

LEGISLATOR

US Senator

ROY BLUNT (R-MO)**IN OFFICE**

Up for re-election in 2016

LEADERSHIP POSITIONSenate Republican Conference
Committee

House Republican Whip

1st Term






Elected in 2010

SENIORITY RANK

59

Out of 100

CONTACT

 Email	Contact Form http://blunt.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact-roy
 Web	www.blunt.senate.gov http://www.blunt.senate.gov
 Twitter	@RoyBlunt http://twitter.com/RoyBlunt
 Facebook	View on Facebook http://www.facebook.com/SenatorBlunt
 DC Office	260 Russell Senate Office Building

BGOV BIOGRAPHY

By Erika Bolstad for Bloomberg News

More a behind-the-scenes operator than a Sunday talk-show regular, Roy Blunt, vice chairman of the Senate Republican Conference, wields considerable power for someone in the chamber since just 2011.

Blunt parlayed his 14 years of experience in the House of Representatives as a deputy whip -- and briefly, after Tom DeLay was indicted, as majority leader -- into a Senate leadership role soon after his election in 2010.

His goal has been to ensure the two chambers are on the same page, not always easy work as Congress has wrestled with immigration, health care and economic issues.

"He's not been an out-front, rousing spokesperson for the Republican Party," Kenneth Warren, a political science professor at St. Louis University, told USA Today. "He's always liked to lead in the background" and "he commands respect mostly for what he says behind closed doors."

In the 114th Congress, Blunt assumed the chairmanship of the Rules Committee. In addition, he got the gavel of the Appropriations subcommittee that produces the largest single spending bill -- the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education subcommittee. Also, he was named to the Intelligence Committee.

As a member of the Republican leadership during most of his tenure in both the House and Senate, Blunt's voting record is in tune with his party's mainstream.

He has an A rating from the National Rifle Association and a 100 percent rating from the National Right to Life Committee. On several interest-group ratings, he falls in the middle of his caucus and on the scorecard of the Heritage Action Fund, the advocacy arm of the Heritage Foundation, Blunt's 52 percent rating for the 113th Congress falls in the bottom third of Senate Republican scores.

Blunt became the face of the so-called "War on Women" in 2012, when he proposed an amendment that would have done away with President Barack Obama administration's requirement that employers offer contraceptive coverage through

Bloomberg GOVERNMENT

their health-insurance plans. The amendment, which closely paralleled the ideological debate going on in the Republican presidential primary at the time, failed mostly along party lines.

Blunt chafed at the “War on Women” characterization by Democrats, and after Republicans retook the Senate in the 2014 elections, he defended himself and his party’s policies with an essay in *The Hill* titled “Republicans’ War for Women.”

Republicans were vindicated by the 2014 midterm election results as well, Blunt said, with their outcome proving that political operatives “underestimated how discerning and diverse women are as citizens and voters.”

“We’re waging a war for families, workers, seniors and young people who have been burdened by the current administration’s policies,” he said in the essay.

Blunt has often been at the front of the line to fight some of those policies, including opposing the president’s executive order on immigration, which would permit as many as 5 million undocumented immigrants to remain in the country.

Blunt also opposes normalizing relations with the Castro government in Cuba, a shift in his previous approach to the country. In 2000 he was among Republican leaders who negotiated a deal to make it easier for people to send food and medicine to Cuba, along with allowing U.S. banks to aid in bringing third-party financing to the island.

After the 2012 school shootings in Newtown, Connecticut, Blunt was among a bipartisan group of cosponsors of a bill to make changes in the country’s mental health system. The measure, signed into law in 2014, authorized demonstration community mental health mental health bill programs.

Blunt was critical of the president’s role on the issue, saying Obama spent too much time and political capital on gun-related measures. The president’s proposals “failed to address the root cause of the deadly violence that we witnessed in Newtown, Connecticut, Aurora, Colorado, and Tucson,” Blunt said in a column published by *USA Today*.

Soon after his arrival on Capitol Hill in 1997, Blunt looked for ways to move into leadership roles. He was elected freshman class president and was the freshman representative on the ad hoc party group that made committee assignments. In his second term, he won a coveted seat on the Commerce Committee -- now Energy and Commerce -- and appointment as chief deputy whip.

He was elected majority whip in 2003 at the start of his fourth term and became acting majority leader in 2005 after his predecessor, Texan DeLay, resigned from that post following indictment on charges of money laundering.

Four months later, at the beginning of 2006, Blunt ran for election as majority leader, losing to John Boehner of Ohio.

Blunt has close ties to lobbyists, stemming from his time in the House when his whip job entailed work as a liaison to the lobbying world. House leaders gave Blunt the responsibility for day-to-day meetings with lobbyists, including raising money and pressing them to hire Republicans, an effort that became known as the “K Street Project.”

Lobbying is something of a family tradition for the Blunts. Blunt’s wife, Abigail, is a lobbyist, and his three grown children all have been involved in lobbying at some point. His son, Matt Blunt, who served one term as governor in Missouri, is president of the American Automotive Policy Council. It’s a lobbying group formed in 2009 by Chrysler, Ford Motor Co. and General Motors Co. His family members don’t lobby him, Blunt says.

Early Years

Born in Niangua, Missouri, east of Springfield, Blunt grew up on his parents’ dairy farm. His father served in the state legislature.

Preparing for a career as a teacher, Blunt earned a history degree from Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri, and a master’s degree in history from Southwest Missouri State University.

He taught American and Missouri state history at both the high school and college levels.

While teaching, Blunt began his political career at age 23 in 1973 when he was appointed to fill a vacancy as Green County clerk. He was elected three times and served until 1985, when he was sworn in as Missouri’s secretary of state -- the first Republican elected to that post in more than 50 years.

He sought the Republican nomination for governor in 1992; after coming in second, Blunt spent the next three-plus years as president of his alma mater, Southwest Baptist University.

He won election to the U.S. House of Representatives seven times beginning in 1996, when he won an open-seat race to succeed Republican Mel Hancock, who retired.

Blunt’s insider status didn’t make him a favorite of Tea Party conservatives when he ran for the Senate in 2010. Still, Blunt embraced much of the limit-government, cut-spending agenda espoused by Tea Party activists. He won more than 70 percent of the vote in the nine-candidate Republican primary and cruised to victory in the general election, winning by more than 13 percentage points.

BIO FROM REPRESENTATIVE'S WEBSITE

From the Senator's Website

Building on a background as a public servant, university president, and teacher, United States Senator Roy Blunt was elected by the people of Missouri to the United States Senate in 2010.

Senator Blunt is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee; the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee; the Senate Armed Services Committee; and the Senate Rules Committee. He serves as the Ranking Republican on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies. Blunt is also the Ranking Republican on the Commerce Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security.

Less than one year after he was sworn into the U.S. Senate, Blunt was chosen by his colleagues to serve as a member of the Senate leadership as the Vice Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference. Blunt also serves as a member of the Senate Republican Whip Team.

From 1996-2008, the people of Southwest Missouri overwhelmingly elected Blunt seven times to the U.S. House of Representatives. Blunt was elected by his colleagues to serve as House Majority Whip and Republican Whip three times, and he became the Majority Whip earlier in his career than any Member of Congress in eight decades. As Whip, the second highest Republican in the House, he led a team of deputies and assistants that columnist Robert Novak described as 'the most efficient party whip operation in congressional history.'

Before serving in Congress, he was a history teacher, a county official, and in 1984 became the first Republican elected as Missouri's Secretary of State in more than 50 years. Senator Blunt also served four years as the president of his alma mater, Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri.

Senator Blunt is a member of the Smithsonian Council for American Art and is a Trustee of the State Historical Society of Missouri.

The Senator is married to Abigail Blunt and has four children- Matt Blunt, Missouri's 54th Governor; Amy Blunt, an attorney in Columbia, Mo.; Andy Blunt, an attorney in Jefferson City; and Charlie. Blunt has six grandchildren- Davis Mosby, Ben Blunt, Branch Blunt, Eva Mosby, Allyson Blunt, and Brooks Blunt.

PERSONAL PROFILE

COMMITTEES

[Senate Committee on Appropriations](#)

[Senate Select Committee on Intelligence](#)

[Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation](#)

[Senate Committee on Rules and Administration](#)
Chairman

[Joint Committee on the Library](#)
Chairman

[Joint Committee on Printing](#)
Vice Chair

Birthdate 01/10/1950

Birthplace Niangua, MO

Political Party Republican Party

Marital Status Married

Spouse Abigail Blunt

Family 4 children; 6 grandchildren

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Education

Missouri State Univ
Master's Degree 1972

Southwest Baptist University
Graduated 1970

1973 - 1984 Clerk, County of Greene MO
1984 - 1993 Secretary of State, State of Missouri
1993 - 1996 President, Southwest Baptist University
01-03-1997 - 01-03-2011

CAUCUSES

[Congressional Coalition on Adoption](#)

[Senate Law Enforcement Caucus](#)

[Senate Community Health Centers Caucus](#)

Representative:Missouri , (US)House of Representatives 01-03-2011 - Present
Senator:Missouri, (US)Senate Present Vice Chairman, Senate Republican Conference