While in high school, Thune met U.S. Rep. Jim Abdnor, who sparked his interest in See all media politics. After earning a bachelor's degree Born: January 7, 1961 (age 62) • (1983) at Biola University, he studied business Pierre • South Dakota administration (M.B.A., 1984) at the Title / Office: United States Senate University of South Dakota. Soon after (2005-), United States . House of Representatives (1997-2..(Show more) graduating, he married Kimberley Weems, Political Affiliation: Republican Party and the couple later had two children. From 1985 to 1986 Thune was an aide to Abdnor, See all related content → who was then a senator, in Washington, D.C. Thune then worked for the Small Business Administration during the second term of Pres. Ronald Reagan. In 1989 he returned to South Dakota, where he served as executive director of the South Dakota Republican Party (1989-91), director of the State Railroad Division (1991-93), and director of the South Dakota Municipal League (1993-96). In 1996 Thune was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and he took office the following year. Having vowed to serve only three terms, he opted not to seek reelection in 2002 and instead ran for the U.S. Senate. He narrowly lost to Democratic incumbent Tim Johnson. Thune then challenged Tom Daschle in the 2004 senatorial race, and he defeated the Democratic Party leader in an extremely close race. In Congress Thune earned a reputation as a conservative Republican who generally voted with the party leadership. He took particular interest in energy issues and was a proponent of renewable energy. He introduced numerous bills, including one to limit the power of the Environmental Protection Agency to impose curbs on the emission of carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide, or methane associated with agricultural practices. He also introduced legislation to repeal the federal estate tax. On social issues Thune sought to restrict abortion rights and opposed same-sex marriage. Gregory Lewis McNamee The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica Home > Politics, Law & Government > Politics & Political Systems **United States Senate** United States government Share ■ Feedback Written and fact-checked by The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica Last Updated: Mar 2, 2023 • Article History Recent News Mar. 2, 2023, 6:58 PM ET (AP) Biden rallies Senate Democrats, endorses Republican measure President Joe Biden has visited the Senate to demonstrate unity among Democrats — but he ended up endorsing a Republican priority instead Mar. 1, 2023, 5:20 PM ET (AP) Hunter Biden probe free of interference, Garland pledges Attorney General Merrick Garland says he won't interfere with an U.S. Senate Chamber investigation into Hunter Biden's taxes run by the U.S. Attorney in Delaware See all media Show More v Date: 1789 - present United States Senate, one of the two Related People: Chris Coons • John houses of the legislature (Congress) of the United States, established in 1789 under the Constitution. Each state elects two senators See all related content → for six-year terms. The terms of about onethird of the Senate membership expire every two years, earning the chamber the nickname "the house that never dies." Constitutional framework The role of the Senate was conceived by the U.S. Capitol building, Founding Fathers as a check on the Washington, D.C. popularly elected House of Representatives. Thus, each state, regardless of size or population, is equally represented. Further, until the Seventeenth Amendment of the Constitution (1913), election to the Senate was indirect, by the state legislatures. They are now elected directly by voters of each state. Britannica Quiz U.S. History Highlights: Part One The Senate shares with the House of Representatives responsibility for all lawmaking within the United States. For an act of Congress to be valid, both houses must approve an identical document. The Senate is given important powers under the "advice and consent" provisions (Article II, section 2) of the Constitution: ratification of treaties requires a two-thirds majority of all senators present and a simple majority for approval of important public appointments, such as those of cabinet members, ambassadors, and Andrew Johnson's impeachment trial in the Senate, 1868 justices of the Supreme Court. The Senate also adjudicates impeachment proceedings initiated in the House of Representatives, a two-thirds majority being necessary for conviction. Organization and powers As in the House of Representatives, political parties and the committee system dominate procedure and organization. Each party elects a leader, generally a senator of considerable influence in his or her own right, to coordinate Senate activities. The Who were the first women leader of the largest party is known as the to serve in the U.S. Senate majority leader, while the opposition leader See all videos for this article is known as the minority leader. The Senate leaders also play an important role in appointing members of their party to the Senate committees, which consider and process legislation and exercise general control over government agencies and departments. The vice president of the United States serves as the president of the Senate but can vote only in instances where there is a tie. In the vice president's absence, the president pro tempore generally the longest-serving member from the majority party—is the presiding officer of the Senate. Sixteen standing committees are grouped mainly around major policy areas, each having staffs, budgets, and various subcommittees. The chair of each committee is a member of the majority party. Among important standing committees are those on appropriations, finance, government operations, foreign relations, and the judiciary. Thousands of bills are referred to the committees during each session of Congress, though the committees take up only a fraction of these bills. At "mark-up" sessions, which may be open or closed, the final language for a law is considered. The committees hold hearings and call witnesses to testify about the legislation before them. Select and special committees are also created to make studies or to conduct investigations and report to the Senate; these committees cover aging, ethics, Indian affairs, and intelligence. Get a Britannica Premium subscription and gain access to exclusive content. **Subscribe Now** The smaller membership of the Senate permits more extended debate than is common in the House of Representatives. To check a filibuster—endless debate obstructing legislative action—three-fifths of the membership (60 senators) must vote for cloture. (In 2013 the Senate rule for invoking cloture was reinterpreted to permit cloture by majority vote for debate regarding all presidential nominations except those to the Supreme Court, and in 2017 the rule was similarly reinterpreted for Supreme Court nominations.) If the legislation under debate would change the Senate's standing rules, cloture may be invoked only on a vote of two-thirds of those present. There is a less elaborate structure of party control in the Senate; the position taken by influential senators may be more significant than the position (if any) taken by the party. The constitutional provisions regarding qualifications for membership of the Senate specify a minimum age of 30, citizenship of the United States for nine years, and residence in the state from which elected. **U.S.** senators The table provides a list of current U.S. senators. United States Senate, 118th Congress Party totals: Democrats (D) 48; Republicans (R) 49; Independents (I) 3 state senator (party) service began term ends Alabama Tommy Tuberville (R) 2021 2027 Katie Boyd Britt (R) 2023 2029 Lisa Murkowski (R) Alaska 2002 2029 Dan Sullivan (R) 2015 2027 Kyrsten Sinema (I) 2019 2025 Arizona Mark Kelly (D) 20201 2029 2029 Arkansas John Boozman (R) 2011 Tom Cotton (R) 2015 2027 California Dianne Feinstein (D) 1992² 2025 Alex Padilla (D) 2021³ 2029 Colorado Michael Bennet (D) 20094 2029 John W. Hickenlooper (D) 2021 2027 Richard Blumenthal (D) Connecticut 2011 2029 Chris Murphy (D) 2013 2025 Delaware Tom Carper (D) 2001 2025 Chris Coons (D) 2010⁵ 2027 Flo Geo Ida Illi Ind lov Kai Kei Lou Ma Mi

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Fact-checked by The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica

John Thune, in full John Randolph

Thune, (born January 7, 1961, Pierre, South

Dakota, U.S.), American politician who was

elected as a Republican to the U.S. Senate in

2004 and began representing South Dakota

the following year. He previously served in the

U.S. House of Representatives (1997-2003).

Feedback

John Thune

United States senator

Cite

Alternate titles: John Randolph Thune

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Written by Gregory Lewis McNamee

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Florida	Chris Coons (D) Marco Rubio (R)	2010 ⁵	2027
	Rick Scott (R)	2019	2025
Georgia	Jon Ossoff (D) Raphael Warnock (D)	2021 2021 ⁶	2027
Hawaii	Mazie Hirono (D)	2013	2025
Idaho	Brian Schatz (D) Mike Crapo (R)	2012 ⁷ 1999	2029
Illinois	Jim Risch (R) Dick Durbin (D)	2009 1997	2027
	Tammy Duckworth (D)	2017	2029
Indiana	Todd Young (R) Mike Braun (R)	2017	2029
Iowa	Chuck Grassley (R)	1981	2029
Kansas	Joni Ernst (R) Jerry Moran (R)	2015	2027
Kentucky	Roger Marshall (R) Mitch McConnell (R)	2021 1985	2027
	Rand Paul (R)	2011	2029
Louisiana	Bill Cassidy (R) John Kennedy (R)	2015	2027
Maine	Susan Collins (R)	1997	2027
Maryland	Angus King (I) Ben Cardin (D)	2013	2025
Massachusetts	Chris Van Hollen (D) Elizabeth Warren (D)	2017	2029
Massachusetts	Ed Markey (D)	20138	2027
Michigan	Debbie Stabenow (D) Gary Peters (D)	2001	2025
Minnesota	Amy Klobuchar (D)	2007	2025
Mississippi	Tina Smith (D) Roger Wicker (R)	2018 ⁹ 2007 ¹⁰	2027
	Cindy Hyde-Smith (R)	2018 ¹¹	2027
Missouri	Josh Hawley (R) Eric Schmitt (R)	2019	2025
Montana	Jon Tester (D)	2007	2025
Nebraska	Steve Daines (R) Deb Fischer (R)	2015	2027
Name of	Pete Ricketts (R)	2023 ¹²	2026
Nevada	Catherine Cortez Masto (D) Jacky Rosen (D)	2017	2029
New Hampshire	Jeanne Shaheen (D) Maggie Hassan (D)	2009	2027
New Jersey	Bob Menendez (D)	2017 2006 ¹³	2029
New Mexico	Cory Booker (D) Martin Heinrich (D)	2013 ¹⁴ 2013	2027
	Ben Ray Luján (D)	2021	2027
New York	Chuck Schumer (D) Kirsten Gillibrand (D)	1999 2009 ¹⁵	2029
North Carolina	Thom Tillis (R)	2015	2027
North Dakota	Ted Budd (R) John Hoeven (R)	2023	2029
Ohio	Kevin Cramer (R) Sherrod Brown (D)	2019	2025
Ollio	J.D. Vance (R)	2023	2029
Oklahoma	James Lankford (R) Markwayne Mullin (R)	2015	2027
Oregon	Ron Wyden (D)	1996 ¹⁶	2029
Pennsylvania	Jeff Merkley (D) Bob Casey, Jr. (D)	2009	2027
Rhode Island	John Fetterman (D) Jack Reed (D)	2023 1997	2029
Knode Island	Sheldon Whitehouse (D)	2007	2025
South Carolina	Lindsey Graham (R) Tim Scott (R)	2003 2013 ¹⁷	2027
South Dakota	John Thune (R)	2005	2029
Tennessee	Mike Rounds (R) Marsha Blackburn (R)	2015	2027
	Bill Hagerty (R)	2021	2027
Texas	John Cornyn (R) Ted Cruz (R)	2002	2027
Utah	Mike Lee (R) Mitt Romney (R)	2011	2029
Vermont	Bernie Sanders (I)	2007	2025
Virginia	Peter Welch (D) Mark Warner (D)	2023	2029
	Tim Kaine (D)	2013	2025
Washington	Patty Murray (D) Maria Cantwell (D)	1993	2029
West Virginia	Joe Manchin (D)	2010 ¹⁸	2025
Wisconsin	Shelley Moore Capito (R) Ron Johnson (R)	2015	2027
Wyoming	Tammy Baldwin (D) John Barrasso (R)	2013 2007 ¹⁹	2025
wyoming	Cynthia M. Lummis (R)	200719	2025
 Martha McSally was appointed in December 2018 and took office the following month to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Jon Kyl, who had been appointed in September 2018 to fill the vacancy caused by the death of John McCain. Mark Kelly won a special election in November 2020 and took office in December. Dianne Feinstein was elected in November 1992 to complete the term of Pete Wilson, who resigned in 1991 to become California's governor. Alex Padilla was appointed in December 2020 and took office in January 2021 to complete the term of Kamala Harris, who resigned to become vice president. Michael Bennet was appointed in January 2009 to complete the term of Ken Salazar, who resigned to become secretary of the interior. 			
⁵ Ted Kaufman was appointed in January 2009 to replace Joe Biden, who resigned to become vice president. In 2010 Chris Coons won a special election to complete the term. ⁶ Kelly Loeffler was appointed in December 2019 and took office in January 2020 to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Johnny Isakson. Raphael Warnock won a special election in November 2020 and took office in January 2021. ⁷ Brian Schatz was appointed in December 2012 to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Daniel Inouye. ⁸ William Cowan was appointed in January 2013 and took office in February to replace John Kerry, who resigned to			
9Tina Smith was appointed in resignation of Al Franken. 10Roger Wicker was appoint 11Cindy Hyde-Smith was appresignation of Thad Cochran	n July 2013 Ed Markey won a special on December 2017 and took office in a sed in December 2007 to fill the vacar pointed in March 2018 and took office	election to complete the terr anuary 2018 to fill the vacar cy caused by the resignation e in April to fill the vacancy of	n. ncy caused by the n of Trent Lott. caused by the
 ¹³Bob Menendez was appointed in January 2006 to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Jon S. Corzine. ¹⁴Jeff Chiesa was appointed in June 2013 to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Frank R. Lautenberg. In October 2013 Cory Booker won a special election to complete the term. ¹⁵Kirsten Gillibrand was appointed in January 2009 to replace Hillary Rodham Clinton, who resigned to become secretary of state. ¹⁶Ron Wyden was elected in January 1996 to complete the term of Bob Packwood, who resigned in 1995. 			
 17Tim Scott was appointed in December 2012 and took office in January 2013 to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Jim DeMint. 18 Joe Manchin won a special election in 2010 to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Robert C. Byrd. 19 John Barrasso was appointed in June 2007 to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Craig Thomas. 			
The Editors of Encyclopad This article was most rec	edia Britannica ently revised and updated by Amy	Tikkanen.	
University of South Dakota university, Vermillion, South Dakota, United States Print Cite Share Feedback Written and fact-checked by The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica			

Written and fact-checked by The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica Last Updated: Article History University of South Dakota, public coeducational institution of higher learning in Vermillion, southeastern South Dakota, U.S. It was established by the Dakota Territorial Legislature in 1862, and it opened in 1882. It

was the first public institution of higher

education in the Dakotas. Total enrollment is

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