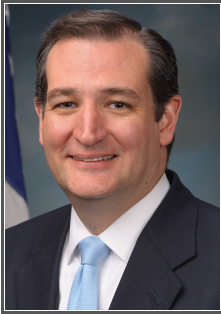


## LEGISLATOR

US Senator

**TED CRUZ (R-TX)****IN OFFICE**

Up for re-election in 2018

**1st Term**


Elected in 2012

**SENIORITY RANK**

82


Out of 100


**CONTACT**

 **Email** [Contact Form  
http://www.cruz.senate.gov/  
?p=email\\_senator](http://www.cruz.senate.gov/?p=email_senator)

 **Web** [www.cruz.senate.gov](http://www.cruz.senate.gov)  
<http://www.cruz.senate.gov>

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

 **Facebook** [View on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SenatorTedCruz)  
[https://www.facebook.com/  
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 **DC Office** 404 Russell Senate Office  
Building

## BGOV BIOGRAPHY

By Brian Nutting and Brian Faler

Ted Cruz is an outspoken, passionate conservative. He says the federal government plays too large a role in American life and is willing to eschew compromise to further his goals. He made a splash right from the start of his Capitol Hill tenure, ignoring the tradition observed by most freshmen that they should largely be seen and not heard.

He set his sights on the White House early in his first Senate term. In March 2015, Cruz announced his 2016 presidential campaign at the Christian fundamentalist Liberty University in Virginia, exhorting "courageous conservatives" to "rise up to reignite the promise of America."

Earlier, he won much of the credit, or blame -- depending on observers' personal views -- for the funding standoff in Congress that resulted in a partial government shutdown in October 2013.

Cruz' rallying cry was his unstinting opposition to the 2010 health-care law, which he and many other opponents derisively referred to as Obamacare.

"What he's done is strengthened our hand. He's made the case that we need to act and act decisively, and so I think we have a lot to credit him for," Republican Michele Bachmann, then a Minnesota congresswoman, told the Huffington Post.

Other lawmakers were not so complimentary, and Cruz has had verbal scrapes with colleagues in both parties. Arizona Republican Senator John McCain referred to him as a "wacko bird" early in the session for Cruz's treatment of Defense Secretary-nominee Chuck Hagel. Cruz and California Democrat Dianne Feinstein tussled when she bristled over what she viewed as his condescending treatment of her at a Judiciary Committee hearing.

Cruz also irritated members of his own party in February 2014 when he forced a supermajority vote requiring Republican support to advance a measure opposed by the Texas senator that suspended the debt limit. A dozen Republicans reluctantly joined with Democrats in supporting the procedural vote that was criticized by the Tea Party and other small government advocates.

## Bloomberg GOVERNMENT

The first bill Cruz introduced once he was sworn in to the Senate was to repeal the health-care law, and in July 2013, he introduced a bill to bar any funding to carry out the law.

Throughout that summer, Cruz led a drumbeat of criticism of Obamacare, leading up to the start of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1 when a stopgap spending bill was needed to keep government agencies running.

Cruz held the Senate floor for 21 straight hours on Sept. 24-25. "I intend speak in support of defunding Obamacare until I am no longer able to stand," he said. At one point during his marathon talk, the father of two young daughters read the Dr. Seuss classic, "Green Eggs and Ham."

He insisted that legislation to keep the federal government funded into the new fiscal year also contain a provision to defund the health-care law. The House included such a provision in a stopgap spending bill. The Senate rejected that provision and when the House and Senate couldn't agree, the federal government endured a partial shutdown when Congress didn't enact a spending bill for government agencies by Oct. 1.

Cruz said he was advocating the small-government positions that Texans endorsed when they elected him. Although some suggested Cruz was most interested in self-promotion, the senator argued that the health-care law is the primary impediment to economic growth and job creation.

Cruz supports a balanced budget constitutional amendment and would abolish the departments of Education, Energy and Commerce. "Expanding government spending, debt, taxes, and control of the economy will only make the problem worse," he said in reaction to President Obama's 2013 State of the Union address.

He opposes abortion and gun control. While rejecting a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, he favors allowing most of them now in the country to stay.

Republican Party officials are hopeful that Cruz, along with Florida Republican Senator Marco Rubio, will improve the party's standing among Hispanics. In 2013, Cruz was tapped as the National Republican Senatorial Committee's vice chairman for grassroots outreach.

### Early Years

Cruz was born in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, where his parents were working in the oil industry. His father, Rafael, is a former Cuban revolutionary who fled the country for Texas in 1957 after being imprisoned and tortured by Fulgencio Batista's regime; his Delaware-born mother, Eleanor, was the first in her family to attend college.

Because he was born in Canada, Cruz held both U.S. and Canadian citizenship. In August 2013 he announced he would renounce his Canadian citizenship, saying, "Nothing against Canada, but I'm an American citizen by birth and as a U.S. senator, I believe I should be only an American."

Cruz grew up in Houston and says that he speaks "lousy" Spanish.

He was a champion debater in college at Princeton. Cruz won the top speaker award at both the 1992 U.S. National Debating Championship and the 1992 North American Debating Championship.

After earning a law degree (and editing the law review) at Harvard, he served as a law clerk for an appeals court judge and then Chief Justice William Rehnquist. Then he entered private law practice.

In 1999 he signed on with George W. Bush's presidential campaign as a policy adviser. He worked for Bush on the post-election recount of ballots in Florida and then came to Washington to work at the Justice Department and then the Federal Trade Commission.

In 2003 he was appointed solicitor general of Texas. During his five-year tenure as the state's chief appellate lawyer, he argued nine cases before the Supreme Court.

He left that post in 2008 and returned to private practice. He wasn't entirely out of the public eye, however. The National Review put him on the cover of its monthly magazine in 2011, calling him "the next great conservative hope."

In 2012 he entered the Senate race seeking to succeed Republican Kay Bailey Hutchison, who was retiring. Cruz came to national attention when he defeated Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst, who was viewed as the candidate of the Republican establishment, in the party's primary.

He attracted support from a wide range of small government groups, including Tea Party organizations, the Club for Growth and the Family Research Council. He won endorsements from Senators Jim DeMint of South Carolina and Rand Paul of Kentucky and former Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin.

He ran as an outsider, telling Fox News in August 2012 that "there is the world of Washington and the Beltway, and then there's the rest of the country."

"All across the country," he said, "the rest of Americans are looking at Washington and saying, 'What's wrong with you people?'"

He was awarded a prime-time speaking slot at the 2012 Republican National Convention in Tampa.

In the November general election, he defeated Democrat Paul Sadler, a lawyer and former state legislator, by almost 16 percentage points. He was one of only three Republican senators newly elected in 2012.

Updated March 23, 2015

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## BIO FROM REPRESENTATIVE'S WEBSITE

From the Senator's Website

In 2012, Ted Cruz was elected as the 34th U.S. Senator from Texas. A passionate fighter for limited government, economic growth, and the Constitution, Ted won a decisive victory in both the Republican primary and the general election, despite having never before been elected to office.

Ted's calling to public service is inspired largely by his first-hand observation of the pursuit of freedom and opportunity in America. Ted's mother was born in Delaware to an Irish and Italian working-class family; she became the first in her family to go to college, graduated from Rice University with a degree in mathematics, and became a pioneering computer programmer in the 1950s.

Ted's father was born in Cuba, fought in the revolution, and was imprisoned and tortured. He fled to Texas in 1957, penniless and not speaking a word of English. He washed dishes for 50 cents an hour, paid his way through the University of Texas, and started a small business in the oil and gas industry. Today, Ted's father is a pastor in Dallas.

In the Senate, Ted serves on the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; the Committee on Armed Services; the Committee on the Judiciary; the Special Committee on Aging; and the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Before being elected, Ted received national acclaim as the Solicitor General of Texas, the State's chief lawyer before the U.S. Supreme Court. Serving under Attorney General Greg Abbott, Ted was the nation's youngest Solicitor General, the longest serving Solicitor General in Texas, and the first Hispanic Solicitor General of Texas.

In private practice in Houston, Ted spent five years as a partner at one of the nation's largest law firms, where he led the firm's U.S. Supreme Court and national Appellate Litigation practice.

Ted has authored more than 80 U.S. Supreme Court briefs and argued 43 oral arguments, including nine before the U.S. Supreme Court. During Ted's service as Solicitor General, Texas achieved an unprecedented series of landmark national victories, including successfully defending-

U.S. sovereignty against the UN and the World Court in *Medellin v. Texas*;

The Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms;

The constitutionality of the Texas Ten Commandments monument;

The constitutionality of the words 'under God' in the Pledge of Allegiance;

The constitutionality of the Texas Sexually Violent Predator Civil Commitment law; and

The Texas congressional redistricting plan.

The National Law Journal has called Ted 'a key voice' to whom 'the [U.S. Supreme Court] Justices listen.' Ted has been named by American Lawyer magazine as one of the 50 Best Litigators under 45 in America, by the National Law Journal as one of the 50 Most Influential Minority Lawyers in America, and by Texas Lawyer as one of the 25 Greatest Texas Lawyers of the Past Quarter Century.

From 2004-09, he taught U.S. Supreme Court Litigation as an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Texas School of Law.

Prior to becoming Solicitor General, he served as the Director of the Office of Policy Planning at the Federal Trade Commission, as Associate Deputy Attorney General at the U.S. Department of Justice, and as Domestic Policy Advisor on the 2000 Bush-Cheney campaign.

Ted graduated with honors from Princeton University and with high honors from Harvard Law School. He served as a law clerk to Chief Justice William Rehnquist on the U.S. Supreme Court. He was the first Hispanic ever to clerk for the Chief Justice of the United States.

Ted and his wife Heidi live in his hometown of Houston, Texas, with their two young daughters Caroline and Catherine.

## PERSONAL PROFILE

### COMMITTEES

[Senate Committee on Armed Services](#)

[Senate Committee on the Judiciary](#)

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

[Senate Committee on Rules and Administration](#)

[Joint Economic Committee](#)

### CAUCUSES

Birthdate 12/22/1970

Birthplace Calgary

Political Party Republican Party

Marital Status Married

Spouse Heidi Nelson

Residence Houston, TX

Family 2 children

Religion Baptist

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

#### Education

Princeton University

Bachelor's Degree 1992

Harvard University

JD 1995

Director:Policy Planning, (US)Federal Trade Commission Attorney, Cooper Carvin & Rosenthal 2003 - Present Solicitor General, (TX)Attorney General Office 05-12-2008 Partner, Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP 01-03-2013 - Present Senator:Texas, (US)Senate