

HackMUN VI

SPECIALIZED COMMITTEE: U.S. SENATE



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Note From the Chairs

Greetings Delegates!

Our names are Ben Iaderosa, Gabriel Fossner, and Hailey Won and it is our pleasure to welcome you to HackMUN VI's Specialized Committee on the U.S. Senate. We are very excited for this committee because it integrates a Model Congress-esque environment to Model UN. **We encourage you to read through the entirety of the background guide as there are some important technicalities on the parliamentary procedure that will differ from the norm.** We also encourage you to undertake your own research as doing so will prepare us to dive straight into the topics on the day of the conference. We hope your differing perspectives will lead to more creative solutions and we look forward to a day of debate, policy-making, compromise, problem-solving in response to various issues, and most importantly, fun! Feel free to contact us with any questions regarding the substance of the committee, your personal powers, or anything else.

If you are new, do not be shy. Model UN is home to one of the most encouraging communities in high school. The various experiences and perspectives that people bring to these conferences are what makes Model UN what it is. Try your best and be engaged!

We wish you all a great conference and look forward to the diplomatic resolve, passion, and joy you will bring to the conference! Please remember to reach out if you have any questions.

Feel free to contact us with any questions. See you at HackMUN VI!

Sincerely,

Ben Iaderosa, Under-Secretary General, HackMUN VI

Gabriel Fossner

Hailey Won

Chairs and Backroom Directors for the U.S. Senate Specialized Committee

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Committee Procedure:

Position Papers

If you wish to be considered for an award this year at HackMUN VI, you must turn in a position paper. Position Papers help you prepare effectively for debate and engage meaningfully with the topic before the day of the conference. Furthermore, your chairs can better understand the unique issues and possible solutions, and your committee position at large, prior to the actual beginning of the committee. For this committee, the ideal position paper demonstrates a solid grasp of each topic and your Senator's personal and political views on the topic. You should also highlight the political background and experience of your Senator. More importantly, you should attempt to describe your position/stance on each topic, and propose specific legislation you plan to introduce. Please send position papers less than 2 pages in length, 1.5-inch spacing in PDF format by the morning of **March 8th, 2025** to [email].

Important Note on Procedure:

In this Committee, in attempt to more accurately simulate the Senate, the procedure is a little more complicated than usual. Please read this "Committee Procedure" section of this document for specifics.

Additionally, you will be portraying a politician in this committee. Despite your own personal political beliefs, you should aim to emulate the beliefs and policy positions of your assigned Senator.

Key Features of the Senate

- 3/5 majority vote (more than 60%) to end debate and enter voting procedure
- At any time, any members of the Senate can speak privately to each other by leaving the floor.
- All votes are conducted by roll call vote.

Note: The first thing we will do before the session begins is briefly review this procedure and answer any questions you may have. Please familiarize yourself with the procedure beforehand, and email [email] for any questions prior to the event.

Introductory Procedure

Quorum Call:

- Each Senator name and state will be called out by the President (chair). The Senator replies with 'present'.

Introductions (this is only done once at the beginning of the first session):

- Each Senator will have two minutes to give a short introduction about the needs of their state. **In this introduction, it is highly recommended that Senators include a brief summary of their proposed legislation.**
- Senators will use this introductory information to gauge who it would be beneficial to collaborate with in order to gain support for their bill.

Debate Procedures

Unlimited Debate:

- Senators may rise to be recognized and may speak for as long as they wish. They may, however, yield for a question from another Senator without ending their speaking period. (Yes, this allows for a Filibuster, but let's not abuse it)
- Debate must immediately precede a vote on passage of legislation. In order to move from unlimited debate to passage of legislation, a cloture vote, requiring a three-fifths majority, must be successful.

Gentleman's Unmoderated Caucus:

- Senators stay seated but engage in a discussion to workshop a proposed legislation. **One Senator speaks at a time.** The goal is to create legislation that enough people are happy with to ensure the likelihood of it passing.

Unmoderated Caucus:

- The Senate goes into recess-like period for time constrained but unregulated workshop or debate.

Legislative Process on the Floor

1. To introduce legislation, a Senator will notify the Chair that they have sent a bill to the dais and will ask for its consideration.
 - a. In order for your legislation to be eligible to pass to the floor for debate and voting, **you must have 4 sponsors** (including yourself) on the bill. Choose wisely on who these signatories are, because they will be helping you defend this bill when you debate.
2. The President will then read out the entirety of the bill for the first time.
3. After the bill has been read, a Senator may motion for either unlimited debate on the bill, a gentleman's unmoderated caucus, or an unmoderated caucus.
 - a. An **unlimited debate** is most useful for debating the bill on the floor. It is called an unlimited debate because it allows Senators to speak for however long they wish to speak.
 - i. This debate goes on until either the bill is taken off the floor (such as by tabling it) or until cloture (the motion to end debate) is invoked.
 - b. A **gentleman's unmoderated caucus** is most useful for working on a bill in an orderly fashion to gain the enough votes for passage. This is a chance for people on the fence about a bill to make their concerns known and to offer additions/changes to the bill.
 - c. An **unmoderated caucus** is most useful for having an unstructured period of time for Senators to discuss in smaller, private groups or conduct research on legislation. It is similar to recessing the Senate for a short time.
4. At any point after a bill has been read and before a bill has been passed or rejected, a Senator may offer the following motions:
 - a. **Motion to invoke cloture**
 - i. A motion to invoke cloture, if successful, ends debate in the chamber and allows the Senate to proceed to the vote on the motion that was being debated. The motion to invoke cloture requires a three-fifths majority to pass.
 - b. **Motion to table**
 - i. A motion to table, if successful, puts the bill aside for later consideration. This allows the Senate to move onto other legislation and the bill can be taken off the table later.

c. Amendment to the bill

- i. An amendment, if successful, is a textual change to a bill. The motion to amend allows Senators to make changes to a bill on the floor of the Senate, as opposed to during a gentleman's unmoderated caucus.
- 5. Once a motion to end debate and vote (invoke cloture) is made, the President will read out the bill in its entirety (including any amendments that may have been made).
 - a. After reading the legislation, the the Senators will answer a roll call vote.
- 6. If the motion to invoke cloture (end debate and vote) is agreed to by a three-fifths majority, the Senate will enter voting procedure. The President will announce that Senators have 3 minutes to cast their votes on the motion to pass the legislation.
 - a. If the motion to invoke cloture (end debate and vote) fails, the a Senator may make a motion to table the legislation, or enter an unmoderated caucus.

Introduction to the Committee

The HackMUN VI Specialized Committee on the U.S. Senate offers delegates a unique opportunity to engage in high-level legislative debates and policymaking, emulating the real-world dynamics of one of the most powerful governing bodies in the United States. The U.S. Senate is a bicameral institution, tasked with crafting and passing laws, confirming judicial and executive nominations, and providing oversight of the executive branch. Throughout this simulation, delegates will step into the roles of sitting U.S. Senators, navigating the intricacies of legislative negotiations, coalition-building, and strategic policymaking to address some of the nation's most pressing issues.

This committee will challenge delegates to think critically, engage diplomatically, and develop innovative legislative solutions. Unlike traditional Model UN committees, the HackMUN Senate is structured more closely to a Model Congress, with specific procedures that reflect the workings of the U.S. legislative process. Delegates will introduce, debate, and amend legislation, seek sponsorships to advance their policy initiatives, and engage in procedural tactics such as filibusters and cloture votes to influence the direction of the committee. Unlike in Model UN's consensus-driven approach, this committee encourages robust partisan and ideological debates, requiring delegates to remain true to the policy positions and strategic interests of their assigned senators.

Throughout the conference, delegates will grapple with three major issues shaping contemporary U.S. politics: military readiness, the future of Social Security and Medicare in the face of national debt concerns, and potential constitutional amendments aimed at reforming the nation's political and fiscal structures. Each topic presents unique challenges, requiring senators to balance ideological commitments with pragmatic policy considerations. Some senators will champion progressive policies aimed at expanding social programs, while others will advocate for fiscal conservatism, budget cuts, and military expansion. Delegates must strategize, negotiate, and form alliances to effectively pass legislation that aligns with their senator's objectives.

The U.S. Senate has long been considered the “world’s greatest deliberative body,” renowned for its complex procedural rules and deep-seated ideological divides. This committee will reflect that reality, offering delegates the chance to experience firsthand the strategic maneuvering, heated debates, and policy negotiations that define modern American governance. Whether advocating for a strong national defense, reforming entitlements, or amending the U.S. Constitution, senators must work within the bounds of the legislative process to achieve their goals.

HackMUN VI’s U.S. Senate Committee will push delegates to engage in rigorous debate, compromise when necessary, and advance policy proposals with skill and determination. Delegates are encouraged to immerse themselves in their senator’s political ideology, study their policy positions carefully, and craft arguments that reflect their assigned senator’s real-world approach to governance. At the end of the conference, the most effective legislators will be those who leverage political strategy, build coalitions, and effectively advocate for their proposals, shaping the outcome of the Senate’s deliberations.

Good luck, Senators, and welcome to HackMUN VI’s U.S. Senate Committee!

Topic 1: Military Readiness

Military readiness is the ability of the United States Armed Forces to effectively respond to and execute operations at any moment. It encompasses troop training, equipment maintenance, logistical preparedness, technological innovation, and overall mobilization capabilities. As global threats continue to evolve, maintaining military readiness remains a priority for U.S. lawmakers. The United States has historically been one of the world's leading military superpowers, with a defense budget exceeding \$800 billion¹. However, in recent years, concerns have emerged over outdated equipment, recruitment struggles, cybersecurity vulnerabilities, and escalating geopolitical tensions in regions such as the Indo-Pacific, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East. The U.S. Senate plays a crucial role in shaping defense policy, allocating military funding, and overseeing the effectiveness of military operations. Senators will need to consider how to maintain a strong, responsive, and efficient military while balancing budgetary constraints and diplomatic considerations.

One of the biggest challenges facing military readiness is the modernization of aging equipment and technological advancements. Many military platforms, including fighter jets, naval vessels, and ground vehicles, are outdated and require significant upgrades. The U.S. military is currently investing in next-generation technologies such as hypersonic missiles, AI-driven combat systems, and space-based defense mechanisms, but debates persist over whether to prioritize modernizing existing equipment or developing entirely new systems². The Senate must determine how much funding should be allocated to different military branches and whether the defense budget should increase to accommodate these advancements. Legislators must also address concerns about wasteful spending and military-industrial complex lobbying, ensuring that taxpayer money is being used efficiently³. Senators will have to negotiate a balanced defense budget while considering economic constraints and national security priorities.

Another pressing issue is recruitment and retention. The U.S. military has faced declining enlistment numbers in recent years, with the Army and Navy struggling to meet recruitment targets⁴. Factors such as shifting demographics, increasing educational and

fitness requirements, and changing public perceptions of military service have contributed to this trend. Additionally, retention rates among active-duty personnel have been impacted by issues such as mental health challenges, housing shortages, and rising living costs⁵. Some senators advocate for increased enlistment bonuses, expanded military education benefits, and improved healthcare services for active-duty personnel. Others argue for a mandatory national service program or enhanced reserve forces to address workforce shortages⁶. Senators will have to evaluate various policy proposals and determine the best approach to ensuring a well-staffed and highly trained military force.

The Middle East remains a significant factor in U.S. military readiness. Recent conflicts, including tensions between Israel and Hamas, ongoing instability in Iraq and Syria, and threats from Iran, have placed strain on U.S. military resources⁷. The U.S. continues to maintain a strong presence in the region, with bases in countries such as Kuwait, Qatar, and Bahrain, and a naval fleet stationed in the Persian Gulf⁸. However, policymakers face difficult choices about the future of U.S. military involvement in the region. Some argue for a continued military presence to deter threats and protect American interests, while others advocate for a gradual withdrawal to focus on domestic priorities and shift military attention to the Indo-Pacific⁹. Senators must weigh the strategic, political, and humanitarian implications of U.S. involvement in the Middle East. Should the U.S. increase its military presence to counter Iranian aggression and terrorist threats? Or should it focus on diplomatic solutions and de-escalation efforts? The committee will need to explore resolutions that balance military strength with diplomatic engagement.

Cybersecurity and space warfare are also growing concerns in military readiness. Adversaries such as China, Russia, and Iran have developed advanced cyber capabilities that threaten U.S. military networks, infrastructure, and communication systems¹⁰. Cyberattacks on defense contractors, government agencies, and energy grids have demonstrated the vulnerabilities in U.S. national security¹¹. Additionally, the rise of anti-satellite weaponry and space-based military operations has led to increasing tensions over space dominance and satellite security¹². The Senate must determine how to expand cybersecurity initiatives, strengthen intelligence-sharing with allies, and ensure the

protection of critical digital infrastructure. Senators must debate the best strategies to bolster U.S. cyber and space defense while adhering to international norms and avoiding an arms race.

Finally, strategic alliances and military diplomacy play a crucial role in U.S. military readiness. Partnerships with NATO, the QUAD (U.S., India, Japan, Australia), and AUKUS (Australia, U.K., U.S.) help strengthen military cooperation, joint training exercises, and technological sharing¹³. However, there are ongoing discussions about the role of allies in burden-sharing, as some U.S. lawmakers believe that European and Indo-Pacific partners should contribute more to collective defense efforts¹⁴. The U.S. Senate must also consider how to address humanitarian concerns, including military operations in conflict zones and responses to refugee crises. Senators must navigate diplomatic negotiations, military commitments, and global security concerns while ensuring that U.S. military actions align with international law and ethical considerations.

In conclusion, military readiness is a complex and multifaceted issue that requires a balanced approach to national security, fiscal responsibility, and international cooperation. As global threats evolve, the U.S. Senate must ensure that the military remains well-equipped, well-trained, and adaptable to emerging challenges. Senators will be tasked with drafting and debating legislation on military funding, recruitment strategies, cybersecurity, space defense, and U.S. military engagement in the Middle East. They must find solutions that enhance military preparedness while considering economic constraints, diplomatic relations, and ethical concerns. The decisions made in this committee will shape the future of U.S. military policy and its role on the global stage.

Topic 2: Social Security/Medicare

Social Security and Medicare are two of the largest and most essential federal programs in the United States, providing financial assistance and healthcare coverage to millions of retired, disabled, and low-income Americans. However, these programs face significant financial challenges as the U.S. population ages, healthcare costs rise, and the national debt continues to increase. The Social Security Trust Fund is projected to be depleted by 2035, which would result in a reduction of benefits if Congress does not act¹. Similarly, Medicare faces increasing financial strain due to rising healthcare costs and an expanding beneficiary population². At the same time, the U.S. national debt has surpassed \$36 trillion³, leading to debates on whether entitlement programs should be reformed to ensure fiscal sustainability. The U.S. Senate is tasked with developing policy solutions that balance the long-term viability of Social Security and Medicare with broader concerns about the national debt, taxation, and economic growth.

One of the primary concerns regarding Social Security is the imbalance between the number of retirees and active workers. The program is funded through payroll taxes, meaning that current workers pay into the system to support retirees. However, with the Baby Boomer generation retiring at a rapid rate, fewer workers are available to support a growing number of beneficiaries⁴. In response, some policymakers propose raising the retirement age, increasing payroll taxes, or adjusting the way benefits are calculated to ensure that Social Security remains solvent⁵. However, these proposals are controversial. Raising the retirement age could disproportionately affect lower-income workers and those with physically demanding jobs, while increasing taxes might burden younger generations⁶. Senators will need to evaluate various reform proposals and determine how best to balance economic sustainability with protecting the financial security of future retirees.

Medicare, which provides healthcare coverage to Americans aged 65 and older, also faces major funding challenges. Rising healthcare costs, longer life expectancy, and inefficiencies in the system have contributed to growing expenses, with Medicare

expenditures projected to consume an increasing share of the federal budget⁷. Some lawmakers advocate for cost-cutting measures such as negotiating lower drug prices, reducing fraud and waste, and reforming provider payment models⁸. Others propose more drastic changes, such as shifting to a premium support system, where seniors receive a fixed subsidy to purchase private insurance rather than relying on traditional Medicare⁹. These ideas have been met with opposition from those who argue that privatization would reduce coverage quality and increase out-of-pocket costs for seniors¹⁰. Senators must weigh these competing perspectives and consider policy options that maintain access to quality healthcare while controlling costs.

A critical issue tied to Social Security and Medicare is the national debt. The federal government has run consistent budget deficits for decades, meaning it spends more than it collects in revenue. Social Security and Medicare account for nearly 40% of total federal spending, making them a focal point of discussions about deficit reduction and fiscal responsibility¹¹. Some senators propose cutting benefits or means-testing these programs, meaning that wealthier individuals would receive reduced benefits or none at all¹². Others argue that the deficit should be addressed by increasing revenue through higher taxes on corporations and high-income earners, or by reforming other parts of the budget such as defense spending¹³. A more radical proposal involves introducing a Balanced Budget Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which would legally require the federal government to balance its budget each year¹⁴. However, opponents argue that such a policy could limit the government's ability to respond to economic crises and recessions¹⁵. Senators must decide whether entitlement reform, tax increases, or broader fiscal policy changes are necessary to manage the national debt while preserving Social Security and Medicare.

The debate over Social Security and Medicare is deeply political and ideological, with different factions advocating for various approaches based on their economic philosophies and policy goals. Progressives generally support expanding benefits and increasing funding through higher taxes on the wealthy, while conservatives often advocate for fiscal restraint, reduced government spending, and privatization measures¹⁶. Bipartisan solutions, such as gradually increasing payroll tax rates or implementing small benefit

adjustments over time, have been suggested to reduce the financial strain on these programs while avoiding drastic cuts¹⁷.

The decisions made regarding Social Security, Medicare, and the national debt will have far-reaching consequences for future generations. If reforms are not implemented soon, the government may face difficult choices, such as cutting benefits, raising taxes, or borrowing even more money, further exacerbating the national debt. Senators must craft policies that ensure the long-term sustainability of these programs while considering economic fairness, generational equity, and political feasibility. Should Social Security and Medicare be preserved in their current form, or should they be restructured to align with modern economic realities? How can lawmakers address the national debt without causing undue harm to vulnerable populations? The committee will need to navigate these complex questions and propose solutions that balance fiscal responsibility with social welfare.

Topic 3: Constitutional Amendment

The fundamental document outlining all of US law and democracy is the United States Constitution. Created in 1787 and adopted as official US law in 1789, it contains the core components of US democracy from detailing the electoral college to creating the Supreme Court. When the founding fathers created this constitution, they made sure to include a section on how to change the Constitution, detailed in Article V¹. In Article V, the constitution says:

“The Congress, whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which, in either Case, shall be valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one or the other Mode of Ratification may be proposed by the Congress...”¹

In this section, the Constitution gives two separate ways to amend the Constitution, though there is some debate as to whether these are the only two methods², one through Congress and another two through state legislatures and a constitutional convention. The first method described is by two-thirds ratification of both chambers of Congress. For this conference, Senators will attempt to simply introduce the amendment and vote to bring it to the floor by a simple majority and then pass an amendment through the Senate and send it to the House of Representatives through this two-thirds supermajority. Past amendments, such as the Twenty-First Amendment, ratified in 1933, repealed the 18th Amendment which detailed a ban on the sale of alcohol, and was passed through both houses of Congress through a two-thirds supermajority, however, there was a clause in the amendment that said that the states must then approve this amendment. This would allow senators to vote on the amendment without being in severe opposition to prohibition, as it was not them making the final call⁵.

So far, the United States has approved 27 amendments³ to the constitution, most recently in 1992 with the Twenty-Seventh amendment prohibiting Congress from raising their pay until the start of the next session of Congress⁴. There have also been several proposed amendments that have not been added for a multitude of reasons. The most famous of these is the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA), which guaranteed equal treatment of the sexes under the law⁶. The amendment was first introduced to Congress in 1932 and approved by Congress in 1972. It was then sent to the states for ratification, where, while it did eventually get the number of state ratifications that it needed, it did not do it during the seven-year time limit that was imposed. Since the deadline, five states rescinded their ratification. Despite this, various politicians, most famously Former President Joe Biden during his last several days in office⁷ have stated that they believe that the ERA is law, citing the American Bar Association saying that the time limit was not included in the text of the amendment but rather the law that proposed it. The National Archive⁸, in charge of preserving the Constitution, does not have it listed as an amendment. It is currently in the Democratic Party platform⁹ that this amendment should be made the law of the land, although this may vary from senator to senator, and there have been many movements to reintroduce it. Proponents of the ERA argue that it would help ensure equal rights for all regardless of sex, however, opponents argue that it could remove various protections for women and is redundant, as the 14th amendment already details many of these protections¹⁴.

Another proposed amendment is the Balanced Budget Amendment. This amendment would require a balanced budget, prohibiting spending beyond what the US Federal Government brings in tax dollars, overturning part of Article I Section VIII of the US Constitution¹⁰, which gives Congress the power, “to borrow Money on the credit of the United States;” One such proposal, introduced in 2021 by House Representative Steve Chabot¹¹ (R-OH), would require a three-fifths majority in both houses of Congress to increase the total amount of money that Congress can borrow, except during times of war or imminent national security threats. Proponents of a balanced budget, such as Senator Rand Paul (R-KY)¹² argue that deficit spending, or government spending that goes beyond what it brings in in tax revenue, fuels inflation and increases the debt, which could lead to

an eventual default. Opponents of a balanced budget, such as the labor union AFL-CIO¹³, state that it would remove or lessen various government programs that help out less wealthy workers. This amendment has seen some support among centrist Democratic senators and some Republican senators, however, many prefer to simply create balanced budgets rather than a constitutional amendment.

A third proposed amendment is to remove birthright citizenship. Section I of the Fourteenth Amendment³ says, “All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.” This means that anyone born in the US is a citizen, and an amendment to this would most likely have children of undocumented immigrants not qualifying for citizenship. While there have been attempts to do this without a constitutional amendment, most recently by President Donald Trump¹⁵ through a now overturned executive order, it is generally agreed by legal scholars that this cannot be done unilaterally or by an act of Congress and must be done through a constitutional amendment. Proponents of reforming birthright citizenship, such as House Representative Brian Babin (R-TX)¹⁶, argue that it encourages “birth tourism,” in which individuals will come to the US and cross the border illegally to give birth to a person who would become a citizen of the US, thus granting the parent permanent residence. This allows for more loopholes in the US immigration system. Opponents of birthright citizenship reform, such as the American Civil Liberties Union¹⁷ (ACLU), argue it would create a subclass of people born in the US who are denied full rights. Generally speaking, birthright citizenship reform is supported by Republicans and opposed by Democrats, however, this may vary from Senator to Senator.

There are many other proposed amendments to the US Constitution, such as ending the Electoral College¹⁸ or overturning parts of the results of the Supreme Court case *Trump V. USA*¹⁹, and the chairs encourage you to research them and try and find amendments that help the American people and that can be brought before the Senate and agreed upon.

Committee Positions

NOTE TO DELEGATES: PLEASE READ THROUGH BOTH YOUR OWN ROLES & THE ROLES OF OTHER DELEGATES PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE

1. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) – Senate Minority Leader

As the Democratic leader in the Senate, Chuck Schumer is a strong advocate for expanding Social Security and Medicare by increasing taxes on corporations and the wealthy. He supports robust military funding but prioritizes diplomacy in international conflicts, particularly in the Middle East. Schumer has been a leading voice in protecting voting rights and strengthening labor protections.

2. Bernie Sanders (I-VT)

Bernie Sanders is the Senate's most vocal progressive, advocating for a Medicare for All system and the expansion of Social Security benefits. He supports drastic reductions in military spending and favors reallocating defense funds toward domestic social programs. On constitutional amendments, he backs abolishing the Electoral College and introducing term limits for Supreme Court justices. It is important to remember Sanders caucuses with Democrats.

3. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)

A champion of economic reform, Warren is a strong advocate for breaking up large defense contractors and increasing oversight of military spending. She supports wealth taxes as a means of ensuring the long-term sustainability of Social Security and Medicare. She is a critic of corporate influence in politics and has proposed amending the Constitution to overturn Citizens United.

4. Angela Alsobrooks (D-MD)

Elected in 2024, Senator Alsobrooks previously served as the County Executive of Prince George's County, Maryland. With a background in law, she was the county's State's Attorney, focusing on criminal justice reform and community engagement.

5. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)

Serving since 2013, Senator Baldwin is the first openly gay U.S. senator. She has a history in public service, including time in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Wisconsin State Assembly, advocating for healthcare reform and LGBTQ+ rights.

6. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)

A senator since 2011, Blumenthal was Connecticut's Attorney General for two decades. His legal career is marked by consumer protection efforts and advocacy for veterans' affairs.

7. Cory Booker (D-NJ)

Before his 2013 election to the Senate, Booker was the Mayor of Newark, New Jersey. Known for his focus on criminal justice reform and urban development, he continues to advocate for social justice issues.

8. Sherrod Brown (D-OH)

In office since 2007, Brown has a background in teaching and previously served in the U.S. House. He is recognized for his work on labor rights and economic policies favoring working-class Americans.

9. Maria Cantwell (D-WA)

Senator Cantwell, serving since 2001, has a background in business and technology. She focuses on energy policy, technology innovation, and environmental conservation.

10. Ben Cardin (D-MD)

A senator since 2007, Cardin has an extensive legislative history, including service in the U.S. House. He emphasizes foreign relations, environmental protection, and fiscal responsibility.

11. Tom Carper (D-DE)

Serving since 2001, Carper has also been Delaware's Governor and a U.S. Representative. His focus areas include environmental issues, transportation, and economic development.

12. Chris Coons (D-DE)

Elected in 2010, Coons has a background in law and chemistry. He is known for his work on judiciary matters, foreign policy, and advocacy for innovation and research.

13. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)

Serving since 2017, she is the first Latina U.S. senator. With a background as Nevada's Attorney General, she focuses on consumer protection, immigration reform, and women's rights.

14. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)

A senator since 2017 and an Iraq War veteran, Duckworth lost both legs during her service. She advocates for veterans' affairs, disability rights, and infrastructure development.

15. Dick Durbin (D-IL)

Serving since 1997, Durbin is the Senate Majority Whip. His legislative priorities include immigration reform, healthcare, and civil liberties.

16. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)

A senator since 1992, Feinstein has a long career in public service, including as Mayor of San Francisco. She focuses on intelligence, judiciary issues, and gun control legislation.

17. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)

Serving since 2009, Gillibrand has a background in law and previously served in the U.S. House. She advocates for military reform, women's rights, and healthcare.

18. Maggie Hassan (D-NH)

Elected in 2017, Hassan is a former Governor of New Hampshire. Her focus areas include education, healthcare, and national security.

19. Mitch McConnell (R-KY)

Serving as the Senate Minority Leader, McConnell is one of the most influential figures in the Republican Party. A strong advocate for conservative judicial appointments, tax cuts, and deregulation, he supports increased military funding and opposes expanding federal entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare. McConnell has consistently prioritized a hawkish foreign policy, backing U.S. alliances such as NATO while maintaining a firm stance against adversaries like China and Russia.

20. John Thune (R-SD) - Senate Majority Leader

As the Senate Minority Whip, Thune plays a key role in shaping Republican policy. A longtime advocate for limited government and fiscal responsibility, he supports reforms to Social Security and Medicare that include raising the retirement age. Thune also champions agricultural policy and infrastructure investment, particularly for rural communities in South Dakota.

21. John Cornyn (R-TX)

A veteran legislator and former Senate Majority Whip, Cornyn has been a strong advocate for border security, military readiness, and judicial appointments. He supports reforms to entitlement programs to reduce the national debt while advocating for increased military spending, particularly in cyber defense and missile technology.

22. Ted Cruz (R-TX)

A firebrand conservative, Cruz is known for his strong support of limited government, strict constitutionalism, and an aggressive foreign policy stance. He opposes increasing Social Security taxes and has advocated for privatizing parts of Medicare. On military issues, Cruz supports expanding the U.S. Navy and modernizing missile defense systems to counter global threats.

23. Marco Rubio (R-FL)

A leading voice on foreign policy, Rubio is a staunch supporter of increasing military presence in the Indo-Pacific to counter China. He favors limited reforms to Social Security but opposes broad tax increases to fund entitlement programs. He has also been a strong advocate for election integrity measures and economic policies focused on American manufacturing and job growth.

24. Josh Hawley (R-MO)

A nationalist conservative, Hawley prioritizes economic policies aimed at reducing American dependence on China and supports bringing manufacturing back to the U.S. He has opposed increased foreign military aid and instead favors strengthening domestic military infrastructure. On entitlement programs, he supports work requirements for social welfare programs and stricter government spending controls.

25. Tom Cotton (R-AR)

A former Army officer, Cotton is one of the Senate's most hawkish voices on national security. He advocates for increased defense spending, a stronger military presence in the Middle East, and harsher sanctions on adversarial nations. On domestic policy, he supports reforms to Social Security and Medicare to prevent excessive government spending while maintaining benefits for veterans.

26. Tim Scott (R-SC)

A key Republican voice on economic policy, Scott supports pro-business tax policies and has advocated for small business growth initiatives. He opposes raising taxes to fund Social Security and Medicare, instead proposing private sector solutions for long-term solvency. He is also a strong supporter of law enforcement and increased military funding for cybersecurity initiatives.

27. Rick Scott (R-FL)

A former governor of Florida, Scott is a fiscal conservative who has proposed reviewing all federal spending, including Social Security and Medicare, every five years to ensure sustainability. He supports a Balanced Budget Amendment to prevent government overspending and advocates for a stronger national defense to counter growing threats from China and Russia.

28. Lindsey Graham (R-SC)

As one of the Senate's most vocal proponents of military intervention, Graham supports increasing military aid to U.S. allies and strengthening American defense capabilities. He is a strong advocate for entitlement reform, believing that Medicare and Social Security should undergo structural changes to ensure their long-term viability without raising taxes.

29. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)

A conservative firebrand, Blackburn is a staunch supporter of military expansion, particularly in space and cyber warfare. She opposes increased government involvement in healthcare and has supported privatization efforts for Medicare. She is a strong advocate for deregulation and cutting federal spending on social programs.

30. Mike Lee (R-UT)

A leading voice for libertarian-leaning conservatives, Lee opposes federal overreach and supports returning power to the states. He has advocated for reducing federal spending on entitlement programs, eliminating government waste, and enacting a Balanced Budget Amendment. On military policy, he supports a non-interventionist approach but backs strong defense capabilities.

31. John Kennedy (R-LA)

Known for his sharp wit and populist rhetoric, Kennedy is a fiscal conservative who supports cutting government spending, particularly in entitlement programs. He is a strong advocate for expanding American energy production and opposes tax increases to fund Medicare and Social Security. On military issues, he supports modernization efforts and increased border security funding.

32. Bill Hagerty (R-TN)

A former ambassador to Japan, Hagerty has a strong background in foreign relations and economic policy. He supports expanding the U.S. military presence in the Indo-Pacific region to counter China's aggression. On domestic policy, he backs entitlement reform that includes means-testing Social Security and Medicare benefits.

33. Kevin Cramer (R-ND)

A supporter of American energy independence, Cramer focuses on policies that encourage domestic energy production and infrastructure growth. He has supported military expansion, particularly in Arctic security, and favors reducing government spending on entitlement programs to curb the national debt.

34. Tommy Tuberville (R-AL)

A former college football coach turned senator, Tuberville is a staunch supporter of veterans' benefits and military readiness. He opposes government expansion of healthcare and has advocated for a privatized approach to certain Medicare services. He supports increasing military funding to counter foreign threats, particularly from China.

35. Steve Daines (R-MT)

A pro-business conservative, Daines prioritizes tax cuts, deregulation, and private sector growth. He supports maintaining strong Social Security and Medicare programs but believes they should be reformed to ensure long-term fiscal

sustainability. On national security, he backs increased defense spending, especially in the Indo-Pacific.

36. Susan Collins (R-ME)

A moderate Republican, Collins often works across the aisle on key issues. She supports maintaining Social Security and Medicare benefits but has called for bipartisan solutions to ensure their long-term solvency. On military policy, she is a strong advocate for funding the U.S. Navy and strengthening cybersecurity initiatives.

37. Rand Paul (R-KY)

One of the most libertarian members of the Senate, Rand Paul, son of Former Congressman and Libertarian Party presidential candidate Ron Paul, is an isolationist free-market capitalist. A strong proponent of balanced budgets, Paul supports reforms to the programs to rein in the deficit. On military readiness, he frequently argues for disengagement and against foreign aid.

Position Paper and Background Research

Please consult [this](#) link to the US Census statistics to find more information about your state. Once you click on the website, enter and select your state from the search bar on the top left. Consult [this](#) link to explore more of your state's industries as well as a description of the economy. You may also go [here](#) to find even finer statistics on your state's economy (to get really in depth with specific sub-industries and sub-sub-industries, go to the button that says “More Detail (GDP)”).

Background Research Links

Government Links

[The Declaration of Independence](#)
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[The Heritage Foundation](#)

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Topic 3

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