

**PAT TOOMEY (R-PA)****IN OFFICE**

Up for re-election in 2016

**LEADERSHIP POSITION**

Senate Republican Steering Committee

**1st Term**

Elected in 2010

**SENIORITY RANK**

63

Out of 100

**CONTACT****Email** [Contact Form](http://www.toomey.senate.gov/?p=contact)  
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<http://www.facebook.com/senatortoomey>**DC Office** 248 Russell Senate Office Building**BGOV BIOGRAPHY**

By Jim Myers for Bloomberg News

Pat Toomey's performance has been generally to the liking of the small government groups that helped him first get elected although some episodes have raised the hackles of his traditional supporters. Those include his willingness to consider some increased government revenues when he was a member of the so-called supercommittee in 2011 and his partnership with West Virginia Democrat Joe Manchin in calling for expanded background checks for prospective gun-buyers in 2013.

Toomey was elected to the Senate in 2010 on a small-government, lower taxes platform that was cheered by groups such as the Senate Conservatives Fund, Freedom Works, Club for Growth and Tea Party activists, all of which gave him their endorsements.

He headed the Club for Growth, an advocacy and fundraising group that favors limited government and low taxes, for four years before he came to the Senate. He's often been described as a "conservative firebrand," based on his Club for Growth presidency and his actions during three terms in the House.

Toomey has amassed a lifetime rating of well above 90 percent from the American Conservative Union and the Club for Growth. The National Tax Limitation Committee gave him 100 percent scores for both the 112th and 113th Congresses.

Toomey's focus has largely been on fiscal matters, and his committee portfolio -- Finance, Banking and Budget -- fits that perfectly, giving him multiple platforms to voice his views that the federal government should spend and tax less and reduce its regulatory burden on business. He's proposed a constitutional balanced-budget amendment and numerous measures to cap spending and ban special-interest earmarks.

While he has been most noted for his work on economic matters and government spending, Toomey's views on social matters are also in the Republican mainstream -- he's against abortion and same-sex marriage and most gun control measures.

On the latter, his bipartisan teamwork with Manchin drew some complaints that he was a "sellout." Their proposal for

expanded background checks, in the aftermath of the school shootings in Newtown, Connecticut, didn't constitute gun control, Toomey argued. He told a press conference, "If you pass a criminal background check, you get to buy a gun. No problem. It's the people who fail a criminal or mental health background that we don't want to have a gun." Nevertheless, his rating from the Gun Owners Of America fell from 100 percent in 2012 to 30 percent in 2013.

He's also joined with Manchin on veterans training and employment issues.

Toomey was named to the 12-member bicameral Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction -- also known as the supercommittee -- in 2011, which was given the task of developing a plan to slash \$1.2 trillion from the budget deficit. He said he offered a proposal that took Republicans "out of our comfort zone" by calling for new government revenues, to be raised, in part, by the elimination of many tax deductions for high-income individuals.

Later, he disappointed some conservatives by voting for a measure to avoid the so-called fiscal cliff.

In the 113th Congress, Toomey was also one of nine Republicans to vote for a bill to protect gays and lesbians from workplace discrimination. And he voted to renew the Violence Against Women Act that he had earlier opposed.

Toomey's campaign website also singled out his work on a bipartisan JOBS Act, which was signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2012. The measure was designed to help businesses raise capital to expand, develop new products and create jobs.

Toomey's six years in the House helped him develop his reputation as a dependable conservative, with votes for tax cuts pushed by the George W. Bush administration and against the Medicare Prescription Drug Act of 2003.

According to the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Republican takeover of power in the Senate in 2015 offered Toomey another opportunity to add to that resume.

His pro-growth agenda includes such items as approval of the Keystone pipeline and repealing a medical device tax, the paper reported.

In addition to dismantling as much of the 2010 Affordable Care Act as possible, Allentown's Morning Call newspaper also reported that Toomey wants to take a harder line against regulations pushed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, always a top target for Republicans.

### Early Years

He was born in Providence, Rhode Island, one of six children of a staunch Democrat father who worked for the electric company and belonged to a union and a mother who was a part-time secretary for her church. He graduated as the valedictorian from Catholic prep school LaSalle Academy and received a bachelor's degree from Harvard University, where his political transformation continued and he was a defender of Ronald Reagan.

A financial services internship in college introduced him to Wall Street, and Toomey spent the latter half of the 1980s working in New York for Chemical Bank and the London-based investment bank Morgan Grenfell. He began a year-long stint as a financial consultant in Hong Kong in 1990.

Then Toomey settled in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and started "Rookie's," a sports-restaurant business, with two brothers.

In 1994, he began his political career by being elected to the Government Study Commission in Allentown.

Four years later, Toomey won election to the House in an open-seat race to replace Democrat Paul McHale, who retired. He won a six-candidate primary.

An advocate of term limits for lawmakers, Toomey didn't run for re-election to the House in 2004, instead seeking the Senate seat held by fellow Republican Arlen Specter. He lost the GOP primary by less than 2 percentage points.

Buoyed by the Tea Party's campaign of fiscal discipline, Toomey planned a challenge to Specter again in 2010. Behind in the early polls, however, Specter switched parties in 2009, and Toomey won the Republican nomination. He edged out Representative Joe Sestak, who had defeated Specter in the Democratic primary, by just 2 percentage points.

As he geared up for his expected re-election bid in 2016, the Inquirer suggested that the campaign would feature a debate on whether Toomey is a "pragmatic fiscal conservative willing to compromise" or "a right-wing ideologue hiding behind a mild demeanor."

Updated Dec. 29, 2014

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## BIO FROM REPRESENTATIVE'S WEBSITE

From the Senator's Website

Senator Pat Toomey is a leader on economic, financial services, and budget issues. He is known as a champion of fiscal responsibility.

The Philadelphia Inquirer wrote that he has emerged as "a leading voice on money matters."

He helped write and enact the bipartisan JOBS Act, which cuts regulatory burdens on small and medium-sized businesses making it easier for them to raise capital and create jobs.

The senator serves on the Finance; Banking; Budget; and Joint Economic committees. Sen. Toomey is the chairman of the Senate Steering Committee - the coalition of Republican senators that advocates for innovative, conservative policies.

Sen. Toomey previously was elected to the House of Representatives and fulfilled his three-term pledge. In addition to his public service, the senator also was the president of the Club for Growth, owned and operated a small restaurant chain in the Lehigh Valley, and worked in the financial services industry.

Pat and Kris Toomey live in Zionsville with their three children Bridget, Patrick, and Duncan.

## PERSONAL PROFILE

### COMMITTEES

[Senate Committee on Finance](#)

[Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs](#)

[Senate Committee on Budget](#)

### CAUCUSES

[Senate Special Operations Forces Caucus](#)

[Congressional Veterans Jobs Caucus](#)

[Senate Air Force Caucus](#)

Birthdate 11/17/1961

Birthplace Providence, RI

Political Party Republican Party

Marital Status Married

Spouse Kris

Residence Zionsville, PA

Family 3 children

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

#### Education

Harvard University

Bachelor's Degree 1984

01-04-1999 - 01-03-2005  
Representative:Pennsylvania, (US)House of Representatives  
01-03-2011 - Present  
Senator:Pennsylvania, (US)Senate