

File: Barbara
Boxer

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U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer

OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHY



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Elected as a fighter for California, Barbara Boxer became a United States Senator on January 5, 1993.

Working for a strong California economy continues to be a top priority for Senator Boxer, whose committee assignments have enabled her to effectively work to lower trade barriers, promote America's products abroad and protect property rights for California's creative high-tech and entertainment industries. Boxer authored and shepherded through Congress "The Cruise Ship Revitalization Act" to bring jobs and dollars to California. She succeeded in ensuring that California would be rebuilt after several devastating disasters, and succeeded in passing legislation to allow federal funding to be used to strengthen the state's infrastructure before an earthquake strikes.

As a new member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Boxer has added a key committee assignment from which she can advocate funding for important California needs. As a member of the Budget Committee, Boxer has made the tough votes that have resulted in four straight years of deficit reduction and she is committed to balance the federal budget by the year 2002.

Education is a top priority for Boxer. She supports specific goals to ensure that every child can read at age 8, use a computer at 12 and attend college at 18. Boxer has established the "Excellence in Education Award," which she presents to individuals, organizations and schools in California whose efforts are resulting in highly motivated students. The Boxer-authored "Computers in Classrooms" bill encourages the donation of computers and software to schools.

Boxer is working to place the first safety standards on American-made handguns, to stop the carnage that has made gun violence the #1 killer of California's children. She voted for 100,000 new "Cops on the Beat," for anti-gang programs and for the assault weapons ban. Boxer's legislation to stop the criminal use of personal information gained through motor vehicle records was signed into law. She authored the Violence Against Women Act while she was in the House of Representatives and successfully helped steer it through Congress.

Boxer has championed full reimbursement from the federal government to border states for the costs of illegal immigration. She fought to increase penalties for document forgers and her bill to make crashing through a border checkpoint a federal crime has become law.

Throughout her career, Boxer has fought for a cleaner environment, introducing legislation to restore our nation's wetlands, to improve toxic waste cleanups and to remove the threat of offshore oil drilling along California's coast. As a member of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, she successfully amended the Safe Drinking Water Act to protect children, pregnant women and seniors and she introduced the Clean Fuel Vehicles Act to encourage the use of efficient vehicles. She is the author of the Children's Environmental Protection Act and she led the fight against unsafe nuclear waste dumps, as well as the fight to preserve "The Dolphin-Safe Tuna Labeling" law that she authored.

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As the Senate author of legislation establishing a Public Trust at the Presidio in San Francisco, Boxer's persistence and ability to reach across party lines helped fashion an agreement that secured passage of a landmark parks bill, which included the Presidio.

An advocate of a woman's right to choose, Boxer authored the Freedom of Choice Act and helped lead the floor fight for passage of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act.

Boxer fought for passage of the Family and Medical Leave Act and has worked to draw attention and resources to women's health issues, such as breast cancer. Her tenacity on the Senate floor stopped a move to eliminate stronger quality and safety standards for mammography tests. She is currently calling attention to the high incidence of prostate cancer in men and the need for more resources to fight it.

Boxer, along with the Clinton Administration, created a one-stop Defense Conversion Hotline to help communities hard hit by defense cuts and base closures. She won many battles to retrain defense workers and retool defense technologies for civilian use. She is proud of her successful advocacy of the "Stealth Bus," an advanced technology bus made of stealth bomber materials. Boxer eliminated a Pentagon policy which allowed military felons convicted of heinous crimes to stay on the government payroll. In the House, she revealed overcharges by Pentagon contractors, including the now famous \$7,600 coffeepot.

Boxer has been honored for her leadership in Congress by the Consumer Federation of America, the Coalition to Stop Government Waste, Planned Parenthood, the League of Conservation Voters, Public Citizen, Sierra Club, the Center for Environmental Education, the Center for Defense Information and the American Association of University Women. Boxer has been recognized as an *Outstanding Mother* by the National Mothers Day Committee and she has been hailed as a champion of human rights by the Anti-Defamation League, the Human Rights Campaign Fund, and the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights.

Boxer served in the House of Representatives for 10 years following six years on the Marin County Board of Supervisors, where she was elected the first woman President of the Board.

A former stockbroker and award-winning journalist, she received her B.A. in Economics from Brooklyn College. Boxer and her husband live in Greenbrae, California. They have two adult children and one grandchild.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittees:

- Veterans Administration, Housing and Urban Development and Independent Agencies
- Interior
- Legislative Branch
- District of Columbia (Ranking)

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittees:

- Transportation and Infrastructure
- Superfund, Waste Control and Risk Assessment
- Clean Air, Wetlands, Private Property and Nuclear Safety

Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs

Subcommittees:

- Financial Services and Technology (ranking)
- International Finance
- Financial Institutions

Committee on the Budget

Founder, California Unity Working Group