Speaker Biographies

Congressman Don Bacon (R-NE) has been ranked the most effective Republican in the House and has passed the 2nd most bills into law of all 435 members, including commonsense bills that work to ease the cost of living, cut taxes, and reduce our national debt. Congressman Bacon is a true problem solver who works regularly with both Republicans and Democrats to get things done. Having served nearly 30 years in the U.S. Air Force, Congressman Bacon is also a leader on foreign policy, including support for Israel. Congressman Bacon serves on the House Committee on Agriculture and House Committee on Armed Services.

Retired Admiral Dennis Blair, a retired Navy officer, is the Knott Distinguished Visiting Professor of the Practice at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. He has held various leadership positions, including CEO and Chairman of the Board of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation USA, Director of National Intelligence, and Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Command. Admiral Blair is affiliated with multiple organizations, serving on the boards of No Labels, the Energy Security Leadership Council, and Securing America's Future Energy (SAFE), and as a director of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations. He also chairs the Strategic Advisory Group of Lockheed Martin Space. Additionally, Admiral Blair is an accomplished author and has co-chaired several influential commissions.

Rep.-elect Rob Bresnahan (R-PA) was elected in November 2024 to represent Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District. A fifth generation Northeastern Pennsylvanian, accomplished businessman, college athlete, former Chairman of the Joint Apprentice Training Committee and Trustee for the Health Wellness and Annuity for IBEW 163, and community philanthropist, Rob Bresnahan is dedicated to facing challenges and solving problems. Rob is committed to bringing people together, sending a jolt of energy through Congress, and delivering results for Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Andy Bursky has been Managing Partner of Atlas Holdings since its inception in January 2002. From June 1999 to April 2002, Mr. Bursky was a Co-Managing Partner of Pegasus Capital Advisors, L.P., a private investment partnership with approximately $2 billion of capital under management, focusing on control investments in middle-market companies at points of stress or significant change. Mr. Bursky joined Pegasus in 1999 after 19 years with Interlaken Capital, Inc., a private equity concern focusing on contrarian style, value-oriented investments in middle-market companies. Mr. Bursky was a co-founder and the Senior Managing Director of Interlaken. While at Interlaken, Mr. Bursky was responsible for all investments and business development activities, with a primary focus on industrial manufacturing, business services, financial services, and distribution. Mr. Bursky is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Washington University in St. Louis and serves on its Executive Committee. He is also a Board member of the Washington University Investment Management Company and on the Board of Advisors of the Bursky Center for Human Immunology and Immunotherapy Programs at Washington University. Mr. Bursky also serves on the Executive Board of Directors of No Labels, an American political organization whose mission is to combat partisan dysfunction in politics. Mr. Bursky is a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis and Harvard Business School.

Congressman Ed Case (D-HI) has proudly represented Hawaii's First Congressional District (Honolulu from Makapu'u to Mililani and Kapolei) since 2019. He previously represented Hawaii's Second Congressional District (remainder of O'ahu and all other islands) from 2002 to 2007. Congressman Case was born and raised in Hilo and graduated from Hawai'i Preparatory Academy in Kamuela, Williams College in Massachusetts and the University of California College of the Law, San Francisco. He practiced law in Honolulu for over two decades, served as Hawai'i State Representative from Manoa from 1994 to 2002 in various positions including Majority Leader, and worked for five years as Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Officer of Outrigger, one of Hawaii's oldest and largest hotel and resort companies. Congressman Case is married to Audrey (Nakamura), his Hawai'i Prep classmate who worked for four decades as a flight attendant with Pan American and United. They have four children, two daughters-in law and two grandchildren.

Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA) was elected to U.S. Senate in 2014. Cassidy is a Baton Rouge native and graduated from LSU medical school in 1983. Cassidy's political career began in 2006 when he was elected to the Louisiana State Senate. In 2008 he was elected to represent Louisiana in the U.S. House of Representatives. In the Senate, Cassidy serves on the Finance Committee, the Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions Committee (HELP), the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and the Veterans Affairs Committee.

Ryan Clancy is chief strategist for No Labels, where he leads the development of policy and communications for the organization. He has worked closely with No Labels' senior leadership since 2011 to chart both the strategic direction and message of the organization. He is also the co-author of No Labels' Ultimate Guide to the 2020 Election. Ryan has helped some of the world's most respected leaders and organizations tell their story: serving as a speechwriter for cabinet officials in Washington, DC; ghostwriting books; developing corporate narratives and executive positioning plans for Fortune 500 companies and CEOs and investor pitches for start-up companies and entrepreneurs; and advising political reform groups and candidates on all facets of communications strategy.

Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1996. She is serving her 5th term representing Maine and is the most senior Republican woman in the Senate. Senator Collins is known as a problem solver working across party lines to be an effective legislator. Collins has been ranked the most bipartisan member of the Senate by the Lugar Center and Georgetown University. Senator Collins is the Vice Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, a Ranking Member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, and sits on the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee and Intelligence Committee.

Sen.-elect John Curtis (R-UT) was elected in November 2024 to represent Utah in the US Senate. He currently represents Utah's 3rd Congressional District where he is known for his reputation as someone who gets things done. Since being elected to Congress in 2017, John has passed 20 pieces of legislation into law, ranging in diverse topics such as better managing public lands, combatting human trafficking, reducing burdensome regulations on small businesses, and more. He has been ranked by the nonpartisan Center for Effective Lawmaking as the 9th most effective Republican member of Congress.

Congressman Don Davis (D-NC) has spent his life heeding the call to serve. Don is a veteran, educator, minister, and dedicated public servant. After working in the tobacco fields and attending church often twice on Sunday with his grandmother, Don attended the United States Air Force Academy, and was commissioned into the Air Force where he served in uniform for 8 years. Don continued his commitment to public service by becoming the youngest Mayor of Snow Hill at age 29. Don believed then, as he does now, that our government should work for the people. In 2008, Don ran and won his first State Senate election. In his six terms as Senator, Don has served as a champion for eastern North Carolina, fighting for our rural communities and delivering results for our families. In 2022, Don was elected to the U.S. Congress representing his home community, eastern North Carolina.

Ben DuPont is co-Founder and Partner at Chartline Capital Partners venture capital fund that invests in B2B software companies. He co-founded yet2, an Open Innovation company in1999. Previously Ben worked at the E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company (DuPont) in multiple businesses including medical products, fibers, specialty chemicals, and engineering. Ben is on the board of Longwood Gardens, Zip Code Wilmington, and the Tower Hill School. He has a BSME Tufts University and lives in Rockland Delaware with his wife and two kids.

Congressman Jared Golden (D-ME) is a member of the Problem Solvers Caucus in the U.S. House, representing the Second District of Maine, where he serves on the Small Business Committee and the Armed Services Committee. Congressman Golden has consistently voted, often against his own party, for commonsense bipartisan legislation on topics ranging from border security to spending and the economy. A Marine who served in Afghanistan and Iraq, Congressman Golden is a proud champion for strong national security and support for our veterans.

Congressman Tony Gonzales (R-TX) represents the largest border district in the country, over 800 miles, and he is a leader in the bipartisan effort to secure our border. A moderate Republican and member of the Problem Solvers Caucus since 2021, Tony also serves on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, where he fights every day for fiscal responsibility. Congressman Gonzales has worked across the aisle with Democrats on border, crime, veterans, mental health and many other issues, which earned him a censure from the Republican Party of Texas and an extremist primary challenger.

Congressman Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX) is serving his fourth term in the U.S. House of Representatives. Congressman Gonzalez is a lifetime resident of South Texas and was first elected to the House in 2016. He represented Texas's 15th Congressional District from 2017-2023 and now represents the 34th District, which encompasses eastern Hidalgo County, and all of Cameron, Kenedy, Kleberg, and Willacy Counties. Gonzalez is a member of the House Committee on Financial Services and is currently appointed to the U.S. - Mexico Interparliamentary Group.

Congressman Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ) is Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus and a longtime friend of No Labels. He was elected to represent New Jersey's 5th Congressional District in 2016, which is in the northernmost part of the state and includes parts of Bergen, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren counties. Before running for Congress, he worked at Microsoft where he focused on the company's expansion into the cloud, e-commerce, and privacy. He currently serves on the Financial Services Committee.

Governor Larry Hogan (R-MD) was sworn in as the 62nd governor of the State of Maryland on January 21, 2015. In 2018, he was overwhelmingly re-elected to a second four-year term, receiving the most votes of any Maryland gubernatorial candidate and becoming only the second Republican governor to be re-elected in the 242-year history of the state. Prior to his election in 2014, Governor Hogan – who had never before held elective office – spent more than 25 years building and running small businesses in the private sector. In 2011, he founded Change Maryland, the largest nonpartisan grassroots citizen organization in state history, which is dedicated to bringing fiscal responsibility and common sense to state government.

Eric Hovde, an experienced businessman and entrepreneur, has founded and built multiple companies throughout his career. Eric is a fourth generation Wisconsinite. He is CEO and co-owner of Hovde Properties, a Madison, Wisconsin-based real estate development company. In this role, Eric oversees all large development projects to ensure they are of the highest quality and contribute to building strong local communities. Eric is also CEO of Sunwest Bank, a commercial business bank with operations throughout the Western United States and Florida. Eric Hovde ran for election to the US Senate to represent Wisconsin.
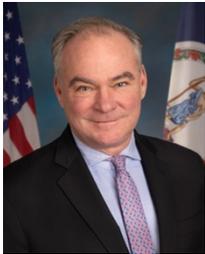
Nancy Jacobson is the Founder and CEO of No Labels. With America intractably divided, No Labels is giving voice to America's oft-ignored commonsense majority. It's the brainchild of Nancy Jacobson, described by New York Times columnist David Brooks as an "undeterrable" leader. Having begun her career helping Gary Hart and Bill Clinton remake the Democratic Party, Jacobson later worked for Sen. Evan Bayh before launching No Labels in 2010. In the years since No Labels created the bipartisan House Problem Solvers Caucus and an allied Senate group that led the passage of landmark bipartisan legislation like the 2021 infrastructure bill. In 2022 and 2023, No Labels got over one million voters to sign petitions to get ballot access for a potential Unity presidential ticket. Although No Labels did not ultimately field a ticket, the movement grew exponentially and is positioned to become the political home for millions of frustrated Americans who know this country can and must do better.

Congressman Dusty Johnson (R-SD) was elected in 2018 to represent South Dakota in the House of Representatives. Johnson brings an energetic and optimistic leadership style to Washington as South Dakota's lone voice in the U.S. House of Representatives. As a "policy guy," he works hard to be a knowledgeable and value-added member on issues related to his committee assignments: Agriculture, Transportation & Infrastructure, and the Select Committee on China. Johnson is also a member of the Problem Solvers Caucus. Prior to being elected to Congress, he served as chief of staff to the Governor and as vice president of an engineering firm specializing in rural telecommunications.

Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA) was elected to the Senate in 2012 and serves on the Armed Services; Budget; Foreign Relations; and Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committees. He was first elected to office in 1994, serving as a city councilmember and then Mayor of Richmond. He became Lieutenant Governor of Virginia in 2002 and was inaugurated as Virginia's 70th Governor in 2006.

Congressman Mike Lawler (R-NY) represents New York's 17th congressional district as an avowed moderate. In Congress, Mike Lawler serves on the House Financial Services Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee. He also serves on the bipartisan SALT Caucus and the Problem Solvers Caucus. Prior to serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Mike Lawler represented New York's 97th District in the State Assembly where he served on the Committees on Aging, Banks, Education, Housing, and as the Ranking Member on Governmental Operations. In the State Assembly, Mike passed more bills than any other member of his conference, a testament to his bipartisan, pragmatic approach to government.

Congresswoman Susie Lee (D-NV) is the Vice-Chair of the Problem Solvers Caucus. She was elected to the US House of Representatives in 2018. She represents Nevada's 3rd Congressional District which occupies the area south of Las Vegas. Prior to being elected, Lee served as a campaign policy advisor to the Las Vegas mayor and founded a homeless shelter. She also led Communities in Schools of Nevada, an organization that serves over 60,000 students in 63 schools statewide. In Congress, she has served on the Education and Labor and Veterans' Affairs Committees.

Frank Luntz is one of the most honored communication professionals in America today. "The Nostradamus of pollsters," said Sir David Frost, Time magazine named him one of "50 of America's most promising leaders aged 40 and under" and he is the "hottest pollster" in America according to the Boston Globe. Frank was named one of the four "Top Research Minds" by Business Week and was a winner of the coveted Washington Post "Crystal Ball" award for being the most accurate pundit. His focus groups have become so influential that presidential candidate Barack Obama had this to say following the PBS presidential debate, "When Frank Luntz invites you to talk to his focus group; you talk to his focus group."

Governor Pat McCrory (R-NC) is a principled and pragmatic leader who gained national prominence as the seven-term mayor of Charlotte and later served as the governor of North Carolina. As mayor, he helped transform Charlotte into a thriving metropolitan city. During his tenure as governor, he implemented tax reforms, invested in transportation infrastructure, paid off state debt, and raised teacher salaries. He was recognized for his compassionate governance during Hurricane Matthew. Pat worked closely with multiple presidents and served on executive boards for national Mayors' and Governors' associations. Today, he is a sought-after political commentator and media personality.

Congressman Dan Meuser (R-PA) was elected to the House of Representatives in 2018, representing Pennsylvania's 9th Congressional District. Meuser is a member of the Problem Solvers Caucus and currently serves on the House Committee on Financial Services and House Committee on Small Business. Before running for Congress, Dan served as Pennsylvania's Secretary of Revenue working to transform the Department of Revenue from a traditional tax collection agency into a taxpayer advocacy organization.

Congressman Seth Moulton (D-MA) has represented Massachusetts's 6th Congressional District since 2015. Moulton served as a Marine and worked as the Managing Director of Texas Central before joining Congress. Seth sits on The House Armed Services Committee, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and the Select Committee on Strategic Competition between the U.S. and the Chinese Communist Party. His legislative accomplishments include securing a national 3-digit hotline for the national Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, delivering faster care for veterans, modernizing government travel, and making ALS disability insurance more comprehensive and accessible.

Senator Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2022. Before being elected to the Senate, Mullin represented Oklahoma's 2nd District in the U.S. House of Representatives for 10 years. Mullin is an Oklahoma native, lives on his family's ranch in Westville and is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation. Senator Mullin serves on the Senate Armed Services Committee, the Environment and Public Works Committee, the Health, Labor, and Pensions Committee, and the Indian Affairs Committee.

Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), Alaska's senior U.S. Senator, is a third generation Alaskan proudly serving as the first Alaskan born senator. Since joining the Senate in 2002, Senator Murkowski has worked tirelessly for Alaskans and earned a reputation in the Senate for her ability to work collaboratively and across the aisle to reach common sense solutions. Murkowski is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. She is a ranking member of the Interior Environment Subcommittee and Senate Indian Affairs Committee.

Congressman Jimmy Panetta (D-CA) proudly serves California's 19th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. First elected in 2016, he is serving his fourth term in Congress. He currently serves on the House Committee on Ways and Means, the House Committee on Armed Services, and House Committee on the Budget. He also serves as a Chief Deputy Whip in the 118th Congress. During his time in Congress, Representative Panetta has fought for affordable housing, immigration reform, the continued protection of our pristine coastline and environment, accessible health care, our agriculture industry and its farmers and farmworkers, the reduction of gun violence, a fairer tax code, major infrastructure investment, sustainable conservation practices, our military installations that are an integral part in our community and our country's security, and the deserved and promised benefits to our veterans.

Congresswoman Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA) is a fifth-generation Washingtonian, former small business owner, and working mom who serves as Southwest Washington's independent voice in Congress. In Congress, Marie is fighting to make progress on the issues facing Southwest Washingtonians, defend democracy, and level the playing field for working families like hers. Perez is a member of the Problem Solvers Caucus and sits on the Small Business Committee and Agriculture Committee.

Mike Rawlings is a founding partner and current Vice-Chairman of CIC, a prominent firm he has been with since its establishment in 2004. As Mayor of the City of Dallas from 2011 to 2019, he oversaw unprecedented growth in the ninth largest city in the U.S. Prior to his political career, Rawlings achieved remarkable success as President of Pizza Hut from 1997 to 2003, propelling the brand to record growth. Additionally, he served as CEO of Tracy Locke, a leading marketing communications agency in the Southwest, working with renowned clients such as Frito-Lay, Pepsi, Tabasco, and American Airlines. Currently, Rawlings holds a director position at Willie's Grill & Icehouse, and his extensive experience includes roles as Chairman and CEO of Legends Hospitality Management, as well as directorships at OmniSYS, Buffet Partners, Quiznos, and SignStorey. He has received numerous national accolades and is a graduate of Boston College.

Kathleen Shanahan recently moved from Chief Executive Officer to Senior Advisor for Turtle & Hughes, Inc., one of the country's top 20 independent electrical and industrial distribution, logistics, and supply chain solutions companies. She brings more than three decades of experience in business, politics, and public policy with a proven track record of success. Kathleen's broad perspective on business opportunities, ability to see around corners, keen intellect, and solutions-focused mindset enable organizations to achieve superior results. She is an authentic industry leader, seasoned corporate and not-for-profit board chair and director.

Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC) was first elected to represent North Carolina in the U.S. Senate in 2014. Before serving in the Senate, he was Speaker of the House in the North Carolina General Assembly where he played an instrumental role in enacting job-creating policies and reforming North Carolina's tax and regulatory codes. Senator Tillis is a member of the Senate Finance Committee, Veterans' Affairs Committee, Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee, and Judiciary Committee. Senator Tillis is up for re-election in 2026.

Congressman Ritchie Torres (D-NY) is a dedicated public servant with over 10 years of experience in the New York City Council and the U.S. House of Representatives. A Democrat representing the Bronx since 2021, Congressman Torres's commonsense views on Israel resulted in his departure from the Congressional Progressive Caucus. He sits on the Financial Services and Homeland Security Committees, as well as the bipartisan Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party.

Sam Wang, Ph.D. is a professor of neuroscience at Princeton University. An alumnus of the California Institute of Technology, where he received a B.S. with honor in physics, he went on to earn a Ph.D. in neuroscience from the Stanford University School of Medicine in 1993. He conducted postdoctoral research at Duke University Medical Center and then at Bell Labs Lucent Technologies. In the mid-1990s, he also worked on science and education policy for the U.S. Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources. He joined the Princeton University faculty in 2000. He currently has affiliate appointments in the Program in Law and Public Affairs, the Center for Cognitive Science, the Program in Quantitative and Computational Biology, and the Center for Information Technology Policy.

Dan Webb is co-executive chairman of Winston & Strawn and one of the most distinguished and sought-after trial lawyers in the United States. He has tried more than 100 jury cases involving a wide variety of claims and been named a fellow of the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers. Notably, Dan achieved international acclaim for his successful prosecution of retired Admiral John Poindexter in the Iran-Contra Affair. He served as the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois and has served in special prosecutor or similar roles on several occasions, including for the successful prosecution of actor Jussie Smollett in Chicago, for which he was named Am Law's "Litigator of the Week" in December 2021.

Senator Todd Young (R-IN) was elected in 2016 to represent Indiana in the U.S. Senate. Since joining the Senate, Young has developed a reputation as a bipartisan problem solver and was a co-sponsor of the CHIPS and Science Act in 2022. Young sits on the Committees on Finance; Foreign Relations; Commerce, Science & Transportation; and Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Before his career in politics, Young attended the Naval Academy and served in United States Marine Corps for 12 years.

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