

LEGISLATOR

US Senator

BARBARA BOXER (D-CA)**IN OFFICE**

Retiring at the end of the current term

4th Term


Re-elected in 2010

SENIORITY RANK

11


Out of 100


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BGOV BIOGRAPHY

By Catherine Dodge and Brian Nutting, Bloomberg News

Barbara Boxer is widely viewed as a Bay Area liberal, although she has lived hundreds of miles away, near Palm Springs, for years.

She has compiled a dependably Democratic voting record during her decade in the House and two decades in the Senate. Her lifetime rating on key votes from the liberal Americans for Democratic Action is above 90 percent, while her score from the American Conservative Union is 3 percent.

Boxer announced in January, 2015 that she wouldn't seek re-election in 2016, citing her desire to return home to California and work on issues and political campaigns important to her.

Her legislative interests include women's and children's rights and environmental protection. In 2002 she was one of 23 senators who voted against a joint resolution authorizing the use of military force against Iraq.

She favors gun control and same-sex marriage and supports abortion rights and the 2010 health-care law.

The sharp-tongued Boxer seldom leaves listeners wondering where she stands on issues, and she has engaged in countless partisan exchanges with her Senate colleagues, even while occasionally reaching across the aisle to find agreement on bills. Those partnerships have included lawmakers with whom she has had the testiest verbal exchanges, such as Republican Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma.

Climate Change

When she became chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee in 2007, at the start of the 110th Congress, she reorganized the panel to create two subcommittees with "global warming" in their names.

She and Inhofe, who led the committee before Boxer took the gavel, waged continuing verbal and legislative battles over that topic. He is skeptical about humans' role in global warming, once calling it "the greatest hoax ever perpetrated on the American people."

In 2009, Boxer was able to win committee approval of a bill to cap carbon emissions over objections from Inhofe and other Republicans, who boycotted the committee meetings. Later that year, she was disappointed when President Barack Obama and other backers of the climate-change legislative effort were forced to place it on the back burner. Inhofe crowed, "We won, you lost, get a life."

In 2011, as Republicans on Capitol Hill sought to repeal some environmental protection laws and regulations and cut funding for federal regulators, Boxer complained, "For the life of me, I don't understand why my Republican colleagues want to threaten the air we breathe and the water we drink."

Their partisan battling over global warming aside, she and Inhofe often work together on other matters before the committee. In 2011, Boxer donned a University of Oklahoma jersey to thank Inhofe for his help in gaining passage of legislation extending funding for highway programs. The next year the two worked together to shepherd through to passage a multiyear surface transportation authorization bill.

"Senator Inhofe and I are as far away from each other politically as two human beings can get," she said on the Senate floor. "But we teamed up and put aside our ideologies, put aside our pet peeves, put aside things that, perhaps in our hearts, we truly wanted to do on this bill, and we met in the middle."

In 2013 she and Louisiana Republican David Vitter, who in the 113th Congress succeeded Inhofe as the committee's top Republican, worked together to develop a water resources bill. When it passed, she echoed her sentiments of the previous year: "Senator Vitter and I have our differences in a number of areas, but when it comes to the infrastructure of our country, we worked very well together, as I did with Senator Inhofe."

Boxer was chairman of the Select Ethics Committee, making her the only senator heading two full committees in the 113th Congress. She took that post at the beginning of 2007 after South Dakota Democrat Tim Johnson suffered a brain hemorrhage. As Republicans assumed control of the chamber in 2015, she became vice chairman on the ethics panel.

In 2008 the committee admonished Idaho Republican Larry Craig, who had pleaded guilty the year before to a charge of disorderly conduct after being arrested by a police officer investigating complaints of lewd conduct in a men's room at the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport. In 2011, the committee forwarded to the Justice Department information it had assembled about Nevada Republican John Ensign, saying it had reason to believe that he had violated federal laws in his efforts to cover up an extramarital affair with the wife of a top aide. Craig didn't seek re-election in 2008, and Ensign resigned in May 2011 with more than 19 months left in his term.

Early Years

Boxer was born in Brooklyn and attended Brooklyn College, where she met her husband, Stewart. She worked as a stockbroker for three years while he attended law school. In 1968 they moved to Northern California, where she became active in Marin County public policy. She won election to the Marin County Board of Supervisors in 1976 on her second try for that office.

When her friend and political mentor, Democratic Representative John Burton, decided to retire in 1982, Boxer ran for the 6th District House seat. She won her first election by eight percentage points and was re-elected four times by much larger margins.

When Democrat Alan Cranston retired in 1992, she moved to the Senate, defeating television commentator Bruce Herschensohn by five percentage points. She wasn't the only female Democratic senator-elect in California that day; Dianne Feinstein was victorious in a special election to fill the seat left vacant when Republican Pete Wilson became governor. In her 2004 re-election bid she received 6.96 million votes, the largest number of popular votes cast for a Senate candidate in a single election, until it was surpassed by Feinstein's 7.86 million in 2012.

In 2006 she and her husband moved to Rancho Mirage, near Palm Springs. Boxer has written several books, including two novels she co-authored about political intrigue in Washington -- featuring a female senator.

Updated Jan. 8, 2015

BIO FROM REPRESENTATIVE'S WEBSITE

From the Senator's Website

Barbara Boxer became a United States Senator in January 1993 after 10 years of service in the House of Representatives and six years on the Marin County Board of Supervisors. In November 2010, she was reelected to her fourth term in the Senate.

A national leader on environmental protection, Senator Boxer is the first woman to chair the U.S. Senate's Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW).

Senator Boxer also chairs the Senate Select Committee on Ethics, making her the only sitting Senator to chair two Senate committees. She is a senior member of the Senate Commerce Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where she chairs the first subcommittee ever to focus on global women's issues.

Senator Boxer is also a member of the Democratic leadership in the Senate, serving as the Chief Deputy Whip since 2005.

A champion of quality public education, Senator Boxer wrote landmark legislation establishing the first-ever federal funding for afterschool programs. Her law now covers 1.6 million children. She continues to work to expand afterschool programs nationwide as chair of the Senate Afterschool Caucus.

To ensure that future generations of Californians will be able to enjoy our natural heritage, Senator Boxer has written laws designating more than 1 million acres of California wilderness. She wrote the Senate bill that elevated Pinnacles National Monument into America's 59th National Park. She helped champion the creation of the Fort Ord National Monument and Cesar Chavez National Monument, as well as efforts to expand the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries. She also authored the California Missions Preservation Act to protect and restore California's 21 historic missions, and led the effort in the Senate to create the Manzanar National Historic Site.

To protect children from dangerous toys, Boxer authored a provision in the 2008 Consumer Product Safety Commission Law requiring children's products sold over the Internet to list cautionary warnings in their advertisements. She has also led efforts to protect children from lead and other dangerous chemicals.

Senator Boxer is a champion of airline passengers' rights, and her legislation with Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME) to protect passengers from being stuck on planes for hours without food, water or access to restrooms became the centerpiece of Department of Transportation rules that have reduced tarmac delays nationwide.

In 2010, she founded the Senate Military Family Caucus to help address the challenges faced by families of U.S. service members who sacrifice so much for our country. She worked to establish the West Coast Combat Care Center in San Diego to ensure that severely wounded service members in the West have access to the highest quality care. She also helped create the Defense Task Force on Mental Health and secured millions in federal funding to improve medical care for severely burned soldiers.

Senator Boxer wrote the United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act, which President Obama signed into law in July 2012, reaffirming our country's special relationship with Israel and strengthening economic and security cooperation between the two nations.

A strong supporter of the 1994 crime bill, she has worked to fund anti-gang programs, pass the Violence Against Women Law (VAWA), and the Community Policy 'COPS' Program. Her bill to prevent the criminal use of personal information obtained through motor vehicle records was signed into law and upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

A leading defender of a woman's right to choose, Senator Boxer helped lead the floor fight for passage of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act. In the Senate, she has fought back against repeated attacks on women's health and a woman's right to privacy.

A strong proponent of life-saving medical research, Senator Boxer wrote bipartisan legislation to accelerate America's contribution to combat global HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

Senator Boxer has worked to revitalize the economy by supporting targeted tax cuts, a permanent Research and Development tax credit, accelerated depreciation of new business equipment, and tax credits for broadband investments focused on rural and underserved areas.

Senator Barbara Boxer met her husband of over 50 years, Stewart Boxer, at Brooklyn College. The couple moved to California in 1965 to raise their two children, Doug and Nicole. They have been blessed with four grandchildren^Zachary, Zain, Sawyer and Reyna.

PERSONAL PROFILE**COMMITTEES**

[Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works](#)
Ranking Member

[Senate Committee on Foreign Relations](#)

[Senate Select Committee on Ethics](#)
Vice Chair

CAUCUSES

[Senate Afterschool Caucus](#)

[Senate Military Family Caucus](#)

[Senate National Guard Caucus](#)

Birthdate 11/11/1940

Birthplace Brooklyn, NY

Political Party Democratic Party

Marital Status Married

Spouse Stewart Boxer

Residence Greenbrae, CA

Family 2 children; 4 grandchildren

Religion Jewish

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**Education**

Brooklyn Coll
Bachelor's Degree

1972 - 1974 Journalist/Associate Editor, Pacific Sun Newspaper
1974 - 1976 Congressional Aide, State of California
1976 - 1982 President/Member, Marin County Board Supervisors
01-03-1983 - 01-03-1993 Representative:California, (US)House of Representatives
01-03-1993 - Present Senator:California, (US)Senate