

Senator Orrin Hatch Biography

Orrin Grant Hatch was born on March 22, 1934, to Jesse and Helen Hatch. His great-grandfather, Jeremiah Hatch, founded what is now known as Vernal, located in eastern Utah's great Uintah basin. Senator Hatch married the former Elaine Hansen of Newton, Utah. They are the proud parents of six children, twenty-three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

At an early age, Senator Hatch learned the value of hard work. His father worked long hours as a metal lather to provide for his family. As a young man, Senator Hatch also learned the metal lathing trade and was a card-carrying member of the AFL-CIO. He worked his way through college at Brigham Young University, graduating in 1959 with a degree in history. He was awarded a full honors scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh Law School. As a law student, he struggled to provide for his growing family, working as a janitor, a metal lather and at night as an all-night desk attendant in a dormitory. In 1962, he received his Juris Doctorate, graduating with honors.

After receiving his law degree, Senator Hatch was a practicing attorney, first in Pennsylvania then in Utah, until his election to the United States Senate in 1976. Since then, Senator Hatch has received six honorary doctorate degrees from law schools and universities.

Prior to his election to the Senate in 1976, Senator Hatch was a political outsider who entered the race as a dark horse for the Republican nomination to oppose three-term incumbent Democrat Frank E. Moss. Despite the overwhelming odds against him, he fervently believed he could make a difference in Washington. His campaign was based on the guiding conservative principles of limited government, tax restraint, and integrity in public service. After winning the GOP Nomination, he went on to defeat Senator Moss, who many said could not be beaten, with 54 percent of the vote.

As Utah's senator, Orrin Hatch has continued to stand by those principles that earned him his Senate seat. He has continually fought an expanding federal bureaucracy and has been at the forefront of the battle against burdensome and costly federal regulations. He has been recognized by the National Taxpayers' Union for his fiscal responsibility and has been dubbed by others as "Mr. Free Enterprise," "Guardian of Small Business," and "Mr. Constitution." He also has been honored with the prestigious Tax Fighter Award for his votes to reduce spending, cut taxes and shrink the size of government. In 2009, *U.S. News & World Report* magazine and the Harvard Center for Public Leadership named Senator Hatch as one of America's top twenty-two leaders.

Senator Hatch is the Ranking Republican on the Senate Committee on Finance, the committee responsible for overseeing 60 percent of the federal budget including Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security, as well as all tax policy and international trade agreements. Hatch, a leading advocate for policies to encourage savings and investment, such as the Capital Formation Act of 1997 and the Research Tax Credit, has consistently fought for lower taxes as a means of spurring long-term economic growth. He also played a key role in enacting the welfare reform bill.

As the most senior Republican member and former Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Senator Hatch is a leader in the fight for tougher anti-crime laws, civil justice reform to unclog the courts, and legislation to protect individual property rights. He also takes an active role in the confirmation of all judicial nominations, including justices of the Supreme Court, and has a direct impact on such issues as civil rights, immigration, antitrust and consumer protection, and issues related to the Constitution.

Now in his sixth term as Utah's senator, Orrin Hatch has championed a variety of legislative causes. Among his many achievements and initiatives are the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, the Strengthening Our Commitment to Legal Immigration and America's Security Act, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Omnibus Property Rights Act, the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, the Comprehensive Methamphetamine Control Act, the Dietary Supplements Health and Education Act, FDA reform, the Orphan Drug Act, the Ryan White AIDS Care legislation, the Job Training Partnership Act, the Utah School Trust Lands Exchange Act, and the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) for Utah downwinders.

Senator Hatch continues to lead in the fight to repeal the unconstitutional individual mandate and other provisions in the \$2.6 trillion health law. He is on the front lines of legislative battles to secure the nation's borders, stop the forced unionization of American workers and to bring fiscal restraint back to Washington by ending the reckless spending that threatens to bankrupt the nation.

Senator Hatch is also a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Joint Committee on Taxation. He also has the honor of serving on the Board of Directors for the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.