

Sen. Jerry Moran (R–Kan.)

Junior Senator from Kansas



Residence: Manhattan

Born: May 29, 1954; Great Bend, Kan.

Religion: Christian

Family: Wife, Robba Moran; two children

Education: Fort Hays Kansas State College, attended 1972-73; U. of Kansas, B.S. 1976 (economics), J.D. 1981

Military Service: None

Career: Lawyer; banker

First Elected: 2010 (1st term); Defeated Lisa Johnston, D, to succeed Sam Brownback, R, who ran for governor

Latest Election: 2010 General (70.09%)

Note: NRSC Chairman

Political Highlights: Kan. Senate, 1989-97 (vice president, 1993-95; majority leader, 1995-97); U.S. House, 1997-2011

Committees:

- Appropriations (Agriculture; Financial Services; Homeland Security; Labor-HHS-Education - ranking member; Transportation-HUD)
- Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs (Financial Institutions & Consumer Protection; Housing, Transportation & Community Development - ranking member; National Security & International Trade and Finance)
- Veterans' Affairs

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CQ Politics in America Profile

(Updated: April 7, 2013)

Moran sticks with a combination that serves him well: small-government conservatism; a respectful demeanor; and flexibility when his constituents demand it. He is now testing his methods on a national scale as the head of campaign operations for Senate Republicans.

Moran was elected chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee in November 2012, shortly after Republicans were disheartened by the loss of two Senate seats in the general election. Some observers considered Moran an odd choice, given his low profile and lack of experience as a national fundraiser, but he ran unopposed.

He assuaged some worries (and demonstrated his flexibility) by agreeing to work with two deputies. Rob Portman of Ohio is helping him with fundraising, and Ted Cruz of Texas is

focusing on grass-roots outreach efforts. And as he coordinates his team, Moran can point to his success working with all parts of the Republican Party in Kansas.

Moderates and conservatives have battled for control of the Kansas GOP going back to the 1980s. Moran has flourished while straddling the divide between them. A native of the “Big First” — the agriculture-dominated district covering most of the state — Moran worked as a banker and lawyer before hopping into electoral politics. A run of eight years in the state Senate, the last two as majority leader, ended with a move to the U.S. House.

His 14 years in that chamber were marked by dominance at the polls and a few prominent splits with GOP leaders. Citing desires for limited government and less spending, he opposed the 2003 Medicare prescription drug benefit law and the 2002 education law known as No Child Left Behind. He was more forgiving of interventions on behalf of farmers or rural residents.

Conservatives currently control the Kansas government and have a tea-party-backed governor in Sam Brownback, whom Moran succeeded in the Senate. To win his Senate seat in 2010, Moran played up his conservative credentials and slipped by Rep. Todd Tiahrt in the Republican primary.

In the 112th Congress (2011-12), he emphasized fiscal themes in line with tea party thinking. On the Appropriations Committee, Moran and Wisconsin Republican Ron Johnson were the only members opposing an increase in annual spending caps for fiscal 2013. He supports replacing most taxes with a national sales tax and complains of a stifling regulatory environment.

Moran served on the Agriculture Committee in the House, but his colleague Pat Roberts has the state well represented on the Senate panel. His early Senate career has seen much of his committee focus shift to financial matters. He sits on the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, as well as the Financial Services Appropriations Subcommittee.

True to form, Moran has sought ways to oversee implementation of the 2010 financial regulatory overhaul law without seeming partisan. In 2012, he pleaded with banking panel colleagues to spare each other allegations that “we’re carrying water for some particular financial institution or segment of the financial industry” whenever a change to the law is suggested.

Moran has homed in on the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. Under the 2010 law, the CFTC is tasked with devising new regulations for derivatives, the risk-hedging financial instruments used by many industries, including agriculture. In the 112th Congress, Moran criticized the CFTC as botching its rule-writing duties and creating uncertainty in markets.

MF Global went bankrupt in 2011 because of questionable trading practices, and the Peregrine Financial Group collapsed in 2012 amid outright fraud. Moran questioned whether the CFTC could handle its workload and demanded the resignation of Chairman Gary Gensler. “On two occasions, the most basic requirement to protect the sanctity of customer accounts has been neglected,” he said.

In 2013, Moran introduced a bill to alter the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which was created by the 2010 law. He wants its director replaced with a five-person commission, and he dislikes that the CFPB doesn't rely on congressional appropriations for its operating budget.

Moran's desire to help startup companies has led to a collaboration with Virginia Democrat Mark Warner. They wrote a 2011 bill that included a tax credit for certain startups and elimination of capital gains taxes on investments in small businesses that are held at least five years. Moran stumped for the measure at every opportunity, including the South by Southwest Interactive Festival in Austin, Texas. Warner and Moran later combined their plan with a bill by Delaware Democrat Chris Coons and Florida Republican Marco Rubio meant to get more visas to highly educated workers in technical fields. Rubio was replaced by Missouri Republican Roy Blunt in 2013 as the latest version of the bill was unveiled.

Moran makes time for issues with a direct effect on Kansas. He pursues commitments to build the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility in Manhattan, and as a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, he emphasizes the needs of veterans in rural areas far from VA facilities. He has tried to attract more aviation business to the state, as the Boeing Co. pulled up stakes in 2012. He departs from conservatives in his support of the tax credit for the wind energy industry — Kansas derives more than 8 percent of its electricity from wind.

He also tries to influence some farm policies. Moran wants Cuba opened to agricultural exports, against the wishes of many Republicans. With drought affecting all of Kansas in 2012, he formed the Water Caucus with Arkansas Democrat Mark Pryor.

When Moran was 5, his family moved from the country to Plainville, population 2,000. His father was a laborer in the oil fields, and his mother worked as a secretary at an electric utility. As a student government officer at his high school, Moran was in charge of inviting the local congressman, Republican Keith G. Sebelius, to speak at a fundraising dinner.

In the summer of 1974, Moran went to Washington to work as an intern for Sebelius — he was on a staff with Roberts, who was an aide to Sebelius. Moran attended almost every House Judiciary Committee hearing on President Richard Nixon's impeachment.

After graduating from college with a degree in economics in 1976, Moran took a job as a banker. He earned his law degree five years later and opened his own practice in Hays. He made a long-shot run for the state Senate in 1988 against an 18-year incumbent. He won by a couple hundred votes in a historically Democratic district. Moran went on to become chairman of the chamber's Judiciary Committee, then ascended to majority leader in 1995.

Roberts was occupying the 1st District seat in 1996, but he decided to run for the Senate. Moran won the House race with more than 73 percent of the vote against Democrat John Divine, a former Salina mayor. Moran adopted the tradition, started by Sebelius, of a summer "listening tour," driving through all the counties in his district. His attention to constituents paid off. He has never won less than 70 percent of the vote in a general election for Congress.

Moran saved up for a statewide campaign, and when Brownback announced his 2010 gubernatorial run, he had his chance. In the primary, Tiahrt attacked Moran as not reliably conservative. Moran countered that he has been “a conservative even when Republicans are in charge and are doing things we can’t afford.” He won by 5 points and had no problem in November — Kansas hasn’t elected a Democrat to the Senate since 1932.

Sen. Jerry Moran (R–Kan.)

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CQ Politics in America: State Description

(Updated: April 2, 2009)

In the 1960s, Truman Capote described western Kansas as a “lonesome area that other Kansans call ‘out there.’” The fiscally conservative Big First takes in all of western Kansas and stretches as far east as Nemaha County in the north and the city of Emporia farther south, covering most of rural Kansas in the process. The district covers 70 percent of the state and has more land area than most U.S. states (including 25 of the 26 states east of the Mississippi River).

The 1st’s economy depends on agriculture, but several years of drought have hurt local wheat, sorghum and corn yields. Young people leaving the rural areas and an aging population have stalled growth — many counties have smaller populations now than they did a century ago.

The largest population center, Salina, is in the district’s eastern portion and relies on agriculture and manufacturing. Food-related industry, manufacturing and health care jobs dominate Hutchinson, site of the annual Kansas State Fair. The return of the Army’s Big Red One brigade to Fort Riley (in the 2nd) has sparked a population boom in Junction City and the surrounding counties. In the west, towns such as Garden City and Dodge City rely on meatpacking and tourism. Despite suffering nationally, the cattle industry in Kansas remains relatively stable and has drawn large numbers of Mexican immigrants — over half of all schoolchildren in Garden City are Hispanic.

The 1st is comfortably Republican and overwhelmingly voted for John McCain in the 2008 presidential contest, giving him his highest percentage in the state (69 percent). The GOP also dominates local offices, and many counties have no Democratic Party organizations.

Major Industry

Agriculture, manufacturing, oil and gas

Cities

Salina, 45,679; Hutchinson, 40,787; Garden City, 28,451; Emporia, 26,760; Dodge City, 25,176; Hays, 20,013; Liberal, 19,666; Junction City, 18,886

Notable

Dwight D. Eisenhower’s burial place and presidential library are in Abilene; The Kansas

Cosmosphere in Hutchinson has a U.S. space artifact collection second only to the National Air and Space Museum's.

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CQ Politics in America: District Description

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Largest Companies

(Updated: January 2014)

	Company	Parent Company	Industry	Annual Income	Total Employees in the State
1	Koch Industries, Inc.		petroleum refiner whol petroleum products whol chemicals/products	\$31,271,200,000	2100
2	Associated Wholesale Grocers, Inc.		whol general groceries whol dairy products whol packaged frzn goods whol meats/products	\$7,852,006,000	850
3	Dillon Companies, Inc.	The Kroger Co	ret groceries	\$6,337,100,000	30
4	Seaboard Corporation		diversified agribusiness & transportation company	\$6,189,133,000	175
5	Spirit Aerosystems Holdings, Inc.		mfg aircraft systems and parts	\$5,397,700,000	15
6	Yrc Worldwide Inc.		transportation services	\$4,850,500,000	200
7	Sprint Communications, Inc.	Sprint Corporation	telecommunications company	\$4,228,100,000	950
8	Collective Brands, Inc.		footwear & related accessories	\$3,449,900,000	750
9	Black & Veatch Holding Company		engineering services management services	\$3,279,101,000	4
10	Yrc Inc.	Roadway LLC	mfg railroad equipment	\$2,983,700,000	500
11	Garmin International, Inc.		mfg search/navigation equipment	\$2,715,675,000	950
12	Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth		religious nursing & teaching order & convent	\$2,537,600,000	75

	Company	Parent Company	Industry	Annual Income	Total Employees in the State
13	Beechcraft Holdings, LLC		mfg aircraft parts/equipment	\$2,435,100,000	0
14	Westar Energy, Inc.		electric utility services	\$2,261,470,000	600
15	Koch Resources, LLC	Koch Industries, Inc.	petroleum refiner commodity contract broker	\$2,198,500,000	0
16	Roadway LLC	Yrc Worldwide Inc.	trucking operator-nonlocal	\$2,020,900,000	4
17	Ferrellgas, L.P.	Ferrellgas Partners, L.P.	propane retailer	\$1,975,467,000	0
18	Ferrellgas Partners, L.P.		propane and related equipment	\$1,975,467,000	0
19	Sprint Communications Company L.P.	Sprint Communications, Inc.	telephone communications	\$1,811,000,000	800
20	Invista S.A.R.L.	Koch Industries, Inc.	mfg tire cord/fabrics mfg plastic materials/resins thread mill	\$1,641,300,000	150
21	Spirit Aerosystems, Inc.	Spirit Aerosystems Holdings, Inc.	aircraft parts and equipment, nec, nsk	\$1,585,700,000	0
22	AMC Entertainment Inc.		motion picture theaters	\$1,568,800,000	0
23	The Cessna Aircraft Company	Textron Inc.	mfg aircraft	\$1,557,000,000	6200
24	Sprint Corporation		telephone communications radiotelephone commun	\$1,530,300,000	0
25	Euronet Worldwide, Inc.		provides payment and transaction processing and distribution solutions	\$1,267,601,000	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.

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(Updated: February 2014)

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Committees, Leadership Positions and Caucus Memberships

(Updated: June 2013)

Committee and Subcommittee Assignments

- Appropriations (11th of 14 Republicans)
 - Agriculture
 - Financial Services
 - Homeland Security
 - Labor-HHS-Education (ranking member)
 - Transportation-HUD
- Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs (8th of 10 Republicans)
 - Financial Institutions & Consumer Protection
 - Housing, Transportation & Community Development (ranking member)
 - National Security & International Trade and Finance
- Veterans' Affairs (4th of 6 Republicans)

Leadership Positions and Party Committee Assignments

- NRSC Chairman

Selected Caucus and Special Organization Memberships

- Congressional Arts Caucus
 - Congressional Rural Caucus
 - Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus
 - Senate National Guard Caucus
 - Western Caucus
-

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Elections & Vote for President

(Updated: December 2010)

Election	Candidate	Votes	Percent
2010 General	Jerry Moran (R)	587,175	70.1%
	Lisa Johnston (D)	220,971	26.4%
	Michael Wm. Dann (LIBERT)	17,922	2.1%
	Joe Bellis (D)	11,624	1.4%
2010 Primary	Jerry Moran (R)	163,483	49.7%
	Todd Tiaht (R)	146,702	44.6%
	Tom Little (R)	10,256	3.1%
	Robert Londerholm (R)	8,278	2.5%
2008 General <i>KS-01 representative</i>	Jerry Moran (R)	214,549	81.9%
	James Bordonaro (D)	34,771	13.3%
	Kathleen M. Burton (REF)	7,145	2.7%
	Jack Warner (LIBERT)	5,562	2.1%
2008 Primary <i>KS-01 representative</i>	Jerry Moran (R)	67,978	100.0%
2006 General <i>KS-01 representative</i>	Jerry Moran (R)	156,728	78.6%
	John Doll (D)	39,781	20.0%
	Sylvester Cain (REF)	2,869	1.4%
2006 Primary <i>KS-01 representative</i>	Jerry Moran (R)	60,840	100.0%
2004 General <i>KS-01 representative</i>	Jerry Moran (R)	239,776	90.7%
	Jack Warner (LIBERT)	24,517	9.3%
2004 Primary <i>KS-01 representative</i>	Jerry Moran (R)	94,098	100.0%
2002 General <i>KS-01 representative</i>	Jerry Moran (R)	189,976	91.1%
	Jack Warner (LIBERT)	18,585	8.9%
2002 Primary <i>KS-01 representative</i>	Jerry Moran (R)	77,435	100.0%
2000 General <i>KS-01 representative</i>	Jerry Moran (R)	214,328	89.3%
	Jack Warner (LIBERT)	25,581	10.7%
2000 Primary	Jerry Moran (R)	88,943	100.0%

KS-01 representative

1998 General	Jerry Moran (R)	152,775	80.7%
<i>KS-01 representative</i>	Jim Phillips (D)	36,618	19.3%
1998 Primary	Jerry Moran (R)	81,504	100.0%
<i>KS-01 representative</i>			
1996 General	Jerry Moran (R)	191,899	73.5%
<i>KS-01 representative</i>	John Divine (D)	63,948	24.5%
	Bill Earnest (LIBERT)	5,298	2.0%
1996 Primary	Jerry Moran (R)	79,119	75.8%
<i>KS-01 representative</i>	R.W. Yeager (R)	15,376	14.7%
	Bert Fisher (R)	9,887	9.5%

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

Vote for President

Note: AP recalculated the 2008 district vote for president to reflect new, post-redistricting boundaries.

Year	Republican		Democratic		Independent	
2012	692,634	60%	440,726	38%	26,610	2%
2008	699,655	57%	514,765	42%	21,452	2%
2004	736,456	62%	434,993	37%	--	--
2000	622,332	58%	399,276	37%	36,086	3%
1996	578,572	54%	384,399	36%	92,093	9%
1992	449,951	39%	390,434	34%	312,358	27%
1988	554,049	56%	422,636	43%	--	--
1984	677,296	66%	333,149	33%	--	--
1980	566,812	58%	326,150	33%	68,231	7%
1976	502,752	52%	430,421	45%	--	--
1972	619,812	68%	270,287	30%	--	--

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Interest Group Ratings

(Updated: May 2013)

Year	AFL-CIO	ADA	CCUS	ACU
2012	9%	15%	88%	64%

House Service:

Year	AFL-CIO	ADA	CCUS	ACU
2011	11%	10%	91%	85%
2010	8%	5%	71%	100%
2009	19%	5%	80%	96%
2008	14%	15%	89%	92%
2007	21%	30%	80%	88%
2006	29%	5%	93%	84%
2005	29%	15%	93%	96%
2004	21%	10%	95%	92%
2003	27%	25%	90%	92%
2002	0%	5%	90%	96%
2001	25%	5%	96%	88%
2000	0%	0%	90%	92%
1999	33%	20%	88%	84%
1998	10%	10%	100%	92%
1997	25%	10%	90%	96%

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