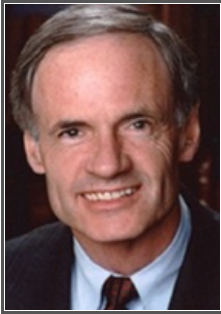


TOM CARPER (D-DE)**IN OFFICE**

Up for re-election in 2018

3rd Term

Re-elected in 2012

SENIORITY RANK

24


Out of 100


CONTACT

 **Email** [Contact Form
http://www.carper.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/
email-senator-carper](http://www.carper.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-senator-carper)

 **Web** www.carper.senate.gov
<http://www.carper.senate.gov>

 **Twitter** [@senatorcarper](https://twitter.com/senatorcarper)
[https://twitter.com/
senatorcarper](https://twitter.com/senatorcarper)

 **Facebook** [View on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/tomcarper)
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 **DC Office** 513 Hart Senate Office Building

BGOV BIOGRAPHY

By Brian Nutting, Bloomberg News

Tom Carper, described even by foes as a nice guy, makes an effort to seek bipartisan solutions to the nation's problems and tries to work out differences on legislation in private consultations rather than fighting it out in public in committee or on the floor.

Carper has been in public office since 1977, including 10 years in the House and two terms as Delaware's governor before coming to the Senate.

He says on his congressional website that he has "earned a reputation as a results-oriented centrist." Still, his congressional voting record places him on the liberal side of the political spectrum, with a rating of about 90 percent from the Americans for Democratic Action and about 10 percent from the American Conservative Union.

During his tenure on Capitol Hill, he has broken with party ranks a little more often than the average Democratic lawmaker, although not so much in the 113th Congress.

He touts the virtues of pragmatism and bipartisanship. He's a founder of the Third Way, a policy group that says its mission "is to advance moderate policy and political ideas," and affiliates also with the Moderate Democrats Working Group, a group of about a dozen Senate Democrats, and the Democratic Leadership Council.

In 2014, he joined with other former governors in the Senate -- including four Republicans -- to create the Former Governors Caucus. He says that he's had success in working with other former governors, whose backgrounds make them more amenable to getting things done rather than scoring political points.

One of his constituents, a self-described conservative who disagrees with most of his political positions, wrote after a meeting with Carper, "he truly does seem like a nice man."

In the 111th Congress he was part of a bipartisan group -- including Iowa Democrat Tom Harkin and Alaska Republican

Lisa Murkowski -- that worked with the restaurant lobby and health organizations to craft the portion of the 2010 health-care law that requires chain restaurants to list calories on their menus.

Among the Republicans he has enjoyed working with, he named in 2012: Murkowski, Michael Enzi of Wyoming, Mike Crapo of Idaho and Tom Coburn of Oklahoma. He was also quick to cite an instance of breaking with members of his party.

When he voted in 2003 to create the Medicare prescription drug program, "my leadership was opposed to it, but I felt we needed one," Carper said, adding that he shared the concern that it wasn't fully offset.

In 2013, he and Republican House member Jason Chaffetz of Utah teamed together to host a roundtable discussion about what do to with surplus federal office space, and both men introduced legislation on the topic.

Carper said his top priorities are job creation and getting the U.S. deficit and spending under control, preferably along lines similar to the Simpson-Bowles proposal offered by a presidential commission in 2010 that featured spending cuts (including entitlements) and increased taxes. As he wrote in 2011, there shouldn't be an either/or debate about spending cuts and increased taxes: "An honest approach would do some of each."

"You don't create jobs, you create a nurturing environment," he said in an interview. He said he favors accomplishing that with access to capital, a streamlined tax code for businesses and "common-sense" regulation.

In the 113th Congress, Carper took the gavel of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs panel, whose jurisdiction includes cybersecurity and the Postal Service. Both are issues of long-standing importance that Carper worked on even before he became chairman.

In 2014, his committee produced a postal reorganization bill cosponsored by Coburn, the panel's ranking Republican. Carper several times postponed a scheduled markup in an effort to work informally with interested parties -- both in the Senate and out -- to reach agreement on key elements of the bill.

The version of the bill that the committee eventually approved, 9-1, didn't completely satisfy everyone, including some Democratic members of the panel, and postal unions. Carper and Coburn have worked together on other matters as well, including waste in Medicare spending.

Also in 2014, he convened a hearing of his committee to discuss how to better prepare for extreme weather events, which he said have become the "new norm." He said the hearing wasn't intended to "hash out climate science," but rather to find common ground on the cost -- both economic and in lives impacted -- of a failure to prepare for extreme weather.

He was an original cosponsor of so-called "cap-and-trade" legislation in the 111th Congress to reduce carbon emissions and combat climate change, although he would have preferred a less sweeping approach.

Early Years

Carper, whose father was in the insurance business, grew up in Virginia and Ohio and went to Ohio State University on an ROTC scholarship. He served his active duty as a Navy pilot and saw action in the Vietnam War.

After leaving active duty, he went to business school in Delaware and remained in the state after receiving an M.B.A., going to work for the state economic development office. He also served in the Navy reserve for 18 years.

In 1976, after realizing that Democrats didn't have a candidate for state treasurer, Carper entered the race and won. He served three two-year terms.

In 1982, at the urging of other Delaware Democrats, including then-Senator Joe Biden, he ran for the state's lone House seat against Republican incumbent Thomas Evans. Carper won by 6 percentage points and served 10 years in the House.

Then, in 1992 he "swapped" jobs with the state's Republican governor Mike Castle, and served two four-year terms. In 2000, facing term limits as governor, Carper challenged the state's long-serving Republican senator, William Roth, the chairman of the Finance Committee. It was dubbed the "battle of the titans."

Carper won by 12 percentage points. He's won re-election twice by comfortable margins.

Following the lead of Biden, who famously rode the train every day from Delaware to his job in the Senate, Carper also does the Amtrak commute along with other members of the Delaware delegation.

He told a Wilmington television station in 2013, "The best quiet time I have, until I get home at night, is on the train. It's a very productive time for me." He isn't to be confused with the Tom Carper who is a member of the Amtrak board of trustees.

Updated Aug. 22, 2014

BIO FROM REPRESENTATIVE'S WEBSITE

From the Senator's Website

Born in West Virginia and raised in Virginia, Senator Tom Carper attended The Ohio State University on a Navy R.O.T.C. scholarship, graduating in 1968 with a B.A. in economics. He went on to complete five years of service as a naval flight officer, serve three tours of duty in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War, and continued to serve in the Naval Reserve as a P-3 aircraft mission commander until retiring with the rank of captain in 1991 after 23 years of military service. With the war winding down in Southeast Asia, Tom Carper moved to Delaware in 1973 where he earned his M.B.A. at the University of Delaware.

His career in public service began in 1976 when he was elected to the first of three terms as Delaware's state treasurer at the age of 29 at a time when the state of Delaware had the worst credit rating of any state in America. Six years later, with that credit rating restored to a respectable "AA," he ran for ^ and was elected ^ to Delaware's at-large seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

After serving five terms as a U.S. congressman, where he earned a reputation as a results-oriented centrist, Tom Carper was elected the 78th governor of Delaware in 1992 and served two terms in that role. As governor, he pursued a common-sense agenda that led to eight balanced budgets, tax cuts in seven of those eight years, and major increases in employment. Governor Carper led the effort to strengthen the state's 'rainy day' fund and boost Delaware's credit rating to "AAA" for the first time in state history, while helping to overhaul the state's education system and to implement welfare reform initiatives in Delaware and the nation.

During his second term as governor, Tom Carper was selected by his colleagues to serve as vice-chairman, then as chairman, of the National Governors' Association (NGA). After serving as chairman, he led the NGA's 'Center for Best Practices,' which focused on developing and implementing innovative solutions to policy challenges faced by governors across the nation. From 1994-1998, he served as a member of Amtrak's board of directors and, later, as founding vice-chairman of the American Legacy Foundation to combat youth smoking and as vice-chairman of Jobs for America's Graduates, a national non-profit to reduce high school dropouts.

On Jan. 3, 2001, Governor Carper stepped down two weeks early to become Delaware's junior senator. He was reelected in 2006, and with his reelection in November 2012 he has been elected to state-wide public office in Delaware 13 times. When Senator Joe Biden stepped down to become vice president in January 2009, Tom Carper became Delaware's senior senator.

Senator Carper is ranking member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, after serving as chairman in the 113th Congress. In that capacity, he focuses on protecting our country from threats to our national security as well as ensuring federal government programs are efficient and using taxpayer dollars wisely. Additionally, he is fighting to save the U.S. Postal Service and to strengthen our nation's cybersecurity. He also serves on the Finance Committee and Environment and Public Works Committee, where he is ranking member on the Subcommittee on Clean Air and Nuclear Safety.

In his time in the U.S. Senate, Senator Carper has worked extensively on reforming our health care system, improving our environment, and ensuring that federal programs are run efficiently and effectively. As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator Carper helped craft the Affordable Care Act with a focus on how to improve our health care system by reducing costs, getting better results, and empowering consumers with the tools and resources they need to achieve better health and wellness. Senator Carper fought to include provisions on workplace wellness and menu labeling in the health care reform law, and he continues to be a leader in ensuring that the Affordable Care Act is implemented effectively. As a member of the Environment and Public Works Committee, Senator Carper fought to protect our environment and clean up our air. He successfully defended common sense clean air regulations from misguided attempts to repeal them, and he continues to push for meaningful protections that limit carbon pollution, regulate cross-state air pollution and help stem the tide of climate change. He led the effort to pass the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act with Sen. George Voinovich (R-Ohio) which has cleaned up millions of old, dirty diesel engines to help save lives and improve public health, and he helped broker the compromise that created our country's highest fuel efficiency standards in a generation, saving Americans millions at the pump. All in all, he worked to advocate for common sense policies to clean our air, reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, and improve public health. As ranking member of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, he continues to champion postal reform with the goal of protecting the U.S. Postal Service from collapse and ensuring it remains a robust American institution for generations to come. He has also coauthored legislation to help reduce the number of mistake payments made by the federal government and to enhance the federal government's transparency efforts.

During more than 30 years of public service, Senator Carper has worked tirelessly to develop practical solutions to real problems. His ability to work across party lines has earned him a reputation for consensus-building that is unique in today's political climate. The Washington Post's late David Broder calls him "a notably effective and non-partisan leader, admired and trusted on both sides of the aisle."

PERSONAL PROFILE

COMMITTEES

[Senate Committee on Finance](#)

[Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works](#)

[Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs](#)
Ranking Member

CAUCUSES

[Senate New Democrat Coalition](#)

[Senate Recycling Caucus](#)

[Senate Payments Innovation Caucus](#)

Birthdate 01/23/1947

Birthplace Beckley, WV

Political Party Democratic Party

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Education

Ohio State University
Bachelor's Degree 1968

University of Delaware
Mba 1975

1968 - 1973 (US)Navy 1973 - 1991
Commander, (US) Naval Reserve 1976 -
1983 Treasurer, State of Delaware 01-03-
1983 - 01-03-1993
Representative:Delaware, (US)House of
Representatives 1993 - 2001 Governor,
State of Delaware 1998 - 1999 Chairman,
Natl Governors Assn 01-03-2001 - Present
Senator:Delaware, (US)Senate