

Bernard Sanders (born September 8, 1941) is an American politician who has served as the [junior United States Senator](#) from [Vermont](#) since 2007. [Vermont's at-large Congressman](#) from 1991 to 2007, he is the longest-serving [independent](#) in U.S. congressional history and a member of the [Democratic caucus](#). Sanders [ran unsuccessfully](#) for the [2016 Democratic nomination](#) for [president](#) and is [running again](#) in 2020.

A self-described "democratic socialist" and [progressive](#), Sanders is known for his opposition to [economic inequality](#). On domestic policy, he broadly supports [labor rights](#), and has supported [universal](#) and [single-payer healthcare](#), paid [parental leave](#), tuition-free [tertiary education](#), and an ambitious [Green New Deal](#) to create jobs addressing [global warming](#). On foreign policy, he broadly supports reducing [military spending](#), pursuing more [diplomacy](#) and [international cooperation](#), and putting greater emphasis on labor rights and environmental concerns when negotiating international trade agreements. Commentators have noted the strong influence that his views have had on Democratic Party politics since his 2016 presidential campaign. [\[2\]\[3\]\[4\]](#) Commentators variously describe his political philosophy as aligned with [New Deal policies](#) and with [social democracy](#), but not with true [socialism](#)—the [social ownership](#) of the [means of production](#).

Sanders was born into a working-class [Jewish](#) family and raised in the [Brooklyn](#) borough of [New York City](#). He attended [Brooklyn College](#) before graduating from the [University of Chicago](#) in 1964. While a student, he was an active protest organizer for the [Congress of Racial Equality](#) as well as for the [Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee](#) during the [civil rights movement](#). After settling in Vermont in 1968, he ran unsuccessful [third-party](#) political campaigns in the early to mid-1970s. As an independent, Sanders was [elected mayor of Burlington](#) in 1981 and reelected three times. He won election to the U.S. House of Representatives in [1990](#), representing Vermont's at-large congressional district; he later co-founded the [Congressional Progressive Caucus](#). Sanders served as a U.S. Representative for 16 years before being elected to the U.S. Senate in [2006](#); he was reelected to the Senate in [2012](#) and [2018](#).

In April 2015, Sanders announced his campaign for the [2016 Democratic nomination](#) for president of the United States. Despite initially low expectations, he went on to win 23 [primaries and caucuses](#) and approximately 43% of pledged delegates, to [Hillary Clinton](#)'s 55%. His campaign was noted for its supporters' enthusiasm, as well as for his rejection of large donations from corporations, the financial industry, and any associated [Super PAC](#). In July 2016, he formally endorsed Clinton in [her general election bid](#) against [Republican Donald Trump](#), while urging his supporters to continue the "political revolution" his campaign had begun. In February 2019, Sanders announced a [second presidential campaign](#), joining [multiple other Democratic candidates](#) pursuing the party nomination.