



## Jim Bates (politician)

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*This article is about the former U.S. Representative. For other people of the same name, see [Jim Bates \(disambiguation\)](#).*

**Jim Bates** (born July 21, 1941) is an American former politician who served as a [Democratic](#) elected official from [San Diego, California](#). He served four terms in the [United States House of Representatives](#) from 1983 to 1991. He was the first congressman to be disciplined for [sexual harassment](#).<sup>[1]</sup>

## Biography [[edit](#)]

Bates was born in [Denver, Colorado](#), and graduated from [East High School \(Denver\)](#) in 1959. He joined the [United States Marine Corps](#) in 1959, and served in the Corps until 1963. Relocating to [San Diego](#), Bates became a banker and was employed in the [aerospace](#) industry. He obtained his bachelor's degree from [San Diego State University](#) in 1975.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Political career [[edit](#)]

Bates was elected to the San Diego city council in 1971 and served until 1974. He was elected chairman of the [San Diego County board of supervisors](#) in 1974, and held the position until 1982. At the time he was the youngest chairman of the board.<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup>

## US House of Representatives [edit]

Bates resigned from the board in 1982 to run for a seat in the [U.S. House of Representatives](#), representing [California](#)'s newly created [44th Congressional District](#). The district was created after the 1980 census round of redistricting as the most Democratic district in the San Diego area; it included much of the territory represented for 18 years by [Lionel Van Deerlin](#) before his defeat by [Duncan Hunter](#). Bates [won election](#) in 1982 with 65% of the vote, and was re-elected in 1984, 1986, and 1988, with 69.7%, 64.2%, and 59.7% of the vote, respectively.

Bates was defeated in the 1990 election 46.3%-44.8% by [Randy "Duke" Cunningham](#). Bates ran in the Democratic primary in June 1992 for the newly created [50th District](#), which included much of his former territory. However, he lost the nomination to his former aide, [Bob Filner](#).<sup>[3]</sup>

## Ethics investigations and sexual harassment [\[ edit \]](#)

In 1988, stories surfaced of Bates having groped and touched both women and men who worked for him as well as others. Dorena Bertussi, a legislative assistant for Bates, testified that "he put my leg in between his and started to do a bump and grind on it, like a dog," and sued Bates for sexual harassment.<sup>[1]</sup> In 1989, Bates was reprimanded by the House with their lightest possible censure, a "letter of reproof".<sup>[4][5]</sup> He was the first congressman to be sanctioned by the House for sexual harassment;<sup>[3]</sup> his case is now explicitly cited in the House ethics manual as an example of impermissible sexual harassment.<sup>[1]</sup> Following Bates's loss in the 1990 election, Bertussi dropped her suit against him.<sup>[6]</sup>

Bates was later implicated in the [House banking scandal](#); he had written four bad checks to his congressional campaign.<sup>[7]</sup>

## Later career [ [edit](#) ]

In 2017 Bates founded the United States-Bangladesh Friendship Group, of which he is currently Executive Director.<sup>[8]</sup> That group helps promotes clean water supplies and recently facilitated delivery of \$3.7 million in medical equipment and supplies, donated by the non-profit Helping Hand.  
[citation needed]

See also [\[ edit \]](#)

- [List of federal political sex scandals in the United States](#)



*Biography portal*

## References [\[ edit \]](#)

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## External links   [ edit ]

- United States Congress. "Jim Bates (id: B000236)" [↗](#). *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*. Retrieved on 2009-02-13.
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U.S. House of Representatives		
Preceded by <b>District created</b>	<b>Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from California's 44th congressional district</b> 1983–1991	Succeeded by <b>Randy "Duke" Cunningham</b>
U.S. order of precedence (ceremonial)		
Preceded by <b>John Burton</b> <i>as Former US Representative</i>	<b>Order of precedence of the United States</b> <i>as Former US Representative</i>	Succeeded by <b>Douglas Bosco</b> <i>as Former US Representative</i>

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