

## Sen. Ron Wyden (D–Ore.)

Senior Senator from Oregon



**Residence:** Portland

**Born:** May 3, 1949; Wichita, Kan.

**Religion:** Jewish

**Family:** Wife, Nancy Bass-Wyden; five children

**Education:** U. of California, Santa Barbara, attended 1967-69; Stanford U., A.B. 1971 (political science); U. of Oregon, J.D. 1974

**Military Service:** None

**Career:** Senior citizen advocacy group state director; lawyer; professor

**First Elected:** 1996 (3rd full term)

**Latest Election:** 2010 General (57.22%)

**Political Highlights:** U.S. House, 1981-96

### Committees:

- Budget
- Energy & Natural Resources
- Finance - Chairman (Energy, Natural Resources & Infrastructure; International Trade, Customs & Global Competitiveness - chairman; Taxation & IRS Oversight)
- Select Intelligence
- Joint Taxation

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## Sen. Ron Wyden (D–Ore.)

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### CQ Politics in America Profile

(Updated: Feb. 13, 2014)

Dominoes have been falling Wyden's way in recent years, so much so that in February 2014 he took over as chairman of the Finance Committee. That panel has jurisdiction over big issues — health care, taxes and trade — and Wyden has been man of big ideas. Although he is solidly liberal, some of his most noted work has been the development of policy blueprints with Republicans in both chambers.

Wyden started the 113th Congress (2013-14) as the new chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, a job he snagged thanks to retirement of New Mexico Democrat Jeff Bingaman. But new opportunities soon presented themselves. Finance Chairman Max Baucus of Montana announced his plan to retire. Near the end of 2013, Baucus was nominated as the next ambassador to China. The No. 2 Democrat on Finance, Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia, then announced his retirement. Wyden was next in line, and when Baucus was confirmed, he had a new gavel.

The question for Democrats is how much Wyden will pay heed to politics. In his pursuit of grand policy deals, he has sometimes ignored the broader strategy of his party's leadership team. Case in point: As the 112th Congress (2011-12) battled over the sustainability of federal entitlement programs, Wyden teamed with House Budget Chairman Paul D. Ryan of Wisconsin — the public face of the GOP effort to, in the words of many a Democrat, “end Medicare as we know it.”

Their plan, unveiled in a December 2011 policy paper, combined elements of Ryan's fiscal 2012 budget proposal with structures of the 2010 health care law. It would give beneficiaries fixed amounts to purchase insurance but allow for a regulated insurance “exchange” in which traditional Medicare was an option.

“Before the partisan attacks begin to escalate and the 2012 election ads start to air, we are outlining a plan for how Democrats and Republicans can work together to ensure that American retirees — now and forever — have quality, affordable health insurance,” Ryan and Wyden wrote. Many publications hailed it as one of the most interesting policy ideas of the year, and a possible undercutting of campaign talking points for both parties.

Politics eventually overtook policy, however. Ryan's fiscal 2013 budget deviated enough from the Wyden-Ryan plan that Wyden declined to show his support.

Before taking over as full-committee chairman, Wyden led the Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs and Global Competitiveness. He has been vocal in his opposition to secrecy in international trade negotiations, which often feature significant input from corporations. He has introduced a bill to ensure that lawmakers and staff have access to closely shielded documents about the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement. While many experts view the framework from that agreement as an essential limitation on China's economic influence in the region, some technology and communications groups have raised fears that negotiations could lead to an outcome that would undercut domestic intellectual property protections.

Wyden has a history of combating secrecy in legislating, as well: He teamed with Republican Charles E. Grassley of Iowa for years to try to require senators who place secret holds on legislation to identify themselves. That effort bore fruit at the beginning of the 112th Congress, as a change in Senate rules barred the practice.

He also works for greater openness from the Intelligence Committee, pushing to declassify the amount of spending on spy programs. He has placed holds on several intelligence-related bills, citing his worries that attempts to fight intelligence leaks are trampling civil liberties and freedom of the press. In 2012, he slowed up consideration of a reauthorization of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, eventually getting a vote on an amendment to require a report to Congress on whether FISA had been used to collect any domestic email or phone communications. Without that information, he said, Congress could not conduct “real oversight” of the program. The amendment was defeated.

In March 2013, he was the one Democrat to contribute to a “talking filibuster” of a confirmation vote for a new CIA director. The effort, led by Kentucky Republican Rand Paul,

was meant to compel the White House to clarify its policies on the use of drones in targeted killings.

Wyden kept his seat on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee after handing in his gavel. He spent a good bit of 2012 building relationships on that panel; he used part of the August recess that year to take an “energy tour” of Alaska with Lisa Murkowski, the panel’s top Republican.

During the 112th Congress, Murkowski and Democrat Mary L. Landrieu of Louisiana (the new chairwoman) pushed for states to get a greater share of the revenue from energy production off their shores, whether it involved fossil fuels, wind or waves. Wyden expressed interest in the idea once Murkowski suggested directing some of the money the federal government makes from offshore production into a clean-energy trust fund. He was open to discussions as Landrieu and Murkowski updated their plan in the 113th Congress.

He was also receptive to attempts to streamline the approval and regulation of smaller hydropower projects —at an April 2013 hearing, he called hydropower and geothermal power the “forgotten renewables.”

But he has some deal breakers when it comes to energy. Murkowski is a proponent of exporting liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Alaska’s abundant North Slope reserves. Wyden is less sure that such exports are in the best interest of the country. He has joined a chorus of Democrats concerned that selling LNG overseas would lead to much higher prices domestically, counteracting the historically low prices being enjoyed now.

Wyden’s parents were Jewish refugees from Nazi Germany. His mother spent part of her youth in Baghdad, where the family had fled. Wyden was born in Wichita, Kan., and steadily moved west as his father’s journalism career advanced. He attended college on a basketball scholarship and retains his obsession with the game — he holds the unofficial congressional free-throw record (47 out of 50 in the House gym). Wyden counts UCLA and Portland Trailblazer great Bill Walton as a good friend. After abandoning his dream of playing professionally, Wyden received his bachelor’s degree from Stanford, then followed a girlfriend to Oregon, where he earned a law degree at the University of Oregon.

Wyden was executive director for the Oregon Gray Panthers, an organization promoting senior citizens’ interests, when he ran for the House in 1980. He ousted Democratic Rep. Robert B. Duncan in the primary and won with 72 percent of the vote in November in a Democratic, Portland-based district.

When Republican Sen. Bob Packwood resigned in disgrace in 1995 after a sexual-harassment controversy, Wyden jumped into the special-election race. He edged out fellow Democratic Rep. Peter A. DeFazio in the primary, then narrowly defeated Republican Gordon H. Smith (who subsequently won election to Oregon’s other Senate seat and became a close ally of Wyden). Wyden has won his three re-elections with ease.

Wyden underwent surgery in December 2010 for early-stage prostate cancer and was back at work when the Senate reconvened for votes in late January 2011. He became a father for the fifth time in late 2012. Scarlett Willa Wyden is his third child with his second wife, Nancy.

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## Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.)

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### CQ Politics in America: State Description

(Updated: May 2003)

#### STATE LEGISLATURE

General Assembly: Meets January-June in odd-numbered years

House: 60 members, 2-year terms  
2003 breakdown: 35R, 25D; 40 men, 20 women  
Salary: \$1,283/month; \$85/day in session  
Phone: (503) 986-1187

Senate: 30 members, 4-year terms  
2003 breakdown: 15R, 15D; 22 men, 8 women  
Salary: \$1,283/month; \$85/day in session  
Phone: (503) 986-1187

#### STATE TERM LIMITS

Governor: 2 terms  
Senate: No  
House: No

#### URBAN STATISTICS

City	Population
Portland	529,121
Eugene	137,893
Salem	136,924
Gresham	90,205

#### REGISTERED VOTERS

Democrat	39%
Republican	36%
Non-affiliated	21%

#### POPULATION

2002 population (est.)	3,521,515
2000 population	3,421,399
1990 population	2,842,321
Percent change (1990-2000)	+20.4%
Rank among states (2002)	27
Median age	36.3
Born in state	45.3%
Foreign born	8.5%

Violent crime rate	351/100,000
Poverty level	11.6%
Federal workers	29,090
Military	12,984

REDISTRICTING

Oregon retained its five House seats in reapportionment. Democratic Gov. John Kitzhaber vetoed the state legislature's plan and a county judge implemented a new map on Oct. 19, 2001.

MISCELLANEOUS

Web: [www.state.or.us](http://www.state.or.us)  
 Capital: Salem

STATE ELECTION OFFICIAL  
 (503) 986-1518

DEMOCRATIC HEADQUARTERS  
 (503) 224-8200

REPUBLICAN HEADQUARTERS  
 (503) 587-9233

Dist.	White	Black	Asian	Hisp.
1	81%	1%	5%	9%
2	86	0	1	9
3	77	5	5	8
4	90	1	2	4
5	84	1	2	10
STATE	84	2	3	8
U.S.	69	12	4	13

Dist.	Median Income	White Collar	Blue Collar	Service Industry
1	\$48,464	65%	22%	13%
2	\$35,600	54	29	17
3	\$42,063	59	25	16
4	\$35,796	55	28	17
5	\$44,409	61	25	15
STATE	\$40,916	59	26	15
U.S.	\$41,994	60	25	15

Dist.	Over 64	Under 18	College Education	Rural	Sq. Miles
1	10%	25%	33%	13%	2,941
2	15	26	19	36	69,491
3	11	24	25	7	1,021
4	15	23	21	31	17,181
5	13	26	27	20	5,362

STATE	13	25	25	21	95,997
U.S.	12	26	24	21	3,537,438

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### Largest Companies

(Updated: January 2014)

	Company	Parent Company	Industry	Annual Income	Total Employees in the State
1	Nike, Inc.		mfg rubber/plastic footwear men's/boys clothing women/miss outerwear	\$25,313,000,000	6000
2	Precision Castparts Corp.		mfg ferrous and nonferrous aerospace and commercial investment castings and precision cast airfoils	\$8,377,800,000	500
3	Fred Meyer Stores, Inc.	The Kroger Co	ret lumber/building mtrl ret drugs/sundries ret jewelry ret radio/tv/electronics	\$7,665,400,000	1313
4	Uti, (u.s.) Holdings, Inc.		freight transportation arrangement	\$4,914,221,000	52
5	Pacificorp	MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company	electric services	\$4,882,000,000	0
6	Fred Meyer, Inc.	The Kroger Co	ret groceries department store ret drugs/sundries ret lumber/building mtrl	\$4,618,400,000	1313
7	Daimler		mfg motor	\$3,940,200,000	950

	<b>Company</b>	<b>Parent Company</b>	<b>Industry</b>	<b>Annual Income</b>	<b>Total Employees in the State</b>
	Trucks North America LLC		vehicle/car bodies mfg motor vehicle parts/accessories		
8	Lithia Motors, Inc.		retail new & used automobiles automobile parts & accessories repair	\$3,316,487,000	0
9	Stancorp Financial Group, Inc.		accident & health insurance	\$2,898,400,000	0
10	Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc.		metals recycling business auto parts business & steel manufacturing business	\$2,621,911,000	69
11	Oregon Health & Science University Medical Group		college/university specialty hospital	\$1,975,605,000	5500
12	Knowledge Universe Education LLC		child day care services	\$1,913,700,000	1000
13	Portland General Electric Company		electric utility & marketing	\$1,805,000,000	500
14	The Greenbrier Companies Inc		mfg railroad equipment transportation services	\$1,756,418,000	0
15	Columbia Sportswear Company		mfg outdoor apparel footwear accessories and equipment	\$1,669,563,000	500

	<b>Company</b>	<b>Parent Company</b>	<b>Industry</b>	<b>Annual Income</b>	<b>Total Employees in the State</b>
16	Oregon University System		college/university	\$1,657,325,000	50
17	University of Oregon	Oregon University System	college/university	\$1,531,704,000	6600
18	Epic Aviation, LLC		whol petroleum products	\$1,439,267,000	120
19	Flir Systems Inc.		mfg search/navigation equipment analytical instruments	\$1,405,358,000	233
20	Kindercare Learning Centers, LLC	Knowledge Universe Education LLC	child day care services	\$1,370,600,000	360
21	Legacy Health		medical doctor's office	\$1,326,428,000	750
22	Portland Adventist Medical Center		general hospital	\$1,181,000,000	1900
23	Esco Corporation		mfg conveyors/equipment mfg machine tool access steel foundry mfg construction mach	\$1,122,337,000	1500
24	Mentor Graphics Corporation		electronic design automation software and systems	\$1,088,727,000	0
25	Blount International, Inc.		mfg construction machinery forestry & farm equipments	\$927,666,000	0



Notes:

- Only primary industries are listed for any company, although a company may be active in others.
- Annual figures for privately-held companies (including privately-held subsidiaries) are estimated.

Source: Dun & Bradstreet (D&B)

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## Sen. Ron Wyden (D–Ore.)

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### Contact Information, Staff and Social Media

(Updated: March 2014)

#### Capitol Hill Office

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### **Portland Office**

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### **Eugene Office**

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405 E. 8th Ave., Ste. 2020, Eugene, OR 97401

Tel: (541) 431-0229

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### **Medford Office**

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Federal Courthouse, 310 W. Sixth St., Room 118, Medford, OR 97501

Tel: (541) 858-5122

Fax: (541) 858-5126

### **Bend Office**

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The Jamison Bldg., 131 N.W. Hawthorne Ave., Ste. 107, Bend, OR 97701  
Tel: (541) 330-9142  
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### **La Grande Office**

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SAC Annex Bldg., 105 Fir St., Ste. 201, La Grande, OR 97850  
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### **Salem Office**

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## **Sen. Ron Wyden (D–Ore.)**

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### **Committees, Leadership Positions and Caucus Memberships**

(Updated: February 2014)

#### **Committee and Subcommittee Assignments**

- Budget (2nd of 12 Democrats)
- Energy & Natural Resources (2nd of 12 Democrats)
- Finance - Chairman
  - Energy, Natural Resources & Infrastructure
  - International Trade, Customs & Global Competitiveness (chairman)
  - Taxation & IRS Oversight
- Select Intelligence (3rd of 8 Democrats)
- Joint Taxation (3rd of 5 Democrats)

#### **Leadership Positions and Party Committee Assignments**

- Democratic Policy and Communications Committee

#### **Selected Caucus and Special Organization Memberships**

- Congressional Coalition on Adoption
- Congressional Fire Services Caucus

- Congressional Internet Caucus
- Congressional Wine Caucus
- Minor League Baseball Caucus
- Senate National Guard Caucus
- Senate Rural Health Caucus

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### Elections & Vote for President

(Updated: December 2010)

<b>Election</b>	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>Percent</b>
2010 General	Ron Wyden (D)	825,507	57.2%
	Jim Huffman (R)	566,199	39.2%
	Bruce Cronk (WFM)	18,940	1.3%
	Marc Delphine (LIBERT)	16,028	1.1%
	Rick Staggenborg (PRO)	14,466	1.0%
	write-ins (WRI)	1,448	.1%
2010 Primary	Ron Wyden (D)	333,652	89.6%
	Loren Hooker (D)	25,152	6.8%
	Pavel Goberman (D)	9,985	2.7%
	write-ins (D)	3,782	1.0%
2004 General	Ron Wyden (D)	1,128,728	63.4%
	Al King (R)	565,254	31.8%
	Teresa Keane (I)	43,053	2.4%
	Dan Fitzgerald (LIBERT)	29,582	1.7%
	David Brownlow (CNSTP)	12,397	.7%
	write-ins	1,536	.1%
2004 Primary	Ron Wyden (D)	345,219	99.0%
	write-ins (D)	3,387	1.0%
1998 General	Ron Wyden (D)	682,425	61.0%
	John Lim (R)	377,739	33.8%
	Karyn Moskowitz (PACIFIC)	22,024	2.0%
	Jim Brewster (LIBERT)	18,221	1.6%
	Michael A. Campbell (NL)	8,372	.7%

	Dean M. Braa (S)	7,553	.7%
	write-ins	1,413	.1%
1998 Primary	Ron Wyden (D)	283,654	91.8%
	John Sweeney (D)	25,456	8.2%
1996 Special	Ron Wyden (D)	571,739	48.4%
	Gordon H. Smith (R)	553,519	46.8%
	Karen E. Shilling (AM)	25,597	2.2%
	Gene Nanni (LIBERT)	15,698	1.3%
	Vickie Valdez (S)	7,872	.7%
	Lou Gold (PACIFIC)	7,225	.6%
1995 Primary special	Ron Wyden (D)	212,532	50.4%
	Peter A. DeFazio (D)	187,411	44.4%
	Anna Nevenich (D)	11,201	2.7%
	Michael Donnelly (D)	8,340	2.0%
	J.J.T. Van Dooremolen (D)	2,279	.5%
1994 General <i>OR-03 representative</i>	Ron Wyden (D)	161,624	72.5%
	Everett Hall (R)	43,211	19.4%
	Mark Brunelle (I)	13,550	6.1%
	Gene Nanni (LIBERT)	4,164	1.9%
	write-ins	273	.1%
1994 Primary <i>OR-03 representative</i>	Ron Wyden (D)	54,705	99.1%
	write-ins (D)	475	.9%
1992 General <i>OR-03 representative</i>	Ron Wyden (D)	208,028	77.1%
	Al Ritter (R)	50,235	18.6%
	Blair Bobier (LIBERT)	11,413	4.2%
	write-ins	203	.1%
1992 Primary <i>OR-03 representative</i>	Ron Wyden (D)	64,453	99.3%
	write-ins (D)	460	.7%
1990 General <i>OR-03 representative</i>	Ron Wyden (D)	169,731	80.8%
	Philip E. Mooney (R)	40,216	19.1%
	write-ins	246	.1%
1990 Primary	Ron Wyden (D)	63,178	92.7%

<i>OR-03 representative</i>	Sam Kahl Jr. (D)	4,908	7.2%
	write-ins (D)	42	.1%
1988 General <i>OR-03 representative</i>	Ron Wyden (D)	190,684	99.4%
	write-ins	1,141	.6%
1988 Primary <i>OR-03 representative</i>	Ron Wyden (D)	84,978	94.6%
	Sam Kahl Jr. (D)	4,790	5.3%
1986 General <i>OR-03 representative</i>	Ron Wyden (D)	180,067	85.9%
	Thomas H. Phelan (R)	29,321	14.0%
	write-ins	193	.1%
1986 Primary <i>OR-03 representative</i>	Ron Wyden (D)	65,416	94.7%
	Sam Kahl Jr. (D)	3,591	5.2%
	write-ins (D)	40	.1%
1984 General <i>OR-03 representative</i>	Ron Wyden (D)	173,438	72.3%
	Drew Davis (R)	66,394	27.7%
	write-ins	65	.1%
1984 Primary <i>OR-03 representative</i>	Ron Wyden (D)		unopposed
1982 General <i>OR-03 representative</i>	Ron Wyden (D)	159,416	78.3%
	Thomas H. Phelan (R)	44,162	21.7%
	write-ins	84	.0%
1982 Primary <i>OR-03 representative</i>	Ron Wyden (D)		unopposed
1980 General <i>OR-03 representative</i>	Ron Wyden (D)	156,371	71.9%
	Darrell R. Conger (R)	60,940	28.0%
	write-ins	112	.0%
1980 Primary <i>OR-03 representative</i>	Ron Wyden (D)	55,818	60.0%
	Robert B. Duncan (D)	37,132	39.9%
	write-ins (D)	43	.0%

[Political Party Abbreviations](#) | [Explanation of Primary Elections](#)

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## Vote for President

Year	Republican	Democratic	Independent
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2012	754,175	42%	970,488	54%	64,607	4%
2008	738,475	40%	1,037,291	57%	52,098	3%
2004	866,831	47%	943,163	51%	--	--
2000	713,577	47%	720,342	47%	77,357	5%
1996	256,105	37%	326,099	47%	73,265	11%
1992	475,757	33%	621,314	42%	354,091	24%
1988	560,126	47%	616,206	51%	--	--
1984	685,700	56%	536,479	44%	--	--
1980	571,044	48%	456,890	39%	112,389	10%
1976	492,120	48%	490,407	48%	--	--
1972	486,686	52%	392,760	42%	--	--

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### Interest Group Ratings

(Updated: May 2013)

Year	AFL-CIO	ADA	CCUS	ACU
2012	91%	95%	50%	0%
2011	79%	90%	64%	5%
2010	100%	100%	0%	12%
2009	100%	100%	43%	4%
2008	100%	95%	50%	8%
2007	94%	95%	55%	4%
2006	100%	100%	42%	8%
2005	79%	95%	33%	4%
2004	100%	100%	59%	4%
2003	92%	90%	43%	15%
2002	85%	85%	60%	15%
2001	100%	95%	43%	8%
2000	63%	90%	60%	8%
1999	78%	100%	59%	4%
1998	75%	100%	56%	4%
1997	71%	80%	70%	8%
1996	86%	95%	38%	15%

## House Service:

Year	AFL-CIO	ADA	CCUS	ACU
1995	100%	90%	29%	12%
1994	78%	80%	58%	0%
1993	92%	95%	18%	4%
1992	73%	95%	25%	0%
1991	83%	85%	30%	5%
1990	92%	89%	29%	4%
1989	82%	80%	50%	18%
1988	86%	90%	43%	16%
1987	81%	84%	14%	9%
1986	79%	80%	28%	14%
1985	71%	60%	59%	29%
1984	62%	95%	31%	8%
1983	82%	90%	35%	9%
1982	95%	95%	18%	18%
1981	87%	100%	6%	13%

Source: Compiled by Congressional Quarterly based on information provided by each participating group.  
[Interest Group Descriptions](#)

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