

## LEGISLATOR

US Representative


**TOM EMMER (R-MN-06)****IN OFFICE**

Up for re-election in 2016


**1st Term**


Elected in 2014


**CONTACT**

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## BGOV BIOGRAPHY

By Jim Myers for Bloomberg News

As a state lawmaker running for governor of Minnesota in 2010, Republican Tom Emmer wanted to give the state veto power over federal laws.

“Enough is enough,” Emmer wrote in an opinion article published in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, describing the federal government as “too big, too powerful, too intrusive and too expensive.”

“Our Legislature should have a voice in whether federal laws should be made to apply to Minnesotans,” Emmer said.

He conceded that others viewed that proposal as radical --and many viewed it as unconstitutional. Still, Emmer argued that it’s common sense, and offered a proposal for a state constitutional amendment to nullify all federal laws unless the Minnesota legislature and governor signed off on them.

Emmer has other suggestions for reducing the role of government in Americans’ lives: repeal the minimum wage, permit pharmacists to refuse to dispense contraceptive materials on ethical or religious grounds, and oppose anti-bullying laws for schools in favor of putting teachers in charge of policing playground behavior.

Emmer took those positions during his tenure as a three- term member of the Minnesota House of Representatives and in 2014 he ran for Congress on a platform that attracted support from political groups including the Tea Party Express, Eagle Forum and Republican Liberty Caucus.

An outspoken former college hockey player known for rollerblading through parades during his unsuccessful gubernatorial campaign, Emmer earned the reputation as a firebrand during his days in the state legislature and, since then, as a radio talk show host.

His political views mesh with those of the Republican lawmaker he sought to succeed in 2014 -- Michele Bachmann, who was the founder of the House Tea Party Caucus.

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Key principles include lowering taxes, cutting regulations and reducing the size of the federal government.

On the 2010 health-care law, known officially as the Affordable Care Act and also called Obamacare, Emmer wanted to give Minnesota voters the chance to vote on whether to opt in or out of President Barack Obama's signature achievement.

"It seems like every day we hear about another out-of-control Washington, D.C., power grab," he said in his campaign announcement.

At that time he ticked off his concerns about reported efforts by the Internal Revenue Service to target conservative groups and the Department of Justice on phone records of the press.

### Early Years

Born in South Bend, Indiana, while his father attended the University of Notre Dame, Emmer grew up in Edina.

He went to college at Boston College and then the University of Alaska at Fairbanks and received a law degree at the William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul.

After serving on the city councils of Independence and Delano in the western exurbs of Minneapolis-St. Paul, Emmer won a seat in the state House of Representatives in 2004 and was re-elected easily in 2006 and 2008. He also was in private law practice.

In the legislature, he became known for pushing legislation on chemical castration for child predators and funding cuts for AIDS programs. During the governor's race, however, according to a Twin Cities television station, Emmer largely avoided such wedge issues to concentrate on taxes.

In that 2010 gubernatorial race, Emmer drew the support of Minnesota Concerned Citizens for Life.

His anti-gay marriage stance caused problems for Target Corp., one of the state's premier corporate citizens, which had donated to a group that ran pro-Emmer ads. The public outcry from gay rights groups eventually led Target to apologize.

The race, against Mark Dayton, the Democratic-Farmer-Labor nominee and former U.S. senator, was a nail-biter, with Dayton winning by about four-tenths of a percentage point. After a recount showed little change in the results, Emmer conceded about a month after the election.

After losing that election, Emmer became a registered lobbyist. His first client was a doctors' group that wanted to extend a state moratorium on new cancer radiation clinics.

He also began co-hosting a Twin Cities radio talk show, leaving the program when he decided to run for Congress in 2014. That decision came about a week after Bachmann announced in May 2013 that she wouldn't run for a fifth term in the House.

After nabbing the Republican Party's endorsement in a party convention, he easily won the primary against Anoka County Commissioner Rhonda Sivarajah, with 73 percent of the vote.

Published Sept. 15, 2014

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## BIO FROM REPRESENTATIVE'S WEBSITE

### From the Representative's Website

Congressman Tom Emmer was sworn in for his first term in the U.S. House of Representatives on January 6, 2015. He was born in 1961 in South Bend, IN as his father finished his degree at Notre Dame. He grew up in Edina and went to St. Thomas Military Academy, where he grew in his faith and learned leadership through JROTC.

Tom learned the value of hard work at an early age. His great-grandfather, John W. Emmer, came to Minneapolis with two of his brothers to found a business that eventually became known as Emmer Brothers Lumber (now known as Viking Forest Products). By growing up around the company, Tom saw first-hand the everyday pressures faced by employers and the families who count on them.

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And he played hockey. Lots of hockey. As a college hockey player, he received his BA in Political Science from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks in 1984. He received his Juris Doctor from William Mitchell College of Law in 1988.

But his life really changed when he met a girl from Arden Hills named Jacquie Samuel. It was true love and they married in 1986. Today they are blessed with seven children^six boys and one girl.

After practicing law for several years, Tom followed his entrepreneurial calling and opened his own law firm. The next 20 years were spent balancing family, business, hockey coaching, and serving on the city councils in Independence and Delano.

In 2004, he was elected to the Minnesota House of Representatives and re-elected by overwhelming majorities in 2006 and 2008. After an extremely narrow loss in the 2010 gubernatorial race, Tom entered the radio business as a conservative radio host on Twin Cities News Talk AM1130, and his show became a favorite for conservatives across Minnesota.

Tom cites family as his motivation for entering the political arena nearly a decade ago. Four generations of Emmers have enjoyed Minnesota's prosperity, and Tom wants to ensure that the next generation of Minnesotans will be blessed with the same opportunities.

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## PERSONAL PROFILE

### COMMITTEES

[House Committee on Agriculture](#)

[House Committee on Foreign Affairs](#)

[House Committee on Financial Services](#)

### CAUCUSES

[Congressional Somalia Caucus](#)

[House Republican Study Committee](#)

[Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus](#)

Birthdate 03/03/1961

Birthplace South Bend, IN

Political Party Republican Party

Marital Status Married

Spouse Jacquie Samuel

Family 7 children

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

#### Education

University of Alaska Fairbanks

Bachelor's Degree 1984

William Mitchell College of Law

JD 1988

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1995 - 2002 Council Member, City of Independence MN  
2003 - 2004 Council Member, City of Delano MN  
2004 - 2007 State Representative, (MN) House of Representatives  
2007 - 2008 Dpty Minority Leader/State Rep, (MN) House of Representatives  
2008 - 2010 State Representative, (MN) House of Representatives  
01-06-2015 - Present Representative: Minnesota, (US) House of Representatives