Service Caucus
Senate Oceans Caucus
Senate Small Brewers Caucus
Senate Travel and Tourism Caucus
Senate Ukraine Caucus
Senate Veterans Jobs Caucus

Sworn in on January 5, 2011, Richard Blumenthal is serving his first term as a United States Senator from the State of Connecticut.

Senator Blumenthal served an unprecedented five terms as Connecticut's

Attorney General, fighting for people against large and powerful special interests. His aggressive law enforcement for consumer protection, environmental stewardship, labor rights, and personal privacy has helped reshape the role of state attorneys general nationwide, and resulted in the recovery of hundreds of millions of dollars for Connecticut taxpayers and consumers each year. A key player in the national fight against Big Tobacco, he helped bring an end to deceptive marketing aimed at children – a victory significantly lowering youth smoking rates, and compelling a multi-billion dollar settlement for Connecticut taxpayers. He also helped lead a coalition of all 50 states that culminated in historic agreements with social networking sites to better protect children from Internet predators.

As Attorney General, he advocated for reforms in the health insurance industry to assure critical health care coverage and lower pharmaceutical drug prices. He has worked relentlessly to eradicate corruption in state government and make state contracting accountable, fair, honest, and transparent.

His vigorous investigation and legal action against insurance industry abuses has successfully forced financial restitution and reform, compelled greater disclosure by insurers and brokers to consumers, and recovered millions of dollars for the state, municipalities, and individuals. He has successfully fought unfair utility rate charges, air pollution causing acid rain, general environmental wrongdoing, as well as a wide array of consumer scams and frauds.

Senator Blumenthal has personally argued several major cases in court, including his successful effort to uphold the Connecticut sex offender registry in the Supreme Court. He has fought and sued the federal government for failing to follow or enforce environmental laws and energy

statutes, as well as imposing multimillion dollar unfunded mandates on local taxpayers under the No Child Left Behind Act.

From 1977 to 1981, Senator Blumenthal served as a U.S. Attorney for Connecticut, prosecuting drug trafficking, organized and white collar crime, civil rights violations, consumer fraud, and environmental pollution. He served in the Connecticut House of Representatives from 1984 to 1987, and the Connecticut State Senate from 1987 to 1990. As a volunteer attorney for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Senator Blumenthal saved the life of an innocent, wrongly convicted death row inmate who came within hours of execution.

Prior to his position as U.S. Attorney, Senator Blumenthal also served as

Administrative Assistant to U.S. Senator Abraham A. Ribicoff, aide to former U.S. Senator Daniel P. Moynihan when Moynihan was Assistant to the President of the United States, and law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun. Senator Blumenthal graduated from Harvard College (Phi Beta Kappa, Magna

Cum Laude), and Yale Law School, where he was Editor-in-Chief of the Yale Law Journal. From 1970 to 1976 he served in the United States Marine Corps Reserves, and was honorably discharged with the rank of Sergeant.

Senator Blumenthal lives in Connecticut with his wife, Cynthia, and their four children.

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Richard Blumenthal (/ˈbluːmən, θɑːl/; born February 13, 1946) is an American attorney and politician who has served as a United States Senator from Connecticut since 2011. He has been the state's senior senator since 2013 and is ranked as the second wealthiest member of the Senate.^[1] Previously, he served as Attorney General of Connecticut from 1991 to 2011. He is a member of the Democratic Party.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Blumenthal attended Riverdale Country School, a private school in the Bronx. Blumenthal is a graduate of Harvard College, where he was editorial chairman of *The Harvard Crimson*. He studied for a year at Trinity College, Cambridge, in England before attending Yale Law School, where he was editor-in-chief of the *Yale Law Journal*. While at Yale, he was a classmate of future President Bill Clinton and future Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. From 1970 to 1976, Blumenthal served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve, where he attained the rank of sergeant.

After college, Blumenthal served as administrative assistant and law clerk for several Washington, D.C. figures. From 1977 to 1981, he was United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut. In the early 1980s he worked in private law practice, including serving as volunteer counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. He served in the Connecticut House of Representatives from 1985 to 1987, when he was elected to the Connecticut Senate. He was elected Attorney General of Connecticut in 1990, and served for twenty years. During this period he was frequently speculated as a contender for Governor of Connecticut, but he never pursued the office.

Blumenthal announced his 2010 run for U.S. Senate after incumbent Democratic Sen. Chris Dodd announced his retirement. He faced professional wrestling magnate Linda McMahon in the 2010 election, winning by a 12-point margin with 55 percent of the vote. On January 5, 2011, he was sworn in and took seats on the Senate Armed Services; Judiciary; Aging; and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committees. He became Connecticut's senior senator after the retirement of Joe Lieberman in 2013. He won re-election in 2016 with 63.2% of the vote, becoming the first person to achieve more than one million votes in a statewide election in Connecticut.

Early life and education

Blumenthal was born in Brooklyn, New York, the son of Jane (*née* Rosenstock) and Martin Blumenthal, who was the president of a commodities trading firm.^{[2][3][4]} His mother was born in Omaha, Nebraska, to a Jewish family that originated in Prussia and Baden. His grandfather, Fred "Fritz" Rosenstock, raised cattle on his farm, where Blumenthal visited often in his youth. Blumenthal's father was a German Jew who emigrated alone at age 17 from Frankfurt in 1935.^[5]

Blumenthal attended Riverdale Country School in the Riverdale section of the Bronx before graduating from Harvard College with a A.B. degree *magna cum laude* as a member of Phi Beta Kappa. As an undergraduate, he was editorial chairman of *The Harvard Crimson*.^[6] Blumenthal was a summer intern reporter for *The Washington Post* in the London Bureau.^[7] Blumenthal was also selected for a Fiske Fellowship that allowed him to study at the University of Cambridge in England for one year after graduation from Harvard College.

In 1973, Blumenthal received his J.D. degree from Yale Law School, where he was editor-in-chief of the *Yale Law Journal*.^[8] While at Yale, he was classmates with future President Bill Clinton and future Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.^[9] One of his co-editors on the *Yale Law Journal* was future United States Secretary of Labor Robert Reich. His brother, David Blumenthal, is the President of the Commonwealth Fund.^[10]

Military service

Blumenthal received at least five draft deferments during the Vietnam War before enlisting.^[11] He served in United States Marine Corps Reserve units in Washington, D.C., and Connecticut from 1970 to 1976.^{[12][13]} He attained the rank of sergeant and received an honorable discharge at the end of his enlistment.^[14] During his 2010 Senate campaign, news reports that Blumenthal had mischaracterized his military service by indicating that he'd served "in Vietnam" during the war created a controversy.^[15] Blumenthal denied that he had intentionally misrepresented his service, and apologized for any inadvertent or imprecise remarks that might have left the incorrect impression that he'd served in Vietnam.^[16]

Early political career

Blumenthal served as administrative assistant to Sen. Abraham A. Ribicoff, as aide to Daniel P. Moynihan when Moynihan was Assistant to President Richard Nixon, and as a law clerk Judge Jon O. Newman, U.S. District Court of the District of Connecticut, and to Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun. At age 31, he became United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, serving from 1977 to 1981, and as the chief federal prosecutor of that state successfully prosecuted many major cases involving drug traffickers, organized crime, white collar criminals, civil rights violators, consumer fraud, and environmental pollution.^[7] In 1982, he married Cynthia Allison Malkin,^[17] daughter of real estate investor Peter L. Malkin and granddaughter of lawyer and philanthropist Lawrence Wien.^[18]

Before he became Attorney General, Blumenthal was a partner in the law firm of Cummings & Lockwood, and subsequently in the law firm of Silver, Golub & Sandak.^[19] In December 1982, while still at Cummings & Lockwood, he created and chaired the Citizens Crime Commission of Connecticut, a private, non-profit organization.^[20] From 1981 to 1986, he was a volunteer counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.^[7] In 1984, when he was 38, Blumenthal was elected to the Connecticut House of Representatives, representing the 145th district. In 1987, he won a special election to fill a vacancy in the 27th District of the Connecticut Senate, at the age of 41.^[20] Blumenthal resided in Stamford, Connecticut.

In the 1980s, Blumenthal testified in the State Legislature in favor of abolishing Connecticut's death penalty statute. He did so after representing Florida death row inmate Joseph Green Brown, who had been wrongly convicted. Blumenthal succeeded in staving off Brown's execution just 15 hours before it was scheduled to take place.^[21]

Attorney General career

Blumenthal was first elected as the 23rd Attorney General in 1990 and was re-elected in 1994, 1998, 2002, and 2006. On October 10, 2002 he was awarded the Raymond E. Baldwin Award for Public Service by the Quinnipiac University School of Law.^[22]

Pequot land annexation bid

In May 1995, Blumenthal and the state of Connecticut filed lawsuits challenging a decision by the Department of the Interior to approve a bid by the Mashantucket Pequots for the annexation of 165 acres of land in the towns of Ledyard, North Stonington and Preston.^[23] The Pequots' bid sought to have the land placed in a Federal trust, a legal designation that would have given the tribe sovereign control. Blumenthal argued that The Department of the Interior's decision was "fatally, legally flawed, and unfair," and that "it would unfairly remove land from the tax rolls of the surrounding towns and bar local control over how the land is used, while imposing tremendous burden." The tribe announced the withdrawal of the land annexation petition in February 2002.^[24]

Interstate air pollution

In 1997, both Blumenthal and Governor John G. Rowland petitioned the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address interstate air pollution problems created from Midwest and southeastern sources.^[25] The petition was filed in accordance with Section 126 of the Clean Air Act, which allows a United States state to request pollution reductions from out-of-state sources that contribute significantly to its air quality problems.

In 2003, Blumenthal and the Attorneys General of eight other states (New York, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Vermont) filed a federal lawsuit against the Bush Administration for "endangering air quality by gutting a critical component of the federal Clean Air Act."^[26] The suit alleged that changes in the Act would have exempted thousands of industrial air pollution sources from the Act's New Source Review provision and that the new rules and regulations would lead to an increase in air pollution.

Big Tobacco

While Attorney General, Blumenthal was one of the leaders of a 46-state lawsuit against the tobacco industry, which alleged that the companies involved had deceived the public about the dangers of smoking.^[27] Blumenthal argued that the state of Connecticut should be reimbursed for Medicaid expenses related to smoking. In 1998, the tobacco companies reached a \$246 billion national settlement, giving the 46 states involved 25 years of reimbursement payments. Connecticut's share of the settlement was estimated at about \$3.6 billion.

In December 2007, Blumenthal filed suit against RJ Reynolds alleging that a 2007 Camel advertising spread in Rolling Stone magazine used cartoons in violation of the master tobacco settlement, which prohibited the use of cartoons in cigarette advertising because they entice children and teenagers to smoke.^[28] The company paid the state of Connecticut \$150,000 to settle the lawsuit and agreed to end the advertising campaign in question.

Microsoft lawsuit

In May 1998, Blumenthal, along with attorneys general from 19 other states and the District of Columbia, filed an anti-trust lawsuit against Microsoft accusing the company of

abusing its monopoly power to stifle competition.^[29] The suit, which centered on Microsoft's Windows 98 operating system and the company's contractual restrictions imposed on personal computer manufacturers to tie the operating system to its Internet Explorer browser, was eventually merged with a federal case brought by the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) under Attorney General Janet Reno.^[30]

A 2000 landmark federal court decision ruled that Microsoft had violated antitrust laws, and the court ordered that the company be broken up. In 2001, the federal appeals court agreed, but rather than breakup the company, sent the case to a new judge to hold hearings and determine appropriate remedies.^{[31][32]} Remedies were later proposed by Blumenthal and eight other attorneys general; these included requiring that Microsoft license an unbundled version of Windows in which middleware and operating system code were not commingled.^[33] In 2001, the Bush Administration's DOJ settled with Microsoft in an agreement criticized by many states and other industry experts as insufficient.^[31] In November 2002, a federal court ruling imposed those same remedies. In August 2007, Blumenthal, along with five other states and the District of Columbia, filed a report alleging that the federal settlement with Microsoft, and court-imposed Microsoft remedies, had failed to adequately reduce Microsoft's monopoly.^[31]

Stanley Works

On May 10, 2002 then Attorney General Blumenthal and Connecticut State Treasurer Denise L. Nappier helped to stop the hostile takeover of New Britain-based Stanley Works, a major Connecticut employer, by filing a lawsuit alleging that the move to reincorporate in Bermuda based on a shareholder's vote of May 9^[34] was "rife with voting irregularities." The agreement to temporarily halt the move was signed by New Britain Superior Court Judge Marshall Berger.^[35] On June 3 Blumenthal referred the matter to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for further investigation^[36] and on June 25 he testified before the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means that "Long-time American corporations with operations in other countries can dodge tens of millions of dollars in federal taxes by the device of reincorporating in another country" by "simply [filing] incorporation papers in a country with friendly tax laws, open a post-office box and hold an annual meeting there" and that Stanley Works, along with "Cooper Industries, Seagate Technologies, Ingersoll-Rand and PricewaterhouseCoopers Consulting, to name but a few, have also become pseudo-foreign corporations for the sole purpose of saving tax dollars." Blumenthal stated that "Corporations proposing to reincorporate to Bermuda, such as Stanley, often tell shareholders that there is no material difference in the law" but said that this was not the case and was misleading to their shareholders.^[37] In order to rectify this situation he championed the Corporate Patriot Enforcement Act to close tax loopholes.^[38]

Charter schools lawsuit

In September 1999, Blumenthal announced a lawsuit against Robin Barnes, the president and treasurer of New Haven-based charter school the Village Academy, for serious financial mismanagement of the state-subsidized charitable organization.^[39] Citing common law, Blumenthal's suit sought to recover money misspent and serious damages resulting from Barnes's alleged breach of duty.

In a Connecticut Supreme Court decision, *Blumenthal v. Barnes* (2002), a unanimous court determined that the state's Attorney General could act using only the powers specifically authorized by the state legislature, and that since the Attorney General's jurisdiction is defined by statute rather than common law, Blumenthal lacked the authority to cite common law as the basis for filing suit against Barnes.^{[40][41][42][43]} Despite this ruling, Blumenthal announced that he intended to pursue a separate 2000 lawsuit against the school's trustees filed on behalf of the State Department of Education.^[44]

Regional transmission organization

In 2003 Blumenthal, along with former Massachusetts Attorney General Tom Reilly, Rhode Island Attorney General Patrick C. Lynch, and consumer advocates from Connecticut, Maine, and New Hampshire, opposed "the formation of a regional transmission organization (RTO) that would merge three Northeast and mid-Atlantic power operators, called Independent Service Operators (ISOs), into a single super-regional RTO."^[45] In a press release he is quoted as saying "This fatally flawed RTO proposal will raise rates, reduce accountability and reward market manipulation. It will increase the power and profits of transmission operators with an immediate \$40 million price tag for consumers."^[46] The opposition was due to a report authored by Synapse Energy Economics, Inc., a Cambridge-based energy consulting firm, which alleged that consumers would be worse off under the merger.^[47]

Gina Kolb lawsuit

In 2004, Blumenthal sued Computer Plus Center of East Hartford and its owner, Gina Kolb, on behalf of the state.^[48] It was alleged that CPC overcharged \$50 per computer, \$500,000 in total, on a three-year, \$17.2 million contract to supply computers to the state.^[49] Blumenthal sued for \$1.75 million.^[49] Kolb was arrested in 2004 and charged with first degree larceny.^[50] Kolb later countersued, claiming the state had grossly abused its power.^[49] Kolb was initially awarded \$18.3 million in damages; however, the Attorney General appealed the decision and the damages initially awarded were slashed by 90 percent to \$1.83 million.^[49] In ruling, Superior Court judge Barry Stevens described the jury's initial award of \$18.3 million as a "shocking injustice" and said it was "influenced by partiality or mistake."^[49]

Big East and ACC

Attorney General Blumenthal played a pivotal role in one of the biggest college athletics stories of the decade; expansion of the Atlantic Coast Conference and the departures of Boston College, Miami, and Virginia Tech from the Big East. He led efforts by the Big East football schools (Virginia Tech, Rutgers, Pittsburgh, and West Virginia) in legal proceedings against the Atlantic Coast Conference, the University of Miami and Boston College, accusing them of improper disclosure of confidential information and of conspiring to dismantle the Big East. According to Blumenthal, the case was pursued because "the future of the Big East Conference was at risk—the stakes huge for both state taxpayers and the university's good name."^[51] The suits cost the schools involved \$2.2 million in the first four months of litigation.^[52] The lawsuit against the ACC was initially dismissed on jurisdictional grounds but was subsequently refiled.^[53] A declaratory judgment by the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts exonerated Boston College in the matter. Virginia Tech accepted an invitation from the ACC and withdrew from the suit to remove themselves from the awkward position of suing their new conference. An out-of-court settlement in the amount of \$5 million was eventually reached, which included a \$1 million exit fee that Boston College was required to pay the Big East under the league's constitution.^[51]

Some have speculated that the lawsuit was one of the biggest reasons that the University of Connecticut was not sought after by the ACC during their 2011 additions of then-Big East members Syracuse and Pittsburgh. UConn is currently a member of the less-lucrative American Athletic Conference, the successor to the original Big East.

Interstate 84

On October 2, 2006, Blumenthal launched an investigation concerning a botched reconstruction project of the Interstate 84 in Waterbury and Cheshire. The original contractor for the job, L.G. DeFelice, went out of business and it was later revealed that hundreds of storm drains had been improperly installed.^{[54][55]} Blumenthal subsequently

announced lawsuits against L.G. DeFelice and the Maguire Group, the engineering firm that inspected the project. United States Fidelity & Guaranty, the insurer behind the performance bond for the Interstate-84 construction, agreed to pay \$17.5 million to settle the claims. Under the terms of the agreement, the state of Connecticut retained the right to sue L.G. DeFelice for additional funds.^[56] In 2009, the bonding company agreed to pay an additional \$4.6 million settlement, bringing the total award to \$22.1 million (\$30,000 more than the repair costs).^{[57][58]}

Lyme disease guidelines investigation

In November 2006, Blumenthal launched an antitrust investigation into the Infectious Diseases Society of America's (IDSA's) 2006 guidelines regarding the treatment of Lyme disease.^[59] Responding to concerns from chronic Lyme disease advocacy groups, Blumenthal claimed the IDSA guidelines would "severely constrict choices and legitimate diagnosis and treatment options for patients."^[60] In 2008, Blumenthal ended the investigation after the IDSA agreed to conduct a review of the guidelines.^[61] In 2010, an eight-member independent review panel unanimously agreed that the original 2006 guideline recommendations were "medically and scientifically justified" in the light of the evidence. The committee did not change any of the earlier recommendations but did alter some of the language in an executive summary of the findings.^[62] Blumenthal said he would review the final report.^[63]

Internet pornography, prostitution, and sexual predators

MySpace/Facebook

In March 2006, Blumenthal noted that more than seven incidents of sexual assault in Connecticut had been linked directly to MySpace contacts.^[64] Earlier that year, Blumenthal and attorneys general in at least five other states were involved in discussions with MySpace that resulted in the implementation of technological changes aimed at protecting children from pornography and child predators on the company's website.^[64] At Blumenthal's urging, MySpace installed a link to free blocking software ("K9 Web Protection"); however, in May 2006, Blumenthal announced that the site had failed to make the program easy to find and that it was not clearly labeled.^[65] Blumenthal also urged MySpace to take further steps to safeguard children, including purging deep links to pornography and inappropriate material, tougher age verification, and banning users under 16.^[65]

Blumenthal was co-chair, along with North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper, of the State Attorney General Task Force on Social Networking. In 2008, the attorneys general commissioned the Internet Safety Technical Task Force report, which researched "*ways to help squash the onslaught of sexual predators targeting younger social-networking clients*".^[66]

Blumenthal's office subpoenaed MySpace for information about the number of registered sex offenders on its site. In 2009, MySpace revealed that over a 2-year span it had roughly 90,000 members who were registered sex offenders (nearly double what MySpace officials had originally estimated one year prior).^{[66][67][68]} Blumenthal accused MySpace of having "*monstrously inadequate counter-measures*" to prevent sex offenders from creating MySpace profiles.

Blumenthal and Cooper secured agreements from MySpace and Facebook to push toward making their companies' sites safer. Both sites implemented dozens of safeguards, including finding better ways to verify users' ages, banning convicted sex offenders from using the sites, and limiting the ability of older users to search members under 18.^[69]

Craigslist

In March 2008, Blumenthal issued a letter to Craigslist attorneys demanding that the website cease allowing postings for erotic services, which he claimed promoted prostitution, and he accused the site of "*turning a blind eye*" to the problem.^[70] Blumenthal worked with Craigslist and a group of 40 attorneys general to create new measures on the site designed to thwart ads for prostitution and other illegal sexual activities. In April 2009, Craigslist came under the scrutiny of law enforcement agencies following the arrest of Philip Markoff (aka the "Craigslist Killer"), suspected of killing a 25-year-old masseuse he met through Craigslist at a Boston hotel.^{[71][72]} Blumenthal subsequently called for a series of specific measures to fight prostitution and pornography on Craigslist—including steep financial penalties for rule breaking, and incentives for reporting wrongdoing.^[73] Blumenthal claimed that "*Craigslist has the means—and moral obligation—to stop the pimping and prostituting in plain sight.*"

Blumenthal, leading a coalition of 39 states, subpoenaed Craigslist in May 2010 as part of an investigation into whether the site was taking sufficient action to curb prostitution ads and whether it was profiting from them.^[71] Blumenthal stated that prostitution ads had remained on the site despite previous assurances that they would be removed.^{[71][74]} The subpoena sought documents related to the company's processes for reviewing potentially objectionable ads, as well as documents detailing the revenue gained from ads sold to the company's erotic services and adult services categories.^[75] In August 2010, Blumenthal called on the website to shut down the section permanently and take steps to eradicate prostitution ads from other parts of the site. Blumenthal also called on Congress to alter a landmark communications law (Communications Decency Act) that Craigslist has cited in defense of the ads.^[75]

Following continued pressure, Craigslist removed the adult services sections from its U.S. sites in September 2010^{[76][77]} and from its international sites in December 2010.^[78] Blumenthal called the company's decision a victory against sexual exploitation of women and children, and against human trafficking connected to prostitution.^[78]

Blumenthal and other state attorneys general reached a settlement with Craigslist on the issue; the settlement called for the company to charge people via credit card for any ads that were suggestive in nature so the person could be tracked down if they were determined to in fact be offering prostitution. However, Blumenthal remarked that subsequent to the settlement, the ads had continued to flourish using veiled code words.^[74]

Terrorist surveillance program

In October 2007, Blumenthal and the attorneys general of four other states lobbied Congress for the rejection of proposals to provide immunity from litigation to telecommunications firms that cooperated with the federal government's terrorist surveillance program following the September 11 attacks in 2001.^[79] In 2008 the Congress passed and President George W. Bush signed into law a new terrorist surveillance bill including the telecom immunity provisions opposed by Blumenthal.

Countrywide Financial

In August 2008 Blumenthal announced that Connecticut had joined California, Illinois and Florida in suing subprime mortgage lender Countrywide Financial (now owned by Bank of America) for fraudulent business practices.^{[80][81]} The suit alleged that Countrywide pushed consumers into "deceptive, unaffordable loans and workouts, and charged homeowners in default unjustified and excessive legal fees." According to Blumenthal, "Countrywide conned customers into loans that were clearly unaffordable and unsustainable, turning the American Dream of homeownership into a nightmare" and when consumers defaulted, "the company bullied them into workouts doomed to

fail." Blumenthal also claimed that Countrywide "crammed unconscionable legal fees into renegotiated loans, digging consumers deeper into debt" and that the company "broke promises that homeowners could refinance, condemning them to hopelessly unaffordable loans."^[80] The lawsuit demanded that Countrywide make restitution to affected borrowers, give up improper gains and rescind, reform or modify all mortgages that broke state laws. It is also sought civil fines of up to \$100,000 per violation of state banking laws, and up to \$5,000 per violation of state consumer protection laws.^[82]

In October 2008 Bank of America initially agreed to settle the states' suits for \$8.4 billion, and in February 2010, Countrywide mailed payments of \$3,452.54 to 370 Connecticut residents.^[83] The settlement forced Bank of America to establish a \$150 million fund to help repay borrowers whose homes had been foreclosed upon, \$1.3 million of which went to Connecticut.

Blumenthal commented in defense of U.S. Senator and chairman of the Senate Banking Committee Christopher Dodd, who had been harshly criticized for accepting a VIP loan from Countrywide,^[84] stating that "there's no evidence of wrongdoing on [Mr. Dodd's] part any more than victims who were misled or deceived by Countrywide." In August 2010, Dodd was cleared by the Senate Ethics Committee, which found "no credible evidence" that he knowingly tried to use his status as a U.S. senator to receive loan terms not available to the public.^[83]

Global warming

Blumenthal has been a vocal advocate of the position that human activity is responsible for rising global temperatures and that prompt action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions must be taken. He has urged the Environmental Protection Agency to declare carbon dioxide as a dangerous air pollutant. "I urge the new Obama EPA to declare carbon dioxide a danger to human health and welfare so we can at last begin addressing the potentially disastrous threat global warming poses to health, the environment and our economy. We must make up for lost time before it's too late to curb dangerous warming threatening to devastate the planet and human society."^[85] He has brought suit against a number of electric utilities in the Midwest, arguing that coal-burning power plants are generating excess CO₂ emissions. The Second Circuit Court of Appeals recently agreed to allow Blumenthal's lawsuit to proceed.^[86] Blumenthal personally has stated "no reputable climate scientist disputes the reality of global warming. It is fact, plain and simple. Dithering will be disastrous."^[87]

Trump emoluments lawsuit

Main article: Blumenthal v. Trump

Blumenthal, together with Rep. John Conyers Jr. of Michigan, led a group of 196 congressmen in the filing of a federal lawsuit accusing President Trump of violating the emoluments clause of the US Constitution.^[88]

Prospect of gubernatorial candidacy

Blumenthal was frequently considered a top prospect as the Democratic candidate for Governor of Connecticut but he did not run against Republican governors John G. Rowland or M. Jodi Rell in the elections of 1998, 2002, and 2006.

On March 18, 2007, *Hartford Courant* columnist Kevin Rennie reported Blumenthal had become seriously interested in running for Governor in 2010.^[89] On February 2, 2009, Blumenthal announced he would forgo a gubernatorial run and seek re-election that year as Attorney General.^[90]

After Sen. Chris Dodd announced on January 6, 2010 that he would retire at the end of his term, Blumenthal told the Associated Press that he would run in the election for Dodd's seat in November 2010.^[91] Later that day, President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden called Blumenthal to express their best wishes.^[92]

The same day, Public Policy Polling released a poll they took on the two preceding evenings, including races where Blumenthal was paired against each of the three most mentioned Republicans contending for their party's nomination for the seat. He led by at least 30% in each hypothetical race: against Rob Simmons (59%–28%), against Linda McMahon (60%–28%), and against Peter Schiff (63%–23%), with a $\pm 4.3\%$ margin of error cited.^[93] Rasmussen Reports also polled after Blumenthal announced his candidacy and found a somewhat more competitive race, but with Blumenthal holding a strong lead.

A February poll by Rasmussen found that Blumenthal held leads of 19 (against Simmons) and 20 (against McMahon), and that Republicans had made up little ground since the initial Rasmussen poll after Blumenthal announced.^[94] On May 21, Blumenthal received the Democratic nomination by acclamation.^{[95][96]}

The New York Times reported that Blumenthal misspoke on at least one occasion by saying he'd served "in Vietnam".^{[97][98]} Video emerged of him speaking to a group of veterans and supporters in March 2008 in Norwalk, Connecticut, saying, in reference to supporting troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, "We have learned something important since the days that I served in Vietnam."^[99] There were also other occasions where he accurately described his military service. At a 2008 ceremony in Shelton, Connecticut, he said, "I served during the Vietnam era... I remember the taunts, the insults, sometimes even physical abuse."^{[100][101]}

Blumenthal's commanding officer in 1974 and 1975, Larry Baldino of Woodbridge, Connecticut, addressed the controversy in a letter to the editor in the *New Haven Register*. Baldino wrote that the misleading statement was too 'petty' to be the basis for supporting or not supporting Blumenthal. Baldino further portrayed Blumenthal as 'good natured' and described him as 'one of the best Marines with whom I ever worked'.^[102]

Days after the nomination, Quinnipiac University Polling Institute polling indicated that Blumenthal held a 25-point lead over McMahon.^[103] The Cook Political Report changed its prediction on the race to *Leans Democratic*, making Blumenthal the favored candidate over McMahon.^[104]



Roy Blunt
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Legislative Director Telecommunications: [Ms. Tracy A. Henke](#)

Committees:

Appropriations
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Rules and Administration
Select Committee on Intelligence
Joint Committee on the Library

Caucuses:

Air Force Caucus (Senate)
Coalition for Autism Research and Education (CARE)
Congressional Caucus on the Mississippi River
Congressional Farmer Cooperative Caucus
Congressional Coalition on Adoption
Congressional Fire Services Caucus
Congressional Olympic and Paralympic Caucus
Missouri River Working Group
Senate Army Caucus
Senate Caucus on WMD Terrorism (Weapons of Mass Destruction)
Senate Community Health Center Caucus
Senate Law Enforcement Caucus
Senate National Guard Caucus
Senate National Security Working Group
Senate Tea Party Caucus
Senate Travel and Tourism Caucus
Senate Veterans Jobs Caucus
Senate Western Caucus
USO Congressional Caucus
Zero Capital Gains Tax Caucus

Building on a background as a public servant, university president, and teacher, United States Senator Roy Blunt was elected to the United States Senate in 2010.

Senator Blunt serves as the Vice Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference. He also serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee; the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee; and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. He is the Chairman of the Senate Rules Committee and Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies.

The people of Southwest Missouri overwhelmingly elected Senator Blunt seven times to the U.S. House of Representatives. Senator Blunt was elected the Majority Whip earlier in his career than any Member of Congress in eight decades, and he was elected to the Senate leadership during his first year in the Senate.

Before serving in Congress, he was a history teacher, a county official, and in 1984 became the first Republican elected as Missouri's Secretary of State in more than 50 years. Senator Blunt also served four years as the president of Southwest Baptist University, his alma mater, in Bolivar, Missouri. Senator Blunt earned an M.A. in history from Missouri State University.

Senator Blunt is a member of the Smithsonian Council for American Art and is a Trustee of the State Historical Society of Missouri. Senator Blunt is also a member of the Kennedy Center Board of Trustees.

The Senator is married to Abigail Blunt and has four children: Matt Blunt, Missouri's 54th Governor; Amy Blunt, an attorney in Columbia, Mo.; Andy Blunt, an attorney in Jefferson City; and Charlie (age 11). Blunt has six grandchildren: Davis Mosby, Ben Blunt, Branch Blunt, Eva Mosby, Allyson Blunt, and Brooks Blunt.

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Blunt was born in Niangua, Missouri, the son of Neva Dora (née Letterman) and Leroy Blunt, a politician. He earned a B.A. degree in history in 1970 from Southwest Baptist University. During his time in college, he received three draft deferments from the Vietnam War. Two years later, he earned a master's degree in history from Missouri State University (then Southwest Missouri State University).^[7] Blunt was a high school history teacher at Marshfield High School from 1970 to 1972,^[8] and later taught at Southwest Baptist University and as a member of the adjunct faculty at Drury University.

He went on to serve as president of Southwest Baptist University, his alma mater, from 1993-96.

Early political career (1972–97)

Greene county clerk

Blunt entered politics in 1973, when he was appointed county clerk and chief election official of Greene County, Missouri. He was subsequently elected to the position three times and served a total of 12 years.

1980 lieutenant gubernatorial election

Incumbent Republican Lieutenant Governor Bill Phelps decided to run for Governor. Blunt, the Greene County Clerk, decided to run for the open seat and won the Republican primary, but lost the general election to State Representative Ken Rothman 56%–44%.

Secretary of State

In 1984, after incumbent Democratic Missouri Secretary of State James C. Kirkpatrick decided to retire, Blunt ran for the position and won the Republican primary with 79% of the vote. In the general election, he defeated Democratic State Representative Gary D. Sharpe 54%–46%.^[12] He became the first Republican to hold the post in 50 years. In 1988, he won re-election against Democrat James Askew 61%–38%.

1992 gubernatorial election

See also: Missouri gubernatorial election, 1992

Tenure

Education

Blunt voted in favor of school prayer and supported the No Child Left Behind Act. He voted in favor of school vouchers within the District of Columbia but has voted against broader legislation allowing states to use federal money to issue vouchers for private or religious schools. He received a 17 percent rating from the National Education Association in 2003

Fiscal issues

Blunt received a 97 percent rating from the United States Chamber of Commerce indicating a pro-business voting record. He supported efforts to overhaul U.S. bankruptcy laws, requiring consumers who seek bankruptcy protection to repay more of their debts.

Blunt is a staunch advocate of a federal prohibition of online poker. In 2006, he cosponsored H.R. 4411, the Goodlatte-Leach Internet Gambling Prohibition Act, and H.R. 4777, the Internet Gambling Prohibition Act.

Blunt opposes the federal cap and trade legislation and supports drilling for oil on the U.S. coastline. He does not believe in man-made global warming, stating: "There isn't any real science to say we are altering the climate or path of the Earth."

Gun policy

Blunt voted to prohibit lawsuits against gun manufacturers and dealers if the guns they manufacture or sell are later used in a crime. He has also voted to require anyone who purchases a gun at a gun show to go through an instant background check which must be completed within 24 hours. He has received an "A" rating from the National Rifle Association.

Health policy

Blunt chaired the House Republican Health Care Solutions Group.

In 2006, Blunt successfully advocated for legislation that placed restrictions on over-the-counter cold medicines that could be used in the production of methamphetamines. The legislation, called the Combat Meth Act, was opposed by retail and drug lobbyists.^[23]

In August 2009, Blunt stated in two separate newspaper interviews that, because he was 59 years old, "In either Canada or Great Britain, if I broke my hip, I couldn't get it replaced." He stated he had heard the statement in Congressional testimony by "some people who are supposed to be experts on Canadian health care."^[22] The PolitiFact service of the *St. Petersburg Times* reported that it could not find any such testimony.

Minimum wage

Blunt voted against HR 2007-018, which raised the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour.

Social issues

Although Missouri Right to Life endorsed Webster over Blunt in the 1992 Republican gubernatorial primary, Blunt has voted pro-life in the House and has a conservative record on most other social issues.^[citation needed] He has voted to ban partial-birth abortions and to restrict or criminalize transporting minors across state lines for the purpose of getting an abortion. He opposes federal funding for elective abortions in accordance with the Hyde Amendment. He voted in favor of the unsuccessful Federal Marriage Amendment which sought to place a national ban on same-sex marriage, and has voted against gay adoption. He received 94 percent lifetime

and 96 percent 2004 ratings from the conservative American Conservative Union, a 14 percent rating from the ACLU,^[27] and a 92 percent rating from the conservative Christian Coalition.

Social Security and Medicare

In 2005, Rep. Blunt supported President George W. Bush's proposal to partially privatize Social Security for those under the age of 55.

In 2016 AARP said of Blunt, "He said in 2010 that he remained open to the idea of individual Social Security accounts. His position hasn't changed, but he has maintained for years that it's not a viable issue for anyone."

Leadership

After only one term, Blunt was appointed as Chief Deputy Whip, the highest appointed position in the House Republican Caucus. In that capacity, he served as the Republicans' chief vote-counter. In 2002, when Dick Armey retired and fellow Texan Tom DeLay was elected to succeed him, Blunt was elected to succeed DeLay as House Majority Whip.

Blunt served as Majority Leader on an acting basis starting in September 2005, after DeLay was indicted on felony charges involving campaign finance. On January 8, 2006, one day after DeLay announced that he would not seek to regain his position, Blunt announced he would run to permanently replace DeLay.

On January 14, 2006, he issued a release claiming that the majority of the Republican caucus had endorsed him as DeLay's successor. However, when the election was held by secret ballot on February 2, 2006, U.S. Representative John Boehner of Ohio won on the second ballot, with 122 votes to 109 for Blunt.

In November 2006, Blunt was elected by House Republicans to their second-highest position during the 110th Congress, House Minority Whip. Blunt handily defeated U.S. Representative John Shadegg of Arizona for the position. He announced he would step down from the position in late 2008, following two successive election cycles where House Republicans had lost seats and to avoid a difficult battle with his deputy, Eric Cantor, who was urged by some to challenge Blunt for the position of Republican Whip.

Committee assignments

Upon entering the U.S. House, Blunt served on the House International Relations Committee, the House Committee on Agriculture, and the House Transportation Committee. In 1999, he gave up seats on the latter two committees and joined the powerful House Committee on Energy and Commerce. In addition he became a member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. He has also served on the Republican Conference Steering Committee since his election to the U.S. House of Representatives, a committee that determines to which committees Republican members of the House are assigned and elevates members to positions of ranking member or chair.



Cory Booker

(47) D-NJ, elected 2013

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Caucuses:

Congressional Black Caucus

Congressional Friends of the National Park Service Centennial

Congressional My Brother's Keeper Caucus

Senate India Caucus

Cory Anthony Booker (born April 27, 1969) is an American politician currently serving as the junior United States Senator from New Jersey, in office since 2013. The first African-American U.S. Senator from New Jersey, he was previously the 36th Mayor of Newark from 2006 to 2013. Before that Booker served on the Newark City Council for the Central Ward from 1998 to 2002.

Booker was born in Washington, D.C. and raised in Harrington Park, New Jersey. He attended Stanford University where he received an undergraduate and master's degree in 1991 and 1992, respectively. He studied abroad at the University of Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship before attending Yale Law School. He won an upset victory for a seat on the Municipal Council of Newark in 1998 where he staged a 10-day hunger strike and briefly lived in a tent to draw attention to urban development issues in the city. He ran for mayor in 2002, but lost to incumbent Sharpe James; he ran again in 2006 and won against deputy mayor Ronald Rice. His first term saw to the doubling of affordable housing under development and the reduction of the city budget deficit from \$180 million to \$73 million. Re-elected in 2010, his second term failed to meaningfully revitalize Newark's economy but his personal involvement in public service earned him a national presence. He ran against Steve Lonegan in the 2013 U.S. Senate special election and subsequently won reelection in 2014 against Jeff Bell.

During his five years in office, Booker co-sponsored and voted for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (2013), tougher sanctions against Iran, sponsored the Bipartisan Budget Act (2013), voted for the National Defense Authorization Act (2014) and co-sponsored the Respect for Marriage Act (2014). In 2017, he became the first sitting senator to testify against another when he testified against Attorney General nominee Jeff Sessions during his confirmation hearing. In April 2018, following the FBI raid on the offices of Michael Cohen—U.S. President Donald Trump's personal attorney—Booker together with Chris Coons, Lindsey Graham, and Thom Tillis, introduced the Special Counsel Independence and Integrity Act to limit the executive powers of Trump.

He has been a leading voice in bipartisanship throughout his political career garnering praise and criticism from the left and right. His political ideology closely aligns with the New Democrat movement although he has been described as a political moderate and a neoliberal. Considered a social liberal, Booker supports women's rights, affirmative action, and single-payer healthcare. His youth, public presence, and political ideology have marked him as a potential member of multiple U.S. presidential tickets. When asked about his desire to run for executive roles in American government he has stated, "life is about purpose, not position,"⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ neither confirming nor denying potential runs for the White House.

Early life and education

Booker was born on April 27, 1969, in Washington, D.C., and grew up in Harrington Park, New Jersey, 20 miles (32 km) north of Newark, New Jersey.^[3] His parents, Carolyn Rose (née Jordan) and Cary Alfred Booker, were among the first black executives at IBM.^{[3][4][5]} Booker has stated that he was raised in a religious household, and that he and his family attended a small African Methodist Episcopal Church in New Jersey.^[6]

Booker graduated from Northern Valley Regional High School at Old Tappan, where he played varsity football and was named to the 1986 USA Today All-USA high school football team. Booker went on to Stanford University, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in political science in 1991 and a Master of Arts in sociology the following year. While at Stanford, he played football as a tight end and was teammates with Brad Muster and Ed McCaffrey,^[7] and also made the All-Pacific-10 Academic team and was elected senior class president.^{[8][9]} In addition, Booker ran The Bridge Peer Counseling Center, a student-run crisis hotline, and organized help from Stanford students for youth in East Palo Alto, California.^[10]

After Stanford, Booker was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to study at the University of Oxford, where he earned an honors degree in United States history in 1994 as a member of The Queen's College.^[9] He earned his Juris Doctor in 1997 from Yale Law School, where he operated free legal clinics for low-income residents of New Haven, Connecticut. At Yale, Booker was a founding member of the Chai Society (now Shabtai),^[11] was a Big Brother with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, and was active in the National Black Law Students Association.^[12]

Newark Municipal Council

Contemplating advocacy work and a run for city council in Newark after graduation from law school, Booker lived in the city during his final year at Yale.^[13] After graduation, he served as staff attorney for the Urban Justice Center in New York and program coordinator of the Newark Youth Project.^[14] In 1998, Booker won an upset victory for a seat on the Municipal Council of Newark, defeating four-term incumbent George Branch.^[15] To draw attention to the problems of open-air drug dealing and associated violence, he went on a 10-day hunger strike and lived in a tent and later in a motor home near drug-dealing areas of the city.^[16] Booker proposed council initiatives that impacted housing, young people, law and order, and the efficiency and transparency of city hall, but was regularly outvoted by all of his fellow councilors.^[17]

Mayor of Newark

2002 election

On January 9, 2002, Booker announced his campaign for Mayor of Newark rather than running for re-election as councilman;^{[18][19]} this pitted him against longtime incumbent Sharpe James. James, who had easily won election four consecutive times, saw Booker as a real threat, and responded with mudslinging, at one campaign event calling him "a Republican who took money from the KKK [and] Taliban ... [who's] collaborating with the Jews to take over Newark".^{[18][20]} In the campaign, James' supporters questioned Booker's suburban background, calling him a carpetbagger who was "not black enough" to understand the city.^[21] Booker lost the election on May 14, garnering 47% of the vote to James' 53%.^[19] The election was chronicled in the Oscar-nominated documentary *Street Fight*.

2006 election

Booker announced on February 11, 2006, that he would again run for mayor.^[22] Although incumbent Mayor Sharpe James filed paperwork to run for reelection, shortly thereafter he announced that he would instead cancel his bid to focus on his work as a State Senator, which he was originally elected to in 1999.^[23] At James's discretion, Deputy Mayor Ronald Rice decided to run as well.^[24] Booker's campaign outspent Rice's 25 to 1, for which Rice

attacked him. In addition to raising over \$6 million for the race, Booker attacked Rice as a "political crony" of James.^{[25][26]} Booker won the May 9 election with 72% of the vote. His slate of city council candidates, known as the "Booker Team", swept the council elections, giving Booker firm leadership of the city government.^[27]

2010 election

On April 3, 2010, Booker announced his campaign for reelection. At his announcement event, he remarked that a "united government" was crucial to progress, knowing his supporters in the city council faced tough reelections.^[28] Heavily favored to win, Booker faced former judge and Essex County prosecutor Clifford J. Minor, as well as two minor candidates.^{[29][30]} On May 11, Booker won reelection with 59% of the vote, although two of his nine council candidates were defeated.^{[30][citation needed]}

Tenure

Before taking office as mayor, Booker sued the James administration, seeking to terminate cut-rate land deals favoring two redevelopment agencies that had contributed to James's campaigns and listed James as a member of their advisory boards. Booker argued that the state's "pay-to-play" laws had been violated and that the land deals would cost the city more than \$15 million in lost revenue. Specifically, Booker referenced a parcel at Broad and South Streets that would generate only \$87,000 under the proposed land deals yet was valued at \$3.7 million under then-current market rates.^[31] On June 20, 2006, Superior Court Judge Patricia Costello ruled in favor of Booker.^[32]

In late June 2006, before Booker took office, New Jersey investigators foiled a plot to assassinate Booker led by Bloods gang leaders inside four New Jersey state prisons. The motive for the plot was unclear, but was described variously as a response to the acrimonious campaign^[33] and to Booker's campaign promises to take a harder line on crime.^[33]

Booker assumed office as Mayor of Newark on July 1, 2006.^{[34][35][36]} After his first week in office, he announced a 100-day plan to implement reforms in Newark. The proposed changes included increasing police forces, ending background checks for many city jobs to help former offenders find employment in the city, refurbishing police stations, improving city services, and expanding summer youth programs.^[37]

One of Booker's first priorities was to reduce the city's crime rate. In furtherance of this, he appointed Garry McCarthy, former deputy commissioner of operations of the New York City Police Department, as director of the Newark Police Department.^[38] Crime reduction was such a central concern to the Booker administration that Booker, along with his security team, was known to personally patrol the streets of Newark until as late as 4 a.m.^[39]

Booker is a member of the Mayors Against Illegal Guns Coalition,^[40] a bipartisan group with a stated goal of "making the public safer by getting illegal guns off the streets". Booker was honored in October 2009 by the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence with the Sarah Brady Visionary Award for his work in reducing gun violence.^[41] During his mayoralty, crime dropped significantly in Newark, which led the nation in violent crime reduction from 2006 to 2008.^[39] March 2010 marked Newark's first murder-free month in over 44 years,^[42] although murder and overall crime rates began to rise again after 2008.^[43] In addition to his crime-lowering initiatives, Booker doubled the amount of affordable housing under development and quadrupled the amount under pre-development, and reduced the city budget deficit from \$180 million to \$73 million.^{[44][45][46]}

After taking office, Booker voluntarily reduced his own salary twice, reducing his salary by 8% early in his first year as mayor.^[47] He also raised the salaries of many city workers.^[39] However, his administration imposed one-day-a-month furloughs for all non-uniformed employees from July through December 2010, as well as 2% pay cuts for managers and directors earning more than \$100,000 a year.^[48] In 2008 and 2009 the City of Newark received the Government Finance Officers Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.^{[49][50]} In an effort to make government more accessible, Booker held regular open office hours during which city residents can meet with him personally to discuss

their concerns.^[51] In 2010, Booker was among the finalists for the World Mayor prize, ultimately placing seventh.^[52] He was an unsuccessful candidate for the 2012 award.^[53]

Second term

On October 10, 2010, Booker established Let's Move! Newark as part of First Lady Michelle Obama's national Let's Move! initiative against childhood obesity.^[54] In October 2011 he expanded the program to include Let's Move! Newark: Our Power, a four-month fitness challenge for Newark public school students run by public health advocate Jeff Halevy.^[55]

Booker gained national attention when, on December 28, 2010, a constituent used Twitter to ask him to send someone to her father's house to shovel his driveway because her elderly father was going to attempt to do it himself. Booker responded by tweeting, "I will do it myself; where does he live?" Other people volunteered, including one person who offered his help on Twitter, and 20 minutes later Booker and some volunteers showed up and shoveled the man's driveway.^{[56][57]} On April 12, 2012, Booker saved a woman from a house fire, suffering smoke inhalation and second-degree burns on his hands in the process. Newark Fire Chief John Centanni said that Booker's actions possibly saved the woman's life.^[58] After Hurricane Sandy destroyed much of the shoreline areas of New Jersey and New York in late October 2012, Booker invited Newarkers without power to eat and sleep in his home.^[59] In February 2013, responding to a Twitter post, Booker helped a nervous constituent propose to his girlfriend.^[60] Booker rescued a dog from freezing temperatures in January 2013 and another dog that had been abandoned in a cage in July 2013.^{[61][62]}

On November 20, 2012, a melee occurred at a Newark City Council meeting attended by Booker.^[63] The nine-seat council was to vote on the successor to the seat vacated by newly elected U.S. Representative Donald M. Payne, Jr. Booker's opponents on the council, including Ras Baraka, sought to appoint John Sharpe James, son of the former mayor, while Booker and his supporters favored Shanique Speight. Booker attended the meeting to deal with the eventuality of the lack of a quorum or a tie vote, in which state law would allow him to cast a deciding vote. After Baraka was refused an opportunity to address the council by acting Council President Anibal Ramos, Jr., Baraka and two other council members walked away in protest. Booker cast the deciding vote for Speight. Supporters of James stormed the stage and were held back by riot police, who eventually used pepper spray on some members of the crowd.^[64] Baraka later blamed Booker for inciting the disturbance, while Booker refused comment to the media after the vote.^{[63][64]}

In December 2012, after discussions with a constituent about New Jersey's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Booker began a week-long challenge attempting to live on a food budget of \$30 per week—the amount SNAP recipients receive.^[65] When critics noted that the very name of the SNAP program shows that it is intended to "supplement" an individual's food budget, not be its sole source, Booker replied that his aim was to spark a discussion about the reality that many Americans rely solely on food stamps to survive.^[66]

Newark Watershed

The Newark Watershed comprises 35,000 acres of reservoirs and water treatment systems for more than 500,000 customers in northern New Jersey, including Newark and neighboring Belleville, Elizabeth, Bloomfield, and Nutley. It is considered one of the city's greatest assets. A New Jersey State Comptroller report issued in February 2014 revealed irregularities and corruption within the Newark Watershed and Development Corporation, which is in the process of being dismantled after being taken over by the city while on Booker's watch.^{[67][68][69][70][71][72][73][74][75]}^[excessive citations]

Public opinion polling

Throughout Booker's mayoralty, Fairleigh Dickinson University's public opinion poll PublicMind asked New Jersey residents statewide whether or not they had heard of Mayor Booker and whether they had a favorable or unfavorable opinion of him. The results are as follows:

March 2014^[81]

- Name recognition: 88%
- Favorable opinion: 47%
- Unfavorable opinion: 23%

Legacy

Booker's mayoralty and personal celebrity drew much media attention to Newark. While he enjoyed high ratings from city residents, his legacy has received mixed reviews. During his tenure, millions of dollars were invested in downtown development, but underemployment and high murder rates continue to characterize many of the city's neighborhoods.^{[82][83][84]} Despite legal challenges initiated during his term, Newark Public Schools has remained under control of the state for nearly twenty years.^[85] Newark received \$32 million in emergency state aid in 2011 and 2012, requiring a memorandum of understanding between Newark and the state that obligates the city to request and the state to approve appointments to city hall administrative positions.^[86]

While Mayor of Newark, Booker claimed in an interview that Newark's unemployment rate had fallen by two percentage points. This statement was rated "false" by PolitiFact because he used data that had not been seasonally adjusted; the actual rate was 0.7 percentage points.^[87]

U.S. Senate

2013 election

Main article: United States Senate special election in New Jersey, 2013

On December 20, 2012, Booker announced that he would explore running for the U.S. Senate seat that was then occupied by Frank Lautenberg in the 2014 election, ending speculation that he would challenge Governor Chris Christie in the 2013 gubernatorial election.^[88] On January 11, 2013, Booker filed papers to form a campaign committee,^[89] without announcing whether or not he would run.^[90] Roughly one month after declaring his interest in running for the Senate, incumbent Lautenberg announced that he would not seek reelection.^[91]

On June 3, Lautenberg died of viral pneumonia; five days later Booker announced his intention to run for Lautenberg's seat in the 2013 special election. Booker announced his candidacy at two events: one in Newark and the other in Willingboro.^[92]

On August 13, 2013, Booker was declared the winner of the Democratic primary, with approximately 59% of the vote. On October 16, 2013, he defeated Republican Steve Lonegan in the general election 55% to 44%, making him the first African-American U.S. Senator from New Jersey and the first African-American to be elected to the Senate since Barack Obama in 2004.^{[93][94][95][96]} The night before his victory, Booker visited the gravesite of Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, where he offered his prayers and lit a vigil candle in memory of his father.^{[97][98]}

Tenure

On October 31, 2013, Booker was sworn into the Senate.^{[99][100]} In November 2013, Booker co-sponsored and voted for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.^[101] In December 2013, he was one of the original cosponsors of Bob Menéndez's Nuclear Weapon Free Iran Act of 2013, which would toughen sanctions against Iran.^[102] He also voted for the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014^[103] and the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013.^[104] In January 2014, he cosponsored the Respect for Marriage Act.^[105] In February 2014, Booker voted against the Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act of 2013.^[106] In March, Booker pledged to meet with each of his Republican colleagues in the Senate in order to find common ground and he was spotted having dinner with Senator Ted Cruz in Washington.^[107]

Booker has faced criticism on the left. Speaking in *Salon*, Alex Pareene called him an avatar of the wealthy elite, a camera hog, and a political cipher.^[108] Leading up to the 2016

presidential election, Booker endorsed Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination. He was speculated as a potential vice presidential candidate during the primary and as the general election began, though Booker stated on June 16, 2016, that he was not being vetted.^[109] After the election, in which Donald Trump defeated Clinton, on January 11, 2017, Booker testified against Attorney General nominee Jeff Sessions, the first instance of a sitting senator testifying against another during a cabinet position confirmation hearing.^[110]

Cory Booker was named as part of the "Hell-No Caucus" by *Politico* in 2018, along with Senators Kamala Harris, Kirsten Gillibrand, Elizabeth Warren, and Bernie Sanders, given he voted "overwhelmingly to thwart his [Trump's] nominees for administration jobs", such as with Rex Tillerson, Betsy DeVos, and Mike Pompeo; all were considered potential 2020 presidential contenders at this point in time.^[111]

In April 2018, following the FBI raid on the hotel room and offices of Trump's personal attorney, Michael Cohen, Booker, together with Chris Coons, Lindsey Graham, and Thom Tillis, introduced new legislation to "limit President Trump's ability to fire special counsel Robert Mueller". Termed the Special Counsel Independence and Integrity Act, the legislation would allow any special counsel, in this case Mueller, receive an "expedited judicial review" in the 10 days following being dismissed to determine if said dismissal was suitable. If negative, the special counsel would be reinstated. At the same time, according to *The Hill*, the bill would "codify regulations" that a special counsel could only be fired by a senior Justice Department, while having to provide reasons in writing.^[112]

Booker is considering a run for president in the 2020 election.^[113]

Committee assignments

- **Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation**
 - Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security
 - Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet
 - Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance and Data Security
 - Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard
 - Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security (Ranking Member)
- **Committee on Environment and Public Works**
 - Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water and Wildlife
 - Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight
- **Committee on Foreign Relations**
 - Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy (Ranking Member)
 - Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia and Counterterrorism
 - Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations and Bilateral International Development
- **Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship**
- **Committee on the Judiciary**^[114]

Caucus memberships

- Congressional Black Caucus^[115]
- Congressional NextGen 9-1-1 Caucus^[116]

2014 election

Main article: United States Senate election in New Jersey, 2014

After being defeated in the 2013 special election, Steve Lonegan announced that he would not run again for the seat in the 2014 race. Presumed candidates for the Republican primary were Thomas Kean Jr., Jay Webber, Jon Bramnick, and Michael J. Doherty. On January 9,

2014, Brian D. Goldberg, a West Orange resident and New Jersey businessman, announced that he would seek the Republican nomination.

On February 4, 2014, conservative political consultant Jeff Bell announced his bid for the nomination. Bell won the Republican Primary and received significant support from the conservative American Principles Fund, which ran a direct mail operation costing over \$80,000, and the National Organization for Marriage, an anti-same-sex marriage group, which paid for \$6,000 of automated calling.^[117] Booker defeated Bell, capturing 55.8% of the vote to Bell's 42.4%. Brendan W. Gill was Booker's campaign manager.

Political positions

He has been described as a liberal,^[118] a moderate,^[119] and a neoliberal.^[120] In a July 2013 Salon interview, Booker said that "there's nothing in that realm of progressive politics where you won't find me."^[121] In a September 2013 interview with The Grio, when asked if he considered himself a progressive, he stated that he is a Democrat and an American.^[122] George Norcross III described Booker as "a new Democrat—a Democrat that's fiscally conservative yet socially progressive."^[120] In May 2012, Booker defended Bain Capital's record and criticized Obama's attack on private equity. In response, the Republican National Committee, created a petition called "I Stand With Cory Booker".^[123] He has also received criticism from both progressives and liberals, such as Ronald Rice^[120] and Rush Holt.^[124]

As mayor of Newark, New Jersey, he "drew criticism from liberal allies for embracing charter schools and voucher programs advocated by libertarians." "He also championed "enterprise zones," a free-market approach to solving urban blight credited to the late Jack Kemp, a hard-core supply-sider and occasional Republican presidential contender who helped raise money for Booker's first mayoral campaign."^[125] Besides social media advances, Booker wants to see the rest of the tech sector reach its fullest potential, and to do that, he thinks the U.S. government needs to ease up on regulations. "We're not moving at the speed of innovation due to regulations," he said, adding that because of this, key industries are leaving the U.S. to work on projects in other countries where the rules aren't as strict. For example, the Federal Aviation Administration has hindered drone innovation to the point where drone companies are leaving the U.S. to test and build in Europe. "We're being left behind on everything from next-generation nuclear energy to driverless cars and biologics," Booker said, "and we cannot get left behind."^[126] He supports long-term deficit reduction efforts to ensure economic prosperity, Cap and Trade taxation to combat climate change, and increased funding for education.^[127] He supports ending the War on Drugs.^[128] Daniel J. Mitchell of the Cato Institute identifies Booker as having libertarian views in opposition to the War on Drugs.^[129] Booker supports abortion rights and affirmative action.^{[122][130][131]} Booker supports a single-payer health care plan. In September 2017, he joined Bernie Sanders and 14 other co-sponsors in submitting a single-payer health care plan to congress called the "Medicare for All" bill.^[132]

On foreign policy, Booker supports scaling down U.S. involvement in Afghanistan and is against intervention in Syria.^{[133][134]} After the US strike on Syria in April 2017, Booker criticized military action "without a clear plan" or authorization from Congress.^[135] He supports a two-state solution to the Israeli–Palestinian conflict. On Iran, Booker has stated the country poses a direct threat to American and Israeli security and feels all options should be on the table for dealing with the conflict.^[133] However, his decision to back the Iran nuclear deal framework^[136] damaged his long-term relationship with Jewish voters and supporters.^[137] In an attempt to reduce the damage, Booker initiated an emergency summit for Jewish leaders, which some of his longstanding supporters did not attend.^{[136][137][138]}

Domestic policy

Abortion

Booker opposes overturning *Roe v. Wade*.^[130]

Affirmative action

When asked if affirmative action in university admissions should be based on class or race or banned completely, Booker said both race and class should be considered and cited the 2003 US Supreme Court ruling, *Grutter v. Bollinger*.^[122]

Budget

When Cory Booker became Mayor of Newark, New Jersey in 2006, he was facing a \$180 million budget crisis. When he left his office in 2013, he left the city with a balanced budget for the first time in a decade, twice as much affordable housing, two new hotels, a spate of made-over parks, a new residential tower, two (possibly three) new office towers, \$150 million educational complex in the heart of Newark's downtown, and Newark having a larger population than when he entered office.^[139] He managed to balance the budget by raising taxes 20%, laying off hundreds of cops,^[140] cutting spending,^[141] and working with private sector-led urban development from wealthy investors.^[142]

Booker supports smart spending and investment now with long-term deficit reduction efforts to ensure economic prosperity.^[143]

Civil liberties

He has called for amending the Patriot Act and said he was "troubled" by the revelations of the scope of the National Security Agency's secret spy programs, but has shied away from specifics.^[130] He voted for the USA Freedom Act^[144] which re-authorized certain provisions of the Patriot Act in modified form.

Climate change

Booker believes climate change is man-made and supports cap-and-trade or carbon tax approach in dealing with greenhouse gas emissions.^[130]

Confederate monuments

In August 2017, Booker announced his plan to create a bill ordering the removal of Confederate monuments and memorials from the Capitol Building after Labor Day of that year.^[145]

Education

Booker sits on the board of advisers of the political action committee Democrats for Education Reform,^[146] was on the board of Alliance for School Choice until 2008, co-founded the Excellent Education For Everyone, a board member of the Black Alliance for Educational Options,^[147] and has spoken favorably of StudentsFirst.^[148] He is an advocate of education reform and privatization of education; supporting things such as charter schools, school vouchers, and merit pay for teachers.^[149] In September 2010, with the support of Governor Chris Christie, Booker obtained a \$100 million pledge from Facebook Inc. founder Mark Zuckerberg to Newark Public Schools.^[150]

Gun rights

Booker has routinely defended the right of law-abiding citizens right to own legal fire arms and blames most shootings on criminals with illegal guns.^[151] He voted to prohibit people on terror watch lists from buying guns.^[152]

Healthcare

Booker has called the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act imperfect, said it needs to be improved, and wants to control health care costs.^[130] He opposes cutting Medicare, he supports expanding the program,^[153] and he supports transitioning to a medicare for all style single-payer healthcare system.^[154]

In September 2017, Booker joined Bernie Sanders and 14 other co-sponsors in submitting a single-payer health care plan to congress called the "Medicare for All" bill. The plan also covers vision and dental care, not currently covered by Medicare.^[132]

Immigration

Booker supports the passage of the DREAM Act.^[141]

LGBT rights

Booker is a strong outspoken advocate of same-sex marriage^[141] and claimed New Jersey's civil union law was not only bigoted, but also discriminated against New Jersey's same-sex couples who were denied 1,100 federal rights, privileges and benefits afforded to married couples.^[155] After Governor Chris Christie vetoed a bill legalizing same-sex marriage in New Jersey and said the issue of same-sex marriage should be left to a public referendum of the people of New Jersey, Booker criticized him and said that civil rights are guaranteed by the US Constitution and should not be allowed on the ballot.^[156] As Newark Mayor, Booker refused to perform any marriage ceremonies until same-sex couples were legally allowed to marry in New Jersey.^[157] On October 21, 2013, 12:01 am, the date when same-sex marriage became legal in New Jersey, Booker began performing same-sex and opposite-sex marriages in New Jersey.^[158]

In November 2013, Booker co-sponsored and voted for the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.^[159] In January 2014, he co-sponsored the Respect for Marriage Act.^[160]

Minimum wage

Booker supports an increase of the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. Speaking to Newark airport workers in May 2017 he said, "It is un-American to be in this country, to work a full-time job and still live in poverty. That is unacceptable. The minimum wage working at a lot of these contract companies only affords them about \$22,000 a year ... You cannot live and raise a family on \$22,000 a year. You can't afford housing, you can't afford child care and since your company isn't helping you with retirement, you can't save for retirement."^[161]

Free market

"Booker championed "enterprise zones," a free-market approach to solving urban blight credited to the late Jack Kemp, a hard-core supply-sider and occasional Republican presidential contender who helped raise money for Booker's first mayoral campaign."^[125]

Besides social media advances, Booker wants to see the rest of the tech sector reach its fullest potential, and to do that, he thinks the U.S. government needs to ease up on regulations. "We're not moving at the speed of innovation due to regulations," he said, adding that because of this, key industries are leaving the U.S. to work on projects in other countries where the rules aren't as strict. For example, the Federal Aviation Administration has hindered drone innovation to the point where drone companies are leaving the U.S. to test and build in Europe. "We're being left behind on everything from next-generation nuclear energy to driverless cars and biologics," Booker said, "and we cannot get left behind."^[162]

Social security

While running for Senate, Booker said he opposed raising the retirement age for social security except for people in their 20s or younger. Booker later tweeted that he opposed all cuts to Social Security and would expand the program.^[153]

Taxes

As mayor of Newark, New Jersey, Booker raised taxes by 20 percent but now seeks to cut municipal taxes.^[140] He supports taxes on carbon emissions,^[130] corporate tax reform,^[119] and tax incentives.^[141] He endorsed Governor Chris Christie's property tax agenda.^[163]

War on Drugs

Booker has condemned the War on Drugs, calling it a "tremendous failure", and criticizing the Obama administration for not honoring state drug laws. He has also expressed support for medical marijuana research,^[128] decriminalizing marijuana, ending mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent drug offenders, increasing funding for prisoner re-entry programs, and bringing an end to for-profit, private prisons.^[164]

Foreign policy

Afghanistan

According to Booker's campaign website, he supports scaling down US armed forces in Afghanistan in a responsible and safe manner.^[133]

Iran

According to Booker's campaign website, Iran poses a threat to American and Israeli security. He wants all options, including military action, that prevents Iran from gaining nuclear weapons.^[133] In December 2013, Booker was one of the original cosponsors of Bob Menéndez's Nuclear Weapon Free Iran Act of 2013, which would toughen sanctions against Iran.^[165]

Iran Nuclear Deal

Booker's decision to back the Iran nuclear deal framework,^[136] damaged his long term relationship with Jewish voters and supporters.^[137] Booker initiated an emergency summit for Jewish leaders in attempt to reduce the damage, but some of his long standing supporters did not attend.^{[137][138][136]}

Israel

According to Booker's campaign website, he is a strong advocate for the state of Israel and supports a two state solution to the Israeli–Palestinian conflict. However he stated certain conditions must remain non-negotiable, such as Israel's right to exist as a secure Jewish state free from terrorism.^[133]

Syria

In August 2013, during a *Huffington Post* interview, Booker stated he opposed military intervention in Syria. However, a few days later he said, "As part of the process of working with Congress, I expect that the president will clearly delineate what the strategic objectives are, and what limited military action will specifically achieve in Syria..." and: "Obviously, there needs to be a response, but the question is what is it, and is it going to be perfectly attenuated to the outcomes we want,"^[166] During a September 2013 debate between him and Steve Lonegan, Booker stated he did not have sufficient information to say whether or not he would vote aye or nay on the resolution before the Congress at the time.^[167]

Other activities

In 2009, after Barack Obama became President of the United States, Booker was offered the leadership of the new White House Office of Urban Affairs. He turned the offer down, citing a commitment to Newark.^[39]

Booker generated controversy on May 12, 2012, when he appeared on *Meet The Press* as a surrogate for the reelection campaign of Barack Obama and made remarks that were critical of that campaign.^[168] Booker said that the attacks on Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's record at Bain Capital were "nauseating to me on both sides. It's nauseating to the American public. Enough is enough. Stop attacking private equity. Stop attacking Jeremiah Wright."^[168] The comments were subsequently used by the Romney campaign against Obama.^[169] Booker made follow-up comments clarifying that he believed Obama's attacks on Romney's record at Bain were legitimate but did not retract his point about attacking private equity in general.^[170] Two weeks later, Booker's communications director Anne Torres tendered her resignation, although she maintained it was unrelated to *Meet the Press*.^[171]

Affiliations and honors

Booker sits on the board of advisers of the political action committee Democrats for Education Reform.^[146] He is currently a member of the board of trustees at Teachers College, Columbia University, and was formerly a member of the Executive Committee at Yale Law School and the Board of Trustees at Stanford University.

In 2010, Booker received the U.S. Senator John Heinz Award for Greatest Public Service by an Elected or Appointed Official, an award given out annually by the Jefferson Awards.^[172]

In May 2009, Booker received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the Newark-based New Jersey Institute of Technology for "his outstanding career in public service as the Mayor of Newark".^[173] In May 2009, he received an honorary doctorate from Brandeis University, and was a commencement speaker that year as well.^[174] Booker received another honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree in December 2010 from Yeshiva University for "his bold vision for Newark and setting a national standard for urban transformation".^[175] In June 2011, Booker received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree and served as that year's commencement speaker at Williams College for the urban transformation of Newark.^[176] In May 2012, Booker received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Bard College and gave the commencement speech at the graduation.^[177] In 2010, Booker delivered the commencement addresses at Pitzer College in Claremont, California, on May 15, Columbia University's Teachers College in New York City on May 17, and Suffolk University Law School in Boston, Massachusetts, a week later on May 23, 2010. Booker gave the commencement address to New York Law School graduates on May 13, 2011, at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center. Booker also gave the commencement address at the University of Rhode Island in May 2011; he also received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.^[178] He delivered a commencement address to Stanford University graduates on June 17, 2012, at Stanford Stadium.^[179] He also received an honorary degree at Fairleigh Dickinson's 69th Commencement Ceremony in May 2012.^[180] In May 2013, Booker gave the commencement address at Washington University in St. Louis and received an honorary doctorate of law.^[181]

On May 16, 2014, Booker gave the commencement speech for Ramapo College of New Jersey graduates at the IZOD Center.^[182]

During the 2016 presidential election, when Clinton had an illness described as "pneumonia", Donna Brazile, the then DNC interim chair, considered that her ideal replacement ticket would consist of Joe Biden and Cory Booker. However, due to a possibly divisive reaction and the possibility of "allowing Trump to capture votes in confusion" caused her to "not entertain any more thoughts of replacing Hillary".^[183]

Films

Booker's 2002 mayoral campaign, which he lost, was chronicled by filmmaker Marshall Curry in his documentary *Street Fight*. The film was nominated in 2005 for the Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature.^[184]

Since 2009, Booker has starred in the documentary series *Brick City*. The series focuses on Booker and his efforts to improve Newark by reducing crime and bringing about economic renewal. *Brick City* won a Peabody Award in 2009 and was nominated for a Primetime Emmy in 2010.^[185]

Booker contributed to the 2011 documentary *Miss Representation* and commented on the representations of women in politics within mass media.^[186]

Booker appeared in a scene in the *Parks and Recreation* episode "Ms. Ludgate-Dwyer Goes to Washington" alongside Orrin Hatch.

Mark Zuckerberg donation

In July 2010, Booker attended a dinner at a conference in Sun Valley, Idaho, where he was seated with Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg.^[187] Zuckerberg, who had no known ties to Newark, announced in September 2010 that he was donating \$100 million of his personal fortune to the Newark school system. According to an article in the *New York Times*, Booker and Zuckerberg continued their conversation about Booker's plans for Newark.^[188] The initial gift was made to start a foundation for education. The gift was formally announced when Booker, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, and Zuckerberg appeared together on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*.^[189] The timing of Zuckerberg's donation was questioned by some as a move for damage control to his image, as it was announced on the opening day of the

movie *The Social Network*, a film that painted an unflattering portrait of Zuckerberg. On her show, however, Winfrey told the audience that Zuckerberg and Booker had been in talks for months and had actually planned the announcement for the previous month, and that she and Booker had to force Zuckerberg to put his name to the donation, which he had wanted to make anonymously.^[190]

Conan O'Brien "feud"

In the fall of 2009, *Tonight Show* host Conan O'Brien engaged in a satirical on-air and YouTube feud with Booker, with O'Brien jokingly insulting the City of Newark and Booker responding that he would ban O'Brien from the Newark airport.^{[191][192]} Then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called for the feud to end during a prepared comedy bit, telling Booker to chalk it up to a head injury suffered by O'Brien less than two weeks earlier.^[193] Booker then appeared on O'Brien's show and assured viewers that the feud was over and that he was actually a big fan of O'Brien, who agreed that every time he made a joke about Newark, he would donate \$500 to the City of Newark, and also made a \$50,000 donation to the Newark Now charity, which was matched by NBC Universal.^[194]

Waywire

In 2012, Booker and tech executives Sarah Ross and Nathan Richardson formed Waywire, a company focused on video sharing technology.^[195] Early investors included Oprah Winfrey, Eric Schmidt, Jeff Weiner, and Troy Carter.^[195] After Booker's relationship to Waywire was discussed in a front-page *New York Times* story,^[196] board member Andrew Zucker stepped down from his position.^[197] Shortly thereafter, Waywire CEO Nathan Richardson departed the business as the company shifted its focus from content creation to content curation.^[198] In August 2013, Booker told NBC News he intended to resign from the Waywire board and put his holdings in a trust if elected to the Senate;^[199] by September, he had resigned his place on the board and donated his share of the company to charity.^[200] Waywire was sold to another video curation business the following month.^[201]

Personal life

Booker regularly exercises and has been a vegetarian since 1992, when he was a student at Oxford.^[202] He abstains from alcohol and "has no known vices or addictions" other than coffee.^{[203][204]} In 2014, Booker began practicing a vegan diet^[202] and has expressed his vegan ethical philosophy and advocacy for animals.^[205]

Booker has never been married, and in 2013 he was named one of *Town & Country*'s "Top 40 Bachelors".^[204] Although he has generally tried to keep his personal life private, Booker has in the past described himself as a "straight male" and has said that he is trying to date more in hopes of finding someone to settle down with.^[206] In a 1990 column in the *Stanford Daily*, Booker admitted that as a teenager he had "hated gays".^[207] Booker has himself been the target of rumors about being gay and has generally refused to address these on principle, which he explained in 2013:

Because I want to challenge people on their homophobia. I love seeing on Twitter when someone says I'm gay, and I say, "So what does it matter if I am? So be it. I hope you are not voting for me because you are making the presumption that I'm straight."^{[208][209]}

From 1998 to 2006, Booker lived in Brick Towers, a troubled housing complex in Newark's Central Ward. In November 2006, as one of the last remaining tenants in Brick Towers, Booker left his apartment for the top unit in a three-story rental on Hawthorne Avenue in Newark's South Ward, an area described as "a drug- and gang-plagued neighborhood of boarded-up houses and empty lots".^[210] Brick Towers has since been demolished, and a new mixed-income development was built there in 2010.^[211]



Maria Cantwell

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Elected 2006

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Maria Cantwell currently serves as a United States Senator for the State of Washington. As a respected leader – both in public service and in the private sector – Maria has always embraced the values she first learned growing up in a strong working-class family. With the help of Pell Grants, Maria was the first member of her family to graduate college. Later, a successful businesswoman in Washington's hi-tech industry, she helped build a company that created hundreds of high-paying jobs from the ground up.

Maria was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2000, 2006 and again in 2012, pledging to honor the hard work, aspirations and faith of the people of Washington state. She is working to create affordable opportunities for consumers, businesses and families, to make our nation more secure today, to foster innovation for tomorrow, and to stand with parents as they educate and care for their children.

Maria gets results. She cut taxes for the middle-class by ensuring that Washington taxpayers can deduct state and local taxes from their federal returns. She fought attempts by the Bush Administration to raise local electricity rates. When bankrupt Enron officials tried to charge Washington ratepayers for millions of dollars in undelivered electricity, Maria led the effort that successfully stopped them. Maria has protected countless jobs in Washington's aerospace industry by cracking down on foreign companies' unfair trade practices and has worked to create still more well-paying jobs through effective investments in new technology and valuable job training. Maria successfully led the fight to stop drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and is leading efforts in the Senate to make America more energy independent. She has been a proud advocate for better educational opportunities for our children and less expensive, more accessible health care for our families. Maria

continues to build new growth and strong partnerships, insisting on responsibility and making life more affordable for all of Washington 's families.

Maria Elaine Cantwell /'kænt,wəl/ (born October 13, 1958) is the junior United States Senator from Washington, elected in 2000. A Democrat, she previously served in the Washington House of Representatives from 1987 to 1993 and the United States House of Representatives from Washington's 1st congressional district from 1993 to 1995, after which she worked as an executive for RealNetworks. She is Washington's second female senator, after Patty Murray.

Cantwell is the Ranking Member on the United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. While Democrats were in the majority, she was Chair of the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship from 2014 to 2015 and of the Committee on Indian Affairs from 2013 to 2014.

Upon the February 2017 resignation of Jeff Sessions to become United States Attorney General, Cantwell became the most senior junior Senator.

Early life, education, and early political career

Cantwell was born in Indianapolis, Indiana. She was raised in a predominantly Irish-American neighborhood on the south side of Indianapolis. Her father, Paul F. Cantwell,^[1] served as county commissioner, city councilman, state legislator, and Chief of Staff for U.S. Representative Andrew Jacobs, Jr. Her mother, Rose M., was an administrative assistant. Her ancestry includes Irish and German.^[1]

She attended Emmerich Manual High School and was inducted into the Indianapolis Public Schools Hall of Fame in 2006.^[2] After high school, Cantwell attended Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Administration.

She moved to Seattle, Washington in 1983 to campaign for U.S. Senator Alan Cranston (D-CA) in his unsuccessful bid for the 1984 Democratic Presidential nomination. She then moved to the Seattle suburb of Mountlake Terrace because it reminded her of Indianapolis,^[3] and led a successful campaign in 1986 to build a new library there.^[4] Cantwell now lives in Edmonds, Washington.

Washington House of Representatives (1987–1993)

Elections

In 1986, Cantwell was elected to the Washington State House of Representatives at the age of 28. In her campaign, she embarked on an extensive door-knocking effort in her district.^[5] She defeated George Dahlquist 54%–46%.^[6] In 1988, she won re-election to a second term with 66% of the vote.^[7] In 1990, she won re-election to a third term with 61% of the vote.^[8]

Tenure

As a state representative, she helped write Washington's Growth Management Act of 1990, which required cities to develop comprehensive growth plans, and she negotiated its passage.^{[9][10]} She also worked on legislation regulating nursing homes.

Committee assignments

- Growth Strategies Commission^[11]

U.S. House of Representatives (1993–1995)

Elections

1992

In the November election, Cantwell defeated Republican State Senator Gary Nelson 55%–42%.^[12] She became the first Democrat elected to the United States House of Representatives from Washington's first congressional district in 40 years.

1994

Republican Rick White defeated Cantwell 52%–48% in the Republican landslide of 1994.^[13]

Tenure

She was called a "savvy, pro-business Democrat." She supported President Clinton's 1993 budget, which raised taxes and passed despite receiving 'No' votes from many of her Democratic colleagues.^[14] During her only term, she helped convince the Clinton administration to drop its support of the Clipper chip. She wrote a letter to Vice President Al Gore and staunchly opposed it because Microsoft Inc. was in her district.^{[15][16]} She voted in support of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).^[17]

Committee assignments

U.S. House Public Works Committee

Private sector employment (1995–1999)

After her defeat, Cantwell vowed to leave politics. Political ally Rob Glaser offered her a job as vice president of marketing for RealNetworks.^[18] Among her accomplishments was the live internet streaming broadcast of a Mariners-Yankees baseball game in 1995.^[citation needed]

In 1998, the company faced heavy criticism because privacy groups alleged that the Real Jukebox software program incorporated spyware to track unsuspecting users' listening patterns and download history. In response, RealNetworks amended its privacy policy to fully disclose its privacy practices regarding user listening patterns. Subsequently, RealNetworks submitted to independent outside audits of its privacy practices. Several lawsuits regarding the alleged privacy violations were settled out of court. This incident has in part formed her views on privacy and thus her opposition to the Bush administration's post-9/11 policies.^[19]

U.S. Senate (2001–Present)

Elections

2000

Main article: United States Senate election in Washington, 2000

At the urging of party activists and officials, Cantwell formed an exploratory committee in October 1999 to consider a run for United States Senate against Democrat Deborah Senn and incumbent Republican Slade Gorton. She committed to run for the position on January 19, 2000. Cantwell entered the campaign a year after Senn; she quickly lost the endorsements by the Washington State Labor Council and NARAL to Senn. Early on, privacy became an issue. Senn cited her record protecting medical privacy as insurance commissioner. Cantwell promoted internet privacy and cited her opposition to the Clipper chip. In her television advertisement late in the campaign, Senn accused Cantwell of avoiding debates. Cantwell had agreed to two debates; Senn preferred more. They ended up having three debates, during which the candidates harshly attacked each other. Senn attacked RealNetworks and Cantwell's role in the company. Cantwell accused Senn of wanting to run against RealNetworks and said that Senn was uninformed on internet issues. Cantwell secured the endorsements of *the Seattle Times*, the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, the *Spokesman-Review*, and the *News Tribune*. She easily won her party's nomination,

defeating Senn 3–1 in the primary. Although he won renomination, Slade Gorton got fewer votes than Cantwell and Senn's combined total. Cantwell cited this result as evidence that Washington was ready for a change.

Social security, prescription drugs, dams, and campaign finance reform were among the most important issues in Cantwell's race against Gorton. Cantwell also adopted the slogan, "your voice for a change," a veiled reference to Gorton's campaign theme in 1980, challenging incumbent Warren Magnuson's age. She claimed Gorton supported "19th century solutions to 21st century problems." Cantwell won the endorsements of *The Seattle Times* and the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, the state's two biggest newspapers. Gorton won the endorsements of the smaller *Tri-City Herald* and the *News Tribune*. At times the campaign was accused of pettiness. After a Cantwell campaign worker deep-linked to a humorous photo on the Gorton website, Gorton accused Cantwell's campaign of hacking his website, and Senn accused Cantwell of hypocrisy. "Fiddling with people's websites and calling it good fun ... adds a very childish and unworthy character to the race," said Senn's campaign spokeswoman Barbara Stenson.^[20] Cantwell spent over \$10 million of her own money on her campaign, pledging not to accept money from PACs. When RealNetworks stock declined at the end of 2000, she spent time raising funds for debt retirement, although she kept her pledge not to accept PAC money, as documented by the nonpartisan Center for Responsive Politics.^[21] In the waning weeks of the 2000 campaign, the Federal Election Commission ruled that Cantwell violated federal campaign finance law by securing \$3.8 million in bank loans for her campaign and failing to properly disclose the loans until January 30, 2001.^[22] The complaint alleged that Cantwell had received a \$600,000 line of credit without sufficient collateral and another \$1,000,000, all at a preferential interest rate. After review, the Federal Election Commission sent a letter of admonishment, saying that the loans were "made on a basis that assures repayment and that each loan bore the usual and customary interest rate."^[23]

The election results were extremely close. Early on, Cantwell enjoyed a lead, and TV networks projected a Cantwell victory. As absentee ballots streamed in, Gorton overtook Cantwell and achieved a lead of 15,000 votes. When the heavily Democratic Puget Sound region finished counting ballots and the county totals were certified on November 23, Cantwell had regained the lead by 1,953 votes out of 2.5 million cast, about 0.08%. A mandatory recount increased her lead to 2,229 votes, or 0.09%. Cantwell and Debbie Stabenow of Michigan became the third and fourth women to defeat incumbent senators, following Kay Bailey Hutchison's 1993 and Dianne Feinstein's 1992 special-election victories.

2006

Main article: United States Senate election in Washington, 2006

The close 2004 gubernatorial race between Democrat Christine Gregoire and Republican Dino Rossi suggested to many that the 2006 contest might go either way.^[24] Both Cantwell and her opponent Republican Mike McGavick dominated their primaries; initial speculation favored a Republican victory.^[25] "At one point," wrote analyst Larry Sabato, "all the talk in this race concerned Cantwell's cool relations with anti-war Democratic elements and McGavick's relatively united base. But Democrats appear to have closed ranks behind their junior senator."^[26] Cantwell ended up winning re-election by a 16-point margin, even winning several traditionally Republican counties in Eastern Washington including Spokane County.^{[27][28]}

During the 2006 campaign, Cantwell received heavy criticism for declining most of the invitations she received to debate McGavick in public forums. Media outlets across the state, including *The Olympian* and the *Yakima Herald-Republic*, rebuked Cantwell, claiming she was afraid to confront McGavick, calling it "unacceptable"^[29] and "simply not fair." Cantwell agreed to a total of two debates with her opponent in Seattle and Spokane, lasting 60 and 30 minutes, respectively. However, when Cantwell ran for Senate in 2000 as a challenger against the incumbent Slade Gorton, Gorton also agreed to only two debates of a similar format. Similarly, when Washington's senior senator, Patty Murray, ran for reelection in 2004, she agreed to only two debates with George Nethercutt, although each debate lasted one hour.^[30]

Cantwell was reelected to a third term, defeating Republican State Senator Michael Baumgartner.^[31]

Tenure

While she scores high on a progressive chart from ProgressivePunch.org,^[32] Cantwell has cast several controversial votes during her time in the Senate that have created friction between her and other members of the Democratic Party.

Cantwell was a key proponent of the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform bill of 2002 and cosponsored the Clean Money, Clean Elections Act of 2001.^{[33][34]}

In 2005, she wrote a letter in support of the Perkins Loan program,^[35] and told the *Seattle Times* in July 2006 that she is opposed to Social Security privatization.^[36] Cantwell cosponsored the "Pension Fairness and Full Disclosure Act of 2005".^[37]

In the summer of 2005, Cantwell voted for the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), which angered many who opposed free trade agreements. Others argued that due to the state's unique economy, any senator from Washington almost had to vote for free trade pacts.

Citing his potential views on abortion and the environment, Cantwell was one of 22 senators to vote against United States Supreme Court nominee John Roberts.^[38] In January 2006, after publicly announcing her opposition to Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito, Cantwell, along with 18 other Democrats and all 53 present Republicans, voted for the cloture motion.^[39] The success of this motion ended an unlikely attempt to filibuster the confirmation of Judge Alito that was being led by Senator John Kerry and Senator Ted Kennedy.^[40] Alito was confirmed the next day by a vote of 58–42, with most Democrats, including Cantwell, voting against the confirmation.

Cantwell voted in September 2010 to invoke cloture to begin debate on the don't ask, don't tell policy in the military.

Iraq War

On the issue of the Iraq war, on October 11, 2002 Cantwell voted in favor of the Joint Resolution to Authorize the Use of United States Armed Forces Against Iraq. Her October 10, 2002, press release, however, quotes her as stating on the floor of the U.S. Senate, "... Mr. President, my vote for this resolution does not mean that I am convinced of the Administration has answered all the questions. I believe the following issues must be addressed before the U.N. or the U.S. move forward with military action." Cantwell detailed six specific areas in which her questions and concerns had yet to be satisfactorily addressed at the time of her vote to authorize war: "First: Continued Multilateral Approach ... Second: Successful Military Strategy ... Third: A Postwar Commitment Strategy ... Fourth: Fighting the Broader War on Terrorism ... Fifth: Maintaining Middle East Stability ... Sixth: Protecting Iraqi Civilians."

In 2006 Cantwell voted against the Kerry-Feingold Amendment to S.2766, which would have set a timetable for withdrawal,^[41] but she voted in favor of the Levin-Reed Amendment,^[42] which would encourage beginning a phased withdrawal by the end of the year, with no timetable for completion.

Immigration

In May 2006, Cantwell, along with 38 of 44 Senate Democrats, voted in favor of the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006 (S. 2611).^[43] This controversial legislation includes provisions to improve border security, increases fines and other punishments for employers of illegal immigrants, creation of a guest worker program (which includes an almost doubling of the number of H1-B visas),^[44] and creates a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants already in the country.^[45] The bill, with support from Republican

Party leadership, passed 62–36. Debate would have also commenced on the DREAM Act, though this was halted due to a Republican filibuster.^[46]

Health care reform

Cantwell supports health care reform in the United States and was a co-sponsor of Senator Ron Wyden's (D-OR) Healthy Americans Act. In her role as a member of the Finance Committee, she had an influential role in crafting health care reform legislation. On September 29, 2009, when the Finance Committee considered health care reform legislation, Cantwell supported amendments to establish a public health care option that would compete with private insurers.^[47]

In 2009, *The Stranger* ran an article on Cantwell's opposition to the inclusion of a public option in the health-care reform plan. They reported that: "Seattle congressman Jim McDermott supports it. Washington senator Patty Murray wants it. So does President Barack Obama. So does the often conservative Seattle Times editorial page. So do 72 percent of Americans, according to a recent poll. So what's going on with Washington's junior senator, Maria Cantwell? Why doesn't she want Congress to include a public option—a new government-run health-care plan that will be available to everyone and will compete with private insurance companies to bring down costs—in its health-care-reform package?"^[48] Cantwell cited her concerns with getting the bill through the United States Senate as the reason for her opposition.^[48]

Environment/energy

In addition to her opposition to drilling in the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge, Cantwell has been one of the most vocal critics of the increase of oil and gasoline prices during 2008.^[49] Advocating increased regulation of futures markets and windfall profits taxes on oil profits, Cantwell has drawn scathing criticism from the Wall Street Journal.^[50] In December 2005, Cantwell scored what many perceived as one of the strongest victories of her first term when she blocked Alaska senator Ted Stevens' efforts to allow drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Stevens attached the measure to a bill that provided money for defense spending and Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. Cantwell managed to round up the votes of 41 Democrats and 2 Republicans, enough to block a final vote.^[51] Stevens removed the ANWR drilling measure from the larger bill, but promised to bring the matter up at a later date.

In 2004 Cantwell received the highest rating possible from the League of Conservation Voters for her environmental voting record.^[52] As of 2017, she has a lifetime score of 91% on the League's National Environmental Scorecard.^[53] She is known for supporting alternative energy research and for protecting Washington's forests from logging and the construction of paved roads and has earned endorsement from various prominent environmental advocacy groups^[52] and other environmental groups.^{[54][55]} She has opposed drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge on multiple occasions, has voted to reduce oil usage by 40% by 2025, and has opposed legislation to relax or terminate CAFE standards.^[56] *The Seattle Times* has described Cantwell's environmental record as "pristine",^[57] and the Wilderness Society has described Cantwell as an "environmental champion".^[58]

In 2009 Cantwell introduced the Carbon Limits and Energy for America's Renewal (CLEAR) Act (S. 2877), also called the Cantwell-Collins bill, a "cap and dividend" emissions trading proposal.^{[59][60][61][62]} Senator Susan Collins, Republican from Maine, joined as co-sponsor.^[63] The bill died in the Senate Finance Committee without debate or votes.^{[61][63]}

Cantwell is the chair of the Senate Democrats 20/20 Energy Independence campaign and is a co-chair of the Apollo Alliance.^[64] One of Cantwell's main accomplishments was the passage of an amendment "To prevent energy market manipulation," which passed 57–40 in the Senate; a previous effort was defeated by a vote of 50–48.^[65]

The Humane Society of the United States has praised Cantwell's no-tolerance policy and effective removal of the practice of shark finning, which is estimated to kill 73 million sharks per year.^[66]

Reproductive rights

Cantwell has expressed support for making Plan B contraceptives available to girls 16 and under. In 2007, she cosponsored the Prevention First Act, a bill that sought to increase national access to family planning and preventative methods as a means to reduce unwanted pregnancies.^[67] It included providing women with access to Plan B as well as expanding family planning to be covered under Medicaid.^[67] As an advocate of increasing access to family planning and sexual health education, Cantwell argues that these venues for increased education are necessary to reduce the number of unwanted pregnancies.^[68] She received criticism from her Republican challenger, State Senator Michael Baumgartner, who suggested that Cantwell was too extreme and too far to the left of most Washington voters on this issue, and expressed concern about 11-year-olds getting these drugs without a prescription.^[69]

Cantwell calls herself "100% pro-choice", and consistently supports the pro-choice movement's positions. She was one of 34 senators to vote against the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 2003, which was signed into law by George W. Bush on November 5, 2003. She also voted against the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, which made it an additional crime to kill or harm a fetus during a criminal assault upon the mother. That bill passed the Senate by a vote of 61–38 and was signed into law by President George W. Bush on April 1, 2004.

Support for fellow Democrats

Cantwell is a major supporter of fellow Democratic candidates for public office. In 2006, facing her own challenging race, Cantwell used ActBlue to raise \$100,000 for Darcy Burner, Peter Goldmark, and Richard Wright, all of whom were facing tough House races in Washington State. In the 2008 cycle, Cantwell was particularly committed to supporting the reelection of Senator Mary Landrieu of Louisiana.

On December 31, 2007, Cantwell became the 10th senator to endorse Hillary Clinton for President of the United States.^[70] Cantwell supported Clinton throughout the primary season,^[71] but vowed to vote for the winner of the pledged delegates.^[72] After Clinton's concession on June 7, Cantwell endorsed Obama.^[73] At the Washington State Democratic Convention on June 15, Cantwell added: "I do want to see a strong Democratic woman in the White House ... That's why I'm so glad Michelle Obama will be the next first lady."^[74]

On October 20, 2013, Cantwell was one of sixteen female Democratic senators to sign a letter endorsing Hillary Clinton as the Democratic nominee in the 2016 Presidential Election.^[75]

Criticism of Amanda Knox guilty verdict

On December 4, 2009, the day that 22-year-old Washingtonian Amanda Knox was found guilty by an Italian court of the murder of Meredith Kercher, Cantwell released a statement expressing her dismay at the verdict, saying that she had "serious questions about the Italian justice system and whether anti-Americanism tainted [the] trial". She stated that the evidence against Knox was insufficient, that Knox had been subjected to "harsh treatment" following her arrest, and that there had been "negligence" in the handling of evidence. She also complained that jurors had not been sequestered, allowing them to view "negative news coverage" about Knox, and that one of the prosecutors had a misconduct case pending in relation to another trial.^[76] Cantwell said she would seek assistance from Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. A spokesman for the State Department said in December 2009 that the Department had followed the case closely and would continue to do so. He added: "It is still in the early days but ... we haven't received any indications necessarily that Italian law was not followed".^[7]



Shelley Moore Capito

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Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

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Subcommittee on Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veteran Affairs, and Related Agencies

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security

Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet

Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance and Data Security

Subcommittee on Space, Science, and Competitiveness

Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on Energy

Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining

Subcommittee on Water and Power

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety

Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife

Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Committee on Rules and Administration

CAUCUS MEMBERSHIPS

Bios Senate Commerce Committee

Bicameral Congressional Caucus on Parkinson's Disease
Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease
Coalition for Autism Research and Education (CARE)
Congressional Automotive Performance and Motorsports Caucus
Congressional Boating Caucus
Congressional Brain Injury Task Force
Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues (Senate)
Congressional Caucus on Infant Health and Safety
Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports
Congressional Cystic Fibrosis Caucus
Congressional ENGINE Caucus
Congressional Fire Services Caucus
Congressional Friends of the National Park Service Centennial
Congressional Hearing Health Caucus
Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition
Congressional Internet Caucus
Congressional Manufactured Housing Caucus
Congressional Public Service Caucus
Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus
Congressional TRIO Caucus
Diversifying Technology Caucus
Senate Afterschool Caucus
Senate Chemistry Caucus
Senate Competitiveness Caucus

Shelley Moore Capito was elected by the people of West Virginia to the United States Senate in 2014. She is the first female U.S. Senator in West Virginia's history and was elected with the largest margin of victory for a Republican in state history – winning more than 62 percent of the vote and all 55 counties. After serving West Virginia's Second Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives for 14 years, and as a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates for four years prior, Shelley decided to run for Senate with the goal of being an even stronger voice for the Mountain State. She also saw an opportunity to restore order to a Senate stuck in gridlock for far too long.

Shelley believes that the challenges of our day demand bipartisan solutions and cooperation across the aisle to advance legislation that benefits West Virginia and the country as a whole.

Shelley serves on the Appropriations Committee, the Environment and Public Works Committee, the Rules and Administration Committee, and the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. This committee portfolio puts Shelley in a strong position to create new opportunities in the Mountain State and fight for West Virginia coal, jobs, and families.

On the Senate Appropriations Committee, Shelley brings West Virginia's voice to the table when our nation's spending priorities are determined. She serves as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee's Legislative Branch Subcommittee.

On the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, Shelley advocates for policies that protect vital West Virginia energy and manufacturing jobs and encourage investment in West Virginia's highway infrastructure. She serves as Chairman of the EPW Committee's Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee.

On the Senate Commerce Committee, Shelley promotes rural broadband expansion to better serve states like West Virginia.

Shelley is committed to being accessible and responsive to the people of the Mountain State. She regularly travels the state to hear from and meet with West Virginians.

A lifelong West Virginian, Shelley was born in Glen Dale in the Northern Panhandle. She holds a B.S. in Zoology from Duke University and a M.Ed. from the University of Virginia. Shelley and her husband Charles L. Capito Jr. reside in Charleston. They have three adult children: two sons, Charles (wife Laura) and Moore (wife Katie), and one daughter, Shelley (husband Colin Macleod). They have also been blessed with four grandchildren: Celia, Charlie, Eliza and Rose.



Ted Cruz

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In 2012, Ted Cruz was elected as the 34th U.S. Senator from Texas. A passionate fighter for limited government, economic growth, and the Constitution, Ted won a decisive victory in both the Republican primary and the general election, despite having never before been elected to office.

Propelled by tens of thousands of grassroots activists across Texas, Ted's election has been described by the Washington Post as "the biggest upset of 2012 . . . a true grassroots victory against very long odds."

National Review has described Ted as "a great Reaganite hope," columnist George Will has described him as "as good as it gets," and the National Federation of Independent Business characterized his election as "critical to the small-business owners in [Texas, and], also to protecting free enterprise across America."

Ted's calling to public service is inspired largely by his first-hand observation of the pursuit of freedom and opportunity in America. Ted's mother was born in Delaware to an Irish and Italian working-class family; she became the first in her family to go to college, graduated from Rice University with a degree in mathematics, and became a pioneering computer programmer in the 1950s.

Ted's father was born in Cuba, fought in the revolution, and was imprisoned and tortured. He fled to Texas in 1957, penniless and not speaking a word of English. He washed dishes for 50 cents an hour, paid his way through the University of Texas, and started a small business in the oil and gas industry. Today, Ted's father is a pastor in Dallas.

In the Senate, Ted serves on the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; the Committee on Armed Services; the Committee on the Judiciary; the Joint Economic Committee; and the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Before being elected, Ted received national acclaim as the Solicitor General of Texas, the State's chief lawyer before the U.S. Supreme Court. Serving under Attorney General Greg Abbott, Ted was the nation's youngest Solicitor General, the longest serving Solicitor General in Texas, and the first Hispanic Solicitor General of Texas.

In private practice in Houston, Ted spent five years as a partner at one of the nation's largest law firms, where he led the firm's U.S. Supreme Court and national Appellate Litigation practice. Ted has authored more than 80 U.S. Supreme Court briefs and argued 43 oral arguments, including nine before the U.S. Supreme Court. During Ted's service as Solicitor General, Texas achieved an unprecedented series of landmark national victories, including successfully defending:

- U.S. sovereignty against the UN and the World Court in *Medellin v. Texas*;
- The Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms;
- The constitutionality of the Texas Ten Commandments monument;
- The constitutionality of the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance;
- The constitutionality of the Texas Sexually Violent Predator Civil Commitment law; and
- The Texas congressional redistricting plan.

The National Law Journal has called Ted "a key voice" to whom "the [U.S. Supreme Court] Justices listen." Ted has been named by American Lawyer magazine as one of the 50 Best Litigators under 45 in America, by the National Law Journal as one of the 50 Most Influential Minority Lawyers in America, and by Texas Lawyer as one of the 25 Greatest Texas Lawyers of the Past Quarter Century.

From 2004-09, he taught U.S. Supreme Court Litigation as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Texas School of Law.

Prior to becoming Solicitor General, he served as the Director of the Office of Policy Planning at the Federal Trade Commission, as Associate Deputy Attorney General at the U.S. Department of Justice, and as Domestic Policy Advisor on the 2000 Bush-Cheney campaign.

Ted graduated with honors from Princeton University and with high honors from Harvard Law School. He served as a law clerk to Chief Justice William Rehnquist on the U.S. Supreme Court. He was the first Hispanic ever to clerk for the Chief Justice of the United States.

Ted and his wife Heidi live in his hometown of Houston, Texas, with their two young daughters Caroline and Catherine.

wikipedia

Rafael Edward Cruz (/kruːz/; born December 22, 1970) is an American politician and attorney serving as the junior United States Senator from Texas since 2013.^[1] He was a candidate for the Republican nomination for President of the United States in the 2016 election.

Cruz is a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law School. From 1999 to 2003, he served in various political appointee positions: the Director of the Office of Policy Planning at the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), an Associate Deputy Attorney General at the United States Department of Justice, and a Domestic Policy Advisor to George W. Bush on the 2000 George W. Bush Presidential campaign. Cruz served as Solicitor General of Texas, from 2003 to 2008, appointed by Texas Attorney General, Greg Abbott. He was the first Hispanic, and the longest-serving, Solicitor General in Texas history. From 2004 to 2009, Cruz was an Adjunct Professor at the University of Texas School of Law in Austin, Texas, where he taught U.S. Supreme Court litigation.

Cruz ran for and won the Senate seat vacated by fellow Republican Kay Bailey Hutchison in 2012. He is the first Hispanic American to serve as a U.S. Senator representing Texas, and is one of three senators of Cuban descent.

Ted and his wife Heidi live in his hometown of Houston, Texas, with their two young daughters Caroline and Catherine. **Rafael Edward Cruz** (/kruːz/; born December 22, 1970) is an American politician and attorney serving as the junior United States Senator from Texas since 2013.^[1] He was a candidate for the Republican nomination for President of the United States in the 2016 election.

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Cruz ran for and won the Senate seat vacated by fellow Republican Kay Bailey Hutchison in 2012. He is the first Hispanic American to serve as a U.S. Senator representing Texas, and is one of three senators of Cuban descent.

Early life and family

Rafael Edward Cruz was born on December 22, 1970,^{[2][3]} at Foothills Medical Centre^{[4][5]} in Calgary, Alberta, to parents Eleanor Elizabeth (*née* Darragh) Wilson and Rafael Bienvenido Cruz y Díaz.^{[6][7][8][9]} Cruz's mother was born in Wilmington, Delaware. She is of three-quarters Irish and one-quarter Italian descent. She earned an undergraduate degree in mathematics from Rice University in the 1950s.^[10]

Cruz' paternal grandfather, Rafael, immigrated to Cuba as an infant with his parents from the Canary Islands of Spain.^[11] Cruz's father Rafael Bienvenido Cruz y Díaz is Cuban American, born in Cuba and growing up middle class there. He left Cuba in 1957 to attend the University of Texas at Austin and obtained political asylum in the U.S. after his four-year student visa expired, as the Cuban Revolution had changed the government.^[12] He earned Canadian citizenship in 1973.^[4] He became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 2005.^{[8][13][14]} Eleanor and Rafael Cruz divorced in 1997.^[15]

At the time of his birth, Cruz's parents had lived in Calgary for three years and were working in the oil business as owners of a seismic-data processing firm for oil drilling.^{[8][16][17][18][19]}

Cruz has said, "I'm the son of two mathematicians/computer programmers."^[20] In 1974, his father left the family and moved to Texas.^[21] Later that year, his parents reconciled and relocated to Houston.^[4] Cruz has two older half-sisters, Miriam Ceferina Cruz and Roxana Lourdes Cruz, from his father's first marriage. Miriam died in 2011.^{[15][22][23]}

Education

Cruz attended two private high schools: Faith West Academy near Katy, Texas;^[24] and Second Baptist High School in Houston, from which he graduated as valedictorian in 1988.^{[13][25][26]}

During high school, Cruz participated in a Houston-based group known at the time as the Free Market Education Foundation, a program that taught high school students the philosophies of economists such as Milton Friedman and Frédéric Bastiat.^{[19][27]}

Cruz graduated *cum laude* from Princeton University in 1992 with a Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy^[28] from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.^{[2][29]} While at Princeton, he competed for the American Whig-Closophic Society's Debate Panel and won the top speaker award at both the 1992 U.S. National Debating Championship and the 1992 North American Debating Championship.^[30] In 1992, he was named U.S. National Speaker of the Year and, with his debate partner David Panton, also Team of the Year by the American Parliamentary Debate Association.^[30] Cruz and Panton later represented Harvard Law School at the 1995 World Debating Championship, losing in the semi-finals to a team from Australia.^{[31][32][33]} Princeton's debate team named their annual novice championship after Cruz.^[33]

Cruz's senior thesis at Princeton investigated the separation of powers; its title, *Clipping the Wings of Angels*, draws its inspiration from a passage attributed to US President James Madison: "If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary." Cruz argued that the drafters of the Constitution intended to protect the rights of their constituents, and that the last two items in the Bill of Rights offer an explicit stop against an all-powerful state.^{[10][34]}

After graduating from Princeton, Cruz attended Harvard Law School, graduating *magna cum laude* in 1995 with a Juris Doctor degree.^{[2][35]} While at Harvard Law, he was a primary editor of the *Harvard Law Review*, an executive editor of the *Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy*, and a founding editor of the *Harvard Latino Law Review*.^[29] Referring to Cruz's time as

a student at Harvard Law, Professor Alan Dershowitz said, "Cruz was off-the-charts brilliant".^{[36][37][38][39]} At Harvard Law, Cruz was a John M. Olin Fellow in Law and Economics.^[40]

Cruz serves on the Board of Advisors of the *Texas Review of Law and Politics*.^[41]

Legal career

Clerkships

Cruz served as a law clerk to J. Michael Luttig of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in 1995^{[40][42]} and to William Rehnquist, Chief Justice of the United States, in 1996.^[2] Cruz was the first Hispanic to clerk for a Chief Justice of the United States.^[43]

Private practice

After Cruz finished his clerkships, he took a position with Cooper, Carvin & Rosenthal, now known as Cooper & Kirk, PLLC, from 1997 to 1998.^[44] While with the firm, Cruz worked on matters relating to the National Rifle Association, and helped prepare testimony for the impeachment proceedings against President Bill Clinton.^[45] In 1998, Cruz was briefly one of the attorneys who represented Congressman John Boehner during his litigation against Congressman Jim McDermott, which concerned the alleged leak of an illegal recording of a phone conversation whose participants included Boehner.^{[46][47]}

Bush administration

Cruz joined the George W. Bush presidential campaign in 1999 as a domestic policy adviser, advising then-Governor George W. Bush on a wide range of policy and legal matters, including civil justice, criminal justice, constitutional law, immigration, and government reform.^[44]

Cruz assisted in assembling the Bush legal team, devising strategy, and drafting pleadings for filing with the Supreme Court of Florida and U.S. Supreme Court in the case *Bush v. Gore* during the 2000 Florida presidential recounts, leading to two wins for the Bush team.^{[40][48]} Cruz recruited future Chief Justice John Roberts and noted attorney Mike Carvin to the Bush legal team.^[45]

After Bush took office, Cruz served as an associate deputy attorney general in the U.S. Justice Department^{[2][48]} and as the director of policy planning at the U.S. Federal Trade Commission.^{[2][36][48]}

Texas Solicitor General

Appointed to the office of Solicitor General of Texas by Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott,^{[42][49]} Cruz served in that position from 2003 to 2008.^{[27][40]} The office had been established in 1999 to handle appeals involving the state, but Abbott hired Cruz with the idea that Cruz would take a "leadership role in the United States in articulating a vision of strict constructionism". As Solicitor General, Cruz argued before the Supreme Court of the United States nine times, winning five cases and losing four.^[45]

Cruz has authored 70 U.S. Supreme Court briefs and presented 43 oral arguments, including nine before the United States Supreme Court.^{[36][42][50]} Cruz's record of having argued before the Supreme Court nine times is more than any practicing lawyer in Texas or any current member of Congress.^[51] Cruz has commented on his nine cases in front of the U.S. Supreme Court: "We ended up year after year arguing some of the biggest cases in the country. There was a degree of serendipity in that, but there was also a concerted effort to seek out and lead conservative fights."^[51]

In 2003, while Cruz was Texas Solicitor General, the Texas Attorney General's office declined to defend Texas' sodomy law in *Lawrence v. Texas*, where the U.S. Supreme Court decided that state laws banning homosexual sex as illegal sodomy were unconstitutional.^[52]

In the landmark case of *District of Columbia v. Heller*, Cruz drafted the amicus brief signed by the attorneys general of 31 states, which said that the Washington, D.C. handgun ban

should be struck down as infringing upon the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms.^{[50][53]} Cruz also presented oral argument for the amici states in the companion case to *Heller* before the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.^{[50][54]}

In addition to his success in *Heller*, Cruz successfully defended the constitutionality of the Ten Commandments monument on the Texas State Capitol grounds before the Fifth Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court, winning 5–4 in *Van Orden v. Perry*.^{[36][40][50]}

In 2004, Cruz was involved in the high-profile case surrounding a challenge to the constitutionality of requiring student recitation in public schools of the Pledge of Allegiance (including the words "under God", legally a part of the Pledge since 1954), *Elk Grove Unified School District v. Newdow*.^{[36][40]} He wrote a brief on behalf of all 50 states which argued that the plaintiff, a non-custodial parent, did not have standing to file suit on behalf of his daughter.^[55] The Supreme Court upheld the position of Cruz's brief.^[56]

Cruz served as lead counsel for the state and successfully defended the multiple litigation challenges to the 2003 Texas congressional redistricting plan in state and federal district courts and before the U.S. Supreme Court, which was decided 5–4 in his favor in *League of United Latin American Citizens v. Perry*.^{[40][57]}

Cruz also successfully defended, in *Medellin v. Texas*, the State of Texas against an attempt to re-open the cases of 51 Mexican nationals, all of whom were convicted of murder in the United States and were on death row.^{[36][40][42][50]} With the support of the George W. Bush Administration, the petitioners argued that the United States had violated the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations by failing to notify the convicted nationals of their opportunity to receive legal aid from the Mexican consulate.^{[45][58]} They based their case on a decision of the International Court of Justice in the Avena case which ruled that by failing to allow access to the Mexican consulate, the US had breached its obligations under the Convention.^[59] Texas won the case in a 6–3 decision, the Supreme Court holding that ICJ decisions were not binding in domestic law and that the President had no power to enforce them.^{[45][58]}

Michael Wayne Haley was arrested for stealing a calculator from Walmart in 1997.^[60] Because Haley had two prior convictions for theft, as well as prior felony convictions for delivery of a controlled substance and attempted robbery, he was sentenced as a habitual offender under Texas law to sixteen and a half years in prison. It later came to light that Haley's robbery offense occurred three days before his conviction on the controlled substance charge was finalized, so the habitual offender statute might not have applied. The habitual offender issue was discovered after Haley had exhausted his appeals. As Solicitor General, Cruz declined to vacate the sentence saying "I think justice is being done because he had a full and fair trial and an opportunity to raise his errors."^[61] The Supreme Court later remanded the case to lower courts based on Haley's ineffective assistance of counsel claim. During oral argument, Cruz conceded that Haley had a very strong argument for ineffective assistance of counsel since Haley's attorney failed to recognize the sentencing error and that he would not move to have Haley re-incarcerated during the appeal process.^[61] After remand, Haley was re-sentenced to "time served".^[62]

Cruz was named by *American Lawyer* magazine as one of the 50 Best Litigators under 45 in America in 2008,^{[49][63]} by *The National Law Journal* as one of the 50 Most Influential Minority Lawyers in America also in 2008,^{[64][65]} and in October 2010 by *Texas Lawyer* as one of the 25 Greatest Texas Lawyers of the Past Quarter Century.^{[66][67]}

Return to private practice

After leaving the Solicitor General position in 2008, Cruz worked in a private law firm in Houston, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, often representing corporate clients, until he was sworn in as U.S. senator from Texas in 2013.^{[10][40][68]} At Morgan Lewis, he led the firm's U.S. Supreme Court and national appellate litigation practice.^[68] In 2009 and 2010, he formed and then abandoned a bid for state attorney general when the incumbent Attorney General Greg Abbott, who hired Cruz as Solicitor General, decided to run for re-election.^[13]

While at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, Cruz represented Pfizer in a lawsuit brought by a group of public hospitals and community health centers who accused the drug manufacturer of overcharging.^[69] Shandong Linglong Rubber Company was found guilty of marketing versions of tires that were based on blueprints stolen by a former employee of a Florida businessman and ordered to pay \$26 million to the Floridian. Cruz worked on the Chinese company's appellant brief. The appeals court denied the appeal and affirmed the jury's award.^[70] Cruz represented drug manufacturer B. Braun Medical Inc. in front of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit after the company was found guilty of wrongfully discharging a former employee. Cruz asserted that she had failed to prove that B. Braun had directed her to violate the law and that she had not presented sufficient evidence that her refusal to violate the law was why she had been fired. The appeals court rejected Cruz's argument and affirmed the \$880,000 award.^[70] Cruz represented Toyota in an appeal to the Texas Supreme Court in a statute of limitation case, where a judge wanted to investigate Toyota for contempt after a former Toyota in-house lawyer accused Toyota of unlawfully withholding documents in a product liability case.^[71] Cruz unsuccessfully argued the judge's jurisdiction expired thirty days after the case was dismissed following an out-of-court settlement, but later won on a second appeal using the same argument.^[72]

Cruz defended two record-setting \$54-million personal injury awards in New Mexico at the appellate level, including one which had been thrown out by a lower court.^[73] Cruz represented a mentally disabled man who was allegedly raped by an employee of the facility where he lived. And in the other case Cruz represented the family of a 78-year-old resident of an Albuquerque nursing home who died of internal bleeding.^{[73][74]} The settlements were sealed in both cases.^{[73][74]}

U.S. Senate

2012 election

Main article: United States Senate election in Texas, 2012

Cruz's victory in the Republican primary was described by the *Washington Post* as "the biggest upset of 2012 ... a true grassroots victory against very long odds".^[75] On January 19, 2011, after U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison said she would not seek re-election, Cruz announced his candidacy via a blogger conference call.^[76] In the Republican senatorial primary, Cruz ran against sitting Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst. Cruz was endorsed first by former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin^[77] and then by the Club for Growth, a fiscally conservative political action committee;^[78] Erick Erickson, former editor of prominent conservative blog RedState;^[79] the FreedomWorks for America super PAC;^[80] nationally syndicated radio host Mark Levin;^[81] Tea Party Express;^[82] Young Conservatives of Texas;^[83] and U.S. Senators Tom Coburn,^[84] Jim DeMint,^[85] Mike Lee,^[86] Rand Paul^[87] and Pat Toomey.^[88] He was also endorsed by former Texas Congressman Ron Paul,^[89] George P. Bush,^[48] and former U.S. senator from Pennsylvania Rick Santorum.^[90] Former Attorney General Edwin Meese served as national chairman of Cruz's campaign.^[48]

Cruz won the runoff for the Republican nomination with a 14-point margin over Dewhurst.^[91] Cruz defeated Dewhurst despite being outspent by Dewhurst who held a statewide elected office.^[92] Dewhurst spent \$19 million and Cruz spent only \$7 million.^[92] Dewhurst raised over \$30 million and outspent Cruz at a ratio of nearly 3-to-1.^[93]

In the November 6 general election, Cruz faced Democratic candidate Paul Sadler, an attorney and a former state representative from Henderson, in east Texas. Cruz won with 4.5 million votes (56.4%) to Sadler's 3.2 million (40.6%). Two minor candidates garnered the remaining 3% of the vote.^[94] According to a poll by Cruz's pollster Wilson Perkins Allen Opinion Research, Cruz received 40% of the Hispanic vote, vs. 60% for Sadler, outperforming Republican Presidential candidate Mitt Romney with the Hispanic vote in Texas.^{[95][96]}

After *Time* magazine reported on a potential violation of ethics rules by failing to publicly disclose his financial relationship with Caribbean Equity Partners Investment Holdings during the 2012 campaign, Cruz called his failure to disclose these connections an inadvertent omission.^[97]

In January 2016, *The New York Times* reported that Cruz and his wife had taken out low-interest loans from Goldman Sachs (where she worked) and Citibank, and failed to report the nearly \$1 million in loans on Federal Election Commission disclosure statements as required by law.^[98] Cruz disclosed the loans on his Senate financial disclosure forms in July 2012, but not on the Federal Election Commission form.^[99] There is no indication that Cruz's wife had any role in providing any of the loans, or that the banks did anything wrong.^[99] The loans were largely repaid by later campaign fundraising. A spokesperson for Cruz said his failure to report the loans to the FEC was "inadvertent" and said he would be filing supplementary paperwork.^[98]

Legislation

Cruz has sponsored 25 bills of his own, including:^[100]

- S.177, a bill to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the health-care related provisions of the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, introduced January 29, 2013
- S.505, a bill to prohibit the use of drones to kill citizens of the United States within the United States, introduced March 7, 2013
- S.729 and S. 730, bills to investigate and prosecute felons and fugitives who illegally purchase firearms, and to prevent criminals from obtaining firearms through straw purchases and trafficking, introduced March 15, 2013
- S.1336, a bill to permit States to require proof of citizenship for registering to vote in federal elections, introduced July 17, 2013
- S.2170, a bill to increase coal, natural gas, and crude oil exports, to approve the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline, to expand oil drilling offshore, onshore, in the National Petroleum Reserve–Alaska, and in Indian reservations, to give states the sole power of regulating hydraulic fracturing, to repeal the Renewable Fuel Standard, to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from regulating greenhouse gases, to require the EPA to assess how new regulations will affect employment, and to earmark natural resource revenue to paying off the federal government's debt, introduced March 27, 2014
- S.2415, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to eliminate all limits on direct campaign contributions to candidates for public office, introduced June 3, 2014

Government shutdown of 2013

Cruz was involved with the October 2013 government shutdown.^{[101][102]} Cruz gave a 21-hour Senate speech in an effort to hold up a federal budget bill and therefore defund the Affordable Care Act.^{[101][103][104]} Cruz persuaded the House of Representatives and House Speaker John Boehner to include an ACA defunding provision in the bill.^[102] In the U.S. Senate, former Majority Leader Harry Reid Senate, blocked the filibuster attempt because only eighteen Republican Senators supported the filibuster.^[102] To supporters, the move "signaled the depth of Cruz's commitment to rein in government".^[101] This move was extremely popular among Cruz supporters, with Rick Manning of Americans for Limited Government naming Cruz "2013 Person of the Year" in an op-ed in *The Hill*, for primarily his filibuster against the Affordable Care Act.^[105] Cruz was also named "2013 Man of the Year" by conservative publications *TheBlaze*,^[106] *FrontPage Magazine*,^[107] and *The American Spectator*,^[108] "2013 Conservative of the Year" by Townhall.com,^[109] and "2013 Statesman of the Year" by the Republican Party of Sarasota County, Florida.^{[110][111]} He was a finalist for *Time* magazine's "Person of the Year" in 2013.^[112] To critics, including some Republican colleagues^[102] such as Senator Lindsey Graham, the move was ineffective.^[101]

In January 2018, Cruz denied any involvement in the 2013 government shutdown, even though he cast several votes to prolong the shutdown and "staged a 21-hour filibuster-like talkathon to dramatize his push".^[113]

S. 2195

Main article: Public Law 113-100

On April 1, 2014, Cruz introduced S. 2195, a bill that would allow the President of the United States to deny visas to any ambassador to the United Nations who has been found to have been engaged in espionage activities or a terrorist activity against the United States or its allies and may pose a threat to U.S. national security interests.^[114] The bill was written in response to Iran's choice of Hamid Aboutalebi as their ambassador.^[115] Aboutalebi was involved in the Iran hostage crisis, in which of a number of American diplomats from the US embassy in Tehran were held captive in 1979.^{[115][116][117]}

Under the headline "A bipartisan message to Iran", Cruz thanked President Barack Obama for signing S. 2195 into law. The letter, published in the magazine *Politico* on April 18, 2014, starts with "Thanks to President Obama for joining a unanimous Congress and signing S. 2195 into law". Cruz also thanked senators from both political parties for "swiftly passing this legislation and sending it to the White House".^{[118][119][120]}

Committee assignments

According to transcripts as reported by *Politico*, in his first two years in the Senate, Cruz attended 17 of 50 public Armed Services Committee hearings, 3 of 25 Commerce Committee hearings, 4 of the 12 Judiciary Committee hearings, and missed 21 of 135 roll call votes during the first three months of 2015.^[121]

- **Committee on Armed Services**
 - Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
 - Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
 - Subcommittee on Seapower
- **Committee on the Judiciary**
 - Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights
 - Subcommittee on Oversight, Federal Rights and Agency Activities (Chairman)
 - Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees and Border Security
- **Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation**
 - Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security
 - Subcommittee on Science and Space (Chairman)
- **Committee on Rules and Administration**
- **Special Committee on Aging**

Comments on President Obama

In a November 2014 Senate speech, Cruz accused the president of being "openly desirous to destroy the Constitution and this Republic".^[122] In the same speech, Cruz invoked the speeches of the ancient Roman senator Cicero against Catiline to denounce Obama's planned executive actions on immigration reform.^[122] Classics Professor Jesse Weiner, writing in *The Atlantic*, said that Cruz's analogy was "deeply disquieting" because "In casting Obama in the role of Catiline, Cruz subtly suggests that the sitting president was not lawfully elected and is the perpetrator of a violent insurrection to overthrow the government ... In effect, he accuses the president of high treason. Regardless of one's views on immigration reform and the Obama administration at large, this is dangerous rhetoric."^[122]

Cruz has repeatedly said that the 2015 international nuclear agreement with Iran "will make the Obama administration the world's leading financier of radical Islamic terrorism".^[123] In response, Obama called Cruz's statements an example of "outrageous attacks" from Republican critics that crossed the line of responsible discourse: "We've had a sitting

senator, who also happens to be running for President, suggest that I'm the leading state sponsor of terrorism. Maybe this is just an effort to push Mr. Trump out of the headlines, but it's not the kind of leadership that is needed for America right now."^[123] Former Republican Presidential Nominee Mitt Romney also criticized Cruz for his remarks, writing that although he, too, was opposed to the Iran agreement, Cruz's statement connecting Obama to terrorism was "way over the line" and "hurts the cause".^{[124][125]}

After the death of Associate Justice Antonin Scalia, Cruz expressed his view that the winner of the 2016 U.S. presidential election, rather than President Obama, should appoint a new Justice.^[126] In June 2016, Cruz blamed the Obama administration for the 2016 Orlando nightclub shooting, reasoning that it did not track the perpetrator Omar Mateen properly while he was on the terrorist watch list.^[127] Following the terrorist attack on Nice, France, Cruz said in a statement that the country was at risk as a result of the Obama administration having a "willful blindness" in regards to radical Islamists.^[128] With the passing of Fidel Castro in November, Cruz charged Obama with celebrating and lionizing Castro in public statements he made addressing the death.^[129] On December 28, after Secretary of State John Kerry gave a speech defending the U.S.'s decision to allow a U.N. resolution to pass, which condemned Israeli settlements "on land meant to be part of a future Palestinian state", Cruz denounced the speech as "disgraceful", and that history would preserve both Obama and Kerry as "relentless enemies of Israel". Cruz also accused the Obama administration of having a "radical anti-Israel agenda".^[130]

Comments on President Trump

In late January, after President Trump announced Neil Gorsuch as his Supreme Court nominee, Cruz praised Gorsuch as "brilliant and immensely talented" in a written statement shortly thereafter.^[131] On February 23, while speaking at the 2017 CPAC, Cruz showed interest in Trump nominating young justices in the mold of Scalia and Clarence Thomas.^[132] On March 1, Cruz dubbed Trump's joint address to Congress the previous day as "positive" and "unifying".^[133] Cruz said that during his visit to the Mar-a-Lago estate on March 18, he spoke with affiliates of President Trump while negotiating the American Health Care Act.^[134] On April 6, shortly after the Shayrat missile strike, Cruz released a statement displaying his interest in having President Trump appeal to Congress to take "military action in Syria" for the prevention of "radical Islamic terrorist" acquiring weapons stored in Syria.^[135]

Friction with Fellow Republican members of Congress

Cruz has used harsh rhetoric against fellow Republican politicians, and his relationships with various Republican members of Congress have been strained.^{[136][137]} In 2013, Cruz referred to Republicans who he thought were insufficiently resistant to the proposals of President Obama as a "surrender caucus".^[136] Cruz also called fellow Republicans out as "squishes" on gun-control issues during a Tea Party rally.^[136] Cruz's role in the United States federal government shutdown of 2013 in particular attracted criticism from a number of Republican colleagues.^[137] Republican Senator John McCain is reported to particularly dislike Cruz; in a Senate floor speech in 2013, McCain denounced Cruz's reference to Nazis when discussing the Affordable Care Act.^[137] In March 2013, McCain also called Cruz and others "wacko birds" whose beliefs are not "reflective of the views of the majority of Republicans".^[137] During the 2016 Republican presidential primaries, John Boehner described Cruz as "Lucifer in the flesh",^[138] while during an interview, Lindsey Graham was quoted as saying "If you killed Ted Cruz on the floor of the Senate, and the trial was in the Senate, nobody would convict you."^[139]

In a heated Senate floor speech in July 2015, Cruz accused Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of telling "a flat-out lie" over his intentions to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank of the United States, which Cruz opposes. "What we just saw today was an absolute demonstration that not only what he told every Republican senator, but what he told the press over and over and over again was a simple lie", Cruz said of Senate Republican Leader McConnell.^[140] Cruz's "incendiary outburst" was "unusual in the cordial atmosphere of

the Senate", according to *Reuters*.^{[140][141]} In the same speech, Cruz assailed the "Republican majority in both houses of Congresses" for what Cruz termed an insufficiently conservative record.^[141] Cruz's speech, and especially his accusation against McConnell, was condemned by various senior Republican senators, with John McCain saying that the speech was "outside the realm of Senate behavior" and "a very wrong thing to do".^[142] Orrin Hatch expressed a similar opinion: "I don't condone the use of that kind of language against another senator unless they can show definitive proof that there was a lie ... And I know the leader didn't lie."^[143] Cruz had alleged that McConnell scheduled a vote on the Ex-Im Bank as part of a deal to persuade Democrats like Maria Cantwell to stop blocking a trade bill, whereas McConnell denied there was any "deal", and that denial is what Cruz termed a "lie"; Hatch says McConnell did pledge to help Cantwell get a vote on the Ex-Im Bank.^[144]

Among Cruz's few close allies in the Senate is Mike Lee of Utah.^{[145][146]} Cruz has expressed pride in his reputation for having few allies, saying in June 2015 that he has been vilified for fighting "the Washington cartel".^[147]

When Boehner announced in September 2015 that he would step down and resign from the House, Cruz expressed his concern that before resigning Boehner may have "cut a deal with Nancy Pelosi to fund the Obama administration for the rest of its tenure".^[148] The following month, the budget agreement passed in the House by a vote of 266 to 187, with unanimous support from Democrats and from Boehner, lifting the debt ceiling through March 2017, and Cruz called the agreement "complete and utter surrender".^[149]

2018 election

Main article: United States Senate election in Texas, 2018

Ted Cruz is running for re-election to a second term.^[150] The primary for both parties was held on March 6, 2018, making it the first primary of the 2018 season.^[151] Cruz easily won the Republican nomination with over 80% of the vote against minor challengers, and will face Congressman from El Paso Beto O'Rourke.^[152]

Shortly after the primaries concluded, Cruz's campaign released an ad mocking O'Rourke's use of the nickname "Beto," since his real name is Robert. Cruz was rapidly criticized for hypocrisy, since his unused first name is Rafael.^[153]

2016 presidential campaign

Main article: Ted Cruz presidential campaign, 2016

Further information: United States presidential election, 2016 and Republican Party presidential primaries, 2016

As early as 2013, Cruz was widely expected to run for the presidency in 2016.^{[154][155][156]} On March 14, 2013, he gave the keynote speech at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Washington DC.^[157] He tied for 7th place in the 2013 CPAC straw poll on March 16, winning 4% of the votes cast.^[158] In October 2013, Cruz won the Values Voter Summit presidential straw poll with 42% of the vote.^[159] Cruz finished first in two presidential straw polls conducted in 2014 with 30.33% of the vote at the Republican Leadership Conference^[160] and 43% of the vote at the Republican Party of Texas state convention.^[161]

Cruz did speaking events in mid-2013 across Iowa, New Hampshire, and South Carolina, all early primary states, leading to speculation that he was laying the groundwork for a run for President in 2016.^[162] Legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin described Cruz as the first potential presidential candidate to emphasize originalism as a major national issue.^[45]

On April 12, 2014, Cruz spoke at the Freedom Summit, an event organized by Americans for Prosperity and Citizens United.^[163] The event was attended by several potential presidential candidates.^[164] In his speech, Cruz mentioned that Latinos, young people and single mothers are the people most affected by the recession, and that the Republican Party should make

outreach efforts to these constituents. He also said that the words "growth and opportunity" should be tattooed on the hands of every Republican politician.^[163]

Cruz delivered one of many State of the Union responses in January 2015.^[165] For his performance, Cruz was awarded the Implodie for Outstanding Achievement in Unforced Response Speech Errors by Jon Stewart ^[166].

On March 23, 2015, Cruz announced his 2016 presidential candidacy for the GOP primaries and caucuses, in a morning speech delivered at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia.^[167] Also, at the same hour, he posted on his Twitter page: "I'm running for President and I hope to earn your support!"^[168] He was the first announced major Republican presidential candidate for the 2016 campaign.^{[169][170]} During the primary campaign, his base of support was mainly among social conservatives, though he had crossover appeal to other factions within his party, including in particular libertarian conservatives.^{[171][172]}

HarperCollins published Cruz's book *A Time for Truth: Reigniting the Promise of America* on June 30, 2015.^[173] The book reached the bestseller list of several organizations in its first week of release.^{[174][175]}

Primary wins

In the 2016 Republican presidential primaries, Cruz received over 7.8 million votes,^{[176][177]} won 12 states, and earned 559 delegates.^[178] He raised nearly \$92 million, a record for a GOP primary candidate, much of it from small online donors and had 325,000 volunteers.^[179]

On February 1, 2016, Cruz won the Iowa caucuses.^[180] The Iowa win made him the first Hispanic to win either a presidential primary election or caucus.^{[180][181][182]} Cruz received 28% of the vote.^[182] On February 10, 2016, Cruz placed third in the New Hampshire primary, with about 12% of the vote.^[183] On February 21, 2016, he placed third in the South Carolina Republican primary with about 22.3% of the vote.^[184]

On March 1, 2016, Super Tuesday primary day, Cruz won Texas by 17%, along with Alaska and Oklahoma, providing him with four state primary victories total.^[185] In the Texas primary, Cruz received the most votes in all but six of the state's 254 counties.^[186] On March 5, 2016, Cruz won the Kansas and Maine caucuses, giving him six statewide wins.^{[187][188][189]}

Cruz won his widest margin up to that point in Kansas, where he beat frontrunner Donald Trump by 25 points.^[190] With his victories over Trump in Texas, Kansas, and Maine, Cruz established himself as the candidate with the best opportunity to defeat Trump, the leading contender for the nomination.^{[191][192]}

On March 8, 2016, Cruz won the Idaho primary with 45% of vote—defeating Trump by 17% and earning his seventh statewide victory.^[193] He placed second in Michigan, Mississippi, and Hawaii.^[193] On March 12, 2016, Cruz won the Wyoming county conventions with 67% of the vote and 9 delegates, giving him his eighth statewide win.^[194]

On March 22, 2016, Cruz won the Utah Caucus with 69.2% of the vote, versus John Kasich with 16.8% and Donald Trump with 14%.^[195] Because Cruz surpassed the 50% winner-take-all threshold, he won all 40 of Utah's delegates. This win was his ninth. On April 3, 2016, North Dakota elected a slate of delegates that was dominated by pro-Cruz delegates. Cruz received the support of the majority of the delegates.^[196]

On April 6, 2016, Cruz won the Wisconsin primary with 48.2% of the vote, with Trump receiving 35.1%. It was Cruz's tenth statewide win. Cruz won 36 of the possible 42 delegates available in Wisconsin. Trump received the other 6 delegates. On April 2 and 7–9, 2016, Cruz swept the Colorado congressional district and state conventions taking all 34 delegates.^{[197][198][199][200]} This gave Cruz his eleventh state win. On April 16, 2016, Cruz won all 14 of Wyoming's at-large delegates in the state convention. This secured the majority of state delegates giving Cruz his twelfth state win.^[201]

Citizenship

Main article: Ted Cruz presidential campaign, 2016 § Eligibility

Further information: Natural-born-citizen clause

Cruz has stated that when he was a child, his mother told him that she would have to make an affirmative act to claim Canadian citizenship for him, so his family assumed that he did not hold Canadian citizenship.^[202] In August 2013, after the *Dallas Morning News* pointed out that Cruz had dual Canadian-American citizenship,^{[203][204]} he applied to formally renounce his Canadian citizenship and ceased being a citizen of Canada on May 14, 2014.^{[202][205]}

Several lawsuits and ballot challenges asserting that Cruz is ineligible have been filed.^{[206][207][208][209][210][211][212]} No lawsuit or challenge has been successful, and in February 2016, the Illinois Board of Elections ruled in Cruz's favor, stating, "The candidate is a natural born citizen by virtue of being born in Canada to his mother who was a U.S. citizen at the time of his birth."^[213]

Running mate

On April 27, 2016, Cruz announced that, if he were selected as the party's nominee, he would choose former CEO of HP and fellow 2016 Republican presidential candidate Carly Fiorina as his vice-presidential running mate.^[214]

Suspension

Shortly after losing overwhelmingly to Trump in the Indiana primary on May 3, 2016, Cruz officially announced his decision to suspend his campaign.^[215]

After candidacy

Shortly after the campaign's end, Cruz indicated that he would be interested in restarting the bid if he were successful in the Nebraska primary,^[216] which Trump instead won.^[217]

In the months following, several publications noted that Cruz still had not endorsed Trump,^{[218][219]} Cruz explaining in June that he was "watching and assessing" to determine if he would support him in the forthcoming general election.^[220] On July 7, after a meeting with Trump, Cruz confirmed that he would be speaking at the 2016 Republican National Convention.^[221] In his speech on July 20, the third day of the convention, Cruz congratulated Trump but did not endorse him and told listeners to "vote your conscience, vote for candidates up and down the ticket who you trust to defend our freedom and to be faithful to the Constitution". The speech was met with boos and a negative reception among the crowd.^[222] The following day at the Texas Republican delegation breakfast, Cruz defended his choice to not endorse Trump: "I am not in the habit of supporting people who attack my wife and attack my father. That pledge was not a blanket commitment that if you go and slander and attack Heidi, that I'm going to nonetheless come like a servile puppy dog and say, 'Thank you very much for maligning my wife and maligning my father.'"^{[223][224]} Two months later, on September 23, 2016, Cruz publicly endorsed Trump for president.^[225]

On October 10, following the 2005 audio recording of Trump being released and several Republicans retracting their endorsements, Cruz reaffirmed his support, citing Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton as being "manifestly unfit to be President".^[226] On November 15, Cruz met with President-elect Trump at the Trump Tower in New York City. It had been reported that Trump was considering Cruz for the position of U.S. Attorney General, but the position ultimately went to Alabama Senator Jeff Sessions.^[227] On November 28, in light of Trump showing a softer tone on his campaign promises, Cruz warned that justified backlash could ensue if he strayed from them.^[228]

Cruz has been backed by the billionaire Mercer family, including Robert and his daughter Rebekah.^[229]

Political positions

Main article: Political positions of Ted Cruz

Disaster aid

Cruz led efforts to reject disaster relief for the victims of Hurricane Sandy in 2012.^{[230][231]} Later, in August 2017, Cruz called for disaster relief for the victims of Hurricane Harvey, which devastated parts of Texas.^[232] Numerous commentators and both Democratic and Republican politicians criticized Cruz for this, calling him a hypocrite.^{[233][232]} In response, Cruz said that he did not vote for Sandy disaster relief because the bill was "filled with unrelated pork" and that "two-thirds of that bill had nothing to do with Sandy".^[230] Fact-checkers at *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times* found that this was false, with the *Washington Post* Fact-checker saying "Cruz is repeating a number of myths about the funding for Sandy disaster relief... The bill was largely aimed at dealing with Sandy, along with relatively minor items to address other or future disasters."^{[230][234]}

Social issues

On abortion, Cruz is "strongly pro-life" and "would allow the procedure only when a pregnancy endangers the mother's life".^{[235][236]} He is in favor of cutting federal funding to Planned Parenthood.^[237]

Cruz opposes both same-sex marriage and civil unions.^[238] He believes that marriage should be legally defined as only "between one man and one woman",^[239] but believes that the legality of same-sex marriage should be left to each state to decide.^[240] Cruz referred to the Supreme Court's decision legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide as "among the darkest hours of our nation" and accused the court of judicial activism.^[241]

In 2015, Cruz voted in favor of the USA Freedom Act, which reauthorized the USA Patriot Act but reformed some of its provisions.^{[242][243]}

Cruz is a proponent of school choice^[244] and opposes the Common Core State Standards Initiative.^[245] Cruz is a strong critic of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (the ACA or "Obamacare"). He has sponsored legislation that would repeal the health care reform law and its amendments in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010. Cruz is part of the group of 13 Senators drafting the Senate version of the AHCA behind closed doors.^{[246][247][248][249]}

Cruz is a gun-rights supporter.^[250] Cruz adopted a "hard-line stance" on immigration issues during the 2014 border crisis^[251] and is an opponent of comprehensive immigration reform.^{[45][251]} Cruz advocates for an increase from 65,000 to 325,000 annually in skilled foreign workers entering the United States using H-1B visas.^[252]

Cruz opposes the legalization of marijuana, but believes it should be decided at the state level.^[253] Following the legalization of marijuana in Colorado he stated that, "If the citizens of Colorado decide they want to go down that road, that's their prerogative. I personally don't agree with it, but that's their right."^[254]

Cruz opposes net neutrality - which prevents Internet service providers from deliberately blocking or slowing particular websites - arguing that the Internet economy has flourished in the United States simply because it has remained largely free from government regulation.^[255] Cruz has argued that net neutrality is the "Obamacare for the internet".^{[256][257]} Cruz said that the Obama-era implementation of the principle of net neutrality had the "end result" of "less broadband, less innovation, and less freedom for the American consumer".^[257] In December 2017, after the Republican-controlled Federal Communications Commission repealed net neutrality, Cruz mocked supporters of net neutrality as "snowflakes" who were misled by "online propaganda".^[258]

Crime

Cruz has called for an end to "overcriminalization, harsh mandatory minimum sentences, and the demise of jury trials".^[259] He supports the death penalty. In his 2012 Senate campaign, Cruz frequently mentioned his role as counsel for the State of Texas in *Medellín v. Texas*, a 2008 case in which the U.S. Supreme Court found that Texas has the legal right to ignore an order from the International Court of Justice directing the U.S. to review the convictions and sentences of dozens of Mexican nationals on death row.^[260] Cruz has referred to *Medellín* as the most important case of his tenure as Texas solicitor general.^[260]

In an interview with radio host Hugh Hewitt discussing the attack that killed three people at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs, Cruz said that "the simple and undeniable fact is the overwhelming majority of violent criminals are Democrats", and that the reason Democrats are soft on crime, is that convicted felons tend to vote Democratic.^[261]

In August 2015, in the wake of the ambush death of a Texas police officer who was gunned down while filling up at a gas station, Cruz said that police are "feeling the assault from the President, from the top on down, as we see – whether it's in Ferguson or Baltimore, the response from senior officials, the President or the Attorney General, is to vilify law enforcement. That's wrong. It's fundamentally wrong. It's endangering all of our safety and security."^[262]

Economy

Cruz has been described by the Cato Institute's Center for Trade Policy Studies as a "free trader"^[263] and as a "free-trade advocate" by *The Wall Street Journal*.^[264] In 2013, Cruz proposed the abolition of the IRS and the implementation of a flat tax "where the average American can fill out taxes on a postcard".^[265] Cruz is "adamantly opposed to a higher minimum wage".^[266]

Cruz wants to decrease the size of the government significantly. In addition to eliminating the IRS as described above, he has promised to eliminate four other cabinet-level agencies. Cruz proposes to eliminate the Department of Energy, the Department of Education, Department of Commerce, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.^[267]

Cruz is a supporter of TransCanada's Keystone XL Pipeline,^[268] and along with every other Republican senator was a cosponsor of legislation in support of the pipeline.^[269]

Cruz supports Audit the Fed legislation, describing it as a Republican top priority in 2015.^{[270][271]} Federal Reserve chairwoman Janet Yellen strongly disapproved of the legislation, saying that it would undermine the Federal Reserve's policy-making by exposing it to political interference.^[270]

Environment

Cruz rejects the scientific consensus on climate change.^{[272][273]} He has said that "the scientific evidence doesn't support global warming".^[274] He has also stated: "They call anyone who questions the science who even points to the satellite data – they call you a, quote, 'denier'.

According to McClatchy, Cruz staked out "hard-right immigration stances" during his 2016 campaign for the Republican nomination for President.^[293]

Cruz opposes providing a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children (so-called DREAMers).^[294] In February 2018, he was the sole Senator to oppose a Republican motion to begin debate on legislation intended to resolve the question of what to do with DREAMers.^[295]

Cruz has called for the repeal of the clause of the 14th amendment, which grants citizenship to those born in the United States.^[296]

Cruz married Heidi Nelson on May 27, 2001.^[297] The couple has two daughters, Caroline and Catherine.^[298] Cruz met his wife while working on George W. Bush's 2000 presidential campaign. She took leave from her position as head of the Southwest Region in the Investment Management Division of Goldman, Sachs & Co. in 2016. She previously worked in the White House for Condoleezza Rice and in New York as an investment banker.^[299]

Personal life

Denier is not the language of science. Denier is the language of religion. It is heretic. You are a blasphemer. It's treated as a theology. But it's about power and money. At the end of the day, it's not complicated. This is liberal politicians who want government power."^[274] In March 2015, he said that some people are "global warming alarmists" and, citing satellite temperature measurements, said that there had been no significant warming in 18 years.^{[273][274][275]}

Cruz voted against the Water Resources Development Act of 2013 that would have created the National Endowment for the Oceans and authorized more than \$26 billion in projects to be built by the Army Corps of Engineers, at least \$16 billion of which would have come from federal taxpayers.^{[276][277]} Cruz voted against the bill because it neglected "to reduce a substantial backlog of projects, to the detriment of projects with national implications, such as the Sabine–Neches Waterway".^[278] Cruz stated that the Corps' responsibilities were expanded without providing adequate measures for state participation.^[278] Proponents of the bill argued that it would provide steady funding to support research and restoration projects, funded primarily by dedicating 12.5% of revenues from offshore energy development, including oil, gas, and renewable energy, through offshore lease sales and production based royalty payments, distributed through a competitive grant program.^[279]

In 2017, Cruz was one of 22 senators to sign a letter^[280] to President Donald Trump urging the President to have the United States withdraw from the Paris Agreement. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Cruz has received more than \$2.5 million in campaign contributions from oil, gas and coal interests since 2012.^[281] Cruz has a lifetime score of 3% on the National Environmental Scorecard of the League of Conservation Voters.^[282]

Cruz has joked, "I'm Cuban, Irish, and Italian, and yet somehow I ended up Southern Baptist."^[300]



Tammy Duckworth
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Elected 2016

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Caucus Memberships:

Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues (Senate)

Senator Duckworth lives in Hoffman Estates with her husband Bryan, an Army Cyber Warrant Officer, and their daughter Abigail.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT Committee on Energy and Natural

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources oversees the nation's energy policy, conservation, our strategic petroleum reserve, water resources and public lands.

Committee Website

U.S. Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works

U.S. Committee on Commerce, Science , & Transportation

U.S. Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship

U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth is an Iraq War Veteran, Purple Heart recipient and former Assistant Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. She was among the first Army women to fly combat missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Duckworth served in the Reserve Forces for 23 years before retiring from military service in 2014 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. She was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2016 after representing Illinois's Eighth Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives for two terms.

Duckworth attended college at the University of Hawaii and earned a Master of Arts in International Affairs from the George Washington University. Following graduation, Duckworth, who is fluent in Thai and Indonesian, moved to Illinois and began pursuing a Ph.D. in Political Science at Northern Illinois University. She also worked at NIU's School of Nursing researching public health and environmental causes of cancer. Later, Duckworth worked for Rotary International as a manager for administration of Rotary clubs in the Asia Pacific Region.

In 2004, Duckworth was deployed to Iraq as a Black Hawk helicopter pilot for the Illinois Army National Guard. On November 12, 2004, her helicopter was hit by an RPG and Duckworth lost her legs and partial use of her right arm.

Senator Duckworth spent the next year recovering at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where she quickly became an advocate for her fellow Soldiers and testified before Congress about caring for our Veterans and wounded warriors. Following her recovery, she became Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, working to create a

tax credit for employers who hired Veterans, establish a first-in-the-nation 24/7 Veterans crisis hotline and develop innovative programs to improve Veterans' access to housing and health care.

In 2009, President Obama appointed Duckworth to be Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs. At VA, Duckworth coordinated the joint initiative with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to end Veteran homelessness. She also created the Office of Online Communications to improve the VA's accessibility, especially among young Veterans, and also worked to address the unique challenges that Native American and female Veterans face.

Since her recovery, Duckworth has resumed flying as a civilian pilot and fulfilled a promise she made at Walter Reed by completing several marathons. In her spare time, she volunteers at local food pantries and enjoys couponing and flea markets. In 2015, Duckworth completed her Ph.D in Human Services at Capella University.

In the U.S. House, Duckworth was an advocate for working families and job creation, introducing bills like her bipartisan Friendly Airports for Mothers Act to ensure new mothers have access to safe, clean and accessible lactation rooms when traveling through airports, which passed the Senate. She introduced the In the Red Act to help put our nation on the path toward debt-free college, the Get the Lead Out Act to keep America's drinking water safe and bipartisan legislation to help close the skills gap while helping people find good-paying jobs. Duckworth also co-sponsored the No Budget, No Pay Act, which would ensure members of Congress only get paid if they pass a budget.

She also served on the House Armed Services Committee and the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, where she was Ranking Member of the Transportation and Public Assets subcommittee. She introduced and helped pass several important policies through her work on these committees, including the Clay Hunt SAV Act to help reduce Veterans suicide and improve VA mental health services and the Troop Talent Act which helps returning Veterans find jobs in the private sector. She also effectively cut waste and fraud at the Pentagon and throughout government, including passing a common-sense provision to reduce redundancy in Armed Forces uniforms that the nonpartisan U.S. Government Accountability Office found will save taxpayers more than \$4 billion over 5 years.

In the U.S. Senate, Duckworth serves on several influential committees that give her an important platform to advocate for Illinois's working families and entrepreneurs: the Environment & Public Works Committee; the Energy & Natural Resources Committee; the Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee; and the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Committee. As Senator, she advocates for practical, common-sense solutions needed to move our country and our state forward like: rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure, keeping our water systems safe and lead-free, growing manufacturing jobs while supporting minority-owned small businesses, investing in communities that have been ignored for too long, and making college more affordable for all Americans. And Duckworth continues with her lifelong mission of supporting, protecting and keeping the promises we've made to our Veterans as well as ensuring that we stand fully behind the troops we send into danger overseas.



Deb Fischer

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Rules and Administration

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- A lifelong Nebraskan, Deb Fischer is the senior senator from Nebraska, and was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2012. Fischer is committed to working with Republicans and Democrats alike to advance sensible policies that will promote strong Nebraska families and communities.
- Senator Fischer believes the first duty of Congress is to defend the nation. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, she is committed to neutralizing growing threats to our homeland and our allies. In her capacity as chairman of the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, she is focused on working with our military to monitor the threats facing our nation and provide the appropriate tools for them to meet these challenges. This subcommittee's jurisdiction includes cybersecurity policy.
- Fischer also serves on the Senate's Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee as chairman of the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security. This chairmanship enables her to continue leading on transportation issues, which have been one of her top priorities dating back to her chairmanship of the Nebraska Legislature's Transportation and Telecommunication Committee.
- In addition to the Armed Services and Commerce Committees, Senator Fischer sits on the Committee on Environment and Public Works and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Fischer continues to advocate for policies that will promote innovation, more regulatory certainty for innovators, and modern rules for new technology.

- Fischer has led the charge against regulatory overreach by the federal government, focusing on misguided rules issued by federal agencies that hurt middle-class families.
- Senator Fischer is a member of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's leadership team, serving as counsel to the Majority Leader as well as a member of Senator John Cornyn's Whip Team. Both positions give her a unique opportunity to present the concerns of all Nebraskans directly to the Republican Senate leadership.
- Before her election to the U.S. Senate, Fischer served in the Nebraska Unicameral, representing the 43rd Legislative District since 2004. During her time in the state legislature, she was also a member of the Revenue Committee, Natural Resources Committee, and the Executive Board.
- Born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska, Senator Fischer attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and graduated with a degree in education. She and her husband, Bruce, have been married for over 40 years and own a ranching business near Valentine. They have three sons and three grandchildren.



Cory Gardner

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Congressional Ports-to-Plains Caucus
Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus
NextGen 9-1-1 Caucus
Problem Solvers Caucus (No Labels)
Senate Competitiveness Caucus
Senate Smart Transportation Caucus

Biography

Senator Cory Gardner is a fifth-generation Coloradan who was born and raised in Yuma, a small town on the Eastern Plains of Colorado where his family has owned a farm implement dealership for over a century. He lives in the same house his great-grandparents lived in.

Cory graduated summa cum laude from Colorado State University and received his law degree from the University of Colorado Boulder. In college, Gardner switched from the Democratic party to the Republican Party.

After working at his family implement business and the National Corn Growers Association, Cory took a position as a Legislative Assistant for Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) and quickly advanced to his Legislative Director.

He began serving in the Colorado House of Representatives in 2005 where he spent time as the Minority Whip and became known for his expertise in natural resource and agriculture policy. Cory was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2010. As a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Cory championed a true all-of-the-above energy strategy that promoted traditional resources as well as renewable energy. In addition, Cory is a national leader on energy efficiency initiatives and founded a bipartisan energy efficiency caucus in the House.

In the Senate, Cory continues to pursue common sense energy policy as a member of the Senate Energy & Natural Resource Committee and Chairman of the Energy Subcommittee. In addition, Cory serves on the Foreign Relations Committee, the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, and the Budget Committee. He also serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy.

As Chairman of the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy, Cory led the effort to impose broad new sanctions against North Korea, as the regime continues to be a leading abuser of human rights and its reckless advancement of nuclear weapons threatens our national security.

Gardner proposed legislation in 2006 that would set aside money in a rainy-day fund that would help protect the state from future economic downturns. His proposal relied on Referendum C money for future budget emergencies.^[10] He staunchly opposed any tax increases. He helped create the Colorado Clean Energy Development Authority, which issued bonds to finance projects that involve the production, transportation and storage of clean energy until it was repealed in 2012. In June 2006, he called on Republican Governor Bill Owens to call a special session addressing the issue of illegal immigration.

In 2006, Gardner opposed legislation to allow pharmacists to prescribe emergency contraception,^[14] and offered an amendment to the budget to prohibit the state Medicaid plan from purchasing Plan B emergency contraception.^[15]

In 2007, Gardner voted against a bill requiring hospitals to inform survivors of a sexual assault of the availability of emergency contraception.^{[16][17]}

The Denver Post hailed Gardner as “the GOP Idea Man”. He was named one of the Top 40 young Republican lawmakers by the magazine *Rising Tide*. He became House Minority Whip in January 2007.

Gardner ran unopposed in the Republican primary before going on to defeat Democratic nominee Brandon Shaffer 59%–37% in the general election.^[24] He was helped by the 2010 redistricting, which cut Fort Collins and Larimer County out of the district. Fort Collins had long been the 4th's largest city. For years, Larimer and the district's second-largest county, Weld County, home to Greeley, accounted for 85 percent of the district's population even though they only took up 15 percent of its land.

Energy and environmental issues

Shortly after taking office, Gardner introduced legislation that would speed up clean-air permits for companies engaged in offshore drilling in Alaska, which he says would create jobs and reduce dependence on foreign oil.^[25] The House passed Gardner's bill by a vote of 253 to 166 on June 22, 2011.

On June 6, 2013, Gardner introduced the Reducing Excessive Deadline Obligations Act of 2013 (H.R. 2279; 113th Congress), a bill that would amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 and the Solid Waste Disposal Act.^[27] The bill would change the frequency of reports from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) about solid waste regulations.^[28] Rather than automatically reviewing the regulations every three years, the EPA would be able to review them on an as needed basis.^[29] It would also grant precedence to state requirements for solid waste disposal when creating new federal requirements.^[28]

On March 6, 2014, Gardner introduced the Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act (H.R. 6; 113th Congress), a bill that would direct the United States Department of Energy (DOE) to issue a decision on an application for authorization to export natural gas within 90 days after the later of: (1) the end of the comment period for that decision as set forth in the Federal Register, or (2) the date of enactment of this Act.

Economic issues

In March 2011, Gardner introduced bipartisan legislation that would require congressional committees to hold hearings on programs that are deemed duplicative by a U.S. Government Accountability Office report. Gardner has said he believes such a measure would reduce waste in government.

Gardner voted for the Ryan budget plan.

On July 10, 2014, Gardner introduced legislation to reform the Earned Income Tax Credit program. The legislation seeks to reduce fraud in the program and dedicate the savings to increasing the credit for working families.^[35]

In August 2014, Gardner broke ranks with the Republican Party and voted against a bill that would have dismantled the Deferred Action for the Childhood Arrivals. Gardner has stated that he supports immigration reform in the form of a guest worker program and increased border security.

Health care

In 2011, he voted in support of the "Respect for Rights of Conscience Act", which states that "nothing in the Affordable Care Act shall be construed to authorize a health plan to require a provider to provide, participate in, or refer for a specific item or service contrary to the provider's religious beliefs or moral convictions."

At the end of 2013, Gardner announced that he would introduce a bill to prohibit executives of state healthcare exchanges from getting bonuses.

Social issues

In 2012, Gardner was one of 33 Republicans to vote for the Senate version of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA), which re-authorized the bill and expanded protections for Native Americans, immigrants, and gays.

In 2012-13, Gardner co-sponsored personhood legislation titled the "Life Begins at Conception Act". Gardner later said that he changed his mind on personhood, after listening to voters. According to *The Denver Post*, "Gardner conceded that with his new position on personhood, he might be accused of flip-flopping simply to make himself more palatable to statewide voters." The nonpartisan Factcheck.org said "It would be clearer to say that Gardner

supports efforts to ban abortion that could also ban some forms of birth control. As for his change of position, voters in Colorado should know Gardner still supports a federal bill that would prompt the same concerns over birth control as the state measure he says he rejects on the same grounds.”

In June 2014, Gardner called for over the counter access to oral contraceptives and said the birth control pill would be safer and cheaper if it was available over the counter.

Cory is focused on expanding the economy, creating jobs, and making life better for all Coloradans.

He lives in Yuma with his wife Jaime and their three children: Alyson, Thatcher, and Caitlyn.



Maggie Hassan

(58) D-New Hampshire

Elected 2016

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Committees:

Commerce Science, and Transportation Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Joint Economic Committee

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Committees and Subcommittees

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security

Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet

Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance and Data Security

Subcommittee on Space, Science, and Competitiveness

Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Subcommittee on Children and Families

Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management

Caucus Memberships:

Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues (Senate)

Caucus Memberships:

Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues (Senate)

Elected to the United States Senate in 2016, Maggie Hassan is focused on listening to the people of New Hampshire and working with members of both parties to solve problems and help expand middle class opportunity, support innovative small businesses, and keep New Hampshire and America safe, secure, and strong. She is the second woman in American history to be elected as both Governor and United States Senator, along with fellow New Hampshire Senator Jeanne Shaheen.

In the United States Senate, her priorities include supporting states' efforts to combat the heroin, fentanyl and opioid crisis; expanding access to job training and making college more affordable for our students and families; and helping innovative businesses grow and create good jobs. She is also focused on protecting and strengthening Social Security and Medicare; ensuring that veterans get the services they need and deserve; combating climate change and preserving our natural resources; and protecting a woman's right to make her own health care decisions. Senator Hassan's committee assignments allow her to focus on these as well as other critical priorities facing New Hampshire's families, small businesses, and economy. She is a member of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP); the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and the Joint

Economic Committee. Senator Hassan was drawn to public service as an advocate fighting to ensure that children like her son Ben, who experiences severe disabilities, would be fully included in their communities and have the same opportunities that all parents want for their children. In 1999, Governor Jeanne Shaheen asked her to serve on the Advisory Committee to the Adequacy in Education and Finance Commission. Her experience as a business attorney, along with her role as the parent of a child who experiences disabilities, enabled her to provide a unique perspective as the commission did its work. Senator Hassan was first elected to the New Hampshire Senate in 2004, serving the people of the 23rd District, which included numerous Seacoast towns. During her six years in office, she was selected by her colleagues to serve as both President Pro Tempore and Majority Leader of the State Senate. In 2013, she was sworn in as the 81st Governor of New Hampshire. Throughout her two terms as Governor, she responsibly balanced the state budget; created a business-friendly environment that saw New Hampshire's unemployment rate drop to among the lowest in the nation; worked to implement a comprehensive, hands-on approach to the heroin, fentanyl and opioid crisis; and froze in-state tuition at state universities for the first time in 25 years while lowering tuition at community colleges.

Maggie Hassan earned her B.A. from Brown University and her J.D. from the Northeastern School of Law. She and her husband, Tom, who serves as the President of School Year Abroad, are the proud parents of two children, Ben (28) and Meg (24).

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is the principal oversight committee of the United States Senate, overseeing homeland security policies and reviewing government efficiency and effectiveness more broadly. As Governor, Senator Hassan worked with state homeland security and emergency management officials, local police departments, fire fighters and public safety officials, and federal partners to keep Granite Staters safe. In addition to overseeing the Department of Homeland Security and other critical homeland security priorities to keep America safe and secure – including cybersecurity efforts – Senator Hassan’s appointment to the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee will also allow her to continue efforts to improve government efficiency and protect taxpayer dollars.

Committee Website

U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee U.S. Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee Joint Economic Committee

Wikipedia

Margaret Hassan (/ˈhæsən/; née **Wood**; born February 27, 1958) is an American attorney and politician who is the junior United States Senator from New Hampshire. A Democrat, Hassan was elected to the Senate in the 2016 election and served as the 81st Governor of New Hampshire from 2013 to 2017.^[1]

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Hassan is a graduate of Brown University and earned a J.D. from the Northeastern University School of Law. After graduating from law school in 1985, Hassan was an attorney and healthcare executive in Boston.

Hassan first ran for the New Hampshire Senate in 2002 after Democratic Party leaders recruited her to run, as they have also done for United States Senate.^{[2][3]} She lost to incumbent Senator Russell Prescott, but ran against Prescott again in 2004 and won.^{[4][5]} Hassan was elected to a total of three two-year terms, representing New Hampshire's 23rd district, from January 2005 to December 2010. Hassan became the Democrat Majority Leader in the State Senate in 2008 before losing re-election in 2010.^[6]

Hassan declared her candidacy for governor in October 2011. Hassan defeated former State Senator Jacalyn Cilley in the Democratic primary, and faced attorney and Republican nominee Ovide M. Lamontagne in the general election. Hassan won with 55% of the vote, becoming the second woman to be elected to the office, after fellow Democrat, and fellow U.S. Senator Jeanne Shaheen. Hassan won re-election as governor on November 4, 2014. Since becoming Governor of New Hampshire, Hassan was elected Vice Chair of the Democratic Governors Association and served as a superdelegate at the Democratic National Convention.^[3]

In 2016, she ran for the U.S. Senate and narrowly defeated Kelly Ayotte, the Republican incumbent in New Hampshire, by approximately one thousand votes (about 0.1% of the vote).^{[7][8]} She is serving with Jeanne Shaheen; both politicians have served as New Hampshire governor.

Early life and education

Hassan was born **Margaret Wood** in Boston, Massachusetts,^[9] the daughter of Margaret (Byers) and Robert Coldwell Wood, a political scientist who served as United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in the Lyndon Johnson administration. She has two siblings, including Tony award-winning actor Frank Wood.^{[10][11][12]}

Wood grew up in Lincoln, Massachusetts.^[12] As a child she sang in school choirs and at church.^[12] Her parents were politically active, and young Maggie collated mailers for the League of Women Voters.^[12] Wood attended Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School, Sudbury, Massachusetts, and graduated with the Class of 1976. Wood earned her B.A. degree from Brown University in 1980. While at Brown, Wood met her future husband, Thomas Hassan, who was

also a student at the university.^[2] She received a J.D. degree from the Northeastern University School of Law in 1985.^{[13][14]}

Early career

From 1985 to 1999, Hassan worked as an attorney.^[13] From 1985 to 1992,^[citation needed] Hassan worked at the Boston, law firm, Palmer and Dodge.^[15] From 1993 to 1996, Hassan was Associate General Counsel for Brigham and Women's Hospital/Partners Healthcare of Boston.^[16]

In 1996, Hassan began working as an attorney for Sullivan, Weinstein and McQuay, a Boston corporate defense and business law firm.^[17] In 1999, Hassan was appointed by then-Governor Jeanne Shaheen as a citizen advisor to the Advisory Committee to the Adequacy in Education and Finance Commission.^[13]

New Hampshire Senate

Elections

Hassan first ran for the New Hampshire Senate in 2002 after Democratic Party leaders suggested she run.^[2] She lost to incumbent Senator Russell Prescott 54% to 46%.^[4] In 2004, she ran against Prescott again and won 52% to 48%.^[18] In 2006, she won re-election against Natalie Healy 60% to 40%.^[5] In 2008, she defeated Lee Quandt 57% to 43%.^[19] She served as the assistant Democratic whip, president pro tempore, and majority leader of the State Senate during her six years in office. She represented New Hampshire's 23rd district, which includes the towns of East Kingston, Exeter, Kensington, Kingston, Newfields, Newmarket, Newton, Seabrook, South Hampton and Stratham.

In November 2010, Hassan was defeated by Prescott in a second rematch, 53% to 47%,^[20] as Republicans regained control of both the state House and state Senate.^[21]

Tenure

Hassan served on the Capital Budget Committee and the Budget Conference Committee.^[22] Hassan helped pass the FY2008-FY2009 budget.^[23]

In 2008, Senate President Sylvia Larsen chose Hassan to serve as Senate Majority Leader, the number two position in the New Hampshire Senate. Larsen chose Hassan for the position because she wanted someone who would fight to get the democratic caucus to support the same agenda, at times creating friction between Hassan and her Republican colleagues.^[24]

During her tenure as majority leader, Hassan had a major role in legalizing same-sex marriage in New Hampshire.^[25] Hassan presented three versions of a same-sex marriage bill, one of which narrowly gained enough support to pass both chambers.^[24]

Hassan helped pass the FY2010-FY2011 budget.^[26] This budget increased spending by over a billion dollars and contained thirty-three tax and fee increases, including taxing campsites like hotel rooms, a so-called "income tax" on New Hampshire business, and raising vehicle registration fees.^{[27][28][29]}

Governor of New Hampshire

Elections

2012

In October 2011, Hassan announced her candidacy for governor of New Hampshire.^[30] She won the Democratic primary with 53%, defeating former state senator Jacalyn Cilley, who received 39%.^[31]

Hassan was also endorsed by former U.S. President Bill Clinton^{[32][33]} Campaign themes included implementing the Affordable Care Act.^[34]

In the general election, Hassan defeated Republican nominee Ovide M. Lamontagneby 55% to 43%, carrying every county in the state.^[35] Her campaign was managed by Matt Burgess and senior consultants included media consultant Joe Slade White.^[36]

Independent expenditure groups spent more than \$11 million on Hassan's behalf. Major financial support for Hassan's election came from the Washington, D.C.-based Democratic Governor's

Association, the Service Employees International Union, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, and the National Education Association.^[37]

2014

Main article: New Hampshire gubernatorial election, 2014

In June 2014, Hassan filed to run for re-election.^[38] She defeated Ian Freeman in the Democratic primary election on September 9, 2014, going on to defeat Republican Walt Havenstein in the general election by a margin of 52% to 48%. Hassan carried 7 of 10 counties.^[39]

Return of campaign donations

In August 2014, New Hampshire Attorney General Joseph Foster, a Hassan appointee, ordered her to return \$24,000 in campaign contributions that violated New Hampshire campaign finance laws.^[40] In October 2014, Hassan was ordered to return another \$25,000 in funds a union donated to her gubernatorial campaign because the union had not properly registered with the state a political committee.^[41]

Tenure

Hassan was sworn in as Governor for a two-year term on January 3, 2013. In December 2013, she was elected as vice chair of the Democratic Governors Association.^[42]

In 2013, Hassan signed a bill creating a state sea level rise commission.^{[43][44]}

During a conflict between two sides of the Demoulas family, which owns the Market Basket grocery chain, Hassan urged the family to resolve the dispute, which threatened 9,000 jobs in New Hampshire.^[45]

In July 2015, Hassan vetoed a bill that would have removed the licensing requirement for carrying concealed firearms in New Hampshire.^[46]

In response to New Hampshire's opioid crisis, Hassan appointed Jack Wozmak as the state's "drug czar" in early 2015. He resigned one year later in response to complaints about his job performance.^{[47][48]}

Hassan also worked to preserve funding for Planned Parenthood clinics throughout the state.^[49]

She resigned as governor at the end of January 2, 2017 to prepare for her swearing into the U.S. Senate. Senate president Chuck Morse assumed the gubernatorial powers and duties as acting governor.^[50]

U.S. Senate

Elections

Main article: United States Senate election in New Hampshire, 2016

2016

On October 5, 2015, Hassan announced her candidacy for the U.S. Senate in 2016. She challenged incumbent Republican U.S. Senator Kelly Ayotte.^[51] The race was considered one of the most competitive U.S. Senate races of the year.^[52]

Hassan was endorsed by the pro-choice Democratic political action committee EMILY's List, which also backed her two gubernatorial runs.^[53] Hassan endorsed Hillary Clinton during the 2016 Democratic presidential primary.^[54] Hassan has said climate change and reproductive rights would be her top priorities if she were elected to the Senate.^[55]

On November 9, 2016, the afternoon following election day, Hassan was declared the winner by only about 1,000 votes.^{[7][56][57]} Ayotte conceded later that evening, choosing not to pursue a recount.^[57] Hassan is the first Democrat to hold this seat since John A. Durkin resigned in 1980 after losing re-election.

Committee assignments

Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation

- Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security

- Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet
- Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance and Data Security
- Subcommittee on Space, Science and Competitiveness
- Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security
- **Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions**
 - Subcommittee on Children and Families
 - Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security
- **Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs**
 - Subcommittee on Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management
 - Subcommittee on Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management
- **Joint Economic Committee**

Source:^[58]

Political positions

Gun law

Hassan has a "D" rating from the National Rifle Association (NRA) due to her rare support for pro-gun legislation.^[59] She was supported by Gabrielle Giffords and Michael R. Bloomberg in the 2016 election.^[60]

Personal life

Hassan's husband, Thomas, was Principal of Phillips Exeter Academy from 2008 to 2015, and as of 2016 is the president of School Year Abroad.^[61] When Hassan's husband was Principal of Phillips Exeter Academy, the Hassans did not live in the Governor's Mansion, instead living in a colonial mansion on the Phillips Exeter campus provided to them as part of her husband's employment.^[2] After Thomas Hassan left his position at Phillips Exeter Academy, the Hassans bought and moved into a home in Newfields, New Hampshire.^{[a][2][62]} Hassan has two adult children, the older of whom, Ben, has cerebral palsy.^[9] She is a member of the United Church of Christ.^[citation needed]

Hassan has received honorary doctorates from the University of New Hampshire (2013),^[63] Northeastern University(2013),^[64] Southern New Hampshire University (2014),^[65] New Hampshire Institute of Art (2015),^[66] New England College(2016),^[67] and UNH School of Law (2017).^[68]



Senator Dean Heller

(56) R-Nevada

Elected 2010

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Committees:

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Finance

Veterans' Affairs

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Dean Heller was sworn in to the United States Senate on May 9, 2011. Prior to Heller's service in the Senate, he was the Representative for Nevada's Second Congressional District. Senator Heller has also served as Nevada's Secretary of State and in the Nevada State Assembly representing Carson City.

Since coming to Congress, Heller has fought for smaller government, the elimination of wasteful spending, and a balanced budget. He has been at the forefront of the fight for fiscal responsibility in Washington, voted against hundreds of billions in tax increases, and fought the expansion of government and out-of-control spending. Heller is also the only member of the Nevada delegation to vote against the Wall Street bailout. In addition, Heller has fought for fiscal policies that promote economic recovery and believes controlling government spending will create an environment where businesses can flourish and foster long-term economic growth.

Heller currently serves on the Committee on Finance; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee; Committee on Veterans' Affairs; the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee; and the Special

Committee on Aging. Jobs and the economy continue to be Senator Heller's top priorities. These committees allow him to address the housing crisis, Nevada's rising veterans' population, ensure that Nevada's transportation needs are met, and foster a regulatory climate that does not impede interstate commerce. Appointment to these committees also gives both urban and rural Nevada an advocate for some of the most important issues facing Nevada's communities. Whether working to encourage tourism or renewable energy development, these committees have direct influence over some of the most important issues for the state of Nevada.

Dean has provided strong leadership for Nevada on issues such as mining, public lands access, and wildfire prevention. In both the House and the Senate, Heller has fought to defend private property rights and promote balanced public land management. He continues to be successful in moving public lands legislation beneficial to local communities throughout Nevada.

As a former member of the House Ways and Means Committee, Heller has fought for responsible policies that preserve Medicare and Social Security and will continue these efforts as a member of the Senate Aging Committee. Because Ways and Means oversees tax policy, Dean also advocated for tax reform that helps the middle class keep more of what they earn.

Heller grew up with five brothers and sisters in Carson City, where he attended high school. In 1985 he received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Southern California, specializing in finance and securities analysis. He worked as a stockbroker

and as a broker/trader on the Pacific Stock Exchange prior to moving back to Carson City with his wife Lynne.

Dean and Lynne have been married for more than 30 years and currently reside in Smith Valley. They have four children: Hilary, Harris, Drew, and Emmy. Dean is the proud grandfather of Brielle and Zachary.



Jim Inhofe

**(82) R-Oklohoma
Elected 1994**

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Committees:

Armed Services
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Environment
and Public Works
Small Business and Entrepreneurship

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Caucus Memberships

- [Air Force Caucus \(Senate\)](#)
- [Border Security and Enforcement First Immigration Caucus](#)
- [Coalition for Autism Research and Education \(CARE\)](#)
- [Congressional Boating Caucus](#)
- [Congressional Coalition on Adoption](#)
- [Congressional Fire Services Caucus](#)
- [Congressional Former Mayors Caucus](#)
- [Congressional Hazards Caucus](#)
- [Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition](#)
- [Congressional Manufactured Housing Caucus](#)
- [Congressional Pilot's Caucus](#)
- [Congressional Ports-to-Plains Caucus](#)
- [Congressional Prevention Caucus](#)
- [Congressional Serbian American Caucus](#)
- [Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus](#)

- International Conservation Caucus (ICC)
- Senate Aerospace Caucus
- Senate Army Caucus
- Senate Auto Caucus
- Senate Caucus on Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases
- Senate Caucus on WMD Terrorism (Weapons of Mass Destruction)
- Senate Diabetes Caucus
- Senate General Aviation Caucus
- Senate Impact Aid Coalition
- Senate Manufactured Housing Caucus
- Senate Marine Corps Caucus
- Senate Military Family Caucus
- Senate National Guard Caucus
- Senate Natural Gas Caucus
- Senate Navy Caucus
- Senate Reserve Components Caucus
- Senate Rural Education Caucus
- Senate Rural Health Caucus
- Senate Task Force on Responsible Fatherhood
- Senate Travel and Tourism Caucus
- Senate Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Caucus
- Senate Veterans Jobs Caucus
- Senate Western Caucus
- USO Congressional Caucus
- Zero Capital Gains Tax Caucus

About Senator Inhofe

U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) is a U.S. Army Veteran. He is the Chairman of the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and Senior Member of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee.

An avid pilot with over 11,000 flight hours, Inhofe became the only member of Congress to fly an airplane around the world when he recreated Wiley Post's legendary trip around the globe.

The conservative publication, Human Events, in editorializing on a recent "Top 10 Most Outstanding Conservative Senators," ranked Inhofe number one saying he is an "unabashed conservative" and noted that "he's unafraid to speak his mind." In 2013, National Journal magazine ranked Inhofe among the top five most conservative members of the Senate.

Jim has been married to his wife, Kay, for 57 years. They have 20 kids and grandkids.

Committee Assignments

Standing Committee on Environment and Public Works (Chairman)

Standing Committee on Armed Services (Senior Member)

U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) is a U.S. Army Veteran. He is the Chairman of the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee and Senior Member of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee.

An avid pilot with over 11,000 flight hours, Inhofe became the only member of Congress to fly an airplane around the world when he recreated Wiley Post's legendary trip around the globe.

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James Mountain Inhofe (/ˈɪnhɒf/; born November 17, 1934) is the senior United States senator from Oklahoma and a member of the Republican Party. First elected to the Senate in 1994, he was the ranking member of the United States Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) and was its chairman from 2003 to 2007, and again from January 2015 until January 2017. Inhofe served eight years as the United States representative for Oklahoma's 1st congressional district before his election to the Senate in 1994 and also previously served as both an Oklahoma state representative and senator.

Inhofe is most well known for his denial of global warming. He supports a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage and has proposed the Inhofe Amendment to make English the national language of the United States.

Early life, education, and business career

Inhofe was born in Des Moines, Iowa, the son of Blanche (née Mountain) and Perry Dyson Inhofe.^[1] He moved with his family to Tulsa, Oklahoma, when he was a child. He was a member of the Class of 1953 at Tulsa Central High School,^[2] and served in the United States Army from 1957 to 1958.^[3] Inhofe received a B.A. degree when he was nearly 40 years old from the University of Tulsa in 1973.

Inhofe worked as a businessman for 30 years before becoming a full-time politician.^[4] He worked in the field of aviation, as a real estate developer, and in insurance, eventually becoming the president of the Quaker Life Insurance Company. During the time he worked for Quaker Life, the company went into receivership; it was liquidated in 1986.^[5]

Early political career

State legislature

Inhofe became active in Oklahoma Republican politics in the mid-1960s. He was a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives from 1967 to 1969, and a member of the Oklahoma Senate from 1969 until 1977, the last four of those years as minority leader.

1974 gubernatorial election

In 1974, he ran for Governor of Oklahoma. In October 1974, then-President Gerald Ford visited Oklahoma to campaign for him.^{[6][7]} A late October poll by the Daily Oklahoman showed Boren leading 74%–25%.^[8] He lost to Democratic State Representative David Boren 64%–36%. Inhofe won only four counties in the election.^[9] He lost 57 pounds during the campaign and was down to 148 pounds.^[10]

1976 congressional election

See also: United States House of Representatives elections, 1976

In 1976, he ran for Oklahoma's 1st congressional district. In the Republican primary, he defeated State Senator Frank Keating and Mary Warner 67%–25%–8%.^[11] In the general election, he lost to incumbent Democrat James R. Jones 54%–45%.^[12]

Mayor of Tulsa

In 1978, he ran for mayor of Tulsa, defeating Democrat Rodger Randle 51%–46%.^[13] In 1980, he won re-election unopposed^[14] and in 1982, he won re-election with 59%.^[15]

U.S. House of Representatives

Elections

In 1986, when Congressman Jones decided to retire to run for the U.S. Senate, Inhofe ran for the 1st District and won the Republican primary with 54%.^[16] In the general election, he defeated Democrat Gary Allison 55%–43%.^[17] In 1988, he won re-election against Democrat Kurt Glassco, Governor George Nigh's legal counsel, 53%–47%.^[18] In 1990, he defeated Glassco in a rematch 56%–44%.^[19] After redistricting, the 1st District contained only two counties, all of Tulsa and some parts of Wagoner. In 1992, he won re-election with 53% of the vote.^[20]

Tenure

In 1987, he voted against President Ronald Reagan's budget, which included tax increases and no increase in defense spending.^[21]

He first came to national attention in 1993, when he led the effort to reform the House's discharge petition rule, which the House leadership had long used to bottle up bills in committee.

U.S. Senate

Elections

In 1994, incumbent Senator David Boren, who had been serving in the Senate since 1979, agreed to become president of the University of Oklahoma and announced he would resign as soon as a successor was elected. Inhofe was elected Senator Boren's successor in this election cycle that saw the Republican Party take both houses of Congress and the Oklahoma governorship (the latter for only the third time in state history). Inhofe took the office on November 16 and took the next day, his 60th birthday, giving him more senatorial seniority than the incoming class of senators. After serving the last two years of Boren's term, he won his first full term in 1996. He was reelected in 2002, 2008 and 2014.

Tenure

Fundraising

In the 2008 election cycle, Inhofe's largest campaign donors represented the oil and gas (\$446,900 in donations), leadership PACs (\$316,720) and electric utilities (\$221,654) industries/categories.^{[22][23]} In 2010, his largest donors represented the oil and gas (\$429,950) and electric (\$206,654) utilities.^[24]

The primary PACs donating to his campaigns were: Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association (\$55,869), United Parcel Service(\$51,850), National Association of Realtors (\$51,700), National Rifle Association (\$51,050) and American Medical Association(\$51,000). Additionally, if company-sponsored PACs were combined with employee contributions, Koch Industries would be Inhofe's largest contributor, with \$90,950 (less than 0.6% of total contributions), according to the Center for Responsive Politics.^{[23][25]}^{*[undue weight? – discuss]*}

Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse revelations

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, he was among the panelists questioning witnesses about the 2004 Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse, stating he was "outraged by the outrage" over the revelations of abuse. Although he believed that the individuals responsible for mistreating prisoners should be punished, he stated that the prisoners "are not there for

traffic violations . . . they're murderers, they're terrorists, they're insurgents".^{[26][27]} In 2006, Inhofe was one of only nine senators to vote against the Detainee Treatment Act of 2005 which prohibits "cruel, inhuman or degrading" treatment of individuals in U.S. Government custody.^{[28][29]}

Ideology and opinions

Inhofe is one of the most conservative members of either house of Congress (the eighth-most conservative senator, according to the March 2007 *National Journal* rankings of Liberal/Conservative members of Congress.^[30])

Environmental issues

Early years; 2003 Chair of Environment and Public Works committee

Before the Republicans regained control of the Senate in the November 2002 elections, Inhofe had compared the United States Environmental Protection Agency to a Gestapo bureaucracy,^{[31][32]} and EPA Administrator Carol Browner to Tokyo Rose.^[33] In January 2003, he became Chair of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, and continued challenging mainstream science in favor of what he called "sound science", in accordance with the Luntz memo.^[32]

Global warming a "hoax"

Since 2003, when he was first elected Chair of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, Inhofe has been the foremost Republican promoting arguments for climate change denial in the global warming controversy. He famously said in the Senate that global warming is a hoax, and has invited contrarians to testify in Committee hearings, and spread his views via the Committee website run by Marc Morano, and through his access to conservative media.^{[34][35]} In 2012, Inhofe's *The Greatest Hoax: How the Global Warming Conspiracy Threatens Your Future* was published by WorldNetDaily Books, presenting his global warming conspiracy theory.^[36] He said that, because "God's still up there", the "arrogance of people to think that we, human beings, would be able to change what He is doing in the climate is to me outrageous."^{[37][38][39]} However, he says he appreciates that this does not win arguments, and he has "never pointed to Scriptures in a debate, because I know this would discredit me." His opposition to climate action is as much based on concerns about over-regulation of businesses, and he has shown ability to work with his Senate opponents on other issues: in 2003 he co-sponsored legislation to protect the Kemp's ridley sea turtle.^[40]

As Environment and Public Works chairman, Inhofe made a two-hour-long Senate Floor speech on July 28, 2003, in the context of discussions on the McCain-Lieberman Bill.^[41] He said he was "going to expose the most powerful, most highly financed lobby in Washington, the far left environmental extremists", and laid out in detail his opposition to attribution of recent climate change to humans, using the word "hoax" four times including the statement that he had "offered compelling evidence that catastrophic global warming is a hoax", and his conclusion expressing his belief that "manmade global warming is the greatest hoax ever perpetrated on the American people".^{[42][43]} He supported what he called "sound science" with citations from scientists; contrarians including Patrick Michaels, Fred Singer, Richard Lindzen and Sallie Baliunas as well as some mainstream scientists. Two of these, Tom Wigley and Stephen Schneider, later issued statements that Inhofe had misrepresented their work.^{[43][44]}

On July 29, the day after his Senate speech, Inhofe chaired an Environment and Public Works hearing with contrarian views represented by Baliunas and David Legates, and praised their "1,000-year climate study", then involved in the Soon and Baliunas controversy, as "a powerful new work of science". Against them, Michael E. Mann defended mainstream science and specifically his work which they and the Bush administration disputed in

the hockey stick controversy.^{[41][45]} During the hearing Senator Jim Jeffords read out an email from Hans von Storch saying he had resigned as editor in chief of the journal which had published the Soon and Baliunas paper, as the peer-review had "failed to detect significant methodological flaws in the paper" and the critique published by Mann and colleagues was valid.^{[45][46]}

In a continuation of these themes, Inhofe had a 20-page brochure published under the Seal of the United States Senate reiterating his "hoax" statement, comparing the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to a "Soviet style trial", and in a section headed "The IPCC Plays Hockey" he attacked what he called "Mann's flawed, limited research."^{[47][48]} The brochure restated themes from Inhofe's Senate speech, and in December 2003, he distributed copies of it in Milan at a meeting discussing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, where he met "green activists" with posters quoting him as saying that global warming "is the greatest hoax ever perpetrated on the American people". He signed a poster for them,^[32] and thanked them for quoting him correctly. In an October 2004 Senate speech he said "Global warming is the greatest hoax ever perpetrated on the American people. It was true when I said it before, and it remains true today. Perhaps what has made this hoax so effective is that we hear over and over that the science is settled and there is a consensus that, unless we fundamentally change our way of life by limiting greenhouse gas emissions, we will cause catastrophic global warming. This is simply a false statement."^{[47][49]} In January 2005, Inhofe told Bloomberg News that global warming was "the second-largest hoax ever played on the American people, after the separation of church and state", and that carbon dioxide would not be restricted by the Clear Skies Act of 2003.^{[50][51][52]} In a Senate Floor "update", he extended his argument against Mann's work by extensively citing Michael Crichton's fictional thriller, *State of Fear*, mistakenly describing Crichton as a "scientist".^[53] On August 28, 2005, at Inhofe's invitation, Crichton appeared as an expert witness at a hearing on climate change, disputing Mann's work.^[47]

In *The Republican War on Science*, Chris Mooney stated in 2006 that Inhofe "politicizes and misuses the science of climate change".^[54] During a heat wave in July 2006, Inhofe said to the *Tulsa World* newspaper that the environmentalist movement reminded him of "the Third Reich, the Big Lie", as "You say something over and over and over and over again, and people will believe it, and that's their strategy."^{[52][55]}

In a September 2006 Senate speech, Inhofe argued that the threat of global warming was exaggerated by "the media, Hollywood elites and our pop culture". He said that in the 1960s the media had switched from warning of global warming to warning of global cooling and a coming ice age, then in the 1970s had returned to warming to promote "climate change fears".^[56] In February 2007, he told *Fox News* that mainstream science increasingly attributed climate change to natural causes, and only "those individuals on the far left, such as Hollywood liberals and the United Nations" opposed this.^[57]

In 2006, Inhofe introduced Senate Amendment 4682 with Kit Bond (R-MO), which would have modified oversight responsibility of the Army Corps of Engineers. The League of Conservation Voters, an environmentalist group, said analyses for corps projects "have been manipulated to favor large-scale projects that harm the environment."^[58] During the 109th Congress, Inhofe voted to increase offshore oil drilling, to include provisions for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in the House Budget Amendment, and to deny funding for both low-income energy assistance and environmental stewardship, citing heavy costs and unproven programs.^[58]

In May 2009, he gave support to the idea that black carbon is a significant contributor to global warming.^[59]

Inhofe has been a recipient of monies from the fossil fuel industry. For example: "Exxon's beneficiaries in Congress include the Oklahoma senator Jim Inhofe, who called global warming a hoax, and who has received \$20,500 since 2007, according to the Dirty Energy Money database maintained by Oil Change International."^{[60][61]}

Climatic Research Unit email controversy

On November 23, 2009, as the Climatic Research Unit email controversy emerged, Inhofe said that the emails confirmed his view that scientists were "cooking the science".^{[62][63]} On December 7 on the CNN program *The Situation Room*, Inhofe said that the emails showed that the science behind climate change "has been pretty well debunked", the fact checking organization Politifact concluded that Inhofe's statement was false.^[64] On the same day, Inhofe said he would lead a three-man "truth squad" consisting of himself and fellow senators Roger Wicker and John Barrasso to the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. However, Inhofe was unable to secure meetings with any negotiators or delegations to the conference and only met with a small group of reporters.^{[65][66][67][68]} The minority group of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works prepared a report on "the CRU Controversy", published in February 2010, which listed as "Key Players" 17 scientists including Mann and Jones. Inhofe said it showed that the controversy was "about unethical and potentially illegal behavior by some of the world's leading climate scientists."^{[69][70]} On May 26, Inhofe formally requested the Inspector General of the United States Department of Commerce to investigate how the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) had dealt with the emails, and whether the emails showed any wrongdoing; it found no major issues or inappropriate actions.^{[71][72]}

Global warming temperatures

In July 2010, Inhofe stated, "I don't think that anyone disagrees with the fact that we actually are in a cold period that started about nine years ago. Now, that's not me talking, those are the scientists that say that." The Union of Concerned Scientists said that what Inhofe stated was wrong, pointing to an NOAA report indicating that, through July 2010 had been the hottest summer on record since 1880. Inhofe added that "People on the other side of this argument back in January, they said, 'Inhofe, it has nothing to do with today's or this month or next month. We're looking at a long period of time. We go into twenty year periods.'"^{[73][74][75]}

During a House committee hearing in 2011, Inhofe testified, "I have to admit—and, you know, confession is good for the soul... I, too, once thought that catastrophic global warming was caused by anthropogenic gases—because everyone said it was."^[76] Under questioning from committee member Jay Inslee, Inhofe dismissed the notion that he was less knowledgeable than climate scientists, saying that he'd already given "five speeches on the science."^[76]

2015: Chair of Environment and Public Works committee

On January 21, 2015, Inhofe returned to chairing the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, as part of a new Republican majority in the Senate. In response to reports by NOAA and NASA that the year 2014 had been the warmest globally in the temperature record, he said "we had the coldest in the western hemisphere in the same time frame", and attributed changes to a 30-year cycle, not human activities.^[77] In a debate on the same day about a bill for the Keystone XL pipeline, Inhofe endorsed an amendment proposed by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, "Climate change is real and not a hoax", which passed 98–1. Inhofe clarified his view that "Climate is changing and climate has always changed and always will. There is archaeological evidence of that, there is biblical evidence of that, there is historical evidence of that", but added that "there are some people who are so arrogant to think they are so powerful they can change climate."^[78]

On February 26, 2015, Inhofe brought a snowball on to the Senate floor and tossed it before delivering remarks in which he claimed that environmentalists keep talking about global warming even though it keeps getting cold.^[79]

Hydraulic fracturing

On March 19, 2015, Inhofe introduced S.828, "The Fracturing Regulations are Effective in State Hands (FRESH) Act." The bill would transfer regulatory power over hydraulic fracturing from the federal government to state governments. In his announcement of the bill, Inhofe

said that hydraulic fracturing has never contaminated ground water in Oklahoma (the state he represents in the Senate).^[80] Both U.S. senators from 7 states (Arkansas, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, South Dakota and Texas) cosponsored the bill with Inhofe.^[81]

Paris Agreement

Inhofe co-authored and was one of 22 senators to sign a letter^[82] to President Donald Trump urging the President to have the United States withdraw from the Paris Agreement. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Inhofe has received over \$529,000 from the oil and gas industry since 2012.^[83]

Other political positions

Israel

In a Senate speech on March 4, 2002, Inhofe presented his position on the "seven reasons that Israel has the right to their land."^[84]

These are summarized as follows:

1. Archeological evidence. Excerpt: "Every time there is a dig in Israel, it does nothing but support the fact that Israelis have had a presence there for 3,000 years."
2. Historic right. Inhofe's case includes the historic presence of Israel prior to the Roman Empire, and the promise given to the Jews by Britain in 1917 to provide a Jewish homeland.
3. Agricultural development. Inhofe argues that Israel has been "able to bring more food out of a desert environment than any other country in the world."
4. Humanitarian concerns. Inhofe argues that due to the extent of their persecution - he cites Russia - and their slaughter - during World War II by the Nazis - the Jews are entitled to a homeland, and that this is not an unreasonable demand.
5. Strategic ally of the United States. "They vote with us in the United Nations more than England, more than Canada, more than France, more than Germany — more than any other country in the world."
6. Acting as an effective roadblock to terrorism. In this part of his speech, Inhofe refers to four wars which Israel has fought and won (as of the date of his speech, dated 2002): "The 1948 War of Independence, the 1956 Sinai campaign, the 1967 Six Day War, and the 1973 Yom Kippur War." And he states that "In all four cases, Israel was attacked. They were not the aggressor ... In regard to their effectiveness, they are great warriors. They consider a level playing field being outnumbered 2-to-1." He also states at this point that, "One of the reasons I believe the spiritual door was opened for an attack against the United States is that the policy of our government has been to ask the Israelis, and demand it with pressure, not to retaliate in a significant way against the terrorist strikes that have been launched against them."^[84]
7. Biblical references. Inhofe states, "I believe very strongly that we ought to support Israel, and that it has a right to the land, because God said so."

In a Senate speech, Inhofe said that America should base its Israel policy on the text of the Bible:^[84]

In March 2002, Inhofe also made a speech before the U.S. Senate that included the explicit suggestion that the 9/11 terrorist attacks were a form of divine retribution against the U.S. for failing to defend Israel. He said: "One of the reasons I believe the spiritual door was opened for an attack against the United States of America is that the policy of our Government has been to ask the Israelis, and demand it with pressure, not to retaliate in a significant way against the terrorist strikes that have been launched against them."^[84]

Syria

Inhofe has condemned President Barack Obama's inaction on Syria.^[85]

Immigration

Inhofe wrote the Inhofe Amendment to the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006, which was debated in Congress in May 2006. The amendment would make English the national language of the United States and require that new citizens take an English proficiency test. The amendment was passed on May 18, 2006, with 32 Democrats, one independent, and one Republican dissenting. The measure had 11 cosponsors, including one Democrat.

In the debate, Inhofe cited a 2005 Zogby Poll^[86] showing 84% of Americans support making English the official language of governmental operations, including 71% of Hispanics. He also noted that 27 states and 51 nations have made English their official language and that the Office of Management and Budget estimated that it costs taxpayers \$1–2 billion to provide language assistance under President Bill Clinton's Executive Order 13166 that created the entitlement to services provided in any language other than English.

Inhofe has generally been seen as overtly hostile by LGBT advocacy groups, earning a 0% in every one of his terms on Human Rights Campaign's position scorecard.^[87] Inhofe is in favor of a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage, against adding sexual orientation to the definition of hate crimes, and voted against prohibiting job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.^[88] Inhofe's office has said he "does not hire openly gay staffers due to the possibility of a conflict of agenda."^[89]

Inhofe campaigned for his Senate seat in 1994 using the phrase "God, guns, and gays."^{[90][91]} In 2008, his campaign was noted by the Associated Press for running an ad with "anti-gay overtones" featuring a wedding cake with two male figures on top, fading into his opponent's face.^[92]

GI Bill reform

Inhofe, an initial sponsor of Senator Jim Webb's Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, subsequently withdrew support for this bill to support S 2938, a competing bill that would have provided benefits beyond those offered in Webb's bill.^[93] However, Inhofe voted to enact Webb's legislation in June 2008.^[94]

Inhofe agreed to support legislation allowing military mental health specialists to talk with veterans about private firearms in an effort to reduce suicides.^[95]

Misconduct while piloting an aircraft in 2010

Trained by the US Navy, Inhofe is one of the few members of Congress who is licensed as a commercial pilot. In 1994, when he first ran for the U.S. Senate, he used his plane as a daily campaign vehicle to travel throughout Oklahoma and visit almost every town in the state.^[96] He has been influential in Senate and Congressional debates involving aircraft regulation.^[97]

On October 21, 2010, at the age of 75, Inhofe landed his Cessna on a closed runway at a south Texas airport, scattering construction workers who ran for their lives. In a recorded telephone call, the men's supervisor told the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that Inhofe "scared the crap out of" the workers, adding that the Cessna "damn near hit" a truck. And the airport manager, also speaking to the FAA in a recorded telephone call, opined: "I've got over 50 years flying, three tours of Vietnam, and I can assure you I have never seen such a reckless disregard for human life in my life. Something needs to be done. This guy is famous for these violations."^[98]

In response to the incident, Inhofe stated that he "did nothing wrong", and accused the FAA of "agency overreach" and causing a "feeling of desperation" in him. He agreed to take a remedial training program, and the FAA agreed not to pursue legal action against him if he took the program. In July 2011, Inhofe introduced a bill to create a "Pilot's Bill of Rights" which he said would increase fairness in FAA enforcement actions.^[99] The bill was passed in 2012.^[100]

Taxpayer-funded travel

Inhofe states that he has made over 140 trips to Africa over about 20 years and helped to get United States Africa Command established.^[101] Inhofe has made multiple foreign trips, especially to Africa, on missions that he described as "a Jesus thing" and that were paid for by the U.S. government. He has used these trips for activities on behalf of The Fellowship, a Christian organization.^[102] Inhofe has said that his trips included some governmental work but also involved "the political philosophy of Jesus, something that had been put together by Doug Coe, the leader of The Fellowship...It's all scripturally based." Inhofe used his access as a Senator to pursue religious goals.^[103]

Federal disaster relief

Inhofe has consistently voted against federal disaster relief, most notably in the case of relief for the 24 states affected by Hurricane Sandy.^[104] However, he argues for federal aid when natural disasters hit Oklahoma.^[105] In defense of his decision to vote against a relief fund for Hurricane Sandy, but not in Oklahoma after tornadoes ravaged the state in May 2013, he claimed the situations were "totally different" the difference being the Sandy funding involved "Everybody getting in and exploiting the tragedy that took place. That won't happen in Oklahoma."^[106] Inhofe pointedly did not thank President Obama for his attention to the tragedy in his state, so as to not be compared to Chris Christie.^[107]

2016 Presidential election

Early during the Republican Party presidential primaries in 2016, Inhofe endorsed fellow Republican John Kasich.^[108]

Gun control

In the aftermath of the 2017 Las Vegas shooting, Inhofe blamed the "culture of sanctuary cities" rather than lax gun control legislation for the shootings.^[109]

Personal life

In 1959, Inhofe married Kay Kirkpatrick, with whom he has four children.

On November 10, 2013, Inhofe's son, Dr. Perry Inhofe, died in a plane crash in Owasso, Oklahoma, flying alone for the first time since training in a newly acquired plane.^[110]

Inhofe was the first recipient of the U.S. Air Force Academy's Character and Leadership Award for his character and leadership in public service.



Amy Klobuchar
(56) D-Minnesota
Elected 2006

Chair of Democratic Steering Committee (Senate)

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Committees:

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Commerce, Science, and Transportation Judiciary
Rules and Administration
Joint Committee on Printing Joint Committee on the Library Joint Economic Committee

Caucuses:

Ad Hoc Steering Committee on Telemedicine and Healthcare Informatics

Bicameral Congressional Caucus on Parkinson's Disease
Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease
Bipartisan Members Group
Coalition for Autism Research and Education (CARE)
Congressional Bicameral High-Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail

Caucus

Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues (Senate)
Congressional Coalition on Adoption
Congressional ENGINE Caucus
Congressional Farmer Cooperative Caucus
Congressional Fire Services Caucus
Congressional French Caucus
Congressional Friends of the National Park Service Centennial
Congressional Olympic and Paralympic Caucus
Congressional Rare and Neglected Diseases Caucus
Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus
Congressional Wellness Caucus
Diversifying Technology Caucus
Friends of Norway
Great Lakes Task Force
Great Lakes Task Force
Midwest High Speed Rail Congressional Caucus
NextGen 9-1-1 Caucus
Northeast-Midwest Senate Coalition
Problem Solvers Caucus (No Labels)
Senate Caucus on WMD Terrorism (Weapons of Mass Destruction)
Senate Cultural Caucus
Senate Diabetes Caucus
Senate Friends of Norway Caucus
Senate Friends of Scotland Caucus
Senate General Aviation Caucus
Senate Impact Aid Coalition
Senate India Caucus
Senate Law Enforcement Caucus
Senate Medical Technology Caucus
Senate Military Family Caucus
Senate National Guard Caucus
Senate Nursing Caucus
Senate Reserve Components Caucus
Senate Rural Health Caucus
Senate Small Brewers Caucus

Amy Jean Klobuchar (/ˈkloʊbəʃɑːr/; born May 25, 1960) is an American former prosecutor, author and politician serving as the senior United States Senator from Minnesota. She is a member of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, an affiliate of the Democratic Party, and Minnesota's first elected female U.S. Senator.

Klobuchar previously served as the county attorney for Hennepin County, Minnesota, the most populous county in Minnesota. As an attorney, she worked with former Vice President Walter Mondale. She has been called a "rising star" in the Democratic Party.

Born in Plymouth, Minnesota, Klobuchar is the daughter of Rose Katherine (née Heuberger), who retired at age 70 from teaching second grade,^[4] and James John "Jim" Klobuchar, an author and a retired sportswriter and columnist for the Star Tribune.^[5] Amy has one younger sister.^[6] Jim's grandparents were Slovene immigrants, and his father was a miner on the Iron Range; Amy's maternal grandparents were from Switzerland.

Klobuchar attended public schools in Plymouth and was valedictorian at Wayzata High School. She received her B.A. degree magna cum laude in political science from Yale University in 1982, where she was a member of the Yale College Democrats, the Feminist Caucus, and member of the influential improv troupe Suddenly Susan. During her time at Yale, Klobuchar spent time as an intern for Senator Walter Mondale. Her senior thesis was published as *Uncovering the Dome*, a 150-page history describing the ten years of politics surrounding the building of the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in Minneapolis. Klobuchar served as an associate editor of the *University of Chicago Law Review* and received her Juris Doctor degree in 1985 from the University of Chicago Law School.

Career

After law school, Klobuchar worked as a corporate lawyer. Besides working as a prosecutor, Klobuchar was a partner at the Minnesota law firms Dorsey & Whitney and Gray Plant Mooty before seeking public office. Klobuchar's first foray into politics came after she gave birth and was forced to leave the hospital 24 hours later, a situation exacerbated by the fact that Klobuchar's daughter was born with a condition where she could not swallow. That experience led Klobuchar to appear before the Minnesota State Legislature advocating for a bill that would guarantee new mothers a 48-hour hospital stay. Minnesota passed the bill and President Clinton later made the policy into a federal law.

Klobuchar was elected as Hennepin County attorney in 1998, and re-elected in 2002 with no opposition. In 2001 *Minnesota Lawyer* named her "Attorney of the Year". Klobuchar was President of the Minnesota County Attorneys Association from November 2002 to November 2003.

U.S. Senate

Elections

2006

Main article: United States Senate election in Minnesota, 2006

In early 2005 Mark Dayton announced that he would not seek re-election to the U.S. Senate, and Klobuchar was recognized early as a favorite for the DFL nomination for the 2006 election. EMILY's List endorsed Klobuchar on September 29, 2005, and Klobuchar won the DFL's endorsement on June 9, 2006. Klobuchar gained the support

of the majority of DFL state legislators in Minnesota during the primaries. A poll taken of DFL state delegates showed Klobuchar beating her then closest opponent, Patty Wetterling, 66% to 15%. In January, Wetterling dropped out of the race and endorsed Klobuchar. Former Senate candidate and prominent lawyer Mike Ciresi, who was widely seen as a serious potential DFL candidate, indicated in early February that he would not enter the race; that removal of her most significant potential competitor for the DFL nomination was viewed as an important boost for Klobuchar.

In the general election, Klobuchar faced Republican candidate Mark Kennedy, Independence Party candidate Robert Fitzgerald, Constitution candidate Ben Powers, and Green Party candidate Michael Cavlan. Klobuchar consistently led Kennedy in the polls throughout the campaign. Klobuchar won with 58% of the vote to Kennedy's 38% and Fitzgerald's 3%, carrying all but eight of Minnesota's 87 counties. Klobuchar became the first woman to be elected as the U.S. Senator from Minnesota. (Muriel Humphrey, the state's first female senator and former Second Lady of the United States, was appointed to fill her husband's unexpired term and not elected.)

2012

Main article: United States Senate election in Minnesota, 2012

Klobuchar faced State Representative Kurt Bills and won a second term to the U.S. Senate. She won convincingly, receiving 65.2% of the votes compared to 30.6% for Bills.

Tenure

From January to July 2009, Klobuchar was the only senator from Minnesota, until the resolution of the disputed 2008 Senate election for Al Franken.

As of September 2009, 58% of Minnesotans approved of the job she was doing, with 36% disapproving. On March 12, 2010, Rasmussen Reports indicated 67% of Minnesotans approved of the job she was doing. The *Winona Daily News* described her as a "rare politician who works across the aisle." Walter Mondale stated "She has done better in that miserable Senate than most people there."

On March 30, 2008, Klobuchar announced her endorsement of Senator Barack Obama in the Democratic presidential primary, promising her unpledged superdelegate vote for him. She cited Obama's performance in the Minnesota caucuses, where he won with 66% of the popular vote, as well as her own "independent judgment."

At the end of the 114th Congress in late 2016, Klobuchar was noted as having passed more legislation than any other Senator.

In February 2017, Klobuchar called for opening an independent, bipartisan commission like the 9/11 Commission to investigate ties between Russia and U.S. President Donald Trump and his administration. Concern about Trump's ties to Russia increased following reports that Trump's campaign officials had repeated contact with senior Russian intelligence officials before the 2016 United States elections. Klobuchar had already signaled her interest in U.S.-Russia relations in December 2016 when she joined Republican senators John McCain and Lindsey Graham on a trip to the Baltic states and Ukraine.

Klobuchar maintained high approval ratings throughout 2017 with the *Star Tribune's* Minnesota Poll announcing in April 2017 that her approval rating was 72%. In October 2017, Morning Consult listed Klobuchar in the Top 10 of their list of senators with the highest approval rating, and a poll from KSTP-TV in November 2017 showed her approval rating at 56% in comparison to low ratings for Sen. Al Franken after he received allegations of sexual misconduct.

Amy Klobuchar is the first woman elected to represent the State of Minnesota in the United States Senate. Throughout her public service, Amy has always embraced the values she learned growing up in Minnesota. Her grandfather worked 1500 feet underground in the iron ore mines of Northern Minnesota. Her father, Jim, was a newspaperman, and her mother, Rose, was an elementary school teacher who continued teaching until she was 70. Amy has built a reputation of putting partisanship aside to help strengthen the economy and support families, workers and businesses.

Amy has always understood that her first duty is to represent the people of Minnesota. She acted quickly to obtain full funding to rebuild the I-35W bridge just thirteen months after it tragically collapsed into the Mississippi River. She worked across party lines to expand education and job opportunities for returning service members, fought to ensure that Minnesota National Guard members received the full benefits they earned, and helped turn Minnesota's groundbreaking "Beyond the Yellow Ribbon" program into a national model. As a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Amy was part of the important Farm Bill conference committee that reached an agreement between the Senate and the House on a long-term Farm Bill in 2014.

Since arriving in the Senate, Amy has worked with Democrats and Republicans on legislation focused on moving the country forward. She fought to pass the most significant consumer product safety legislation in a generation, keeping foreign toxic products off our shores and out of our stores, and pushed the cell phone companies to enact more consumer-friendly policies. In 2015 she was appointed Chair of the Senate Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee, where she brings together senators, businesses, community leaders, policy experts and intergovernmental organizations to help develop policies to strengthen the economy and move the country forward.

Amy has pushed for a bipartisan, balanced approach to reducing our nation's debt and was part of a group of fourteen senators who fought to create the bipartisan debt commission. She helped pass the most sweeping ethics reform since Watergate, has pushed to reform the Senate rules, and worked to beat the filibuster and led the fight to confirm the first director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in seven years.

As Ranking Senate Member of the Joint Economic Committee and a member of the President's Export Council and the Senate Commerce Committee, Amy has been a leader in working to implement a competitive agenda to ensure businesses have the tools they need to grow and create good jobs in their communities. She has authored legislation to help small businesses tap into new markets abroad, passed a significant amendment aimed at boosting funds for STEM education for American students, and led successful national initiatives to boost American tourism, including a series of regulatory reforms adopted by the Administration.

Amy also serves as the Ranking Member on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights, where she has worked to advance policies that protect consumers from anti-competitive behavior and make sure businesses are able to compete on a level playing field. She has introduced legislation to crack down on "pay-for-delay" agreements, the practice of brand-name drug manufacturers using pay-off agreements to keep more affordable generic equivalents off the market.

Before serving in the Senate, Amy headed the largest prosecutor's office in Minnesota for eight years, making the prosecution of violent and career criminals her top priority. She led the effort for successful passage of Minnesota's first felony DWI law, and received the leadership award

from Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Her safe schools initiative, community prosecution efforts, and criminal justice reforms earned national awards from both the Bush and Clinton Justice Departments. As a private citizen and before being elected to public office, Amy was the leading advocate for successful passage of one of the first laws in the country guaranteeing 48-hour hospital stays for new moms and their babies. Her work has gained national recognition. The American Prospect named her a "woman to watch," and Working Mother Magazine named her as "Best in Congress" for her efforts on behalf of working families. She received an award from the Service Women's Action Network (SWAN) for her work to fight sexual assault in the military, and the Disabled American Veterans honored her work to improve the lives of America's veterans. She has also received the "Outstanding Member of the Senate Award" from the National Narcotic Officers' Associations'

Coalition and the "Above and Beyond Award" from the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve for her commitment to developing a supportive work environment for employees serving in the Guard and Reserves.

Amy was the valedictorian of her Wayzata High School class. She graduated magna cum laude from Yale University and the University of Chicago Law School. Her senior essay in college, published as the book "Uncovering the Dome," chronicles the 10-year-history behind the building of the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome and is still used at colleges and universities across the country.

Amy is married to John Bessler, a native of Mankato, who attended Loyola High School and the University of Minnesota. Amy and John have a daughter, Abigail, who is currently in college.



Mike Lee

(45) R-Utah

Elected 2010

361A Russell SOB

Tel: 202-224-5444

Committees:

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Energy and Natural Resources

Judiciary

Joint Economic Committee (*Vice Chairman*)

Every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m., we host "Jell-O with the Senator." All are invited to come meet me and enjoy a serving of Utah's official state snack.

Dates and times are subject to change, so if you are planning on visiting my office during one of these events, you are welcome to call ahead for a confirmation.

WA Directory 2-08-18

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Caucus Memberships

- [Air Force Caucus \(Senate\)](#)
- [Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus](#)
- [Senate National Guard Caucus](#)
- [Senate Republican High Tech Task Force](#)
- [Senate Tea Party Caucus](#)
- [Senate Western Caucus](#)

Elected in 2010 as Utah's 16th Senator, Mike Lee has spent his career defending the basic liberties of Americans and Utahns as a tireless advocate for our founding constitutional principles.

Senator Lee acquired a deep respect for the Constitution early on. His father, Rex Lee, who served as the Solicitor General under President Ronald Reagan, would often discuss varied aspects of judicial and constitutional doctrine around the kitchen table, from Due Process to the uses of Executive Plenary Power. He attended most of his father's arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court, giving him a unique, hands-on experience and understanding of government up close.

Lee graduated from Brigham Young University with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science, and served as BYU's Student Body President in his senior year. He graduated from BYU's Law School in 1997 and went on to serve as law clerk to Judge Dee Benson of the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah, and then with future Supreme Court Justice Judge Samuel A. Alito, Jr. on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Lee spent several years as an attorney with the law firm Sidley & Austin specializing in appellate and Supreme Court litigation, and then served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Salt Lake City arguing cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. Lee served the state of Utah as Governor Jon Huntsman's General Counsel and was later honored to reunite with Justice Alito, now on the Supreme Court, for a one-year clerkship. He returned to private practice in 2007.

Throughout his career, Lee earned a reputation as an outstanding practitioner of the law based on his sound judgment, abilities in the courtroom, and thorough understanding of the Constitution.

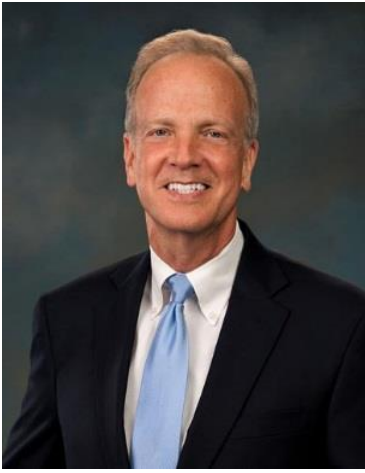
Today, Lee fights to preserve America's proud founding document in the United States Senate. He advocates efforts to support constitutionally limited government, fiscal responsibility, individual liberty, and economic prosperity.

Lee is a member of the Judiciary Committee, and serves as Chairman of the Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights Subcommittee protecting business competition and personal freedom.

He also oversees issues critical to Utah as the Chairman of the Water and Power Subcommittee of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. He serves on the Commerce Committee and the Joint Economic Committee, as well.

In the 114th Congress, Lee also began his tenure as Chairman of the Senate Steering Committee, where he works with his Republican colleagues in the Senate to introduce bold and innovative solutions to issues facing the American people.

Lee and his wife Sharon live in Alpine, Utah, with their three children. He is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served a two-year mission for the Church in the Texas Rio Grande Valley.



Jerry Moran

(62) R-KS

Elected 2010

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Committees:

Appropriations

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Environment and Public Works Veterans' Affairs

Indian Affairs

Kansans elected Jerry Moran to the United States Senate in 2010. Since joining the U.S. Senate, Senator Moran has been a leading advocate for protecting and preserving the special way of life in Kansas.

Senator Moran has a long history of opposing reckless spending in Washington, and as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee has pushed for spending cuts, tougher funding standards and broad reform. As the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman, he has the opportunity to focus on investing in policies that are vital to Kansas' rural communities, such as agriculture research and extension and Farm Bill implementation. Additionally, through the subcommittee's jurisdiction over the FDA budget, Senator Moran will work to advance public health innovations, including development of new medicines, medical devices and food safety technology.

As a member of the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, Senator Moran advocates on behalf of Kansans regarding a number of issues vital to the state's economy ranging from communications and product safety to highways, aviation and railways. Through his work on the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, Senator Moran continues his long-time commitment to strengthening the economy, opening up foreign markets to U.S. exports, and fostering the growth of small businesses. Also, as a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, one of his top priorities is improving the quality of life for the nearly 250,000 veterans living in Kansas.

Since joining the U.S. Senate, Senator Moran has also been a leading advocate for issues related to entrepreneurship, job creation and innovation. He is committed to

putting policies in place that foster a pro-growth environment where businesses can succeed without government imposed barriers.

For the 2014 election cycle, Senator Moran served as chairman of the National

Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC). Under Senator Moran's leadership, Republicans gained a net increase of nine seats – the largest Senate swing by any party since 1980 and the largest Senate gain in a midterm election since 1958, resulting in a Republican Senate Majority.

Prior to his election to the Senate in November 2010, Moran served Kansans in the “Big First” Congressional district for seven terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as eight years in the Kansas State Senate – spending the last two years as Majority Leader. As a senior member of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee, then-Congressman Moran worked with colleagues to craft legislation that allowed Kansas farms and ranches to remain viable in today's competitive global marketplace, and participated in the implementation of two Farm Bills. Moran was also an active member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, as well as the House Veterans' Affairs Committee where he served as chairman of the Health Subcommittee.

Senator Moran has made it a priority to stay connected to the people he represents. Despite the distance of more than 1,000 miles between Washington, D.C., and Kansas, he returns home each weekend to meet with Kansans. The conversations he has with Kansans during his travels around the state greatly impact the work he does in Washington.

Before his election to public office, Jerry Moran attended Fort Hays State University and later the University of Kansas, where he completed a degree in economics. After an early career as a small town banker, he received his J.D. from the University of Kansas. Jerry and his wife Robba continue to live in Kansas. They have two daughters, Kelsey and Alex.



Bill Nelson

(74) D-Florida

Elected 2000

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Committees:

Armed Services

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Finance

Special Committee on Aging

Sen. Bill Nelson is a true son of Florida, his family coming to the Panhandle in 1829, and his grandparents homesteading in the early 20th Century on land that today is the Kennedy Space Center.

From a spot near there Nelson would launch into space in 1986 and spend six days orbiting the Earth aboard the space shuttle Columbia.

Nearly three decades later he still vividly recalls looking back at our planet from the window of the shuttle and not seeing any political, religious or racial divides.

"From that perspective, you can see how we're all in this together," he says. "If we could just remember that, we'd sure get a lot more done." It's that kind of perspective that has earned Nelson a reputation as a thoughtful, moderate voice in an increasingly partisan political world. Nelson's public service career began in 1972, with his election to the Florida Legislature. He then served six terms in the U.S. Congress representing Orlando and the Space Coast, becoming an early champion of the environment.

In 1994, Nelson was elected to the Florida Cabinet as state Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner and Fire Marshal. During his six years in the post, he showed he was a common-sense problem solver and strong consumer advocate.

Nelson was first elected to the U.S. Senate in November 2000. Since then, he's stood up to the insurance companies, Wall Street banks and Big Oil. He's exposed the lies of BP about the Gulf spill. And he's created a blueprint forward for our nation's space agency. Now in his third term, he's continuing to fight for lower taxes, better education, Medicare and Social Security.

He's someone who thinks public service is a noble calling - which is why he is devoted his life to serving his community, his state and his country.

Clarence William Nelson II (born September 29, 1942)^[1] is an American politician of the Democratic Party serving as the senior United States Senator from Florida, in office since 2001. Nelson began his career in the Florida House of Representatives, serving from 1972 to 1978. He then served in the United States House of Representatives from 1979 to 1991. In January 1986 Nelson became the second sitting member of the United States Congress to fly in space. He flew as a Payload Specialist on the Space Shuttle *Columbia*.

He retired from Congress in 1990 to run for Governor of Florida but was unsuccessful. He was appointed as Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner and Fire Marshal of Florida, serving from 1995 to 2001.

In 2000 Nelson ran for and was elected to the U.S. Senate seat vacated by retiring Republican Senator Connie Mack III. He was re-elected in 2006 with 60% of the vote^[2] and in 2012 with 55% of the vote. In the Senate, he is generally considered a moderate Democrat.^{[3][4][5][6]} As of 2018, he is the only Democratic statewide elected official in Florida.^[7]

Early and personal life

Nelson was born September 29, 1942, in Miami, Florida, the only child of Nannie Merle (née Nelson) and Clarence William Nelson.^{[8][9]} His ancestry includes Scottish, Irish, English, and Danish.^{[10][11]} His father died of a heart attack when Nelson was 14 and his mother of Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS) when he was 24.^[12] Nelson grew up in Melbourne, Florida, where he attended Melbourne High School.^[13]

He attended Baptist and Episcopal churches but later was baptized through immersion in a Baptist church. He served as International President of Kiwanis-sponsored Key Club International in 1959–60.^[14] In 2005, he joined the First Presbyterian Church in Orlando.^[15]

Nelson attended the University of Florida, where he was a member of Florida Blue Key, and the Beta Theta Pi social fraternity. He transferred to Yale University, where he was a member of the Book and Snake secret society.^[16] He received a law degree from the University of Virginia.^[17]

In 1965, he joined the U.S. Army Reserve during the Vietnam War. He served on active duty from 1968 to 1970, attaining the rank of captain, and he remained in the Army until 1971. Nelson was admitted to the Florida bar in 1968, and began practicing law in Melbourne in 1970. In 1971, he worked as legislative assistant to Governor Reubin Askew.^[17]

In 1972, Nelson married Grace Cavert. The couple have two adult children: Charles William "Bill Jr." Nelson^[18] and Nan Ellen Nelson.^{[13][19]}

NASA/spaceflight

In 1986, Nelson became the second sitting member of Congress (and the first member of the House) to travel into space. He went through NASA training with Senator Jake Garn of Utah. He was a Payload Specialist on Space Shuttle *Columbia*'s STS-61-C mission from January 12 to 18, 1986. *Columbia* landed at Edwards AFB at 5:59 a.m. PST, on January 18. Mission elapsed time was 6 days, 2 hours, 45 minutes, 51 seconds. It was the last successful Space Shuttle flight before the *Challenger* accident, as the disaster occurred only ten days after *Columbia*'s return. Nelson wrote a book about his spaceflight experience in 1988, *Mission: An American Congressman's Voyage to Space*.^[20]

Early political career

Florida legislature

In 1972, Nelson was elected to the Florida House of Representatives from the 47th District, representing much of Brevard County and portions of Orange and Seminole Counties.^[21] He won reelection in 1974 and 1976.^[22]

U.S. House of Representatives

Nelson was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1978 in the open 9th District after the five-term Republican incumbent, Louis Frey Jr., ran for governor rather than reelection.^[23] Nelson was reelected to that district, which encompassed all of Brevard and part of Orange County, in 1980. He was redistricted to the 11th District, encompassing all of Brevard and parts of Orange, Indian River, and Osceola Counties, and continued to serve in the U.S. House until 1991.

1990 gubernatorial election

In 1990, Nelson ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic nomination for Governor of Florida. He lost to former U.S. Senator Lawton Chiles, who went on to win the general election. During the primary campaign, Nelson tried to make an issue out of Chiles' health and age, a strategy that backfired on him in a state with a large population of retirees and senior citizens.

Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner and Fire Marshal

In 1994 Nelson announced his intention to seek the office of Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner and Fire Marshal of Florida. He won the election with 52% of the vote over State Rep. Tim Ireland's 48%. In 1998, he again defeated Ireland for his reelection to the office.

In 2000, Nelson announced that he would be running for the United States Senate seat held by retiring Republican Connie Mack III.^[24] Florida's "resign-to-run" law requires an incumbent office holder seeking another elective office to submit an irrevocable resignation from the office they currently hold unless that tenure would end anyway before they would assume the new position if elected. The candidate may designate the effective date of the resignation to be in the future, but it must be no later than the date that they would assume the new office. This compelled Nelson to submit his resignation as Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner and Fire Marshall early in 2000 when he began to campaign for the U.S. Senate seat. He chose January 3, 2001, as the effective date of his resignation, as that was the date new Senators would be sworn in.^[25]

Elections

2000 election

Main article: United States Senate election in Florida, 2000

In 2000, Nelson ran as a Democrat for the U.S. Senate seat vacated by retiring Republican Senator Connie Mack III. He won the election, defeating U.S. Representative Bill McCollum, who ran as the Republican candidate.

2006 election

Main article: United States Senate election in Florida, 2006

Following the 2004 election, in which Republican George W. Bush was re-elected and the Republican Party increased its majority in both the House and the Senate, Nelson was seen as vulnerable. He was a Democrat in a state that Bush had won, though by a margin of only five percentage points.^[26]

Evangelical Christian activist James Dobson declared that such Democrats, including Nelson, would be "in the 'bull's-eye'" if they supported efforts to block Bush's judicial nominees;^[27] and Nelson's refusal to support efforts in Congress to intervene in the Terri Schiavo case was seen as "a great political issue" for a Republican opponent to use in mobilizing Christian conservatives against him.^[28]

Katherine Harris, the former Florida Secretary of State and two-term U.S. representative, defeated three other candidates in the September 5 Republican primary. Harris's role in the 2000 presidential election made her a polarizing figure. Many Florida Republicans were eager to reward her for her perceived party loyalty in the Bush-Gore election; many Florida Democrats were eager to vote against her for the same reason.^[29] In May, when the party found itself unable to recruit a candidate who could defeat Harris in the primary, many Republican activists admitted that the race was already lost.^[30]

Nelson focused on safe issues, portraying himself as a bipartisan centrist problem-solver.^[29] He obtained the endorsement of all 22 of Florida's daily newspapers.^[31] Harris failed to secure the endorsement of Jeb Bush, who publicly stated that she could not win; the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which had supported her in her House campaigns, did not endorse her in this race.^[32]

As the election approached, polls showed Harris trailing Nelson by 26 to 35 points.^[33] Nelson transferred about \$16.5 million in campaign funds to other Democratic candidates,^[34] and won the election with 60.4% of the vote to Harris's 38.2%.^[35]

2012 election

Main article: United States Senate election in Florida, 2012

Vice President Joe Biden called Nelson crucial to President Obama's chances for winning Florida in 2012. In March 2011, Biden was reported as having said that if Nelson lost in 2012, "it means President Obama and the Democratic presidential ticket won't win the key battleground state, either....'He's a truly, truly decent guy who has the absolute respect of his colleagues, and I've heard that from both sides of the aisle,' Biden said of his former Senate colleague."^[36] Congressman Connie Mack IV, the son of Nelson's direct predecessor in the Senate, won the Republican nomination. Nelson eventually defeated Mack with 55.2% of the vote to Mack's 42.2%.^[37]

Fundraising

On February 17, 2009, David D. Kirkpatrick wrote that Nelson was one of three lawmakers who "were returning campaign contributions from donors listed as employees of the PMA Group, a Washington lobbying firm whose founder is under investigation for purportedly funneling money through bogus donors".^[38]

During his 2006 Senate campaign, according to the Open Congress website, Nelson "was accused of taking \$80,000 in illegal campaign contributions from Riscorp, Inc... The Riscorp scandal involved dozens of Florida state legislators and was among the largest scandals in recent Florida history.

Political positions

According to ratings by the *National Journal*, Nelson's votes have been liberal on economic matters, moderate on social issues, and liberal but close to the center on foreign policy.^[40]^[not in citation given] According to CrowdPac, which gives scores based on donations they receive and give, Nelson received a score of 3.5L with 10L being the most liberal and 10C being the most conservative.^[41]^[not in citation given]

As of July 2017, Nelson held a 53% approval rating and 25% disapproval rating, with 22% of survey respondents having no opinion on his job performance.^[42]

Interest group ratings

Nelson scores 100% on Planned Parenthood Action Fund's Congressional Scorecard.^[43] He also scores 100% on NARAL's Congressional Record.^[44]

Nelson scores a 28.4 lifetime rating on the American Conservative Union's scale of 0 to 100, but a 0 out of 100 in their 2015 ratings.^[45] He also scores a 9 out of 100 on the 2016 FreedomWorks' 2016 ratings.^[46] He scores a 7 out of 100 on the Club for Growth 2015 scorecard and an 11 out of 100 on their lifetime ratings.^[47] He scores a 90% from the Americans for Democratic Action in 2015, the most recent year they have made ratings public.^[48]

Vote Smart issue positions

Vote Smart, a non-profit, non-partisan research organization that collects and distributes information on candidates for public office in the United States, "researched presidential and congressional candidates' public records to determine candidates' likely responses on certain key issues." According to Vote Smart's 2016 analysis, Nelson generally supports pro-choice legislation, opposes U.S. combat operations in Afghanistan, supports reducing defense spending in order to balance the budget, supports an income tax increase in order to balance the budget, supports federal spending as a means of promoting economic growth, supports providing tax incentives to businesses for the purpose of job creation, supports requiring states to adopt federal education standards, opposes reducing restrictions on offshore energy production, supports the federal regulation of greenhouse gas emissions, supports restrictions on the purchase and possession of guns, opposes repealing the Affordable Care Act, opposes requiring immigrants who are unlawfully present to return to their country of origin before they are eligible for citizenship, and opposes allowing individuals to divert a portion of their Social Security taxes into personal retirement accounts.^[49]

Economic issues

Trade

In 2005, Nelson was one of ten Democrats who voted in favor of the Dominican Republic – Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) on its 55–45 passage in the Senate.^[50]

Tax policy

On several occasions, Nelson has voted to reduce or eliminate the estate tax,^[51] notably in June 2006, when he was one of four Democrats voting for a failed (57–41) cloture motion on a bill to eliminate the tax

Nelson voted against a Republican plan to extend the Bush tax cuts to all taxpayers. Instead, Nelson supported extending the tax cuts for those with incomes below \$250,000.^[53] Nelson voted for the Buffett Rule in April 2012. Speaking of his support for the Buffett Rule, Nelson said he voted to raise the minimum tax rate on incomes over \$1 million per year to 30% in order to reduce the budget deficit and to make the tax code more fair. Nelson said, "In short, tax fairness for deficit reduction just makes common sense."^[54]

Government spending

Nelson voted for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, often referred to as economic stimulus, proposed by President Obama.^[55] In August 2011, Nelson voted for a bill to increase the debt ceiling by \$400 billion. Nelson said that while the bill was not perfect, "this kind of gridlock doesn't do anything." Nelson voted against Paul Ryan's budget.^[53]

Credit scores

In May 2013, Nelson requested the Federal Trade Commission and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau investigate why consumers who go through a real estate short sale have their credit score lowered to the same degree as those who go through Foreclosure. Nelson suggested a penalty if the issue was not addressed within ninety days.^[56]

Flood insurance

Nelson voted in favor of the Biggert–Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, which required the National Flood Insurance Program to raise insurance rates for some properties at high risk of flooding.^{[57][58]} In 2014, following an outcry by Florida property owners facing steep flood insurance rate hikes,^[59] Nelson supported legislation to provide retroactive refunds for people who have had large flood insurance rate increases due to the sale or purchase of a home, cap average annual premium increases at 15 to 18 percent and allow subsidies for insurance rates that are based on current flood maps.^[60]

Health care

In March 2010, Nelson voted for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, which passed and were signed into law by President Obama.^[citation needed]

In October 2017 Nelson wrote a letter to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) asking the CDC to prioritize Zika prevention.^[61]

Space exploration

Nelson is seen as a major supporter of the space program.^[citation needed] In 2010 he proposed creating as many as "five business enterprise zones as magnets for commercial space ventures".^[citation needed] He said that "the move is expected to attract thousands of jobs to Florida's 'Space Coast' area around NASA's Kennedy Space Center and the Cape Canaveral Air Force Base."^[citation needed]

In March 2010 Nelson complained that Obama had made a mistake in canceling NASA's Constellation program.^[62] On July 7, 2011, it was reported that Nelson said Congress "starved" the space program of funding for several years, but suggested that the situation was turning around and called on the Obama Administration to push for NASA funding.^[63]

LGBT rights

On December 18, 2010, Nelson voted in favor of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010,^{[64][65]} which established a legal process for ending the policy that prevented gay and lesbian people from serving openly in the United States Armed Forces.

On April 4, 2013, Nelson announced that he no longer opposed same-sex marriage. He wrote, "The civil rights and responsibilities for one must pertain to all. Thus, to discriminate against one class and not another is wrong for me. Simply put, if The Lord made homosexuals as well as heterosexuals, why should I discriminate against their civil marriage? I shouldn't, and I won't."^[66]

Foreign policy

Council on American-Islamic Relations

In November 2011, Ahmed Bedier, an activist linked to CAIR and the Muslim Brotherhood, donated money to Nelson and co-hosted a fundraiser for him. Nelson's representatives later claimed that he "did not know about Bedier's relationship with CAIR" and that Bedier had exaggerated his closeness to the senator.^[67] In November 2011 Marc Caputo of the Miami Herald wrote that the scandal over Bedier threatened the Jewish vote for Nelson, given that Bedier had called Israel a "terrorist state." Caputo noted that while "Nelson has gone to great lengths to fashion himself as pro-Israel", that was not enough for some conservative groups.^[68]

Syria visit

In December 2006, Nelson made a trip to Syria to visit President Bashar Assad in Damascus.^[69] At the time, the Bush Administration had a no contact policy with Syrian officials because "of its support of Hezbollah and Hamas, which the U.S. deems terrorist organizations".^[70] The White House press secretary commented on the trip saying, "We don't think that members of Congress ought to be going there".^[70] The State Department also disapproved of the trip, but provided logistical support to Nelson.^[71]

Foreign aid

Nelson voted against Senate Bill 3576, which called for a prohibition of US aid to the governments of Egypt and Libya "contingent upon the release to US authorities the aggressors who attacked our embassy and consulate in Egypt and Libya."^[72] The bill also would have limited aid to Pakistan until the release of Dr. Shakil Afridi, the doctor who helped the CIA trace Osama bin Laden and is currently imprisoned by the Pakistani government.^[72]

Gun control

In 2012, the National Rifle Association gave Nelson a "F" rating for his support of gun control.^[73] Nelson is an advocate for new gun control laws including an Assault Weapons Ban and imposing a ban on magazines over ten rounds.^[74] In 2013, he supported a proposal that would require individuals buying guns at gun shows to have background checks. He also supported the banning of assault rifles and limiting gun magazines to 10 rounds.^[75]

In response to the 2016 Orlando nightclub shooting, Nelson expressed remorse that the Democrat's Feinstein Amendment, which made the sale of guns to individuals on the terrorist watch list illegal, and a Republican proposal to update background checks and to create an alert for law enforcement when an individual on the terrorist watch list, failed to pass the Senate. He stated "What am I going to tell the community of Orlando that is trying to come together in the healing? Sadly, what I am going to have to tell them is that the NRA won again."^[76] Both he and Marco Rubio supported the bills.^[77]

Environment

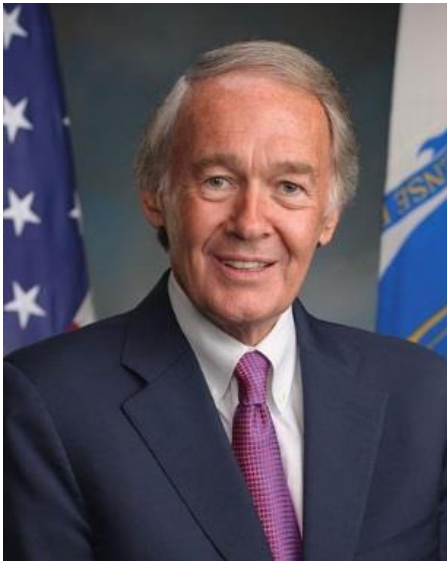
On June 27, 2013, Nelson co-sponsored the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2013 (S. 1254; 113th Congress), a bill that would reauthorize and modify the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 and would authorize the appropriation of \$20.5 million annually through 2018 for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to mitigate the harmful effects of algal blooms and hypoxia.^{[78][79]}

Environmental activists praised him for his work on legislation to restore the Gulf Coast after the BP oil spill.^[80]

Security and surveillance

In 2007, Nelson was the only Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee to vote against an amendment to withhold funds for CIA use of enhanced interrogation techniques on terrorism suspects. His vote, combined with those of all Republican members of the committee, killed the measure.^[81]

In January 2018, Nelson voted to reauthorize the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which allows the National Security Agency to extend a program of warrantless spying on internet and phone networks.^[82] In 2015, he had called for a permanent extension of the law.^[83]



Edward Markey
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Elected 2012

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Committees:

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Foreign Relations

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

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Senator Edward J. Markey, a consumer champion and national leader on energy, environmental protection and telecommunications policy, has a prolific legislative record on major issues across the policy spectrum and a deep commitment to improving the lives of the people of Massachusetts and our country. Whether the issue is climate change, clean energy, safeguarding privacy, nuclear nonproliferation, investor protection or preserving an open Internet that spurs competition and consumer choice, Senator Markey stands up for the priorities and values of Massachusetts.

While serving for 37 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, Senator Markey fought for his constituents throughout his Congressional District. When he was Dean of the Massachusetts delegation in the House, he worked to harness the energy and influence of his colleagues on behalf of the entire Commonwealth. Elected to the Senate in a special election in June 2013, Senator Markey is bringing his experience, energy and expertise to fight for all the people of Massachusetts.

Senator Markey has amassed an unparalleled record of energy and environmental legislative achievements. He has consistently fought to create new jobs in American clean energy and served as a leading consumer champion against rising gas prices and foreign oil. He is the principal House author of the 2007 fuel economy law, which will increase fuel economy standards to 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025, the first increase in a generation. He also is the author of the appliance efficiency act of 1987, which stopped the construction of hundreds of coal-fired plants. Senator Markey authored the law that established the Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve, ensuring that New England families won't be left out in the cold when oil prices spike. And he is the author of the revolutionary law that requires electricity regulators to open up the wholesale electric power market for the first time.

In 2009, Congressman Markey was the co-author of the landmark Waxman-

Markey bill, the only comprehensive climate legislation ever to pass a chamber of Congress. It gave hope to the world that the United States was serious about addressing climate change and helped America effectively negotiate with the international community.

Senator Markey was a leading voice in the investigation into the BP oil spill. He insisted that the company reveal the true size of the spill's flow rate, raised concerns about the use of toxic chemical dispersants into the environment and forced BP to make live video footage of the oil spill available to the public on the "Spillcam" website he created. BP ultimately pled guilty to 14 counts, including one count of Obstruction of Congress for making false and misleading statements and withholding information and documents from then-Rep. Markey about the true size of the spill.

In the House of Representatives, Congressman Markey served as the Ranking Member of the Natural Resources Committee. From 2007 to 2010, he served as Chairman of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, a signature committee established by then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi. He also served on the Energy and Commerce Committee, where he was Chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment.

A member of the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, Senator Markey is a national leader on telecommunications policy, technology and privacy. In the House, he served for 20 years as Chair or Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, where he fostered the growth of new information technologies and was the principal author of many of the laws now governing our nation's telephone, broadcasting, cable television, wireless, and broadband communications systems. He is the House author of the 1992 Cable Act, which increased choices for millions of consumers and enabled satellite-delivered programming to be more widely offered.

He also authored the law in 1993 that moved over 200 MHz of spectrum from government to commercial use, creating the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th wireless phone companies. New companies entered the market with digital technology, forcing the incumbents to innovate and invest and pushing mobile phone prices down. Congressman Markey authored the landmark Telecommunications Act of 1996, ushering competition into the telecommunications marketplace and unleashing private sector investment.

Competition remains Senator Markey's economic mantra—in his words, "ruthless Darwinian competition that would bring a smile to Adam Smith." He has been instrumental in breaking up anti-consumer, anti-innovative monopolies in electricity, long-distance and local telephone service, cable television, and international satellite services. He was one of the only members of the House Commerce Committee to fight AT&T's monopoly in the early 1980's and is a principal author of the requirement that the Bell Operating companies accept local telephone service in the 1990's. His pro-competition policies have directly benefited job creation in Massachusetts and throughout the country. While in the House, Congressman Markey introduced the Internet Freedom Preservation Act, the first net neutrality bill introduced in Congress, to ensure that as the Internet continues to evolve, it remains a level playing field guided by the principles of openness, competition and innovation. He also has been a key leader on providing privacy protections for personal information such as medical records, financial records, and on-line purchases. He has championed strengthening privacy protections for children and is the House author of the Children's Online Privacy and Protection Act (COPPA), the primary law that safeguards children's privacy online.

From 2003 to 2009 in the House of Representatives, Senator Markey also served as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee. In that capacity, he focused on closing gaps in our homeland defenses, particularly in the areas of nuclear, aviation, maritime, liquefied natural gas and chemical security. In the wake of the 9-11 attacks, he authored the first-ever mandate in the law that 100% of cargo on passenger planes is screened, and 100% of all maritime cargo is scanned before entering America's ports.

Senator Markey also was the leader of the national Nuclear Freeze movement and has been a Congressional champion on nuclear nonproliferation. His amendment to ban all underground

nuclear testing passed in 1986, and in the 1990s, he fought to tighten controls on global trafficking in nuclear technology. Since then, Senator Markey has continued his work on nuclear nonproliferation, successfully enacting new restrictions on exports of nuclear and dual-use technologies to Iran, North Korea, and other countries designated as state sponsors of terrorism and pressing for stronger nuclear nonproliferation conditions on all future nuclear trade cooperation agreements. As founder of the Nonproliferation Caucus, Senator Markey continues to spearhead efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to safeguard the future for generations to come.

He is the author of some of the most important Wall Street reform laws since the Great Depression, including statutes that strengthened penalties against insider trading, improved federal oversight over the stock and futures markets, and reformed regulation of the government securities market.

Senator Markey was born in Malden, Massachusetts, on July 11, 1946. He attended Boston College (B.A., 1968) and Boston College Law School (J.D., 1972). He served in the U.S. Army Reserve and was elected to the Massachusetts State House where he served two terms representing Malden and Melrose. He is married to Dr. Susan Blumenthal.



Catherine Cortez Masto
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Elected 2016

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Committees:

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Energy and Natural Resources
Rules and Administration
Indian Affairs
Special Committee on Aging

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Caucus Memberships:

Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues (Senate)

Before being elected to the U.S. Senate, Senator Catherine Cortez Masto has spent her career fighting to protect Nevada families. Cortez Masto served two terms as Nevada's Attorney General, where she fought to combat drug crime, protect seniors, take on the

big banks, and worked to strengthen laws preventing sex trafficking and violence against women. Prior to her service as Attorney General, Cortez Masto worked as an Assistant County Manager for Clark County. She also served as a federal criminal prosecutor for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Washington, D.C. and was Chief of Staff to Governor Bob Miller. Cortez Masto currently resides in Las Vegas, Nevada with her husband, Paul.

In the 115th Congress, Cortez Masto will join six U.S. Senate Committees that will enable her to be a strong advocate for Nevadans: The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; the Committee on Rules and Administration; the Committee on Indian Affairs; and the Special Committee on Aging.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

The Banking Committee oversees legislation in areas including, but not limited to: banking, monetary policy, insurance, financial markets, securities, housing, community development and mass transit, international trade and finance, and economic policy. The Banking Committee also works to protect consumers in areas such as credit card, housing, and financial rates.

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Catherine Marie Cortez Masto (/ˌkɔːrˈtɛz ˈmæstou/; born March 29, 1964) is an American attorney and politician serving as the junior United States Senator from Nevada since 2017. A member of the Democratic Party, she previously served as the 32nd Attorney General of Nevada (2007–2015).

Cortez Masto graduated from University of Nevada, Reno and Gonzaga University School of Law. She worked four years as a civil attorney in Las Vegas and two years as a criminal prosecutor for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Washington, D.C. before being elected Nevada Attorney General in 2006 to replace George Chanos. Reelected in 2010, she was not eligible to run for a third term in 2014 because of lifetime term limits established by the Constitution of Nevada.

Cortez Masto defeated Joe Heck in the U.S. Senate election in Nevada to replace outgoing Democratic Senator Harry Reid, becoming the first woman elected to represent Nevada in the Senate and the first Latina elected to serve in the Senate.^[1] She took office on January 3, 2017.

Early life

Cortez Masto was born in Las Vegas, Nevada, the daughter of Joanna (née Musso) and Manny Cortez.^[2] Her father was the longtime head of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority and served as a Clark County Commissioner and as an attorney for the County.^[3] Manny Cortez, now deceased, and Harry Reid had a longstanding friendship.^[4] Her father is of Mexican descent and her mother is of Italian descent.^[5] Her paternal grandfather, Edward Cortez, immigrated to Nevada from the Mexican state of Chihuahua.^{[6][7][8]}

Education and law career

Cortez Masto earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in finance from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1986 and a J.D. from Gonzaga University School of Law in 1990.^[9]

She was admitted to the State Bar of Nevada in 1990, the U.S. District Court, District of Nevada in 1991 and the U.S. Court of Appeals, for the Ninth Circuit in 1994. She is married to Paul Masto, a former Special Agent in the United States Secret Service.^[10]

Her career includes four years as a civil attorney in Las Vegas and two years as a criminal prosecutor for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Washington, D.C. She also served as former Nevada Democratic Governor Bob Miller's chief of staff.^[4]

In November 2014, Cortez Masto was named executive vice chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education. There was initial controversy because she was hired directly by the chancellor, and not the university system's board of regents; the chancellor indicated that the regents had previously recommended that he hire an assistant, and in December the board voted unanimously to approve her annual salary of \$215,000.^{[11][12]}

Nevada Attorney General

In 2009, Cortez Masto's office launched an investigation against Brian Krolicki, the Republican Lieutenant Governor of Nevada. Krolicki faced felony charges related to allegations that he mishandled the Nevada College Savings Trust Fund when he was state treasurer. During the investigation, the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* discovered that Cortez Masto's husband, Paul, planned to host a fundraising party for Robert S. Randazzo, a Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor, four days before the attorney general's office was scheduled to prosecute Krolicki. Cortez Masto said she was unaware of the fundraising party.^[13] The charges against Krolicki were ultimately dismissed in Clark County District Court.^[14] The dismissal of charges against Krolicki was regarded as a political setback for Cortez Masto, who, according to the *Las Vegas Sun*, "opened herself to charges of politicizing her office and prosecutorial misconduct."^[15]

In 2010, Cortez Masto's office began investigating Bank of America, accusing the company of raising interest rates on troubled borrowers. Her office sought to end Nevada's participation in a loan modification settlement in order to sue the bank over alleged deceptive marketing and lending practices. Bank of America denied any wrongdoing.^[16] The lawsuit was settled in 2012 for \$750 million for lien reductions and short sales.^[17]

Cortez Masto defended the state of Nevada's position in the lawsuit *Sevcik v. Sandoval*. The lawsuit challenged Nevada's denial of same-sex marriage as prohibited by the state's constitution and statutory law. After initially defending the state's same-sex marriage ban,^[18] Cortez Masto and the state abandoned their defense of the ban in light of a ruling by the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.^[19]

U.S. Senate

President Joe Biden.

Elections

Main article: United States Senate election in Nevada, 2016

Cortez Masto declined to run for Governor of Nevada in the 2014 election.^[20] When U.S. Senator Harry Reid decided not to run for re-election in the 2016 election, he endorsed Cortez Masto as his successor.^[4] Cortez Masto's campaign relied heavily on the political infrastructure Reid had assembled.^[21] Her opponent was United States Representative Joe Heck.

Cortez Masto, who supports increased investments in renewable energy technology, was supported by the League of Conservation Voters.^[22] Cortez Masto was also financially supported by End Citizens United, a political action committee seeking to overturn *Citizens United v. FEC*, and pro choice groups such as EMILY's List and Planned Parenthood.^[23]

Cortez Masto won 47% of the vote (520,658 votes), with Joe Heck behind at 45% (494,427 votes).^[1]

She filled the seat of former Senator Harry Reid on January 3, 2017, becoming the first Latina in the United States Senate.^[24]

Political positions

Environment

Cortez believes in human caused climate change and that the federal government should limit the amount of greenhouse gasemissions from power plants.^[25] She supports the growth of green jobs and increasing Nevada's reliance on solar power and other forms of clean energy. She opposes the use of Yucca Mountain as a nuclear waste repository.^[26]

Gun law

Cortez Masto is a gun owner. The National Rifle Association (NRA) has given Cortez Masto a "F" rating due to her support for gun control. During the 2016 election cycle, the NRA spent \$1 million on an attack ad against her. She opposes allowing individuals on the terrorist watch list to buy guns, stating that allowing them to do so "makes no sense."^[27]

In response to the 2017 Las Vegas shooting, Cortez Masto co-sponsored a bill with Dianne Feinstein to ban bump stocks. She stated that, although the bill cannot bring back the lives of those lost, it can be a start towards decreasing gun violence and mass shootings.^[28]

Health care

Cortez Masto does not support the repeal of the Affordable Care Act (also known as *Obamacare*).^[25] However, she does support improving upon the act, which she has called "imperfect." She has co-sponsored the Marketplace Certainty Act to bring more stability to the healthcare marketplace in lieu of insurance providers leaving the program.^[29]

Immigration

She supports the DREAM Act and allowing undocumented immigrants to obtain citizenship.^[25]

LGBT

Cortez Masto supports gay marriage.^[25]

Women's health

Cortez Masto is pro-choice.^[25] In the 2016 election, she was endorsed by Planned Parenthood and funded by their action fund.^[30]

Additionally, she does not believe that companies can withhold access to birth control from women based on religious beliefs.^[25]



Gary Peters

(58) D-MI, elected 2014

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Committees:

Armed Services
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Homeland
Security and Governmental Affairs Joint Economic
Committee

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Elected in 2014, Senator Gary Peters is honored to represent the State of Michigan in the U.S. Senate. Throughout his career in public service, Gary has been a strong, independent voice for Michigan's families and small businesses. He has focused on uniting our communities by fighting for the things that we all agree on — a stronger economy, good-paying jobs, affordable health care, a secure retirement and a fair chance for everyone to succeed.

In the 114th Congress, Gary serves on the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee and the Joint Economic Committee.

In the U.S. Senate, Gary's top priority is to continue supporting job creation and economic growth to strengthen Michigan small businesses and our middle class. He is committed to working with members of both parties to find commonsense, practical and bipartisan solutions to the challenges facing Michigan and our nation.

Gary is a product of Michigan schools. He graduated from Rochester High School and went on to Alma College where he earned a B.A. in Political Science. After graduation,

while working a full-time job and raising a family, he went on to earn an M.B.A. in Finance from the University of Detroit Mercy, a law degree from Wayne State University Law School and an M.A. in Philosophy from Michigan State University with a focus on the ethics of development. Gary was born in Pontiac, Michigan and has lived his entire life in Oakland County. His father, a World War II veteran, worked as a public school teacher for more than 30 years. His mother worked as a nurse's aide at a local nursing home, where she helped organize her workplace and became an SEIU union steward. Growing up, Gary learned the importance of hard work and fairness from his parents. He started his own small business delivering newspapers at age 11. In junior high, he bused tables at a Big Boy restaurant, and in high school and college, he worked at a local retailer.

For more than 20 years, Gary worked as an investment advisor, helping families save for their retirement and provide for their children's college education. However, he always felt the need to serve and give back to his community.

Gary volunteered for the U.S. Navy Reserve at age 34, where he earned a Seabee Combat Warfare Specialist designation and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Commander. After the September 11th terrorist attacks on our country, he volunteered again for drilling status.

First elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2008, with the country facing unprecedented economic challenges, Gary fought alongside Michigan workers to ensure the survival of our local auto industry. Today, Michigan's auto industry is strong and thousands of new jobs have been created in our state. Gary began his public service as a Rochester Hills City Councilman in 1991. In 1994, he was elected to the Michigan State Senate, where he had more bills signed into law than any other member of his party. Gary later served as the Michigan State Lottery Commissioner, where he generated a record amount of funding for our public schools.

In Congress, Gary has drawn on his business background to make Washington more transparent and accountable. He is leading efforts to eliminate wasteful, duplicative and unnecessary spending, and he is continually working to responsibly reduce the deficit. As a member of the House Financial Services Committee, Gary worked to hold bad actors on Wall Street accountable. Selected to serve on the Wall Street Reform Conference Committee, Peters played a central role in shaping the toughest financial reform law since the Great Depression. This landmark legislation eliminates future taxpayer-funded bailouts, bans the irresponsible behavior on Wall Street that caused the recession and provides commonsense financial protections for regular Americans.

Gary and his wife, Colleen, live in Oakland County and have three children: Gary Jr., Madeleine and Alana.

Early life, education, and military service

Peters was born December 1, 1958 in Pontiac,^[5] where he grew up. He is the son of Madeleine A. (née Vignier) and Herbert Garrett Peters, a historian and statistician.^{[6][7]} His mother was a French war bride and his father was American.^[8] He graduated from Rochester High school in 1976 and Alma College in 1980. He later received a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Detroit in 1984. Peters also holds a J.D. from the Wayne State University Law School and an M.A. in philosophy from Michigan State University.

Peters served as a Lieutenant Commander and an Assistant Supply Officer in the United States Navy Reserve. His reserve duty included time in the Persian

Gulf supporting Operation Southern Watch, and he served overseas during increased military activity following the September 11, 2001 attacks. During his service he received awards and citations, including the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. He served on the Rochester Hills City Council from 1991 to 1993.^{[9][10]}

Business and academic career

Peters worked for 22 years as a financial advisor, serving as an assistant vice president at Merrill Lynch from 1980 until 1989 when he joined Paine Webber as a vice president.^{[11][12][13]}

From 2007 to 2008, Peters served as the third Griffin Endowed Chair in American Government at Central Michigan University. In that part-time position, he taught one class a semester, plus preparing additional student activities including two policy forums, and developing a journal of Michigan politics and policy, for \$65,000 a year.^[14] Peters announced his candidacy to run for Congress two months after being hired.^[15] Student activists protested Peters' hiring, saying he could not be objective in the classroom while running for office and that the university job was subsidizing his campaign.^{[15][16]}

Peters also has taught finance at Wayne State and strategic management and business policy courses at Oakland University.^[12]

He has been a senior policy and financial analyst for the Michigan Department of Treasury,^[17] and served on arbitration panels for the National Association of Securities Dealers, the New York Stock Exchange and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

Michigan Senate

Elections

In November 1994, Peters was elected to the Michigan Senate to represent the Oakland County-based 14th district. He was re-elected in 1998 and served until 2002, when he was compelled to retire owing to the law on term limits. Peters was succeeded in the 14th district by Gilda Jacobs.

Tenure

The district is one of the most diverse state Senate districts—containing nearly every racial, ethnic and religious group in Michigan. Located in southeastern Oakland County, it includes the cities of Pontiac, Bloomfield Hills, Southfield, and Oak Park.

Peters was chosen by his Democratic colleagues to chair his party's caucus. He was also a member of the Michigan Law Revision Commission and served on the Michigan Sentencing Commission.^[18] Both the Michigan State House of Representatives and the Senate passed a bill sponsored by Peters which banned any new wells under the state waters of the Great Lakes except in case of a state energy emergency. The bill passed into law without the signature of Governor John Engler.^[19]

Committee assignments

He served as the vice chairman of the Senate Finance, Education, Judiciary and Economic Development Committees. He was also a member of the Natural Resources and the Mental Health and Human Services Committee.^[18]

2002 statewide elections

In his final year as a member of the Michigan Senate, Peters was a candidate for governor and later for Attorney General. As the Democratic nominee for attorney general, he lost to Republican Mike Cox. Peters came within 5,200 votes of Cox—less than a 0.17 percent margin.^{[20][21]} Peters decided not to contest the election results despite reported irregularities.

Several mistakes were reportedly found during analysis, including a precinct in Dearborn which recorded Peters with 96 votes when he actually had 396. The race was the closest statewide contest in Michigan since the 1950 gubernatorial race.^[22]

Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm appointed Peters as the Michigan Lottery commissioner on April 9, 2003, where he was preceded by Jim Kipp and succeeded by Scott Bowen.^{[23][24][25]}

U.S. House of Representatives

Elections

2008

See also: United States House of Representatives elections in Michigan, 2008 § District 9

On August 7, 2007, Peters ended months of speculation by formally announcing he would run against eight-term Republican congressman Joe Knollenberg in the 9th District, which included almost all of Oakland County. Peters resigned as state lottery commissioner to devote his full energy to the campaign.

Knollenberg was considered vulnerable due to an increasing Democratic trend in what was once a heavily Republican district. He was nearly defeated in 2006 by Nancy Skinner, a former radio talk-show host who spent virtually no money, leading the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee to target him for defeat. Knollenberg's opponents in 2002 and 2004 performed significantly below the Democratic base in the 9th District.

In the 2002 state attorney general race, Peters performed at or above the Democratic base in 72 percent of the 9th District precincts. In his 1998 state Senate campaign, he performed at or above base in 99 percent of the precincts.^[26]

Peters won the November 4 election by 33,524 votes, taking 52 percent of the vote to Knollenberg's 43 percent. Barack Obama carried Oakland County by 15 points; roughly two-thirds of Oakland County was in the 9th. He was the fourth person and first Democrat to represent the district since its creation in 1933^[27] (it had previously been the 17th District from 1933 to 1953, the 18th from 1953 to 1973, the 19th from 1973 to 1983, the 18th from 1983 to 1993, the 11th from 1993 to 2003, and became the 9th in 2003).

2010

See also: United States House of Representatives elections in Michigan, 2010 § District 9

Peters defeated challenges by Republican Andrew "Rocky" Raczkowski, Libertarian Adam Goodman, Independent Bob Gray, Independent Matthew Kuofie, and Green Douglas Campbell.^[28]

2012

See also: United States House of Representatives elections in Michigan, 2012 § District 14

Due to the state's population decline, as reflected by the 2010 Federal Census, Michigan lost one congressional district. As a result of the subsequent redistricting of house seats, much of Peters' 9th district, including his home in Bloomfield Hills, was merged with the 12th district, represented by fellow Democrat Sander Levin. The new district retained Peters' district number—the 9th—but geographically was more Levin's district.

In September 2011, Peters opted to run in the newly redrawn 14th District. The district had previously been the 13th District, represented by freshman Democrat Hansen Clarke. The redrawn district is based in Detroit, but contains a large chunk of Peters' old State Senate district and portions of his old congressional district. Indeed, Peters had represented most of the Oakland County portion of the district at one time or another. Due to Detroit's dwindling population, it was no longer possible to keep the district exclusively within Wayne County. In the August 2012 Democratic primary, he defeated Clarke (who opted to follow most of his constituents into the reconfigured 14th even though his home had been drawn into the reconfigured 13th—the old 14th) and Southfield Mayor Brenda Lawrence. The 14th is a

heavily Democratic, 58 percent black-majority district, and Peters was overwhelmingly favored in November. As expected, he bested Republican John Hauler in the general election with 82 percent of the vote. He was the first white congressman to represent a significant portion of Detroit since 1993.

Tenure

Gary Peters was sworn into his first term in January 2009. During his time in office, he's voted for the Recovery Act, also known as the stimulus,^[29] the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act,^[30] the American Clean Energy and Security Act, which would have established a national emissions trading plan, but was not passed,^[31] the Paycheck Fairness Act, also not passed into law,^[32] the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act,^[33] and the DREAM Act^[34] to provide conditional permanent residency to certain immigrants.

Peters worked with the Obama Administration to obtain debt forgiveness for Chrysler.^[35] For his work, House Financial Services Committee Chairman Barney Frank said Peters was the "single most effective person" in fighting against the forces that wanted to let Detroit go bankrupt.^[36] In Congress, Peters opposed a plan to provide disaster relief aid, the funds for which would have come from the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing (ATVM) loan program.^[37]

In July 2010, the *Michigan Messenger* wrote that Peters was "criticizing the leadership of his own party. Peters and three other Democratic legislators...this week formed the Spending Cuts and Deficit Reduction Working Group and proposed a series of bills to cut spending. Peters' bill makes cuts in the federal energy budget."^[38] "We have been growing increasingly frustrated with the lack of action and talking about specifics and putting those on the table," Peters said. "We've been frustrated with both Democratic leadership and Republicans."^[39]

Peters allied himself with the Occupy Wall Street movement, making an appearance at Occupy Detroit on November 6. Speaking to reporters, he stated: "It's speculation on Wall Street that we're still paying the price for here, particularly in Detroit that almost brought the auto industry to a collapse because of what we saw on Wall Street. So we put in restrictions, or put in regulations necessary to reign that in, and right now in Washington I'm facing a Republican majority that wants to undo that."^[40]

He was one of 118 house Democrats who signed a letter to the president urging him to support the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), a multinational organization that provides health services (including birth control) to women, children and families in over 150 countries.^[41]

In 2014, Peters voiced opposition to a Michigan law which prohibits insurers from offering abortion coverage as a standard feature in health plans.^[42]

Legislation

As a Representative, Peters sponsored 37 bills, including:^[43]

111th Congress (2009-2010)

- H.R. 1500, a bill to expand and make refundable the Child and Dependent Care Credit, introduced March 12, 2009
- H.R. 1527, a bill to impose a 60% income tax on bonuses exceeding \$10,000 paid to employees of businesses in which the federal government has at least 79% ownership of, introduced March 16, 2009
- H.R. 1957, a bill to replace the Hope Scholarship and Lifetime Learning tax credits and the tax deduction for tuition expenses with an income tax credit equal to 50% of tuition and related expenses, up to \$10,000 per taxable year, introduced April 2, 2009
- H.R. 3246, a bill to create and expand programs for developing and improving vehicle technology, introduced July 17, 2009, reintroduced in the 112th Congress as H.R. 1367 and in the 113th Congress as H.R. 1027

- H.R. 5302, a bill to establish a program to increase access to capital for small businesses, introduced May 13, 2009
- H.R. 5337, a bill to make it a crime to create, sell, distribute, or offer material containing extreme animal cruelty, which the bill defines, introduced May 18, 2010
- H.R. 5780, a bill to eliminate tax credits and deductions for oil and natural gas, introduced July 20, 2010

112th Congress (2011-2012)

- H.R. 3233, a bill to exclude the value of vehicles used for transportation from the resource limit in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, introduced October 14, 2011
- H.R. 6078, a bill to increase government-wide prime contract award goals for small businesses and to increase percentage goals for historically underutilized business zones, and small businesses owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, introduced June 29, 2012

113th Congress (2013-2014)

- H.R. 4057, a bill to allow for the construction of U.S. Customs and Border Protection customs plazas at land ports of entry into the United States, with priority given to those that experience greater traffic, introduced February 11, 2014
- H.R. 4244, a bill to expand the small employer health insurance tax credits from businesses with 25 employees to 50, to increase the maximum allowance of such credit, to eliminate the requirement that employers contribute the same percentage to health insurance as employees, and to eliminate the cap limiting employer contributions to average premiums in the health insurance exchanges, introduced March 13, 2014
- H.R. 4941, a bill to designate up to 20 areas as "Promise Zones" and to have these zones receive priority consideration in federal grant programs and initiatives, introduced June 23, 2014
- H.R. 5045, 5046, 5047, and 5048, a package of veteran bills, introduced July 9, 2014. H.R. 5045 would prohibit the Small Business Administration (SBA) from imposing a guarantee fee on loans from SBA. H.R. 5046 would encourage the development of regulations to protect the financial security of veterans. H.R. 5047 would prohibit the Secretary of Veteran Affairs from altering the accessibility of any veteran's health care based on when he or she last received care from a veteran health care facility. H.R. 5048 would extend, create, and study various programs to reduce the suicide rate among veterans.



Brian Schatz
(44) D-HI, elected 2012

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Senate Committee on Appropriations

Senate Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

Senate Subcommittee on Department of Defense

Senate Subcommittee on Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

Senate Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veteran Affairs, and Related Agencies

Senate Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Senate Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection

Senate Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and Community Development

Senate Subcommittee on National Security and International Trade and Finance

Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Senate Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security

Senate Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet

Senate Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard

Senate Subcommittee on Space, Science, and Competitiveness

Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Caucuses:

Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus
(CAPAC)

Congressional Boating Caucus

Congressional Friends of the National Park

Service Centennial

Congressional Internet Caucus

Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus

Senate Oceans Caucus

Senator Brian Schatz has dedicated his career to public service as a strong advocate for Hawai'i's middle-class families, a clean energy economy, seniors, our veterans, and Native Hawaiians.

As Hawai'i's senior United States Senator, Brian serves on three Senate Committees essential to the future of Hawai'i: Appropriations, Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and Indian Affairs. Senator Schatz is also one of just three Democrats on the Select Committee on Ethics.

In the United States Senate, Schatz is working to create new clean energy jobs for Hawai'i, strengthen the middle-class, enhance Social Security and Medicare, make college more affordable, support Native Hawaiian programs, and ensure our veterans receive the benefits they have earned.

As a leader on clean energy, Senator Schatz has introduced legislation to reduce the effects of climate change while also moving our nation into a clean energy economy, creating jobs, and lessening America's dependence on foreign oil.

Staying true to his commitment to Social Security and our seniors, Brian helped to fight back efforts in Congress that would have unfairly cut seniors' Social Security benefits. He introduced legislation to help our seniors by increasing their Social Security benefits while strengthening the financial stability of the program.

As the father of two young children, Senator Schatz has made education a top priority. He is working to provide every family with access to early childhood education and to also make college more affordable for Hawai'i students and families.

He is committed to working with President Obama to reduce the cost of college by promoting accountability, innovation, and competition amongst colleges. This plan takes significant steps toward making college more accessible and affordable for Hawai'i students and all middle-class families.

As Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, Brian turned the Office of Lieutenant Governor into a flexible and dynamic force. This included Brian heading up the development of Asia-Pacific relations by serving as the State lead when Hawaii hosted the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum in 2011. The event brought 20,000 government and business leaders from 21 Asia-Pacific economies to Honolulu and \$37.7 million for Waikiki hotels.

Brian led the State's clean energy efforts including the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative. Through collaborative leadership with state and federal agencies, Schatz developed strategies to put Hawai'i on track to exceed their renewable energy portfolio standard goals and to be number one in the nation. The Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative has made the state a national model for clean energy growth and created new clean economy jobs.

From 1998 to 2006, Brian Schatz was a member of the State House of Representatives. He served as the House Majority Whip, Chair of the Economic Development Committee, Vice-Chair of Water, Land and Ocean Resources, Vice-Chair of Consumer Protection and Commerce, and as a member of the Hawaiian Affairs, Higher Education, Energy and Environmental Protection, and Agriculture Committees.

Before being elected Lieutenant Governor, for eight years Schatz was the CEO of Helping Hands Hawai'i, one of Hawai'i's largest non-profit community social services organizations.

Senator Schatz was raised in Hawai'i, and graduated from Pomona College in Claremont, California. He is married to Linda Kwok Schatz, who is an architect. They have a son and daughter.

Wikipedia

Brian Emanuel Schatz (pronounced /ʃɑːtʃ/; born October 20, 1972) is an American politician serving as the senior United States Senator from Hawaii since 2012. Schatz was appointed by Governor Neil Abercrombie to replace Senator Daniel Inouye after his death.

Schatz served in the Hawaii House of Representatives from 1998 to 2006, where he represented the 25th Legislative District and was chairman of the Democratic Party of Hawaii from 2008 to 2010. He also worked as chief executive officer of Helping Hands Hawaii, an Oahu nonprofit social service agency, until he resigned to run for Lieutenant Governor of Hawaii in the 2010 Hawaii gubernatorial election as the running mate of Neil Abercrombie.^[1] He served as lieutenant governor until December 26, 2012, when Abercrombie appointed Schatz to serve out Daniel Inouye's U.S. Senate term until the 2014 special election.^[2] Upon his swearing-in, Schatz was the youngest U.S. Senator in the 112th Congress. Schatz won the 2014 special election to complete the remainder of Inouye's Senate term, and was reelected in 2016 for a full six-year term.

Early life

Brian Schatz was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, along with an identical twin brother, Steve. He is the son of Barbara Jane (*née* Binder) and Irwin Jacob Schatz, a cardiologist and native of Saint Boniface, Manitoba. The family is Jewish.^{[3][4]}

Schatz's father was notable as the first to publicly identify the injustice of the Tuskegee syphilis experiment in 1964, and remained an influential critic of the study through his life.^{[5][6]}

When Schatz and his brother were two years old the family moved to Hawaii^[7] where Schatz later graduated from Punahou School.^{[8][9]} Schatz enrolled at Pomona College in Claremont, California; he spent a term studying in Kenya as part of the International Training Program.^[10] After graduating with a B.A. in philosophy, he returned to Hawaii, where he taught at Punahou before taking other jobs in the nonprofit sector.

Early career

He became active in the community through his involvement in Youth for Environmental Services in the 1980s. He served as CEO of Helping Hands Hawaii and director of the Makiki Community Library and of the Center for a Sustainable Future. In March 2010, Schatz stepped down from Helping Hands to run for lieutenant governor.^[11]

Hawaii House of Representatives (1998–2006)

Elections

In 1998, Schatz, a Democrat, challenged the incumbent State Representative of the 24th District of the Hawaii House of Representatives, Republican Sam Aiona, and won, 53%–47%.^[12] In the 2000 rematch, he was re-elected, 57%–43%.^[13]

In 2002, he ran in the newly redrawn 25th House district, and defeated Republican Bill Hols, 69%–31%.^[14] In 2004, he defeated Republican Tracy Okubo 64%–36%.^[15] The 25th district includes Makiki and Tantalus on Oahu.

Political career (2006–10)

2006 congressional electio]

Main article: United States House of Representatives elections in Hawaii, 2006 § District 2

Schatz ran for Hawaii's 2nd congressional district, vacated by Ed Case, who had decided to run for the U.S. Senate against incumbent Daniel Akaka. The Democratic primary featured 10 candidates, seven of whom served in the Hawaii Legislature. Mazie Hirono, the Lieutenant Governor, was the only one who had held statewide office and thus enjoyed the most name recognition. She also raised more money than any other candidate in the race, mostly because of the endorsement of EMILY's List,^[16] and gave her campaign a personal loan of \$100,000. Still, she won with just 22% of the vote, just 845 votes ahead of State Senator Colleen Hanabusa. State Representative Schatz ranked sixth with 7% of the vote, behind Hirono and four state senators.^{[17][18]}

Support for Obama

Schatz, one of the earliest supporters of Barack Obama for president, founded a group with other Hawaii Democrats in December 2006 to urge Obama to run. Schatz said, "For the last six years we've been governed by fear, fear of terrorists, fear of other countries, even fear of the other

party...everyone is governing by fear and Barack Obama changes all of that. He wants to govern the United States by hope."^[19] In 2008, Schatz worked as spokesman for Obama's campaign in Hawaii.^[20]

State Chairman

In April 2008, he began running for the position of chairman of the Democratic Party of Hawaii,^[21] and won the job at the state convention the following month. During his tenure, the Democrats increased the number of active party members and delivered Obama's best performance of any state in the country. Hawaii native Obama won the state with 73% of the vote when just 55% of the state voted for Democratic nominee John Kerry in United States presidential election in Hawaii, 2004. Schatz stepped down as party chairman on January 9, 2010.^[22]

Lieutenant Governor (2010–12)

2010 election

On January 10, 2010, Schatz announced his candidacy for the office of lieutenant governor.^[23] Schatz's campaign priorities included the creation of clean-energy jobs, public education, and technological improvements in the public sector. He also declared his support for Hawaii House Bill 444,^[24] which would have allowed same-sex civil unions in Hawaii had it not been vetoed by term-limited Republican Governor Linda Lingle.^[25] A number of Hawaii labor unions endorsed Schatz for lieutenant governor in the Democratic primary election, held statewide on September 18, 2010.^[26] Schatz won the nomination with 34.8 percent of the vote, and thus became Abercrombie's running mate in the November general election.

Tenure

On December 6, 2010, Schatz was inaugurated as Hawaii's 11th lieutenant governor alongside Abercrombie, who had defeated incumbent Lieutenant Governor Duke Aiona for the governor's seat. Hawaii Supreme Court Associate Justice James Duffy administered the oath of office at the Coronation Pavilion on the grounds of 'Iolani Palace.

U.S. Senate (2012–present)

Appointment

Shortly before Sen. Daniel Inouye died on December 17, 2012,^[27] Sen. Inouye dictated a letter to Governor Neil Abercrombie, asking that U.S. Representative Colleen Hanabusa be appointed to finish out his term.^{[28][29]}

Hawaii law on interim appointments to the U.S. Senate requires the governor to choose from three candidates selected by the party of the previous officeholder. On December 26, 2012, the Hawaii Democratic Party nominated Schatz, Hanabusa, and Esther Kia'aina, the deputy director of the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources. The same day, Abercrombie named Schatz to the job, despite Inouye's request.^[30] Later that night, Schatz accompanied President Barack Obama back to Washington, D.C. on Air Force One.^[31] On December 27 Schatz was sworn in as a senator by Vice President Joe Biden.

Schatz's appointment to Inouye's seat on December 27, 2012, made him the senior senator from Hawaii (Mazie Hirono, who was elected that November to replace retiring Sen. Daniel Akaka, took office just one week later on January 3, 2013). He is only the sixth person to represent Hawaii in the U.S. Senate, and the first non-Asian American to serve since Oren E. Long.

2014 election

See also: United States Senate special election in Hawaii, 2014

Schatz announced his intention to run for election in the special election to be held in 2014 for a two years term. In April 2013, Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa announced she would oppose Schatz in the primary. The core of the Schatz campaign was climate change and renewable energy,^[32] and fieldwork from the Super-PAC Climate Hawks Vote has been credited with possibly putting Schatz over the top in a close Democratic primary.^[33] Schatz defeated Hanabusa by 1,782 votes (0.75 percent)^[34] in a primary delayed in two precincts by Hurricane Iselle.^[35]

As expected in heavily Democratic Hawaii, Schatz went on to win the general election with about 70% of the vote.^[36]

2016 election

See also: United States Senate election in Hawaii, 2016

in 2016, Schatz ran for and easily won his first full six-year senate term against only nominal opposition.^[37]

Committee assignments

Committee on Appropriations

- Subcommittee on Defense
- Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
- Subcommittee on Legislative Branch (Ranking Member)
- Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
- Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
- **Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation**
 - Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security
 - Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet (Ranking Member)
 - Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard
 - Subcommittee on Space, Science and Competitiveness
- **Select Committee on Ethics**
- **Committee on Indian Affairs**

Political positions

Gun law

As of 2010, the National Rifle Association has given Schatz a "C" rating for his mixed voting record regarding gun law.^[38]

He participated in the Chris Murphy gun control filibuster in 2016.^[39] Schatz expressed disappointment, along with Mazie Hirono, when both the Democrat proposed Feinstein Amendment (making the sale of firearms to individuals on the terrorist watchlist illegal) and the Republican supported background check changes and gun sale alert system did not pass the Senate. He stated:^[40]

More than 90% of Americans demand we take action on gun violence, but again Senate Republicans refuse to act. It's unacceptable. Right now, known terrorists are banned from getting on an airplane, but they are still allowed to buy military-style weapons. It is absolutely insane. After one of the most horrific mass shootings in our history, we saw people across the country courageously stand up against gun violence and hatred. When will Republicans in Congress finally do the same?

In response to the 2017 Las Vegas shooting Schatz stated, "We can do more than lower the flag to half-mast. We can take a stand against gun violence by passing common-sense gun safety laws."^[41]

Social

Schatz supports same-sex marriage.^[42] He sponsored legislation in 2015 to allow married gay couples to have equal access to the veterans benefits and Social Security they have earned.^[43]

Privacy rights

In one of his first votes in the U.S. Senate, he voted against renewing the FISA Amendments Act Reauthorization Act of 2012.^[44] On April 17, 2013, he voted to expand background checks for gun purchases.^[45]

Schatz voted for the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act, a bill opposed by many civil liberties groups.^{[46][47]}

Environment

In March 2014, Schatz was a lead organizer of an overnight talkathon devoted to discussing climate change. The gathering of over two dozen Senate Democrats took place on the Senate floor. The League of Conservation Voters supported the talkathon and ran campaign ads on Schatz's behalf.^[48]

Economy

To encourage tourism in West Hawaii, Schatz proposed that customs begin in Japan so that planes can arrive in West Hawaii as domestic flights.^[49]

Personal life

Schatz is married to Linda Kwok Kai Yun. They have two children. Brian's identical twin brother, Steve, runs the Hawaii Department of Education's Office of Strategic Reform.^[50]



Dan Sullivan

(52) R-Arkansas

Elected 2014

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Committees and Subcommittees:

Senate Committee on Armed Services

Senate Subcommittee on Airland

Senate Subcommittee on Seapower

Senate Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Senate Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security

Senate Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet

Senate Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard

Senate Subcommittee on Space, Science, and Competitiveness

Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

Senate Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife

Senate Subcommittee on Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight

Senate Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Caucuses Memberships

Bios Senate Commerce Committee

- Congressional Fire Services Caucus
- Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus
- Senate Marine Corps Caucus

Dan Sullivan was sworn in as Alaska's eighth United States Senator on January 6, 2015. Sullivan serves on four Senate committees vital to Alaska: The Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee; the Armed Services Committee; the Environment and Public Works Committee; and the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Prior to his election to the U.S. Senate, Sullivan served as Alaska's Attorney General and Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. As Alaska's Attorney General, Sullivan's number one priority was protecting Alaskans, their physical safety, financial well-being, and individual rights – particularly Alaska's most vulnerable. During his tenure he spearheaded a comprehensive statewide strategy – the “Choose Respect” campaign – to combat Alaska's high rates of domestic violence and sexual assault. Under Sullivan's leadership, the Department of Law also undertook an aggressive strategy of initiating and intervening in litigation aimed at halting federal government overreach into the lives of Alaskans and their economy. As Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Sullivan managed one of the largest portfolios of oil, gas, minerals, renewable energy, timber, land, and water in the world. Working closely with Alaska's Governor and state legislature, Sullivan developed numerous strategies that spurred responsible resource development, energy security, and a dramatic increase in good-paying jobs across a number of critical sectors in the Alaska economy. He also developed a comprehensive plan to streamline and reform the state's regulatory and permitting system.

Sullivan is one of a select number of Alaskan attorneys who has held judicial clerkships on both the highest federal and state courts in Alaska. He served as a judicial law clerk for Judge Andrew Kleinfeld of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in Fairbanks, Alaska and for Chief Justice Warren Matthews of the Alaska Supreme Court in Anchorage, Alaska. Sullivan also served as a judicial law clerk/intern for Judge James L. Buckley on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Sullivan has a distinguished record of military and national security service. He is currently an infantry officer and Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves. Over the past 21 years, Sullivan has served in a variety of command and staff billets on active duty and in the reserves, including: TRAP Force Commander and 81mm mortar Platoon Commander, 31st Marine Expeditionary

Unit (Special Operations Capable); Weapons Company Executive Officer, Second Battalion, Fifth Marines; Commanding Officer, Delta Company, Anti-Terrorism Battalion; Executive Officer, Echo Company, Fourth Reconnaissance Battalion; and Commanding Officer, 6th Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (ANGLICO). In 2004, Sullivan was recalled

to active duty for a year and a half to serve as a staff officer to the Commander of U.S. Central Command, General John Abizaid, spending substantial time deployed in the Middle East, the Horn of Africa, and Central Asia. In July 2013, Sullivan was recalled to active duty to serve with a Joint Task Force in Afghanistan focusing on dismantling terrorist networks and criminalizing the Taliban insurgency.

Sullivan served in the Administration of President George W. Bush as the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Economic, Energy, and Business under Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. He focused on fighting terrorist financing, and implementing policies relating to international energy, economic, trade, finance, transportation, telecommunications, and Arctic issues. Sullivan also served as a Director in the International Economics Directorate of the National Security Council staff at the White House.

Sullivan earned a B.A. in Economics from Harvard University in 1987 and a joint law and Masters of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University in 1993. Dan and his wife Julie Fate Sullivan were married over 20 years ago in Julie's hometown of Fairbanks, Alaska. They have three teenage daughters: Meghan, Isabella and Laurel.



Jon Tester

(60) D-MONTANA

Elected 2006

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Committees and Subcommittees:

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Senate Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Senate Subcommittee on Department of Defense

Senate Subcommittee on Department of Homeland Security

Senate Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Senate Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

Senate Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veteran Affairs, and Related Agencies
Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Senate Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection
Senate Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Senate Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security
Senate Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet
Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Caucuses:

Air Force Caucus (Senate)
Congressional Automotive Performance and Motorsports Caucus
Congressional Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Caucus (COPD)
Congressional Cystic Fibrosis Caucus
Congressional Fire Services Caucus
Congressional Friends of the National Park Service Centennial
Congressional Ports-to-Plains Caucus
Congressional Recycling Caucus
Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus
Congressional TRIO Caucus
International Conservation Caucus (ICC)
Missouri River Working Group
Moderate Democrats Working Group
Senate Aerospace Caucus
Senate Community College Caucus
Senate Community Health Center Caucus
Senate Community Pharmacy Caucus
Senate Friends of Scotland Caucus
Senate General Aviation Caucus
Senate Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Caucus
Senate Impact Aid Coalition
Senate Military Family Caucus
Senate National Guard Caucus
Senate National Service Caucus
Senate Reserve Components Caucus
Senate Rural Education Caucus
Senate Rural Health Caucus
Senate Small Brewers Caucus
Senate Taiwan Caucus
Senate Travel and Tourism Caucus
Senate Veterans Affairs Backlog Working Group
Senate Veterans Jobs Caucus

Jonathan Tester (born August 21, 1956) is an American politician serving as the senior United States Senator from Montana, in office since 2007. He is a member of the Democratic Party.

Tester was first elected to the Senate in 2006, defeating Republican incumbent Conrad Burns in one of the closest Senate races of that year. He won reelection in 2012 against U.S. Representative Denny Rehberg in another close race. Tester was previously the president of the Montana Senate and worked as a music teacher and farmer. He became the senior Senator in 2014 following Max Baucus' departure.^[1] He is currently the dean of the Montana congressional delegation.

Early life, education, and farming career

Tester was born in Havre, Montana,^[2] one of three sons of Helen Marie (née Pearson) and David O. Tester. His father was of English descent and his mother of Swedish ancestry.^[3] Tester grew up in Chouteau County, near the town of Big Sandy, Montana, on land that his grandfather homesteaded in 1912.^[4] At the age of 9, he lost the middle three fingers of his left hand in a meat-grinder accident.^[5] In 1978, he graduated from the University of Great Falls with a B.S. in music.^[6]

Tester then worked for two years as a music teacher in the Big Sandy School District before returning to his family's farm and custom butcher shop.^[7] He and his wife continue to operate the farm; in the 1980s, they switched from conventional to organic farming,^[8] raising wheat, barley, lentils, peas, millet, buckwheat, and alfalfa.^[6] Tester spent five years as chairman of the Big Sandy School Board of Trustees and was also on the Big Sandy Soil Conservation Service (SCS) Committee and the Chouteau County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) Committee.^[9]

Montana Senate (1999–2007)

Elections

Tester was first elected to the 45th district of the Montana Senate in 1998, after his neighbor, a Republican State Senator, decided not to run for re-election.^[9] Before running for State Senate, Tester was on the Big Sandy school board for a decade.^[10] He was elected the minority whip for the 2001 session. In 2002, he was re-elected with 71% of the vote,^[11] and he became minority leader in 2003. In 2004 he moved to the 15th district as a "holdover" because of redistricting. In 2005, Tester was elected president of the Montana Senate, the chief presiding officer of the Montana Legislature's upper chamber.^[9]

Tenure

His election as President marked a transition for Montana Democrats as they moved into the majority leadership of the Senate for the first time in more than a decade. Term limits prohibited Tester from running for State Senate for a third consecutive term.^[12] Tester cited a prescription drug benefit program, reinstatement of the "Made in Montana" promotion program, a law to encourage renewable energy development, and his involvement with a bill that led to an historic increase in public school funding as accomplishments while in office.^[13]

Committee assignments

Senate Finance Committee (2001–2004)^[14]

- Senate Agriculture Committee (2000–2005)^{[15][16][17]}
- Senate Rules Committee (2003–2005)^[18]
- Senate Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs Committee (2005)^[17]
- Panthera Leo City Council of Petroleum County (2012)^[17]
- Council Interim Committee (2003–2004)^[19]

U.S. Senate (2007–present) Elections

2006

Main article: Montana United States Senate election, 2006

Tester announced his candidacy in May 2005 for the U.S. Senate seat held by Republican incumbent Senator Conrad Burns. Tester was the second Democrat to jump into the race, after state auditor John Morrison. While Tester was seen as having a greater following among his fellow legislators,^[20] his opponent, whose grandfather was governor of Nebraska, was able to raise significantly more money and had greater statewide name recognition.

Morrison had collected \$1.05 million as of the start of 2006, including \$409,241 in the last three months of 2005,^[21] but "Morrison's advantages in fundraising and name identification [did] not translate[] into a lead in the polls,"^[22] most of which showed the race exceedingly tight, some calling it a "deadlock" as of late May.^[23]

In the June 2006, Tester won the Democratic nomination by more than 25 percentage points in a six-way primary, defeating State Auditor John Morrison.^[24] Morrison had heavily outspent Tester, who was originally an underdog in the race, but Tester "gained momentum in closing weeks of the campaign through an extensive grass-roots effort."^[24]

In the November 2006 election, Tester defeated Burns, receiving 198,302 votes (49%) to Burns's 195,455 (48%).^[25] The race was so close that Tester's victory was confirmed only the day after the election.^[26]

2012

Main article: United States Senate election in Montana, 2012

Tester successfully ran for re-election to a second term against Republican U.S. Congressman Denny Rehberg.^[27]

Tester's race was seen as a pivotal one for both parties seeking the Senate majority. Tester split with Democrats on several key issues, such as the Keystone XL oil pipeline, but has also voted with his party on issues such as health care reform and the Dodd–Frank financial services overhaul.^[28]

When announcing his candidacy, Rehberg called Tester a "yes man" for President Obama, saying that he sided with the administration in 97% of his votes. Rehberg cited Tester's support for the healthcare legislation and the 2009 stimulus, both of which Rehberg opposed. Tester said that he stood by his votes on both, saying that the healthcare legislation contains "a lot of good stuff" and that the only thing failed about the stimulus was "a vote against it". The Los Angeles Times noted that Tester diverged from his party on matters such as gun rights and illegal immigration.^[29]

Tenure

A New York Times profile of Tester after his 2006 election described him as "truly your grandfather's Democrat—a pro-gun, anti-big-business prairie pragmatist whose life is defined by the treeless patch of hard Montana dirt that has been in the family since 1916."^[30]

During a Billings press conference, the Tester campaign released a statement from Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., pledging to give Tester a coveted seat on the Appropriations Committee, regardless of whether Democrats wrested control of the Senate from Republicans, "as soon as possible".^[31] On January 13, 2009, Tester's second session of Congress, he was given a seat on the Appropriations Committee.^[32] Tester in 2013 became chairman of the Banking Committee's Securities, Insurance, and Investment Subcommittee.^[33]

In September 2013, he announced opposition to the appointment of Larry Summers as chairman of the Federal Reserve; lacking a committee majority Summers then withdrew his name from consideration.^[34] Tester voted to confirm Supreme Court nominees Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan. He opposed the confirmation of Neil Gorsuch.^[35]

Committee assignments

Committee on Appropriations

- Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
- Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
- Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
- Subcommittee on Homeland Security (Ranking Member)
- Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

- Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies
- Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
- **Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs**
 - Subcommittee on Economic Policy
 - Subcommittee on Financial Institutions
 - Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment
- **Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation**
- **Committee on Indian Affairs**
- **Committee on Veterans' Affairs** (Ranking Member)

Caucus memberships

Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (Co-Chair)

- International Conservation Caucus

Political positions

Interest group ratings

Tester's votes in the Senate generally have given him high ratings from liberal groups, and low ones from conservative groups. In 2012, he was rated 90% by Americans for Democratic Action and 86% by the League of Conservation Voters. Conversely, he had scores of 11% from the National Taxpayers Union and 4% from the American Conservative Union. The National Journal rates his votes overall as 55% liberal and 45% conservative.^[36]

CrowdPac, which rates politicians based on donations they receive and give, gave Senator Tester a score of 5.3L with 10L being the most liberal and 10C being the most conservative.^[37]

LGBT rights

Originally an opponent of same-sex marriage, Tester announced his support of the institution in March 2013.^[38]

On December 18, 2010, Tester voted in favor of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010.^{[39][40]}

Abortion and embryonic stem cell research

He supports abortion rights^[41] and embryonic stem cell research.^[42]

Economic issues

On Meet the Press in 2006, he asserted that "there's no more middle class" because of Bush administration policies.^[43]

Tester was one of only two Democratic senators to filibuster the American Jobs Act. It was reported that he wasn't concerned about the surtax on some families to pay for the plan, but was unsure that the new spending would actually create jobs.^[44]

In January 2018, Tester was the only Democratic Senator from a Republican-leaning state to oppose a stopgap funding measure to end a three-day government shutdown and reopen the federal government.^{[45][46]}

In 2018, Tester became one of the few Democrats in the Senate supporting a bill that would relax "key banking regulations". As part of at least 11 other Democrats, Tester argued that the bill would "right-size post-crisis rules imposed on small and regional lenders and help make it easier for them to provide credit". Chuck Schumer and Elizabeth Warren vehemently oppose the legislation.^[47]

Health care

Tester supported the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, voting for it in December 2009.^[48] Tester voted for the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.^[49]

In 2017, he said that Democrats should consider a single-payer health care system.^[50]

Swipe fees controversy

In April 2011, Tester was sharply criticized for introducing legislation to delay regulations that would cap the fees paid by retailers for debit card transactions at 12 cents while simultaneously accepting campaign contributions from the financial sector, which opposes such regulations.^{[51][52]} Tester later amended his legislation, reducing the delay from 24 months to 15 months.^[53]

Citizens United Supreme Court ruling

Tester opposed the Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling, which prohibits the government from restricting independent expenditures for communications by nonprofit corporations, for-profit corporations, labor unions, and other associations. He proposed a constitutional amendment to reverse the decision.^[54]

Lobbying and campaign contributions

Tester criticized Republicans in Congress for making policy that is designed "for those who write the biggest campaign checks".^[55] He has stated that Washington culture is controlled by K Street cronies.^[56]

In March 2012, the Montana GOP filed a complaint with the Senate Ethics Committee requesting an investigation into the actions of Tester and Max Baucus. The complaint cited a Politico report suggesting that Baucus' K Street connections were "warning clients against giving campaign contributions to Tester's Republican challenger Rep. Denny Rehberg". Tester denied any wrongdoing.^[57]

In June 2010, Tester spoke for a few minutes in the conference room at the Thornton Law Firm in Boston to a handful of trial attorneys. The lawyers "listened politely for a few minutes, then returned to their offices. And Tester walked away with \$26,400 in checks."^[58] Some of the partners received a payment from the firm labeled a bonus that was equal to exactly the contribution they gave to Tester's campaign.^[58]

Timber

Tester tried to revive a bill that was meant to be a compromise between the conservationists and the timber industry. The bill would put 700,000 acres of wilderness aside for "light-on-the-land logging projects" with the intention of creating jobs in the logging industry. It was noted that Tester was not "winning admirers on his side", with some liberal environmentalists saying that gives lumber mills control of the national forests.^{[59][60]}

Guns

Tester is a gun owner.^[61] On gun rights, the National Rifle Association has given Tester an A-rating,^[62] but another group,^[63] Gun Owners of America, has given Tester a rating of F.^[64]

Tester supports efforts to loosen restrictions on gun exports, stating it would help gun manufacturers, based in the US, expand their business and create more jobs.^[65]

In 2016, Tester voted against a Democrat-sponsored proposal that would have made background checks required for purchases at gun shows and of guns online nationwide. Tester voted against it claiming that it would "have blocked family members and neighbors from buying and selling guns to one another without a background check." Tester voted for a second Democrat-sponsored proposal to ban gun sales to individuals on the terrorist watch list. Both proposals did not pass.^[66]

Personal life

During Tester's senior year in college, he married Sharla Bitz.^[67] Like Jon, Sharla Tester comes from an agricultural family and grew up in north-central Montana.^[68] The couple has two children: a daughter, Christine, born in 1980; and a son, Shon, born in 1985.^[67]

Before his election to the Senate, Tester had never lived more than two hours away from his north-central Montana farm.^[30] In addition to his Montana farm, Tester owns a home in Washington D.C.^[69]

A January 2012 piece on Tester focused on the fact that he butchers and brings his own meat with him to Washington. He said "Taking meat with us is just something that we do.... We like our own meat."



Tom Udall

(68) D-NEW MEXICO

Elected 2008

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Appropriations

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Foreign Relations

Rules and Administration

Indian Affairs (*Vice Chairman*)

Joint Committee on Printing

Committees and Subcommittees:

Senate Committee on Appropriations

Senate Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

Senate Subcommittee on Department of Defense

Senate Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Senate Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

Senate Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veteran Affairs, and Related Agencies

Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Senate Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security

Senate Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet

Senate Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance and Data Security

Senate Subcommittee on Space, Science, and Competitiveness

Senate Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine

Infrastructure, Safety, and Security

Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

Senate Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy

Senate Subcommittee on Multilateral International Development,
Multilateral Institutions, and International Economic, Energy, and
Environmental Policy

Senate Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management,
International Operations, and Bilateral International Development

Senate Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime,
Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's
Issues

Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

Joint Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

Senate Committee on Rules and Administration

Caucuses:

Ad Hoc Steering Committee on Telemedicine and Healthcare Informatics

Bicameral Congressional Caucus on Parkinson's Disease

Bipartisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease

Coalition for Autism Research and Education (CARE)

Congressional Fire Services Caucus

Congressional Friends of the National Park Service Centennial

Congressional Internet Caucus

Congressional Multiple Sclerosis Caucus

Congressional Ports-to-Plains Caucus

Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus

Congressional Stop DUI Caucus

Congressional TRIO Caucus

International Conservation Caucus (ICC)

Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group

Peak Oil Caucus

Senate Afterschool Caucus

Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control

Senate Cultural Caucus

Senate Democratic Hispanic Task Force (HTF)

Senate General Aviation Caucus

Senate Impact Aid Coalition

Senate National Guard Caucus

Senate National Laboratory Caucus

Senate New Democrat Coalition

Senate Nuclear Waste Cleanup Caucus

Senate Rural Education Caucus

Senate Rural Health Caucus

Senate Small Brewers Caucus

Senate Travel and Tourism Caucus

Tom Udall has earned a reputation as a principled leader who has the integrity to do what is right for New Mexico and our nation. Tom began serving as United States Senator in 2009, after two decades of public service as U.S.

Representative and New Mexico's State Attorney General. He was re-elected to the U.S. Senate in 2014 and is now New Mexico's senior senator.

Born to Stewart and Lee Udall in Tucson, Arizona, on May 18, 1948, Tom's roots in New Mexico are deep. His grandmother Louise Lee was born in Luna, New Mexico, during territorial days and was part of a ranching family in what is now Catron County. Her family used to drive cattle down the White Mountains to the railroad in Magdalena.

Tom earned his undergraduate degree at Prescott College and obtained a Bachelor of Laws Degree from Cambridge University in 1975. He graduated from the University of New Mexico Law School in 1977. Tom then served as a Law Clerk to Chief Justice Oliver Seth of the U.S. Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals and became a federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's criminal division. As Chief Counsel to the New Mexico Department of Health and Environment, he also fought for stronger environmental and health protections.

These experiences helped Tom realize he could personally make a difference for the people of New Mexico through elected office. In 1990, Tom was elected New Mexico Attorney General. He made fighting DWI and domestic violence a priority. Working with the Legislature on both sides of the aisle, he pushed for tougher laws against offenders. Tom also fought to protect consumers, especially senior citizens, from rampant telemarketing and other forms of fraud. Additionally, he made ethics a trademark issue, increasing transparency in government and prosecuting corrupt politicians, even members of his own party. In 1994, Tom was elected to a second term as Attorney General.

In 1998, Tom was elected to represent the 3rd Congressional District of New Mexico in the U.S. House of Representatives. In the House, he wrote and passed legislation to establish a national renewable electricity standard, which would spur the creation of good jobs, reinvigorate our economy, and reduce global warming emissions. While in the House, Tom co-founded the Congressional International Conservation Caucus, which is now the second largest caucus in the U.S. Congress. He serves as the co-chair of the caucus in the Senate.

Tom serves on five Senate committees: Appropriations, Foreign Relations, Commerce, Indian Affairs, and Rules and Administration.

As a member of the powerful Appropriations Committee, Tom has a voice in federal funding for departments, agencies and other programs. With its labs, military bases and public lands, New Mexico has a large federal presence. Tom is committed to defending New Mexico through the appropriations process and to working for a balanced fiscal policy that will address our nation's debt and invest in long-term economic growth.

As a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, Tom is charged with congressional oversight of U.S. operations and programs beyond our borders, aiming to keep America safe, promote democracy and foster international development and conservation. Tom's work on the Commerce Committee focuses on a variety of issues ranging from greater broadband deployment and consumer protection to oversight and expansion of the nation's communications infrastructure, including in underserved rural communities. On the Indian Affairs Committee, he carries on his longtime mission of responding to the priority concerns of Native Americans, including economic development, trust responsibilities, land management, Indian education and health programs. Through the Rules Committee, Tom is working to reform government and Congress, continuing his commitment to a more open, transparent government that can work together to get things done for the American people. In the Senate, Tom

continues to be a strong advocate for the hardworking families of New Mexico, for a clean energy economy and the environment, for affordable and accessible health care, and for our nation's veterans. He has also been a leader in the fight for campaign finance reform and for making government more accountable to the American people, not special interests. Tom is married to Jill Cooper, who is a former attorney and a long-time advocate for the arts. They have one grown daughter, Amanda, and live in Santa Fe.

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Tom is married to Jill Cooper, who is a former attorney and a long-time advocate for the arts. They have one grown daughter, Amanda, and live in Santa Fe.

Thomas Stewart Udall /ˈjuːˌdɔːl/ (born May 18, 1948) is the senior United States Senator from New Mexico and a member of the Democratic Party. First elected to the Senate in 2008, he represented New Mexico's 3rd congressional district as a member of the United States House of Representatives from 1999 to 2009, and was the Attorney General of New Mexico from 1991 to 1999. A member of the Udall family, he is the son of Stewart Udall, the nephew of Mo Udall, and the cousin of Mark Udall. He is the current dean of New Mexico's Congressional Delegation.

Early life, education, and law career

Udall was born in Tucson, Arizona, to Ermalee Lenora (née Webb) and Stewart Udall, the Secretary of the Interior from 1961 to 1969. Two of his maternal great-grandparents were Swiss. He attended Prescott College and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1970. In 1975, he graduated from Downing College, Cambridge in England with a Bachelor of Laws degree. That fall, he enrolled in the University of New Mexico School of Law and graduated with a Juris Doctor in 1977. Udall then served as a law clerk to Chief Judge Oliver Seth of the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. His subsequent legal career included appointments as Assistant U.S. Attorney in the criminal division and Chief Counsel to the New Mexico Department of Health and Environment.

Early political career

In 1982, Udall ran for Congress in the newly created 3rd district, based in the state capital, Santa Fe, and most of north of the state. He lost the Democratic primary to Bill Richardson. In 1988, he ran for Congress again, this time in an election for the Albuquerque-based 1st district seat left open by retiring twenty-year incumbent Manuel Lujan, but narrowly lost to Bernalillo County District Attorney Steven Schiff. From 1990 to 1999 he served as Attorney General of New Mexico.^[2]

U.S. House of Representatives

Elections

Udall ran for Congress again in 1998 in the 3rd district against incumbent Bill Redmond, who had been elected in a 1997 special election to replace Richardson. Redmond was a conservative Republican representing a heavily Democratic district, and the 3rd's partisan tilt helped Udall defeat Redmond with 53 percent of the vote.^[3] He was reelected four more times with no substantive opposition, including an unopposed run in 2002.

Tenure

As a U.S. Representative, Tom Udall was a member of both the centrist New Democrat Coalition and the more liberal Congressional Progressive Caucus. He was a member of the United States House Peak oil Caucus, which he co-founded with Representative Roscoe Bartlett of Maryland.^{[4][5]}

Committee assignments

Udall sat^[when?] on the United States House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations in the Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies and the Subcommittee on Legislative Branch. He was the Co-Vice Chair of the House Native American Caucus and Co-Chair of the International Conservation Caucus.

U.S. Senate

Elections

Main article: United States Senate election in New Mexico, 2008

In November 2007, Udall announced he would run for the Senate seat held by retiring six-term incumbent Republican Pete Domenici.^[6] Potential Democratic rival Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez dropped out, handing Udall the nomination. New Mexico's other two members of the House, 1st and 3rd district's Heather Wilson and Steve Pearce, ran in the Republican primary. Pearce won the Republican nomination, and lost to Udall, who won 61 percent of the vote.

While Udall ran for Senate in New Mexico, his younger first cousin, Congressman Mark Udall, ran for the Senate in Colorado. Their double second cousin, incumbent Gordon Smith of Oregon, also ran for reelection. Both Udalls won and Smith lost.

Tenure

Udall has voted with his party 97 percent of the time since he was first elected to the U.S. Senate. He voted in favor of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Act of 2010, FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, DREAM Act,^[7] American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act, and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009.^[8]

Udall was one of the first members of Congress to publicly express concern about the possibility of NSA overreach, a year before Edward Snowden's 2013 disclosure of the PRISM program.^[9]

Legislation

On March 19, 2013, Udall introduced into the Senate the Sandia Pueblo Settlement Technical Amendment Act (S. 611; 113th Congress), a bill that would transfer some land to the Sandia Pueblo tribe.^{[10][11]} Also during the 113th Congress, Udall introduced a proposed amendment to the Constitution that would allow limits on outside spending in support of political candidates.^{[12][13]} The Amendment won the approval of the Senate Judiciary Committee on a 10-8 vote in July 2014.^[13]

In March 2015 Udall sponsored Senate bill 697, the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, a bill to amend and reauthorize the Toxic Substances Control Act.^[14] The legislation, as amended, was signed into law by President Barack Obama on June 22, 2016.^[15] It updates the nation's safety system for thousands of chemicals in products like cleaners, paints, carpets and furniture.^{[16][17]} The bill initially faced criticism over the balance between federal and state authority to regulate chemicals, but after changes to the legislation it earned broader support, including from liberal members of the Senate and the President.^{[18][19]} It passed by a vote of 403-12 in the House and voice vote in the Senate.^[20]

Political positions

Gun law

Udall has a "C-" rating from the National Rifle Association and a "F" rating from the Gun Owners of America for his support of gun control.^[22]

In 2013 he voted for state-by-state reciprocity of concealed carry and for the names of gun owners to be protected and released only in select situations.^[23]

In 2016, within weeks of the Orlando nightclub shooting, Udall participated in a sit-in at the House to demand votes on gun control legislation, saying, "We owe it to the LGBT community & all families harmed by gun violence to keep terror suspects fr[om] obtaining guns."

Personal life

Udall is married to Jill Cooper Udall. They live in Santa Fe with their daughter, Amanda Cooper. Tom Udall is the son of former Arizona Congressman and Interior Secretary Stewart Lee Udall, nephew of Arizona Congressman Morris Udall, and first cousin of former Colorado U.S. Senator Mark Udall, double second cousin of former Oregon U.S. Senator Gordon Smith,^[29] and second cousin of Utah U.S. Senator Mike Lee.



Roger Wicker
(65) R-MS
Elected 2006

tee

Committees:

Armed Services
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Environment and Public Works
Rules and Administration
Joint Committee on Printing

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Roger F. Wicker has represented Mississippi in the United States Senate since December 2007. During his time in the Senate, Wicker has championed pro-growth policies to create jobs and has worked to reduce spending, limit federal overreach, and maintain a strong national defense.

He is a member of the Senate Republican leadership team, and served as chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee during the 114th Congress. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, he chairs the Subcommittee on Seapower.

Wicker is also a member of the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, serving as chairman of the Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet; Environment and Public Works Committee; and the Rules Committee. He is Chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission and Chair of the Committee on Political Affairs and Security in the OSCE's Parliamentary Assembly. Wicker is also a member of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy Congressional Board of Visitors.

Senator Wicker has been a strong advocate for economic development initiatives to help keep Mississippians competitive in a global marketplace. He has been honored by the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) for his work on pro-growth, pro-manufacturing policies in Congress.

Senator Wicker has actively supported cancer survivorship programs and efforts to fight heart disease with the American Heart Association, diabetes, childhood obesity, and Alzheimer's. He has been recognized as a "champion" of polio eradication for his work to wipe out polio worldwide. Senator Wicker is the co-founder of the Senate Malaria and Neglected Tropical Disease Caucus and has worked to eliminate these preventable diseases.

He has been instrumental in bringing more research funding to Mississippi universities for a wide range of health-related projects to fight disease and improve quality of life. Most notably, Wicker authored the Muscular Dystrophy Community Assistance, Research, and Education (MD CARE) Act of 2001, which created NIH centers of excellence to coordinate and enhance muscular dystrophy research. The Wicker Project at Children's National Medical Center is a leader in muscular dystrophy research.

Prior to his service in the Senate, Wicker was elected seven times, beginning in 1994, to represent Mississippi's First Congressional District in the House of Representatives.

Before being elected to Congress, he served in the state Senate on behalf of Lee and Pontotoc counties.

Senator Wicker served on active duty in the U.S. Air Force and then joined the Air Force Reserve. He retired from the Reserve in 2004 with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

A native of Pontotoc, Mississippi, the Senator is the son of former Circuit Judge Fred Wicker and the late Mrs. Wordna Wicker. He was educated in the public schools of Pontotoc and received his B.A. and law degrees from the University of Mississippi. Wicker is a member of the First Baptist Church Tupelo, where he served as chairman of the deacons, taught Sunday School, and where he still sings in the choir.

Senator Wicker is married to the former Gayle Long of Tupelo. They have three children: Margaret and son-in-law Manning McPhillips; Caroline and son-in-law Kirk Sims; and McDaniel Wicker and his wife Kellee; and four grandchildren: Caroline, Henry, Maury Beth McPhillips, and Evelyn Sims.

Wikipedia

Roger Frederick Wicker (born July 5, 1951) is an American politician and member of the Republican Party who serves as the junior United States Senator from Mississippi, in office since 2007. After Thad Cochran resigns, Wicker will become senior United States Senator from Mississippi.

After graduating from the University of Mississippi, Wicker served in the United States Air Force from 1976-80, and worked as a political counselor to then-Congressman Trent Lott. He then served in the Mississippi State Senate from 1988 to 1994, when he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Mississippi's 1st congressional district, succeeding long-time retiring Democrat Jamie L. Whitten, for whom Wicker had once been a Page.

Wicker served in the House from January 1995 to December 2007, when he was appointed by Governor Haley Barbour to fill the seat vacated by Trent Lott. He subsequently won the 2008 special election for the remainder of the term and was re-elected to a full term in 2012. He served as Chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee for the 114th U.S. Congress.

Early life

Wicker was born on July 5, 1951, in Pontotoc, Mississippi, the son of Wordna Glen (née Threadgill) and Thomas Frederick Wicker. In 1967, the 16-year-old Wicker worked as a United States House of Representatives Page for Democratic Congressman Jamie L. Whitten of Mississippi's 1st congressional district.^[1] He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and political science and a law degree from the University of Mississippi where he was a member of the Sigma Nu fraternity.^[2] Wicker was the student body president at Ole Miss.^[3]

After graduation, Wicker served as an officer in the United States Air Force from 1976 to 1980.^{[4][5]} Starting in 1980, he was a member of the Air Force Reserve; he retired from the reserve in 2003 as a lieutenant colonel.^[4] Wicker served as a judge advocate.^[6]

Early political career

Wicker began his political career in 1980 as House Rules Committee counsel to Republican Congressman Trent Lott.^[1] He was then elected to the Mississippi State Senate in 1987, spending \$25,000 to win the race.^[1] He represented the 6th district from 1988 to 1994, which included Tupelo.

U.S. House of Representatives

Elections

In 1994, Democratic U.S. Representative Jamie L. Whitten declined to seek re-election; he had represented the 1st District for 54 years, longer than any other congressman at the time. Wicker ran to succeed him, spending \$750,000 over the course of the election.^[1] He finished first in a crowded six-way Republican primary with 7,156 votes (26.62%) and proceeded to a runoff with attorney Grant Fox, who received 5,208 votes (19.37%). Former U.S.

Attorney Bob Whitwell finished 600 votes short of the runoff with 4,606 votes (17.14%), 1992 nominee Clyde E. Whitaker came fourth with 4,602 votes (17.12%), 1986 nominee Larry Cobb came fifth with 4,162 votes (15.48%) and 1990 nominee Bill Bowlin took the remaining 1,147 votes (4.27%).^[7] In the runoff, Wicker defeated Fox by 11,905 votes (53.07%) to 10,527 (46.93%).^[8]

In the general election, Wicker defeated Fulton attorney Bill Wheeler by 80,553 votes (63.06%) to 47,192 (36.94%),^[9] making him the first Republican to represent the 1st district in over a century. However, this was not considered an upset, as the 1st has always been a rather conservative district (especially in the Memphis suburbs). The district had only supported the official Democratic candidate for president once since 1956, when Jimmy Carter carried the district in 1976. Although Whitten had a nearly unbreakable hold on the district, it had been considered very likely that he would be succeeded by a Republican once he retired.

Wicker was re-elected six times without serious difficulty, never dropping below 65 percent of the vote. In 2004, he was unopposed by a Democratic candidate, facing only Reform Party nominee Barbara Dale Washer, whom he defeated by 219,328 votes (79.01%) to 58,256 (20.99%).^[10]

Tenure

Assuming office in 1995, he was President of the freshman class, which included 53 other new Republican Congressmen, elected as part of the 1994 "Republican Revolution".^[1]

He was a member of the House Appropriations Committee. He was also deputy Republican whip.

In Congress, Wicker worked on issues related to medical research and on economic development for his home state. He advocated private-public partnerships to bring investment to rural areas. Wicker also worked for veterans' issues while serving as a member of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee.^[11] In his final year as representative, Wicker topped the list in earmarks.^[12]

In 2007, Wicker was criticized after securing a \$6 million earmark for a defense company whose executives had made significant contributions to his campaign.^[13]

U.S. Senate

Appointment

On November 26, 2007, U.S. Senator Trent Lott announced that he would resign before the end of the year to become a lobbyist. At a press conference on December 31, 2007, Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour appointed Wicker to fill the Senate seat vacated by Trent Lott on December 18, 2007.^[14] He was sworn in by the clerk of the U.S. Senate just prior to that news conference.^[15]

Elections

Wicker ran for the remainder of Lott's term in the November 2008 special election against Democrat Ronnie Musgrove, Barbour's predecessor as governor. Wicker defeated Musgrove by 683,409 votes (54.96%) to 560,064 (45.04%). Wicker's resignation from the House also

triggered a May 13, 2008 special election to fill the vacancy in the House, which was won by Democratic nominee Travis Childers.

Wicker ran for re-election to a full term in 2012. He was opposed by Robert Maloney and Tea Party activist E. Allen Hathcock in the Republican primary, defeating them by 254,936 votes (89.17%) to 18,857 (6.60%) and 12,106 (4.23%), respectively.^[16] In the general election, he defeated Albert Gore, the Chairman of the Oktibbeha County Democratic Party and a distant relative of former Vice President Al Gore, by 709,626 votes (57.16%) to 503,467 (40.55%).^[17]

Tenure

On September 16, 2010, President Barack Obama announced his intent to nominate Wicker as representative of the United States to the Sixty-fifth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.^[18]

In the Senate, Wicker is a member of the Senate Republicans' whip team and has repeatedly introduced a bill to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. Wicker called the health care overhaul the "great fight for the rest of this term, maybe our lifetimes" and later introduced a bill to enable state officials to challenge the law. In the interest of protecting gun owners, he amended a fiscal 2010 transportation spending bill to allow Amtrak passengers to carry firearms and ammunition in checked baggage.^[19]

With Democratic Rep. Gene Taylor, he pushed amendments allowing purchasers of federal flood insurance to add wind coverage to their policies, helpful to a hurricane-prone state. As a member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission) monitoring human rights and other issues, Wicker worked with Maryland Democratic Sen. Ben Cardin to push into law in late 2012 a bill imposing penalties on Russians accused of violating human rights. The measure led Russian President Vladimir Putin to announce a subsequent ban on U.S. adoptions of Russian-born children.^[19]

In July 2013, Wicker proposed that the Senate meet to discuss a controversial change to filibuster rules. The Senate held the private meeting in the Old Senate chamber to discuss Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's threat of the so-called "nuclear option", which would change the rules for Senate votes on President Obama's executive branch nominees. Wicker said he hoped the chamber's bipartisan past could serve as an inspiration for the debate about the nuclear option: "I think there are concessions that can be made on both sides. And then I would just hope that, institutionally, we can get away from this mindset."^[20]

Wicker supported the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2014 (S. 2363; 113th Congress), a bill related to hunting, fishing, and outdoor recreation in the United States, aimed at improving "the public's ability to enjoy the outdoors."^[21] He said that "Mississippians know the importance of efforts to preserve our natural resources for future generations."^[21]

He was elected to serve as Chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee for the 114th U.S. Congress on November 13, 2014.^[22]

Weeks after the 2014 Hong Kong class boycott campaign and Umbrella Movement broke out which demands genuine universal suffrage among other goals, Wicker among bipartisan colleagues joined U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown and Rep. Chris Smith's effort to introduce Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act which would update the United States–Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992 and U.S. commitment to Hong Kong's freedom and democracy. "U.S. should stand steadfast with the people of Hong Kong in their fight to exercise self-determination," Wicker, vice-chairman of the Helsinki Commission said. "... speak with a unified American voice in support of universal freedom and democratic values. The Congress and the Obama Administration should act to ensure China honors its longstanding obligation under international law to maintain Hong Kong's autonomy." ^{[23][24][25][26]}

Poisoning attempt

Main article: April 2013 ricin letters

On April 16, 2013, a letter addressed to Wicker tested positive for the poison ricin.^[27] The letter was detected by postal officials and law enforcement and was prevented from reaching the Capitol.^[28] The letter was tested three times, with each test confirming the presence of ricin.^[28]

Political positions

As of December 2017, Wicker ranks 14th of 98 in the *Bipartisan Index* compiled by the Lugar Center, which reflects a low level of partisanship.^[29]

Climate change

In 2015, Wicker was the only U.S. Senator to vote against an amendment declaring that climate change is real. Wicker, the incoming chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, was the only no vote. The final vote was 98 to 1, with Senator Harry Reid, the Democratic leader from Nevada, not voting.^[30] The amendment affirmed that "climate change is real and not a hoax."^[31]

In 2017, he was one of 22 senators to sign a letter^[32] to President Donald Trump urging the President to have the United States withdraw from the Paris Agreement. According to the Center for Responsive Politics, Wicker has received over \$200,000 from the oil and gas industry since 2012.^[33]

Gun law

Wicker's support for pro-gun legislation and gun rights has earned him an "A+" rating from the National Rifle Association(NRA). The NRA endorsed Wicker during the 2012 election.^[34] Wicker has stated that he will filibuster any bill that he feels "infringes" on the Second Amendment, including weapon bans.^[35] He has received \$21,350 in funding from gun lobbyists for his political activities.^[36]

In 2009, Wicker introduced a bill allowing Amtrak passengers to check unloaded and locked handguns in their luggage. The law passed 68-30. Wicker's rationale for the bill was that individuals were having their Second Amendment rights violated on a federally subsidized train system by not being allowed to bring their guns.^[37]

One day after the 2015 San Bernardino attack, Wicker voted against a bill, co-sponsored by a Democrat and a Republican, that would make background checks mandatory when an individual bought a gun. He voted against it because he feared it would have "opened the door to a national gun registry."^[3]



Todd Young

(44) R-Indiana
Elected 2016

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Washington, DC 20510
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Committees:

Commerce, Science, and Transportation Foreign Relations
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Small Business and Entrepreneurship

No Caucus Memberships per Washington Directory

A Senator and a Representative from Indiana; born in Lancaster, Lancaster County, Pa., August 24, 1972; graduated from Carmel High School, Carmel, Ind., 1990; B.S., United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., 1995; M.B.A., University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill., 2000; M.A., University of London, London, England, 2001; J.D., Robert H. McKinney School of Law, Indiana University, Indianapolis, Ind., 2006; United States Navy, 1990-1991; United States Marine Corps, 1995-2000; staff, United States Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana, 2001- 2003; Orange County, Ind., deputy prosecutor, 2007-2010; consultant; lawyer, private practice; elected as a Republican to the One Hundred Twelfth and to the two succeeding Congresses (January 3, 2011-January 3, 2017; was elected as a Republican to the United States Senate in 2016 for the term ending January 3, 2023.

Early life

Young was born August 24, 1972 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, the second of three children of Nancy R. (née Pierce) and Bruce H. Young.^[1] He lived in Marion County, Indiana for several years before settling in Hamilton County, Indiana, where he attended public schools and won a state soccer championship.^[2] In 1990, Young graduated from Carmel High School in Carmel, Indiana.^[3]

Military career

Just a few weeks after graduating from high school, Young enlisted in the United States Navy and reported for duty in Newport, Rhode Island. In May 1991, he received an appointment from the Secretary of the Navy to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, where his classmates elected him a class officer and he earned a varsity letter as a member of Navy's NCAA Division I soccer team. He graduated cum laude in 1995,^[4] earning a B.S. in political science, and accepted a commission in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Upon graduating from Annapolis, Young trained for six months as a rifle platoon commander at the Basic School in Quantico, Virginia, where he qualified as an expert rifleman. In 1996, he completed the Naval Intelligence Officer Basic Course in Dam Neck, Virginia, and was entrusted with a Top Secret security clearance. Young then led the intelligence department of VMU-2, an unmanned aerial vehicle squadron based in Cherry Point, North Carolina, where he participated in various military operations, including counter-narcotics activities in the Caribbean, and was trained in Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection.^[citation needed]

Post-military career

Young was honorably discharged from active duty in 2000 as a US Marine Captain. After leaving active duty, Young spent a year in London, attending the University of London's Institute of United States Studies. After writing a thesis on the economic history of Midwestern agriculture, in 2001 Young received his MA in American politics.^[5]

In the summer of 2001, Young traveled to former Communist countries in Eastern Europe where he studied the transition from centrally planned economies to free markets through an executive education program with the Leipzig Graduate School of Management, the first private business school in eastern Germany. He worked as an adjunct professor of public affairs at Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs and attended law school at night.^[6] In 2004, he joined Indiana-based Crowe Chizek and Company as a management consultant, helping state and local government clients improve service delivery to Indiana citizens.^[citation needed]

In 2006, Young earned his J.D. from the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, where he was President of the school's Federalist Society chapter. Upon graduation he joined the Paoli, Indiana-based firm Tucker and Tucker, P.C.^[6] Young is a member of the 2007 class of the Indiana Leadership Forum.^[7]

Early political career

In 2001, he moved to Washington, D.C., where he briefly worked at The Heritage Foundation, a conservative public policy think tank. Then he joined the staff of U.S. senator Richard Lugar as a legislative assistant^[8] for energy policy. In 2003, Young volunteered for Mitch Daniels's campaign for governor of Indiana. He was a delegate to the Indiana Republican state convention and as a vice precinct committeeman. In 2007, Indiana's Young Republicans named Young the "Southern Man of the Year" for his leadership on behalf of the Republican Party in southern Indiana. In 2007, Young founded a fiscal responsibility advocacy group, the National Organization for People vs. Irresponsible Government Spending.^[6]

U.S. House of Representatives

Elections

2010^[*edit*]

See also: United States House of Representatives elections in Indiana, 2010 § District 9

On January 26, 2009, Young announced that he would run for the United States congressional seat in Indiana's 9th district as a Republican.^{[9][10][11]}

Young competed with fellow Republicans Mike Sodrel and Travis Hankins for the party's nomination for Congress and won, challenging incumbent Democrat Baron Hill in the general election. Young received endorsements from former Vice President Dan Quayle^[12] as well as Lieutenant Governor Becky Skillman, Attorney General Greg Zoeller, Secretary of State Todd Rokita, Auditor Tim Berry, and Treasurer Richard Mourdock.^[11]

Young won the primary and general elections, defeating incumbent Baron Hill on November 2, 2010, and was seated in the 112th Congress in January 2011.^[13]

2012^[*edit*]

Main article: United States House of Representatives elections in Indiana, 2012 § District 9

Young defeated Shelli Yoder, winning 55% of the vote in the newly redrawn 9th district.^[14]

Tenure

Young is a member of the Republican Main Street Partnership along with three other Republican senators.^[15] The Main Street Partnership is considered to be an association of moderate Republicans.^[16] In 2013 the *National Journal* gave Young an overall composite rating of 69% conservative and 31% liberal, an economic rating of 69% conservative and 30% liberal, a social rating of 57% conservative and 42% liberal, and a foreign policy rating of 77% conservative and 15% liberal.^[17]

In the 112th Congress, Young voted with the Republican Party 95% of the time.^[18] During the 113th Congress, the Human Rights Campaign, which rates politicians' support for LGBT issues, rated Young 30%, indicating a mixed record.^[19] In July 2012, Young took over as the lead sponsor of the REINS Act, a bill that passed the House in 2011 and would require congressional approval for rules with greater than \$100 million in economic impact.^[20]

In the 112th Congress, Young was a member of the House Budget Committee and the House Armed Services Committee. On the latter, he focused on seapower, electronic warfare, and military grand strategy of the United States. During the first session of the 112th Congress, he employed one of the German Marshall Fund's Congressional Fellows as military legislative aide.^[citation needed]

In 2010, Young stated that he was uncertain what was causing the observed heating of the planet, that it could be sunspots or normal cycles of nature, and that "the science is not settled."^[21] That same year he signed a pledge sponsored by Americans for Prosperity promising to vote against any global warming legislation that would raise taxes.^[22]

In 2011, he voted for the Energy Tax Prevention Act of 2011.^[23] In 2014, he said that it is "not necessarily the case" that there is a scientific consensus on climate change.^[24]

Sponsored legislation

Fairness for American Families Act (H.R. 2668) – Introduced by Young on July 11, 2013, this bill would "amend the Internal Revenue Code, as amended by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, to delay until 2015 the requirement that individuals maintain minimal essential health care coverage."^[25] The bill was proposed in response to a July 2, 2013 decision by the Obama Administration to delay the employer mandate found in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, but do nothing to the individual mandate requirement.^[26]

When he introduced the Fairness for American Families Act, Young argued that "rather than driving healthcare costs down, the individual mandate is imposing a new tax and burdensome costs on middle class families" and therefore "hardworking Americans deserve the same exemptions that President Obama is unilaterally granting to businesses and labor unions."^[26]

- Save American Workers Act of 2013 – a bill to amend the way in which the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (popularly known as Obamacare) defines full-time worker by raising the 30-hour threshold to 40 hours a week, in an effort to remove the incentive some companies may have to reduce their employees' hours in order to avoid the employer healthcare mandate.^{[27][28][29]} Young introduced it into the House on June 28, 2013.^[29]

U.S. Senate

2016 election

Main article: United States Senate election in Indiana, 2016

Rather than run for reelection to the House, Young announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination in the 2016 election to fill the Senate seat of the retiring Dan Coats.^[30] Also filing for the Republican primary was U.S. Representative Marlin Stutzman. Although Young was certified as having submitted enough signatures to qualify for the primary ballot, that official certification was challenged, and a tally by the Associated Press concluded that Young had fallen short.^[31] The state Election Commission scheduled a hearing on the challenge for February 19, 2016.^[31] The commission voted down the challenge with a 2-2 vote and Young remained on the ballot.^[32]

Young easily defeated Stutzman in the May 3 primary, taking 67 percent of approximately one million votes cast.^[33] He was initially slated to face former U.S. Representative Baron Hill, whom Young had defeated in 2010 to win his congressional seat, but on July 11, Hill announced he was dropping out of the Senate race.^[34] Hill was replaced by former U.S. Senator from Indiana Evan Bayh.^[35] Young defeated Bayh in the November 8 general election, winning 52% of the vote to Bayh's 42%.^{[36][37]}

Young's campaign benefited from about \$3,000,000 of spending by the Koch family and approximately \$2,800,000 in spending by the National Rifle Association.^[38]

Political positions

Gun law

The National Rifle Association (NRA) endorsed Young for Senate in 2016 and has given him an "A+" rating for his support of pro-gun positions.^[39] As of 2017, Young has received \$2,896,732 in donations from the NRA.^[40]

Personal life

Todd Young and Jennifer Tucker married in 2005; the couple has four children.^[41] Jennifer is the niece of former Vice President Dan Quayle, whose former U.S. Senate seat Young now holds.