Mitch McConnell is the United States Senate Republican Leader. On January 3, 2023, he became the longest-serving Senate Party Leader in American history, elected to lead the Republican conference nine times since 2006.

From 2015 to 2021, McConnell served as Senate Majority Leader. He is only the second Kentuckian to ever be Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate. The first, Senator Alben Barkley, led the Democrats from 1937 to 1949.

McConnell previously served in leadership as the Majority Whip in the 108th and 109th Congresses and as chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee during the 1998 and 2000 election cycles.

McConnell has been praised in numerous media outlets for his consequential Senate leadership. He’s been called “the most important Republican since Ronald Reagan” and “the most conservative leader of either party in the history of the Senate.” A veteran political commentator titled him as the “most effective floor leader in either party I've ever seen.”

TIME Magazine thrice named McConnell one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World.

McConnell led a transformation of the federal judiciary in a victory for the rule of law and the Constitution. His consequential decision to follow precedent and keep a Supreme Court vacancy open during the 2016 presidential election gave him the opportunity to confirm three justices as Majority Leader. In four years, he also prioritized the confirmation of 30% of circuit court judges nationwide and a total of 234 lifetime appointments to the federal bench.

First elected to the Senate in 1984, McConnell is Kentucky’s longest-serving senator. He made history that year as the only Republican challenger in the country to defeat an incumbent Democrat and as the first Republican to win a statewide Kentucky race since 1968. On November 3, 2020, he was elected to a record seventh term, winning 117 of the Commonwealth’s 120 counties.

*TIME Magazine thrice named him one of the*100 Most Influential People in the World

McConnell graduated with honors from the University of Louisville College of Arts and Sciences, where he served as student body president. He also is a graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Law, where he was elected president of the Student Bar Association.

McConnell worked as an intern on Capitol Hill for Senator John Sherman Cooper before serving as chief legislative assistant to Senator Marlow Cook and as Deputy Assistant Attorney General to President Gerald Ford.

Before his election to the Senate, he served as judge-executive of Jefferson County, Kentucky from 1978 until he commenced his Senate term on January 3, 1985.

McConnell currently serves as a senior member of the Appropriations, Agriculture, and Rules Committees. He is the proud father of three daughters.

McConnell is married to Secretary Elaine L. Chao, the 18th U.S. Secretary of Transportation. Previously, Secretary Chao served for eight years as President George W. Bush’s Secretary of Labor. She is also a former president of the United Way of America and director of the Peace Corps.

Agricultural Achievement Article headings

McConnell, Warner Introduce Vital Bill To Support Bourbon Production And Environment

McConnell Praises Senate Republicans Farm Bill Framework

Senator McConnell and Kentucky Agriculture Leaders on Republican Farm Bill Framework

McConnell Honors KFB President Mark Haney

McConnell Comments on KFB President Mark Haney

Senators McConnell, Boozman Discuss Agriculture Priorities in Kentucky

McConnell Helps Secure Over $9 Million to Expand High-Speed Internet in Rural Kentucky

McConnell Delivers $20 Million to Fund Grain Storage for Tornado-Impacted Farmers, Including in Western Kentucky

Inflation Hitting Americans from Farm to Table

What They Are Saying: McConnell Secures Resources to Benefit Kentucky in this Year’s Congressional Funding Bill

Family Farms in the Crosshairs of Democrats’ Taxing and Spending Spree

McConnell and Comer Announce Nearly $1.9 Million for Russell County Agribusiness Training Facility

McConnell Announces Senate Republican Committee Assignments for the 117th Congress

$13 BILLION

House Passes McConnell’s Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act

Senate Republicans Secure Crucial Help for Farmers that House Democrats had Left Behind

McConnell Introduces Bill to Recognize a Uniform, National Standard for Thoroughbred Racing

Majority Leader McConnell Announces Bill to Help Make Horseracing Safer, Fairer, and More Transparent

McConnell’s CARES Act Delivers for Kentucky Farmers, Producers

Senator McConnell Secures Kentucky Hemp Priorities

McConnell Bolsters Fight Against Asian Carp in West Kentucky

At McConnell’s Request, Federal Banking Regulatory Agencies Issue Joint Guidance to Assist Legal Hemp Industry

Leader McConnell Discusses Tobacco 21 Legislation, Hemp and CBD with FDA Commissioner Nominee

USDA to Issue New Policy Implementing McConnell Hemp Initiative

Senator McConnell Advances Kentucky Hemp Priorities

Majority Leader McConnell Welcomes Kentucky Hemp Farmer to Senate Agriculture Committee Hearing

Leader McConnell Discusses Hemp, CBD with Acting FDA Commissioner

Bipartisan Senate Bill Aims to Provide Flexibility to Summer Meal Programs

Experts and Public Health Advocates Rallying Around McConnell’s Tobacco-Free Youth Act

Leader McConnell, Senator Kaine Unveil Bipartisan Bill to Raise Minimum Age to Purchase Tobacco to 21