

SUSAN COLLINS

U.S. SENATOR FOR MAINE

As the Vice Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, U.S. Senator Susan Collins wields her influence, seniority, and experience to benefit the people of Maine and America. Her committee holds jurisdiction over all discretionary spending for the federal government. Since 2021, when Congress reinstated Congressionally Directed Spending, Senator Collins has successfully advocated for more than \$500 million for 285 Maine projects that will promote job creation, workforce training, and economic development; expand access to health care; improve public safety, infrastructure, and community resources; and protect our environment.

Senator Collins also serves as the Ranking Member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, which oversees and sets the annual budget for the Department of Defense. She received the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Congressional Medal of Honor Society for her work to support veterans, and she received the Navy's highest public service award from the Secretary of the Navy for her tireless advocacy of shipbuilding programs. She is also the 15th person to ever receive the prestigious 2023 Naval Heritage Award, which is awarded to Americans who have significantly supported the nation's Sea Service. In addition to her role on the Appropriations Committee, Senator Collins is a member of the Intelligence Committee and the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

Senator Collins first joined the Appropriations Committee in 2009 and previously served as both the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee. She has secured nearly \$1 billion in competitive transportation grants for the State of Maine since 2009. She is also the former Chairman of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, and the Aging Committee.

First elected in 1996, Senator Collins has earned a national reputation as an effective legislator who works across party lines to seek consensus on our nation's most important issues. She was reelected in 2002, 2008, 2014, and 2020. In 2020, she made history by becoming the first-ever Republican woman in the nation to win a fifth term. She is also the first popularly elected U.S. Senator from Maine to be elected to a fifth term. She is the eighth-most senior member of the Senate and the most senior Republican woman.

Senator Collins has repeatedly ranked as the most bipartisan member of the U.S. Senate by the Lugar Center and Georgetown University. Known for her Maine work ethic, Senator Collins has cast more than 8,500 consecutive votes and holds the longest perfect voting record in the history of the U.S. Senate.

When people in Washington want to solve a problem, they turn to Maine's senior U.S. Senator. Throughout her Senate service, Senator Collins has worked with members of both parties to advance landmark legislation to improve the lives of all Americans. Early in her tenure, Senator Collins led the fight with Senator Dick Durbin to repeal a \$50 billion tax break for the tobacco industry. In 2004, she and Senator Joe Lieberman co-authored a law that overhauled the nation's intelligence community, improving its effectiveness while protecting civil liberties. She was the lead Republican in the successful effort to repeal the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in December 2010. Her leadership was instrumental in ending the 16-day government shutdown in October 2013 as well as the shutdown in February 2018. When the COVID-19 pandemic began, Senator Collins co-authored the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), which was a lifeline to millions of small businesses across the country. In Maine, tens of thousands of small businesses received \$3.2 billion in forgivable PPP loans, supporting the jobs of hundreds of thousands of Mainers.

Senator Collins has had a long-standing interest in health care. In 1997, she founded the Senate Diabetes Caucus and has led the effort to more than triple federal funding for diabetes research. As the founder and co-chair of the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease, she has worked to increase funding for Alzheimer's research and to strengthen support for family caregivers. She has championed efforts to lower the cost of prescription drugs and launched the Senate's first bipartisan investigation into the causes, impacts, and potential solutions to egregious pharmaceutical price increases.

Senator Collins is also a tireless advocate for improving the quality and accessibility of education and has visited and read to children at more than two hundred schools across Maine. A champion for America's small businesses, Senator Collins is proud of the 100 percent rating she receives from the National Federation of Independent Business, our nation's leading small business organization.

Constituent service has always been one of Senator Collins' top priorities. During her time in the Senate, she has helped tens of thousands of Mainers resolve issues with federal agencies at six constituent service centers throughout Maine.

Senator Collins was born on December 7, 1952, and raised in Caribou, Maine, where her family runs a sixth-generation lumber business, founded by her ancestors in 1844. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of St. Lawrence University, she is married to Thomas A. Daffron and resides in Bangor, Maine.