

LEGISLATOR

US Representative


ANNA ESHOO (D-CA-18)**IN OFFICE**

Up for re-election in 2016


12th Term


Re-elected in 2014


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BGOV BIOGRAPHY

By Greg Giroux, Bloomberg News

Anna Eshoo is a close friend of Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi who as a senior member of the Energy and Commerce Committee looks out for the interests of Silicon Valley.

Eshoo is “one of my dearest friends in the world,” Pelosi wrote in a 2008 autobiography, adding that she keeps on her desk a framed quote from Mother Teresa that Eshoo gave her. “I don’t know anyone that has kept her friends better than Nancy has,” Eshoo told Pelosi biographer Vincent Bzdek.

Those close ties weren’t enough to vault Eshoo to the top Democratic spot on Energy and Commerce after the 2014 elections. While Eshoo had Pelosi’s backing and the recommendation of the Pelosi-dominated Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, she lost to Frank Pallone of New Jersey, who had more seniority, in a 100-90 vote of the full Democratic caucus.

Eshoo in the 114th Congress retained her spot as the ranking Democrat on the committee’s Communications and Technology Subcommittee, which has primary jurisdiction over the Internet and telecommunications. Her district takes in Mountain View, including the headquarters for Google Inc. and Symantec Corp., and Palo Alto, home to Stanford University. About one-fourth of households in her district had income exceeding \$200,000 in 2013, the highest among the 435 districts, according to the Census Bureau.

“I represent the innovation capital of our country,” Eshoo said on C-SPAN in 2014.

Eshoo is a supporter of “net neutrality” -- the concept that Web traffic for all users should be treated equally. It was a “historic day” in February 2015 when the Federal Communications Commission adopted net-neutrality rules that “protect the ability of consumers, students and entrepreneurs to learn and explore, create and market, all on equal footing,” Eshoo said in March 2015.

In 2015, Eshoo was a chief sponsor of legislation that would curb so-called SLAPPs, the Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation that businesses file against individuals to deter public criticism in online forums such as Yelp. She’s a leading

voice for legislation that would permanently prohibit state and local governments from taxing Internet access.

"We need to encourage its usage, we need to protect that usage, and I think we need to do everything we can to ensure that the access to the Internet is universal," Eshoo said on the House floor in 2014.

Eshoo has pushed for greater transparency in federal government operations and elections. She advocates for more disclosure of political advertisements by outside groups that don't reveal donors.

"If those that are governed do not trust those that are governing, our country is in trouble," Eshoo said at an Energy and Commerce hearing in 2015. In 2012, the Republican-led House rejected an Eshoo amendment to require entities sponsoring political programming to disclose the identity of any donor who has contributed at least \$10,000.

As the representative of a high-cost district, Eshoo promoted legislation in 2015 that would expand tax credits available through the 2010 health-care law's exchanges to account for an area's cost of living.

Eshoo gets high marks from groups aligned with Democrats and liberal causes. She had lifetime scores of 97 percent from the League of Conservation Voters for her votes through 2014 and 93 percent from the AFL-CIO through 2013.

From time to time she breaks from most Democrats in opposing budget blueprints offered by liberal members of her caucus. In 2015, Eshoo voted against budget proposals from the Congressional Progressive Caucus and the Congressional Black Caucus that relied on taxing upper-income earners more than other budget alternatives would. Eshoo backed a Democratic-written budget and also voted against the Republican plan that was adopted.

Early Years

Eshoo was born in New Britain, Connecticut, to a father who was a successful jeweler and a mother who was a San Francisco native and active in the local community. Eshoo worked for Aluminum Co. of America in the early 1960s. After marrying and having two children in northern California, she went to college near San Francisco and got involved in local politics.

"When I was a kid, going into politics wasn't on my radar at all," Eshoo told the local news site InMenlo in 2011. "We didn't have women role models. You could be a nurse, teacher or enter the convent. But there's no doubt that John Kennedy inspired a whole new generation. His call for service to the country had a profound effect on me."

She was chairman of the San Mateo Democratic Party from 1978 through 1982 and in 1981 and 1982 was chief of staff to Leo McCarthy, then a former speaker of the California Assembly and later the state's lieutenant governor. Eshoo was elected in 1982 to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors, where she served for 10 years.

She made her first bid for Congress in 1988, losing to Republican law professor Tom Campbell by 6 percentage points. Campbell's unsuccessful bid for the Senate four years later paved the way for Eshoo to win the House seat on her second try.

That was her only tough race. As presently drawn, Eshoo's district is a Democratic bastion, and she has won more than 60 percent of the vote in every re-election campaign. Eshoo took 68 percent in 2014.

Updated June 12, 2015

BIO FROM REPRESENTATIVE'S WEBSITE

From the Representative's Website

Like the Silicon Valley region she represents, Congresswoman Anna G. Eshoo exemplifies innovation. She's creative, boundary breaking and productive. She is a problem solver and a consensus builder. In Rep. Eshoo's two decades in Congress, she has defended consumers, promoted American competitiveness and innovation, fought for access to health care for families and children, protected the environment, and encouraged development of clean energy technology.

Rep. Eshoo's work consistently earns the highest approval from a wide range of organizations, including the League of Conservation Voters, the Humane Society, the American Association of University Women, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans, the Biotechnology Industry Organization, the American College of Emergency Physicians, and the Science Coalition. The San Jose Mercury News named her one of the ten most powerful women in Silicon Valley "because she sits on committees that oversee the Internet and biotech^areas vital to the valley's interests"

Underlying Rep. Eshoo's tenacity to serve her constituents are her achievements. Following the tragic losses on 9/11, Rep. Eshoo recognized critical gaps in our nation's public safety communications network. As Ranking Member of the powerful House Communications and Technology Subcommittee, Eshoo was uniquely positioned to address this issue. Working

Bloomberg GOVERNMENT

from recommendations made by the 9/11 Commission Report, Eshoo led a charge in the House to create America's first nationwide, interoperable public safety communications network and to appropriate significant funding for Next Generation 9-1-1 technology. In February 2012, Congress passed legislation to do just that. The nation's first responders from local to federal levels will soon have the critical interoperable airwaves needed to effectively communicate in the event of an emergency.

In the wake of the nation's housing crisis which put extraordinary strain on the California housing market, Rep. Eshoo broke new ground for homeowners. Families in her district were struggling to keep up with their mortgages, forcing many to give up their dream of owning a home. Eshoo created consensus around inclusion of a "Homeowner Bill of Rights" in the 50-State Settlement^a \$25 billion settlement for mortgage servicing abuses perpetrated by the largest servicers. Eshoo's new borrower safeguards put an end to "dual tracking," a practice in which borrowers are foreclosed upon even as they negotiate the terms of a modification. The new rules also guarantee a single point of contact for borrowers seeking information about their loans. The American dream of owning one's home was severely threatened, and Rep. Eshoo took up the cause of defending it.

As the Bay Area population continues to grow from booming economic growth, significant strain has been placed on the region's transportation networks, especially Caltrain. In 2012, Caltrain reached record ridership levels with 50,000 riders every week day. Rep. Eshoo has long advocated for a modernized Caltrain to meet growing demands. She knows that a 21st century Caltrain will support economic growth, create jobs and help the environment. Earlier this year, the California state legislature approved funding to modernize Caltrain. The plan is part of a \$1.5 billion funding agreement to electrify the rail line, increasing safety and energy efficiency, as well as stabilize the agency's operating budget. This was an historic moment born out of Rep. Eshoo's vision of a lasting future for the spine of the Peninsula's transportation system.

No matter the call, Rep. Eshoo has always answered.

Rep. Eshoo was born in New Britain, Connecticut, of Assyrian and Armenian heritage. She is the proud mother of two children, Karen and Paul.

Eshoo is a graduate of Cañada College and the CORO Foundation. She was awarded an Honorary Degree by Menlo College and was elected to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors in 1982. She served on the County Board for ten years before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1992.

PERSONAL PROFILE

COMMITTEES

[House Committee on Energy and Commerce](#)

CAUCUSES

[Congressional NextGen 9-1-1 Caucus](#)

[Congressional Internet Caucus](#)

[Congressional Caucus on the Deadliest Cancers](#)

Birthdate 12/13/1942

Birthplace New Britain, CT

Political Party Democratic Party

Marital Status Divorced

Family 2 children

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Education

Menlo College

Hon Degree

Canada College

Associate's Degree 1975

1981 - 1982 State Assembly Member,
California State Assembly 1983 - 1992
Supervisor, County of San Benito CA 01-03-
1993 - Present Representative:California,
(US)House of Representatives