

KEVIN YODER (R-KS-03)

**IN OFFICE**

Up for re-election in 2016

3rd Term

Re-elected in 2014

CONTACT **Email**

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DC Office

215 Cannon House Office Building

BGOV BIOGRAPHY

By Erik Wasson, Steve Walsh, Bloomberg News

Kevin Yoder established himself as a player on financial regulatory policy by the end of his second term in the House in 2014, after a slow start to his career that featured an indiscretion in Israel.

Among his assignments, Yoder sits on Appropriations Financial Services Subcommittee, which writes the funding bill for the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Appropriations Agriculture panel, which controls spending at the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The Kansas congressman spearheaded changes to the Dodd-Frank financial law's regulation of swaps transactions by successfully inserting a provision into the fiscal 2015 omnibus bill.

"We have a created a model," he said in a December, 2014 telephone interview. "This bipartisan success shows a pathway to solving other issues in the financial services area."

When the committee writes fiscal 2016 spending bills, Yoder said he'll work to include a rider that would prevent the SEC designation of non-bank institutions as "too big to fail." His appropriations targets also include a planned SEC regulation on conflict-of-interest standards for brokers.

Yoder was among the freshmen whose 2010 election helped the Republican Party recapture control of the House. He came to Congress with experience gained during eight years in the Kansas legislature, including a stint as chairman of its House Appropriations Committee.

Elected with support from Tea Party activists, Yoder joined the Republican Study Committee, which favors reducing the scope of federal government.

Yoder strayed from his party's line on a few occasions, when he wanted Republican leaders to champion cuts in spending and taxes more aggressively. For example, he voted in August 2011 against the compromise bill to increase the debt limit, saying, "We missed an opportunity for historic spending reform in Washington and that we have once again passed our

problems on to another day."

In August 2012, he gained unwanted national attention when it was reported that he had swum naked in the Sea of Galilee while visiting Israel on a congressional trip a year earlier. Yoder apologized, and the incident drew jokes on late-night television and a rebuke from then-House Majority Leader Eric Cantor of Virginia, who led the trip.

Yoder introduced a handful of bills in the 113th Congress, none of which made it out of committee. One would have ended cost-of-living pay increases for lawmakers and cut their salaries by 5 percent.

Another would have ended lifetime pensions for former members.

The congressman joined with a few Republican colleagues to voluntarily cut spending for office expenses and salaries and turn the money back to the Treasury to pay down the national debt.

Yoder also introduced bills aimed preventing technology companies from giving e-mails to the government and blocking air pollution rules on new power plants.

Early Years

The congressman was raised on a grain and livestock farm near Hutchinson in south-central Kansas, an area where his family has been since the 1880s. He currently represents the least-rural Kansas district, encompassing two suburban counties and part of a third on the state's eastern border with Missouri.

Yoder was a registered Democrat while attending the University of Kansas, where he was student body president and graduated with a degree in political science. In law school, also at KU, he was president of the student bar association.

Running as a Republican -- a party switch he has attributed to "personal maturation and growth" -- he won a seat in the Kansas House in 2002, the same year he got his law degree.

His background includes work as special assistant for the Department of Defense's Office of Counternarcotics in Washington and at a law firm in Olathe, Kansas.

Yoder's platform in his 2010 campaign called for balancing the federal budget, reducing the national debt and supporting policies that help private-sector job growth.

His district had elected centrist Democrat Dennis Moore to six terms. Moore decided against seeking re-election in 2010 and Yoder defeated Moore's wife, Stephene, by almost 20 percentage points.

With redistricting that removed the college town of Lawrence from his constituency, he had no Democratic opponent in 2012.

He defeated his 2014 Democratic challenger, former state senator Kelly Kultala, by 20 percentage points.

Updated Jan. 8, 2015

BIO FROM REPRESENTATIVE'S WEBSITE

From the Representative's Website

Representative Kevin Yoder is a 5th generation Kansan and grew up on a grain and livestock farm in rural Kansas near a town called Yoder. It was on his family farm where Representative Yoder learned the true value of hard work, and saw first-hand the ingenuity and prairie spirit that makes Kansas such a special place.

On January 5, 2011, Representative Yoder was sworn in to serve his first term as a Member of the 112th Congress. Representative Yoder was selected as one of only three freshmen to serve on the House Appropriations Committee, the committee responsible for allocating federal spending.

He began his second term in the House of Representatives in January 2013. For the 113th Congress, Representative Yoder returned to the House Appropriations Committee. He serves as Vice Chairman as a member of the Agriculture Subcommittee; and sits on the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee and the Financial Services Subcommittee as well. Congressman Yoder is focused on balancing the federal budget, reducing the national debt and supporting policies that help private sector job growth.

During his time in Congress, Representative Yoder has received several accolades and awards for his voting record and support of various issues; including recognition as the 2012 Head Start Kansas State Children's Champion Award; a National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB) Guardian of Small Business; the U.S. Chamber of Commerce 'Spirit of Enterprise' award; and the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) Award for Legislative Excellence.

Additionally, Representative Yoder and Representative Emanuel Cleaver II (D-MO) jointly were included in the inaugural class to receive the 2012 Consensus Civility Award.

Representative Yoder was appointed by Speaker of the House John Boehner to serve on the Gallaudet University Board of Trustees. Gallaudet University, located in Washington, DC, is the world's only liberal arts university for the Deaf community and hard of hearing.

Prior to being elected to Congress, Representative Yoder served as a State Representative in the Kansas Legislature where he represented Leawood and Overland Park. Representative Yoder chaired the House Appropriations Committee where he led the effort to cut spending, balance the Kansas state budget, and oppose tax increases.

The 3rd Congressional District of Kansas includes Johnson County, Wyandotte County and the northeast corner of Miami County. Congressman Yoder is a proud graduate of the University of Kansas where he received degrees in Political Science, English, and law. He lives in Overland Park with his wife, Brooke.

PERSONAL PROFILE

COMMITTEES

[House Committee on Appropriations](#)

CAUCUSES

[Congressional Deaf Caucus](#)

[House Republican Study Committee](#)

[Veterinary Medicine Caucus](#)

Birthdate

01/08/1976

Birthplace

Hutchinson, KS

Political Party

Republican Party

Marital Status

Married

Spouse

Brooke

Family

1 child

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**Education**

University of Kansas

Bachelor's Degree 1999

University of Kansas

JD 2002

2002 - 2010 State Representative,
(KS)House of Representatives 01-03-2011 -
Present Representative:Kansas, (US)House
of Representatives