

BOB CORKER (R-TN)**IN OFFICE**

Up for re-election in 2018

2nd Term

Re-elected in 2012

SENIORITY RANK

40

Out of 100


CONTACT

 **Email** [Contact Form](http://www.corker.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/emailme)
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 **DC Office** 425 Dirksen Senate Office Building

BGOV BIOGRAPHY

By Brian Nutting, Bloomberg News

Serious and hard-working, Bob Corker delves into the details of his work and can engage Federal Reserve Chairman Ben S. Bernanke about monetary policy or the leaders of the African nation of Mali about terrorism.

In the 113th Congress, he has a platform from which to do both; he is the ranking Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee and he's the top Republican on the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs panel's Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection Subcommittee.

He says he believes the federal government should play a lesser role in American life. He has voted against the economic stimulus package of 2009 and against tax increases. He opposed the 2010 health care law, and proposals to implement a "cap and trade" system to reduce carbon emissions. He is against abortion and gun control, and voted against a bill to repeal the Pentagon's "don't ask, don't tell" policy against military service by openly gay individuals.

Yet he broke with a majority of Senate Republicans by voting to ratify a strategic arms treaty with Russia and to renew and expand the Children's Health Insurance Program, and he has shown a willingness to work with Democrats.

In the 110th Congress, he was one of the "gang of 10" who worked on a comprehensive energy policy that included more domestic drilling, tougher conservation standards and development of alternative fuel sources such as coal-to-liquid and ethanol. He also worked with Connecticut Democrat Chris Dodd, then the chairman of the Banking Committee, to develop the financial sector bailout bill in 2008 and on the 2009 bailout of automakers -- an issue on which he and Dodd ultimately disagreed, but without rancor.

Corker voted against the 2010 overhaul of the financial services industry, but not before negotiating with Dodd and other Democrats in an effort to find common ground.

Seven Bills

Corker's serious involvement in legislative matters can't be judged strictly by tallying up the number of bills he has introduced. In the 112th Congress, for example, he was the principal sponsor of just seven measures, the third fewest of any senator.

One of those bills, which he called the "CAP Act," called for a binding, across-the-board cap on federal spending to save \$5 trillion over 10 years. If annual targets were not met, the administration would be forced to sequester enough money from all programs to meet the goal.

Corker's prescription for dealing with budget deficits and the growing national debt does not include tax increases. However, in November 2012, after the elections, he announced that he would not feel an obligation to abide by the no tax increase pledge of the Americans for Tax Reform: "I'm not obligated on the pledge," Corker told a television interviewer. "I made Tennesseans aware, I was just elected, the only thing I'm honoring is the oath I take when I serve, when I'm sworn in this January."

In the 113th Congress, his first bill called for a change in the mandate of the Federal Reserve. Under Corker's proposal, maintaining long-term price stability -- keeping inflation low -- would be the Fed's single mandate, replacing the "bipolar mandate" of maximum employment and stable prices.

"The dual mandate blurs the line between fiscal and monetary policy and allows Congress to shirk its responsibility to enact sound budgets and policies that produce economic growth," said Corker. "The best way to achieve full employment in the long-run is to provide markets certainty that long-term price stability will be maintained."

On Foreign Relations, Corker said at the beginning of the 113th Congress that he'd been to 48 countries since he came to the Senate. He took a trip to North Africa early in 2013 to help him prepare for hearings focusing on the growing threat of terrorism in that region.

Early Years

Corker's reputation for hard work started in his teens -- with bagging ice and picking up trash. After getting a degree in industrial management and working construction jobs, he was able to save up enough money to start his own small construction company that blossomed into a major operation with contracts in 18 states.

He went on a church-sponsored trip to Haiti when he was in his 20s, helping build a school. That started him thinking about becoming more active in his community. "It meant so much just to be there, offering help and seeing the effect it had on them and on us," Corker told the Chattanooga Times Free Press. He founded a non-profit organization to help revitalize low-income neighborhoods.

After acquiring and developing commercial real estate, he ran an unsuccessful Senate campaign in 1994 as a relative moderate -- losing to Bill Frist in the Republican primary. Then he joined Republican Governor Don Sundquist's office as commissioner of Finance and Administration, where health care was a major focus.

Corker was elected mayor of Chattanooga in 2001, where one of his priorities was revitalizing the city's Tennessee River waterfront. Three years later, when Frist was contemplating retirement from the Senate, he urged Corker to wage another run for the Senate in 2006.

Corker faced two House members -- Ed Bryant and Van Hilleary -- in the 2006 Senate Republican primary. He was regarded as the moderate candidate, and he contributed a considerable amount of money to his own campaign. Corker won the primary by a substantial margin. In the general election, he defeated another House member, Democrat Harold Ford Jr., by a narrow margin of less than three percentage points. He was the only Republican freshman that year.

In 2012, he was re-elected handily, besting Democrat Mark Clayton, a part-time flooring installer, by almost 35 percentage points. An article in the Washington Post labeled Clayton -- a believer in conspiracy theories and a former volunteer for an organization named as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center -- as perhaps America's worst candidate, and the national party gave him no support.

Updated April 22, 2013

BIO FROM REPRESENTATIVE'S WEBSITE

From the Senator's Website

Bob Corker grew up in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He attended public schools, played sports, and from an early age learned to love and value hard work. He took his first job at age 13 picking up trash and spent his teenage years bagging ice, working at the Western Auto and putting in long hours as a construction laborer.

Bloomberg GOVERNMENT

Bob graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1974 with a degree in Industrial Management, and after working four years as a construction superintendent, he started his own construction company with \$8,000. The company grew as it quickly gained a reputation for meeting deadlines on time and under budget and eventually expanded to operations in 18 states. In 1999, Corker acquired two of the largest and oldest commercial real estate companies in Chattanooga.

After traveling with his church on a mission trip to Haiti in his late twenties, Bob began to take a closer look at needs in his own community. He led the creation of Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise, a non-profit organization that today has helped over 10,000 families secure decent, fit and affordable housing through low-interest loans and personal training in home maintenance.

In 1994, Bob was appointed Tennessee Commissioner of Finance and Administration, where he served for two years in the highest appointed office in state government. As commissioner, he tightened the state's budget and helped move almost 40,000 Tennesseans off welfare and into jobs.

In 2001, Bob was elected mayor of Chattanooga. During his four-year tenure, he attracted \$2.1 billion of new investment to Chattanooga, transformed the waterfront, implemented merit bonus pay for teachers which dramatically raised student achievement in some of the city's most challenged schools, and worked with local law enforcement officials to cut violent crime in half.

On November 7, 2006, Bob Corker was elected to serve the people of Tennessee in the United States Senate. He is ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee and an active member of the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee.

Bob and his wife of 26 years, Elizabeth, live in Chattanooga. They have two daughters, Emily and Julia, and a son-in-law, Justin Spickard.

PERSONAL PROFILE

COMMITTEES

[Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs](#)

[Senate Committee on Foreign Relations](#)
Chairman

[Senate Special Committee on Aging](#)

[Senate Committee on Budget](#)

CAUCUSES

[Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus](#)

[Tennessee Valley Authority Congressional Caucus](#)

[Senate Nuclear Waste Cleanup Caucus](#)

Birthdate 08/24/1952

Birthplace Orangeburg, SC

Political Party Republican Party

Marital Status Married

Spouse Elizabeth

Residence Chattanooga, TN

Family 2 children

Religion Presbyterian

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Education

University of Tennessee/Knoxville
Bachelor's Degree 1974

1978 - Present Founder, Bencor Corp
1982 Ceo/Owner/Founder, Corker Group Inc
1994 - 1996 Commissioner, State of Tennessee
2001 - 01-2005 Mayor, City of Chattanooga
TN 01-03-2007 - Present
Senator:Tennessee, (US)Senate Present
Founder, Corker Group Inc