

SENATOR BERNIE SANDERS

United States Senator for Vermont



Biography: Bernie Sanders was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2006 after serving 16 years in the House of Representatives. He is the longest serving independent member of Congress in American history. Born in Brooklyn, Bernie was the younger of two sons in a modest-income family. After graduation from the University of Chicago in 1964, he moved to the Green Mountain State. Early in his career, Sanders was director of the American People's Historical Society. Elected Mayor of Burlington by 12 votes in 1981, he served four terms. Before his 1990 election as Vermont's at-large member in Congress, Sanders lectured at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard and at Hamilton College in upstate New York.

The Almanac of American Politics has called Sanders a "practical" and "successful legislator." He has focused on the shrinking middle class and widening income gap in America that is greater than at any time since the Great Depression. Other priorities include reversing global warming, universal health care, fair trade policies, supporting veterans and preserving family farms. He serves on five Senate committees: Budget; Veterans; Energy; Environment; and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

Born: Sept. 8, 1941, New York, N.Y.

Residence: Burlington, Vt.

Education: James Madison High School in Brooklyn, Brooklyn College, University of Chicago, B.A. 1964

Religion: Jewish

Married: Jane O'Meara Sanders, president of Burlington College

Elected offices:

- Mayor of Burlington, 1981-1989
- U.S. House of Representatives, 1991-2007
- U.S. Senate, 2007-present

Official portrait:

