


JERRY NADLER (D-NY-10)**IN OFFICE**

Up for re-election in 2016


13th Term

Re-elected in 2014


CONTACT

 **Email** [Contact Form
https://jerroldnadler.house.gov/forms/writeyourrep/default.aspx](https://jerroldnadler.house.gov/forms/writeyourrep/default.aspx)

 **Web** [nadler.house.gov
http://nadler.house.gov](http://nadler.house.gov)

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

 **Facebook** [View on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/CongressmanNadler](https://www.facebook.com/CongressmanNadler)

 **DC Office** 2109 Rayburn House
Office Building

BGOV BIOGRAPHY

By Eun Kim for Bloomberg News

Jerry Nadler, who rose to national prominence defending President Clinton in an impeachment process he called a “partisan railroad job,” is an unabashed liberal representing one of the most Democratic and wealthiest districts in the country.

His voting record has earned him perfect scores from groups including Planned Parenthood, the NAACP and the Human Rights Campaign.

He affiliates with the Congressional Progressive Caucus and, according to his official web site, “He is considered an unapologetic defender of those who might otherwise be forgotten by the legal system or the economy.”

Because his New York district includes Ground Zero, the site of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Nadler was instrumental in pushing through bills to help rebuild the area and provide loans for area small businesses devastated by the event.

Nadler helped pen legislation that provided health care benefits and financial compensation to first responders and area residents who got sick breathing in debris-related toxins released by the collapse of the Twin Towers.

More than a decade after the attacks, he’s still working on 9/11-related issues. In 2014, Nadler and other members of the New York congressional delegation introduced a bill to reauthorize the compensation law, as many first-responders and others near Ground Zero and the Pentagon continue to need care for cancer and other long-term effects.

A staunch advocate of civil rights and liberties, Nadler also been an active voice on issues pertaining to women’s and gay rights. In 2011, he introduced the Respect for Marriage Act, a bill that would give married same-sex couples the same federal protections already afforded to married straight couples.

The bill was part of a string of Nadler’s attempts to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act, a law that bars the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages. The Supreme Court overturned DOMA in 2014.

Nadler also helped craft legislation to prohibit private employers from using their religious beliefs to deny employees health care coverage of contraception or any other health service.

The bill was in response to another 2014 Supreme Court decision, a lawsuit filed by an employee against Hobby Lobby, the crafts store chain that refused to allow contraceptives to be covered by the health care plans the company provided employees.

Nadler first locked on to those social issues, as well as his fight to increase rail-freight capacity to help cut truck traffic in his district, while serving as a New York state lawmaker in Albany.

In the 113th Congress, Nadler was the ranking Democrat on a special panel of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee that studied the state of rail freight transportation. One of the panel's hearings was in New York City, where witnesses said that there was no viable alternative to moving goods across the Hudson River by truck. He wants a rail freight tunnel under the river. The district stretches from Columbia University on the north, then down the Upper West Side to the financial district in lower Manhattan and jumps across the East River to take in a patch of Brooklyn.

He's also a senior member of the Judiciary Committee. During the panel's deliberations over whether to impeach President Clinton, that post gave him the opportunity to display on national television the wisecracking wonkish wit he's known for, all while ardently bashing Clinton opponents during an historic impeachment trial.

Nadler was hardly a fan of the president at the time; he opposed the 1996 welfare reform law that Clinton signed, as well as other measures Nadler felt violated civil liberties, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement.

But he also clearly believed that Clinton's behavior and actions failed to warrant an impeachment. He labeled the proceedings, among other things, as a "partisan railroad job" with no legal standing.

"You may have the votes. You may have the muscle, but you do not have the legitimacy of a national consensus or of a constitutional imperative," he said during the December 1998 House debate. "This partisan coup d'etat will go down in infamy in the history of this nation."

Early Years

Born in the Bensonhurst section of Brooklyn, Nadler spent some of his early years in New Jersey while his father tried chicken farming. He was raised in an Orthodox Jewish household. The family moved back to Brooklyn and he grew up with an interest in both politics and science. He was president of his senior class in high school and while at Columbia University, he protested the Vietnam War. Nadler was attending Fordham Law School at night when he was elected in 1976 to the New York State Assembly.

At the state capitol, he immersed himself in transportation issues and advocated civil rights for gays and lesbians. He also became known for his attention to detail and his impeccable memory: According to the New York Times, he once debated whether Jewish tradition condoned the death penalty by rattling off memorized passage from the Talmud.

He served in the Assembly there for 16 years before winning a House seat in a 1992 special election following the death of incumbent Democrat Ted Weiss.

Nadler won handily over his opponents that year and has gone on to win all but two of his general elections with more than 80 percent of the vote. His lowest showing was 73 percent in 2010.

Personal Note

At his heaviest, the 5-foot-4 Nadler weighed 338 pounds and gave up riding the subway to avoid climbing the stairs of the train stations. Constituents implored him to lose weight. Republican Alfonse D'Amato, a former U.S. senator from New York, once referred to him as "Jerry Wadler" in a private meeting of politicians. (D'Amato apologized after the remark became public.)

After failed diets and other efforts, Nadler underwent a "last resort" stomach-reduction surgery in two parts, first in 2002, and then again a year later. The procedure helped him shed more than 100 pounds and encouraged him to adopt better eating habits and an overall healthier lifestyle that included more physical activity.

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BIO FROM REPRESENTATIVE'S WEBSITE

From the Representative's Website

Congressman Jerrold 'Jerry' Nadler represents the Tenth Congressional District of New York, which includes much of the

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West Side of Manhattan, the Financial District and a number of diverse neighborhoods in southwestern Brooklyn. He began his political career in 1976 in the New York State Assembly, where he served for 16 years. In 1992, following the death of Congressman Ted Weiss, Nadler was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in a special election and has served in Congress ever since. He was re-elected to his eleventh full term in 2012, receiving over 80 percent of the vote.

Since 2001, Rep. Nadler has served as the either Ranking Member or Chair of what is now the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice. With Congressman Mel Watt's 2014 departure from Congress to lead the Federal Housing Finance Agency, Rep. Nadler changed leadership roles to become the Ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet. He is also the highest-ranking Northeastern member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and an Assistant Democrat Whip.

Throughout his career, Rep. Nadler has been a champion of civil liberties, civil rights (including women's and LGBT rights), safe and efficient transportation, and a host of progressive issues such as access to health care, support for the arts and protection of the Social Security system. He is considered an unapologetic defender of those who might otherwise be forgotten by the legal system or the economy and is especially respected for his creative and pragmatic legislative approaches to problems. He also has particular expertise and policymaking prominence on issues facing Israel and the Middle East.

Rep. Nadler is a major advocate for increased funding of New York's mass transit system, better subway service and a more intelligent regional goods movement policy. For many years, he stood virtually alone in decrying downstate New York's isolation from the national rail freight system and its almost total reliance on truck-borne freight, a view now held by governmental leaders and advocates across the spectrum. He has long advocated the Cross Harbor Rail Freight Tunnel to address that problem.

Rep. Nadler's district also includes Ground Zero, the site where the Twin Towers once stood. After the 9/11 attacks, he was instrumental in securing \$20 billion in federal funds to rebuild Lower Manhattan. He has been a House leader working tirelessly to address the health and environmental impacts of the collapse of the World Trade Center on first responders and area residents, workers and students. He has led the battle to win health care and compensation for 9/11 victims and continues to demand that the Environmental Protection Agency conduct proper testing and clean up of the affected areas.

Locally, the Congressman's office has received numerous awards for its excellent constituent service work, particularly in the area of immigration. And his robust community relations program has long played a key role in preserving affordable housing, stopping senseless overdevelopment, reducing crime and enhancing our children's educational opportunities. Additionally, the Congressman has brought billions of dollars to the district for its infrastructure, social welfare and cultural needs.

Rep. Nadler is a graduate of Crown Heights Yeshiva, Stuyvesant High School, Columbia University and Fordham Law School. He lives on the West Side of Manhattan with his wife, Joyce Miller. They have one son, Michael.

PERSONAL PROFILE

COMMITTEES

[House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure](#)

[House Committee on the Judiciary](#)

CAUCUSES

[Patriot Act Reform Caucus](#)

[Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus](#)

[Congressional Progressive Caucus](#)

Birthdate 06/13/1947

Birthplace Brooklyn, NY

Political Party Democratic Party

Marital Status Married

Spouse Joyce Miller

Residence Manhattan, NY

Family 1 child

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Education

Columbia University

Bachelor's Degree 1969

Fordham University
JD 1978

1972 Legislative Assistant, (NY)State Assembly 1977 - 1992 State Assembly Member, (NY)State Assembly 11-03-1992 - Present Representative:New York.

