



SECTION V



Tennesseans in National Government



INTRODUCTION

Throughout the state's rich political heritage, Tennesseans have played important roles in shaping the character of our nation's government. Three presidents— Jackson, Polk, and Johnson have called Tennessee home. Many other elected and non-elected offices have been held by Tennesseans as well. Albert Gore Jr. served as vice president; Cordell Hull served as secretary of state under Franklin Roosevelt; Jo Byrns served as speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and there have been many others.

Today, Tennesseans remain influential in all levels of the federal government. This has proven to be an asset for the people of the state, as the federal government has assumed an increasing role in the many facets of state government. Over one-third of the state's annual budget is derived through federal programs. Individually, many Tennesseans are employed by the U.S. Government. Others rely on benefits received through the Social Security System, the Veterans Administration, and numerous other federal programs.

The value of having fellow Tennesseans in national government is important to Tennessee both as a state and individually.

Members of Congress also carry out a vital role for Tennesseans in the federal government. Members of Congress are not only responsible for making federal law and overseeing the administration of the U.S. Government, but they are heavily involved in assisting citizens in dealing with federal agencies as well. Much time is spent by the members and their staffs in handling constituents' requests.

The congressional delegation also is vital to the generation of the state government. Since in many areas federal law determines the way in which state government must operate, the interactions between state officials and members of the Congress are essential in providing the most effective and economical government services possible.

United States Senate

The Senate is made up of 100 members, two popularly elected from each state of the Union. Senators are elected to six-year terms; one-third of the members stand for election every two years. The U.S. Constitution requires that members of the Senate be at least 30 years old and citizens of the United States for at least nine years. The vice president of the United States serves as president of the Senate.

Historically, the role of the Senate has changed continually as the nation has developed. Originally, the Constitution provided that members of the Senate would be elected by the state legislature, and it was felt by the framers of the Constitution that the Senate would take a secondary role in the Congress, more of a revisory capacity to the House of Representatives. It was also felt that the Senate would remain insulated from rapidly changing popular election of the members. The Senate has, however, remained distinctively different from the House of Representatives. This has resulted from tradition, as well as Constitutional differences.



U.S. SENATOR
Lamar Alexander (R)
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Lamar Alexander was born in Maryville, the son of a kindergarten teacher and a school principal. He is a seventh-generation East Tennessean. He is the only Tennessean ever popularly elected both governor and United States Senator and the first Tennessee Republican to serve on the Senate Appropriations Committee. Senator Alexander serves on Senate committees overseeing education, clean air, highways and the Tennessee Valley Authority. He is cochairman of the TVA caucus and the Science and Technology caucus. Senator Alexander has been U.S. Education Secretary, president of the University of Tennessee, and the Goodman Professor at Harvard's School of Government. He was chairman of President Reagan's Commission on Americans Outdoors and the National Governors Association. In private life, he helped found a company that is the nation's largest provider of worksite day care. In his campaign for governor, Lamar Alexander walked 1,000 miles across Tennessee in a red and black plaid shirt. He helped Tennessee become the third-largest auto producer and the first state to pay teachers more for teaching well. He started Tennessee's Governor's Schools for outstanding students. He is a classical and country pianist and the author of seven books, including *Six Months Off*, the story of his family's life in Australia after he was governor. Lamar Alexander met Honey Buhler at a staff softball game when he worked for Senator Howard H. Baker of Tennessee and she worked for Senator John G. Tower of Texas. They were married in 1969 and have four children. He is an elder at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

The Constitution gives the Senate some powers that are not shared with the House of Representatives. Chief among them are the powers to advise and consent on treaties between our nation and foreign governments and confirm executive Cabinet members and federal judges appointed by the president.

With only 100 members, the Senate can afford to be more relaxed in conducting its legislative business. Also, because each senator is an “ambassador” from a sovereign state, he is afforded more deference and indulgence than any individual House member. The concept of “senatorial courtesy” allows each senator to exercise all of the prerogatives available to each member with the deferential respect of the other members. Traditionally, debate has been extensive in the Senate and the power to amend on the floor has remained very broad. The Senate may spend several days considering individual pieces of legislation.

The majority party elects a majority leader who becomes the central focus of partisan policy matters. The majority party also selects the committee chairmen and has control over most of the Senate staff.

**U.S. SENATOR
Bob Corker (R)**

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Bob Corker grew up in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He attended public schools, played sports, and from an early age learned to love and value hard work. He took his first job at age 13 picking up trash and spent his teenage years bagging ice, working at the Western Auto and putting in long hours as a construction laborer. Bob graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1974 with a degree in Industrial Management, and after working four years as a construction superintendent, started his own construction company with \$8,000. The company grew as it quickly gained a reputation for meeting deadlines on time and under budget and eventually expanded to operations in 18 states. Over time, Bob’s business interests evolved to acquiring and developing commercial real estate. After traveling with his church on a mission trip to Haiti in his late twenties, Bob began to take a closer look at needs in his own community. He led the creation of Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise, a non-profit organization that today has helped over 10,000 families secure decent, fit and affordable housing through low-interest loans and personal training in home maintenance. In 1994, Bob was appointed Tennessee Commissioner of Finance and Administration, where he served for two years in the highest appointed office in state government. As commissioner, he tightened the state’s budget and helped move almost 40,000 Tennesseans off welfare and into jobs. In 2001, Bob was elected mayor of Chattanooga. He transformed Chattanooga’s waterfront—attracting \$2.1 billion of investment to revitalize the city, implemented merit bonus pay for teachers which dramatically raised student achievement in some of the city’s most challenged schools, and worked with local law enforcement officials to cut violent crime in half. On November 7, 2006, Bob Corker was elected to serve the people of Tennessee in the United States Senate. He is a member of the Senate Committees on Armed Services; Foreign Relations; Energy and Natural Resources; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and the Special Committee on Aging. Bob and his wife, Elizabeth, just celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary and have two college-age daughters, Julia and Emily. The Corker family lives in Chattanooga and attends North Shore Fellowship.

United States House Of Representatives

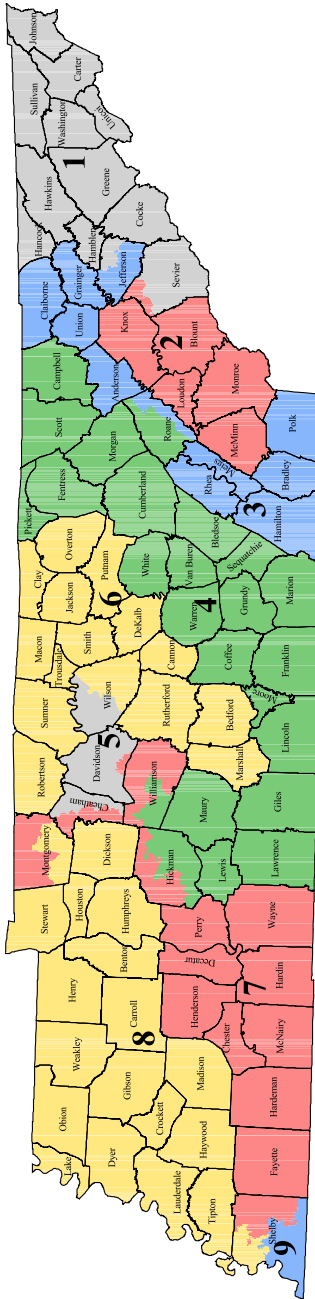
The U.S. House of Representatives is popularly elected every two years. Members must be 25 years old and must have been a citizen for at least seven years. The Constitution of the United States does not provide for the exact number of representatives; rather it leaves the matter up to Congress to determine. It does provide, however, that each state should have representation proportional to its population as part of the nation's population. The apportionment is to be recalculated every 10 years when a nationwide census is conducted to determine population.

Originally the House had 65 members. As state populations grew in relation to one another and as new states entered the union, Congress added additional seats rather than reduce any existing state delegations. By 1910, the House had grown to 435 members. Numerous attempts were made to increase the size further but the House and Senate could not agree on what action should be taken. In 1929, a law was passed which permanently set the number of representatives at 435 and provided for automatic reapportionment of these seats every 10 years. This process results in some states gaining seats and others losing seats depending on shifts in the population. In the 1971 reapportionment, Tennessee went from nine seats to eight. In 1981, the population proportions had shifted in the opposite direction, resulting in the return of a nine-member House delegation. The 1990 census population proportions again returned nine representatives from Tennessee to Congress. The drawing of districts within the state's boundaries is the responsibility of the General Assembly.

Unlike the Senate, the House of Representatives conducts its business through a complex system of rules and procedures. Debate is limited and the action taken in committees is much more difficult to modify through floor action. For the most part these differences are a result of the larger number of members, making organization a prerequisite to accomplishment. Action is much faster and party discipline has traditionally been more influential in shaping the nature of legislation.

The framers of the Constitution envisioned the House of Representatives as being more closely representative of the will and mood of the country. For this reason the Constitution provides that bills to create taxes must originate in the House. This was designed to protect the electorate from over-taxation or "unfair" taxes similar to those experienced under British rule.

U.S. House of Representatives Districts*



- 1st – Carter, Cocke, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Jefferson in part, Johnson, Sevier in part, Sullivan, Unicoi, Washington
- 2nd – Blount, Knox, Loudon, McMinn, Monroe, Sevier in part
- 3rd – Anderson, Bradley, Claiborne, Grainger, Hamilton, Jefferson in part, Meigs, Polk, Rhea, Roane in part, Union
- 4th – Bledsoe, Campbell, Coffee, Cumberland, Fentress, Franklin, Giles, Grundy, Hickman in part, Lawrence, Lewis, Lincoln, Marion, Maury, Moore, Morgan, Pickett, Roane in part, Scott, Sequatchie, Van Buren, Warren, White, Williamson in part
- 5th – Cheatham in part, Davidson in part, Wilson in part
- 6th – Bedford, Cannon, Clay, DeKalb, Jackson, Macon, Marshall, Overton, Putnam, Robertson, Rutherford, Smith, Sumner, Trousdale, Wilson in part
- 7th – Chester, Davidson in part, Decatur, Fayette, Hardeman, Hardin, Henderson, Hickman in part, McNairy, Montgomery in part, Perry, Shelby in part, Wayne, Williamson in part
- 8th – Benton, Carroll, Crockett, Dickson, Dyer, Gibson, Haywood, Henry, Houston, Humphreys, Lake, Lauderdale, Madison, Montgomery in part, Obion, Shelby in part, Stewart, Tipton, Weakley
- 9th – Shelby in part

*Map shows approximate areas served.



Congressman David Davis (R)
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David Davis, elected to the 110th Congress in 2006, to his first term as the representative of the First Congressional District in Tennessee, is a strong advocate for the people of East Tennessee. He is a member of the Small Business Committee, Education and Labor Committee, Homeland Security Committee and the Republican House Policy Committee. With eight years of experience from 1998-2006 in the Tennessee State Legislature, Davis is known as the “Father of Open Government” in Tennessee. He sponsored legislation to raise accountability standards of government. Davis served on the Tennessee State House Transportation Committee, House Government

Operations Committee, House Public Safety and Rural Roads Subcommittee, and was chairman of the Commerce, Labor, and Transportation Subcommittee. A critic of unnecessary growth of government, Davis was a leader against the state income tax in Tennessee. Davis was raised in Limestone Cove, Tennessee, where he worked his way through college to become a Respiratory Therapist. He received his Respiratory Therapy Certification from East Tennessee State University in 1979 and an A.A.S. in Respiratory Therapy from California College in 1983. Later, Davis would receive a B.S. in Organizational Management from Milligan College in 1991. Davis married the former Joyce Engle in 1980; together they have two children, Matthew and Rachel. Managing several hospitals, Davis decided to take great personal risk and start his own business. His business, Advanced Homecare was named #1 in the country for patient care. After selling that business in the early 1990s, Davis started another healthcare company, Shared Health Services, which provides wound-care and hyperbaric oxygen and healthcare services. Davis is a member of Central Baptist Church in Johnson City, Tennessee.



Congressman John J. Duncan Jr. (R)
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John J. Duncan Jr. was born July 21, 1947 in Lebanon, Tennessee. After being raised in Knoxville and attending the area’s public schools, he earned a Bachelor of Journalism degree from the University of Tennessee in 1969. Congressman Duncan then attended the George Washington University National Law Center in Washington, D.C., where he earned a law degree in 1973. In addition to his academic training, Congressman Duncan served in the United States Army National Guard. He enlisted in 1970 and rose to the rank of Captain before completing his service in 1987. In 1973, Congressman Duncan established a private law practice in Knoxville with

the late Zane Daniel. He was appointed State Trial Judge by Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander in 1981 and served in that capacity until 1988, when he was elected to Congress. Congressman Duncan currently serves as Ranking Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure’s Highways and Transit Subcommittee. He also holds seats on the House Committee on Natural Resources, which has jurisdiction over national parks, and the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Congressman Duncan’s efforts to cut government waste, reduce taxes, and limit bureaucratic red tape have been recognized by various organizations and national news media such as ABC News, CBS News, *The Wall Street Journal*, CNN, and *U.S. News and World Report*. He has been named among the most fiscally conservative members of Congress by the National Taxpayers Union and is one of the few members of Congress to receive the Citizens Against Government Waste Super Hero Award. In addition to his Washington office, Congressman Duncan maintains offices in Knoxville, Maryville, and Athens. He has established a reputation for providing extensive constituent services and staying in touch with residents of the Second District by attending hundreds of public events and holding countless open-attendance, constituent meetings. Although Congressman Duncan spends more time in East Tennessee than in Washington, he maintains one of the best attendance records in the entire Congress. Congressman Duncan lives in Knoxville and is an Elder at Eastminster Presbyterian Church. He is married to the former Lynn Hawkins of Sewanee, Tennessee. They have four children (Tara, Whitney, John, and Zane) as well as four grandchildren (Beau, Emma, Maclain, and Hailey).

Congressman Zach Wamp (R)
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Known for his leadership, tenacity and energetic style, Congressman **Zach Wamp** serves Tennessee's Third Congressional District with seniority as a member of the influential House Appropriations Committee, which funds all discretionary spending by the federal government. Now in his seventh term, Zach serves as the Ranking Member of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee of Appropriations, which funds the operations of Congress and the Capitol. He is also the second most senior Republican on the Energy and Water Subcommittee of Appropriations, possibly the most important Subcommittee in Congress for the State of Tennessee, because it funds all Oak Ridge operations, as well as the replacement of the Chickamauga Lock on the Tennessee River. Zach represents the premier multi-purpose laboratory in the United States, the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, with strong science and research missions from energy to homeland security. He also represents the Y-12 National Security Complex, responsible for the refurbishment of nuclear weapons, storage of nuclear material, and preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction. These facilities are economic engines that fuel the economy of Tennessee and the broader southeastern region of the country. During his Congressional tenure, Zach has served in diverse leadership roles in Congress and around the world - TVA Caucus Chairman, Vice Chair of the Youth Violence Working Group, the Helsinki Commission and Chairman of the House Policy Committee's Energy and Technology Subcommittee. He currently serves as Co-Chairman of the 221-member Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus which promotes legislation to secure America's energy independence, advance energy efficient technologies and protect the environment by increasing our use of renewable energy sources. An avid athlete, he founded the Congressional Fitness Caucus and helped fund the now successful "Tennessee on the Move" campaign with the University of Tennessee that encourages physical activity and habits for a healthier lifestyle. Zach is known as one of the most effective communicators in Congress. For years he was a regular panelist on "The News Hour with Jim Lehrer" and has appeared on NBC's "Meet the Press," ABC's "Nightline," MSNBC's "Hardball with Chris Matthews," "Scarborough Country" and Fox News. He has been featured in Newsweek, US News and World Report, Time Magazine, The Wall Street Journal, USA Today, The Washington Post and The New York Times. A Chattanooga native, Zach spent twelve years as a small businessman and commercial real estate broker before being elected to Congress. He and his wife, Kim, have two children in college and live in Chattanooga where they actively attend Red Bank Baptist Church.



Congressman Lincoln Davis (D)

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With an upbringing and background that is pure Tennessee, **Lincoln Davis** has proudly served Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District since January 7, 2003. Congressman Davis came to Congress with the promise to work beyond party lines and find practical solutions to improve the lives of Tennesseans. Davis's commitment to public service began in the early 70s when he served as Tennessee state Jaycee president. His Jaycee service, coupled with the lessons learned as a young man, opened his eyes to the good that can be done by serving the public. First elected Mayor of Byrdstown in 1978, Davis went on to serve in both the Tennessee House of Representatives and the Tennessee State Senate. In the state legislature, Davis fought for long-term care for senior citizens, character education in schools and tough domestic violence legislation. In 2003, Davis was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Today, Davis continues to work for Tennesseans by fighting for legislation that will create opportunities for economic development, curb methamphetamine abuse, improve veterans' benefits, strengthen homeland security and fight for a balanced budget that will better serve the workers and families of the Fourth District. Davis serves on two committees: the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Agriculture. The owner of his own company, Diversified Construction, Lincoln Davis understands the needs of small business owners in Tennessee. In addition to building homes and bridges throughout rural Tennessee, Davis met payroll and faced the challenges that all Tennessee small businesses face. Davis continues to work for small businesses in Tennessee as a member of the Financial Services Committee, fighting for effective tax relief and working hard to make Tennessee businesses more competitive. Raised in rural Fentress County, Congressman Davis was taught the importance of hard work, helping your neighbors and being trustworthy, and was instilled with a strong sense of principles he holds today. As a member of the House Committee on Agriculture and himself a soil scientist with a degree from Tennessee Tech, Davis uses the lessons learned working on the farm with his brother to fight for Tennessee growers in the Fourth District and across the state. Congressman Davis is also a member of the Congressional Blue Dog Coalition, a group of 47 fiscally conservative House Democrats whose goal is to balance the budget each year. As a member of the Blue Dog's Majority Whip team, Davis plays a key role in developing strategies to foster bi-partisan solutions for writing legislation that makes government work better for Tennessee and the Nation. Away from his work as a public servant, Davis has always dedicated himself to family. He married his high school sweetheart Lynda, an elementary school teacher, in 1963. Together, Congressman and Mrs. Davis raised three daughters: Larissa, Lynn, and Libby. In addition to hunting and working on the farm, Davis most enjoys spending his time with his five grandchildren: Ashton, Alexa, Andrew, Austin, and Adam. Congressman and Mrs. Davis live in Pall Mall, Tennessee, on property his family purchased from Fentress County native, World War I hero, and Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Alvin C. York. They are members of First Baptist Church in Byrdstown.

Congressman Jim Cooper (D)
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Representing Tennessee's Fifth Congressional District, **Jim Cooper** was born June 19, 1954, in Nashville, Tennessee. He earned a B.A. in history and economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1975 as a Morehead Scholar and serving as coeditor of the *Daily Tar Heel*; a B.A./M.A. in politics and economics as a Rhodes Scholar from Oxford University in 1977; and a J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1980. He is married and has three children. From 1980-82, he was an attorney with Waller, Lansden, Dortch, & Davis in Nashville, Tennessee, until he was elected congressman for the Fourth Congressional District, serving from 1983-95. During that time, he served on the Energy & Commerce and Budget Committees and the Small Business Subcommittee. His special-legislative focus was on health care, literacy and other rural concerns, and he played leadership roles in major telecommunications, environmental and consumer legislation. From 1995-1999, he was managing director at Equitable Securities, a Nashville-based investment bank. From 1999-2002, he was founder and partner of Brentwood Capital Advisors LLC, where he sourced and raised funds for growing regional companies and businesses. Cooper was elected to his second stint in Congress in 2002, serving a more urban and suburban constituency in Nashville, Mt. Juliet, Lebanon, Ashland City, Pleasant View, and Pegram. As Fifth District Congressman, he serves on the Armed Services, Budget, and Oversight and Government Reform Committees. In 2007 he was named chairman of the Armed Services Committee's Roles and Missions Panel. He continues to teach as an adjunct professor at the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University, where he has taught a course on health care policy for ten years.

Congressman Bart Gordon (D)
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As the dean of Tennessee's delegation, **Bart Gordon** is serving his 12th term in Congress, representing the Sixth District, which includes 15 counties. At the start of the 110th Congress, Bart became chairman of the House Science and Technology Committee. In August 2007, his legislation to foster U.S. economic competitiveness by increasing energy independence and strengthening math and science education became law. The COMPETES Act would help to improve science and math education to ensure the U.S. workforce has the skills needed for the high-tech jobs of the future. In addition, the law creates an Advanced Research Projects Agency at the U.S. Department of Energy to develop new energy technologies that would help to reduce the nation's dependence on foreign energy. Bart has authored legislation to establish voluntary, health-based clean-up guidelines for methamphetamine labs. His bill aims to protect families from the dangers of meth labs in their communities and to provide tools to help local law enforcement to detect hidden toxic hazards that remain in the labs. In addition to his role on the Science and Technology Committee, Bart is a senior member of the powerful House Energy and Commerce Committee and serves on two subcommittees – Health, and Telecommunications and the Internet. One of Bart's highest priorities is making sure parents have the tools they need to control the content their children can access through TV, by telephone and on the Internet. Bart authored legislation to protect citizens from fraudulent 1-900 and 1-800 phone numbers. In 2004, two of Bart's bills became law. His youth suicide prevention measure, the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act, established a grant program to help bolster suicide intervention and prevention programs. In addition, his Sports Agent Responsibility and Trust Act became law to prohibit sports agents from bribing or misleading student athletes into signing away their eligibility to play college sports. In 1990, Bart initiated an investigation into the federal student aid system. He authored and helped pass reforms that saved taxpayers more than \$6 billion and made financial aid more accessible to students. In addition, Congress passed Bart's proposal to ban awarding Pell Grants to prison inmates, a move that saved taxpayers between \$70 and \$200 million a year. Bart was the first member of Tennessee's delegation to oppose a temporary site in the state for disposal of the nation's nuclear waste. He has stood up to four presidents who wanted to place a nuclear waste storage site in Tennessee and continues the fight today. Educated in Rutherford County public schools, Bart graduated with honors from Middle Tennessee State University in 1971. He served in the Army Reserves from 1971-1972 and received an honorable discharge in 1972. Bart received his law degree from the University of Tennessee. The Murfreesboro lawmaker is married to Leslie Peyton Gordon, and they have a daughter, Peyton Margaret Gordon.



Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn (R)

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Marsha Blackburn is an established, conservative, results-oriented legislator who solves problems. She was sent to the U.S. House of Representatives at the start of the 108th Congress where she was one of only a few newly elected congressmen selected to serve as an assistant whip on the majority whip team and the first female in Tennessee elected in her own right to the US House. Blackburn was elected State Senator in 1998, becoming the first woman to represent Tennessee's 23rd Senate District. While in the Tennessee Senate, Blackburn led a statewide grassroots campaign to defeat the proposed state income tax. Her frequent appearances on talk radio and

positive mention in national publications like the Wall Street Journal made her a recognized national anti-tax and government reform advocate. She quickly earned a reputation for keeping her legislative focus on defending and expanding individual freedom and free enterprise. Blackburn willingly accepts the responsibility of helping shape American fiscal policy as a member of the exclusive House Energy & Commerce Committee. For 208 years, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the oldest legislative standing committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, has served as the principal guide for the House in matters relating to the promotion of commerce and to the public's health and marketplace interests. Representing both a portion of metropolitan Nashville and the suburbs of Memphis, Blackburn has strong ties with some of the nation's premier songwriters and performers. In 2003, Blackburn founded the Congressional Songwriters Caucus to give the nation's creative community access to Capitol Hill. The caucus focuses on the protection of intellectual property and tax policy. Blackburn was selected to serve as an Assistant Majority Whip in the 108th Congress and an Assistant Minority Whip for the 109th Congress. Whip Roy Blunt has recently selected Congressman Blackburn to serve as a Deputy Whip for the 110th Congress. She has been named the Communications Chairman for the Republican Study Committee, a large group of fiscally conservative Republicans that make up a majority of Republicans in Congress. Blackburn was also named by Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) as the Communications Chairman for the National Republican Congressional Committee, which recruits and supports Republican candidates for the United States Congress. A graduate of Mississippi State University and a small business owner, Blackburn has been actively involved in Tennessee grassroots politics and civic organizations for more than 25 years. Blackburn was born on June 6, 1952. Marsha and Chuck Blackburn have been married for thirty-two years. They have two children, Mary Morgan Ketchel, and Chad Blackburn.



Congressman John S. Tanner (D)

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Congressman **John Tanner** has represented Tennessee's Eighth District in West and Middle Tennessee since 1989. He serves on the House Ways and Means Committee, on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and as chairman of the U.S. delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. As cofounder of a group of moderate to conservative Democrats known as the Blue Dog Coalition, he is considered a leader in the fight to balance the federal budget. Born at the Dyersburg Army Air Base in Halls, Tennessee, Tanner grew up in Obion County. He earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and a law degree from the University of Tennessee at

Knoxville, where he also played basketball. Congressman Tanner lives in Union City with his wife, the former Betty Ann Portis of Huntingdon, Tennessee. They have two children, Elizabeth Tanner Atkins and John Portis Tanner, and three grandchildren, Abby Frances Atkins, Tanner Lantrip Atkins, and Beck Counce Tanner. He and his brothers own an insurance business and farming interests in Tennessee.

Congressman Stephen Ira Cohen (D)
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Representing the Ninth Congressional District, **Stephen Ira “Steve” Cohen**, a native Memphian, was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives November 7, 2006. He serves on the Judiciary Committee and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Upon becoming a member of Congress, Steve Cohen immediately distinguished himself as a passionate, progressive and forthright voice, receiving national media recognition from *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *NBC Evening News*, *CNN*, *Air America*, and *The Daily Show* among many others for his strong stance against continuing the Iraq War, and as a proponent of an increased minimum wage, stem cell research, universal health care, increased funding of the COPS program and energy innovations and independence. On a lighter note, Congressman Cohen was a featured guest on *The Colbert Report’s* Better Know a District on *Comedy Central*. Cohen is a member of both the Progressive and Out of Iraq Caucuses. Elected to the Tennessee State Senate in 1982, Steve Cohen represented the 30th Senatorial District for over twenty-four years. Prior to his state Senate service, Cohen served as the legal advisor to the Memphis Police Department from 1976-1978, as vice president of 1977 Tennessee Constitutional Convention, as Shelby County Commissioner from 1978-1980, and as interim Shelby County General Sessions Court Judge in 1980. As a state Senator, Cohen served as chair of the State and Local Government Committee from 1991 through 2006. Known as the father of the Tennessee Lottery for his nearly two-decade fight to send a referendum on Tennessee’s constitutional prohibition on lotteries to the people, Cohen subsequently passed legislation to implement the Lottery Corporation and to establish the Lottery scholarship program, the prime beneficiary of Lottery proceeds. Other primary legislative priorities included First Amendment issues, animal welfare, the arts, ethics, felon voting rights, graduated driver licenses, the environment, and women’s and non-discrimination issues, issues which Congressman Cohen continues to champion in the U.S. House. Cohen served on the National Conference of State Legislatures Executive Committee from 1998 to 2005, the Council of State Governments Executive Committee in 2002 and as a delegate to the 1980, 1992, and 2004 Democratic National Conventions. He served on the Platform Committee of the Democratic National Convention in 2000. As a state Senator, Cohen passed legislation creating the Tennessee Holocaust Commemoration Commission and served as an ex officio member of the Commission from 1984 through 2006. Cohen is a lifetime member of the NAACP and has been a member of Circuit Playhouse, Inc. Board of Directors from 1977 to the present. Cohen has served on the Memphis/Shelby County Center City Commission, the Memphis College of Art Board of Trustees, and the Memphis Zoological Council. Cohen was named to *Business Tennessee* magazine “Power 100” in 2004 and again in 2007. Featured several times in the *Memphis Magazine* top movers and shakers issues, in 2007 Cohen appeared on the issue’s cover. Other honors include: 2007 Memphis Gridiron Show Headliner Award; 2006 Tennessee Humane Association Legislative Achievement Award; 2004 Shelby County Democratic Party William W. (Bill) Farris Political Leadership Award; The University of Memphis 2004 Walter A. Barret Distinguished Service Award; 2004 University of Memphis Eye of the Tiger Award; 2003 Boys & Girls Club Legislator of the Year; 2002 Tennessee Human Rights Campaign Public Leadership Award; 2001 Governor’s Awards in the Arts Leadership Award; 2000 Tennessee Holocaust Commission Commendation; 2000 AutoZone Park Opening Day First Pitch; 2000 AAA Legislator of the Year Award; 1999 Tennessee Academy of Pediatrics Friend of Children Award; 1998 Memphis Arts Council Memphis Theatre Award; 1997 and 1992 Common Cause of Tennessee Bird Dog Award; 1996 Memphis Flyer Best Local Politician; 1996 University of Tennessee Memphis Faculty Senate Presidential Citation; 1995 Lorin Hollander Award, Tennessee Arts Academy; 1995 Memphis Women’s Political Caucus Good Guys Award; 1994 Unitarian Fellowship Dr. Peter Cooper Award; 1992 Tennesseans for the Arts Advocate Award; 1992 Tennessee Bill of Rights Award; 1991 Community Mental Retardation Agencies of Tennessee Legislator of the Year; 1991 Keeping the Blues Alive Award, Blues Foundation; 1988 Save Shelby Farms Forest Award; and 1987 Memphis Arts Council Commendation. Congressman Cohen earned a B.A. from Vanderbilt University and a J.D. from The University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphrey School of Law. From 1978 until his election to Congress, Cohen had a private law practice in Memphis. Born in May 24, 1949 in Memphis, Steve Cohen is the son of Genevieve Cohen and the late Dr. Morris Cohen. To find out more about Congressman Cohen, visit his website at www.house.gov/cohen.