



Official Biography

Senator Susan M. Collins



When people in Washington want to solve a problem, they turn to the senior United States Senator from Maine, Susan Collins. 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. In 2015, Senator Collins was ranked the most bipartisan member of the U.S. Senate by the Lugar Center and Georgetown University.

Senator Collins ranks nineteenth in Senate seniority and is the most senior Republican woman. She chairs the Senate Select Committee on Aging and the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee, and also serves on the Intelligence Committee as well as the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Known for her Maine work ethic, Senator Collins has never missed a vote in her nineteen years in office – more than 6,000 votes in a row.

Senator Collins is recognized as skillful legislator, which is one reason why *Elle* magazine named her one of the most powerful women in Washington. Her record demonstrates significant legislative accomplishments in such critical areas as homeland security, national defense, disaster response, education, business development, health care, and issues of particular interest to our nation's seniors. Along with Senator Joe Lieberman, Collins authored a major overhaul of our nation's intelligence community after the September 11th attacks and also led the successful effort to repeal the discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law that prohibited gay and lesbian Americans from serving openly in the military. In 2013, she forged the bipartisan coalition that ended a 16-day shutdown of the federal government.

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 Senate 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 is also a tireless advocate for education and has visited and read to children at hundreds of hundreds of 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 December 7, 1952 and raised in Caribou, Maine, where her family runs a fifth-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.