

LEGISLATOR

US Representative


ROBERT HURT (R-VA-05)**IN OFFICE**

Up for re-election in 2016

3rd Term

Re-elected in 2014

CONTACT

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BGOV BIOGRAPHY

By Jim Myers for Bloomberg News

Virginia Republican Robert Hurt, first elected to the U.S. House in 2010 as part of what he saw as a new wave of conservative transformation in Washington, wants to continue the fight to shrink the size of the federal government, revise the nation's tax code and protect individual liberties.

On Capitol Hill, Hurt aligns himself with the Republican Study Committee, "the caucus of House conservatives," and his voting record is in tune with most of his Class of 2010 Tea Party-backed counterparts on both social and economic matters.

For his 5th District constituents, Hurt lists job creation as a top priority. "I have been laser-focused on this issue throughout my time in Congress," he told the Chatham Star-Tribune.

Hurt pointed to his own legislation to spur the economy. In the 113th Congress, he won House passage of legislation to exempt private-equity fund advisers from having to register with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Hurt called the existing rule, developed pursuant to the Dodd-Frank financial industry regulation law, a "burdensome and costly" government mandate. He said his bill would promote greater access to capital for small businesses and noted that companies backed by private equity employ more than 1,500 people in his district.

Hurt also co-sponsored a measure that would allow Virginia to permit offshore drilling for oil and natural gas. On the energy front, Hurt also supports the Republican all-of-the-above approach and backs the Keystone pipeline.

He sees a tax-system rewrite as helping grow the economy. "Our tax laws are in need of significant reform and simplification to make our tax code flatter and fairer," he said. "I support policies that promote simple, transparent tax laws designed to spur economic growth, increase fairness in the tax code, and reduce the burdens that the tax code imposes on hard-working Americans." Hurt supports a reduction in the corporate income tax rate and elimination of the estate tax.

In the closing days of the 2014 congressional session, Hurt joined 66 other Republicans to break with their leadership by voting against a \$1.1-trillion spending bill to keep the federal government funded through the rest of fiscal 2015.

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“Unfortunately, Congress has failed, once again, to follow an open and transparent legislative process and, instead, has waited until the last minute to cobble together a massive 1600-page \$1 trillion spending omnibus for the U.S. government - with only 48 hours given for consideration,” he said in a press release.

In 2013, during a budget standoff, Hurt joined his Republican colleagues in insisting on defunding the health-care law in exchange for funding the government at the start of fiscal 2014. After a 16-day government shutdown, Hurt voted against the compromise bill that reopened the government.

Those votes may have been influenced by his experience in his first House campaign, in 2010. That's when a Tea Party group pushed Hurt on his 2004 vote in the Virginia House of Delegates to raise taxes by \$1.4 billion. Hurt had said of that vote, “I was convinced at the time, based on what I knew, that it was something that had to be done. I hated the vote, but I felt it was necessary at the time.”

In 2010, he pledged to not support new taxes in Congress.

In 2011, the Charlottesville Daily Progress reported about 35 Tea Party activists rallied outside Hurt's district office to urge the then-freshman congressman to stand firm on cutting spending.

Hurt considers the current immigration system broken and wants serious action taken. Border security must come first in any attempt to fix the system, he said.

“We are a nation of laws, and we must make sure that any reforms made will not have an adverse effect on those that followed the laws and proper procedures to come here legally in their pursuit of the American Dream,” he said on his House website.

Hurt wants to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which was passed in 2010, the year he defeated freshman Democratic incumbent Thomas Perriello. He wants the law replaced with market-driven health-care steps to increase competition and choice to cut costs without reducing quality. Specifically Hurt wants to allow the sale of insurance across state lines, expand use of health savings accounts and adopt tort reform.

He supports adding a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution and granting the president a line-item veto to kill specific provisions in a bill.

Hurt opposes gun control, abortion and same-sex marriage.

Early Years

Hurt was born in New York City, while his father, Henry, author of a book on the John F. Kennedy assassination, worked as an editor for Reader's Digest just north of the city.

The family moved back to its Virginia roots, in Chatham, when Hurt, the oldest of three children, was a youth.

After law school, Hurt joined the commonwealth attorney's office in Pittsylvania County in 1996 and eventually became its chief deputy. Hurt was in private law practice in Chatham from 1999 to 2010.

He entered politics in 2000, when he was elected to the Chatham Town Council with 82 percent of the vote. A year later, he was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates. He served three terms and then moved to the state Senate.

In his 2010 challenge to Perriello, Hurt won a seven-candidate primary with 48 percent of the vote and then unseated Perriello by almost 4 percentage points. He has increased his margin of victory since then; in 2014 he won by 25 percentage points.

Updated Dec. 22, 2014

BIO FROM REPRESENTATIVE'S WEBSITE

From the Representative's Website

Robert Hurt currently represents Virginia's 5th District in the House of Representatives. He is a member of the Financial Services Committee, which has jurisdiction over all aspects of the nation's financial and housing sectors. The Committee will play an important role in moving our economy forward. He is also Vice Chairman of the Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises Subcommittee and will serve a second term on the Housing and Insurance Subcommittee.

A native of Pittsylvania County, Robert began his time in public service in 2001 as a member of the Chatham Town Council. From 2002 to 2007, Robert served in the Virginia House of Delegates, representing parts of Pittsylvania County.

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Henry County, and the City of Martinsville. Starting in 2008, Robert represented the 19th District in the Senate of Virginia for two years, which includes the City of Danville, Pittsylvania County, Franklin County and part of Campbell County.

Robert received his college education at Hampden-Sydney College in 1991 and his law degree from Mississippi College School of Law in 1995. From 1999 to 2010, Robert was engaged in a general law practice in the courthouse town of Chatham.

Robert lives in Chatham, Virginia with his wife, Kathy, and their three sons, Charles, Clement and John.

PERSONAL PROFILE

COMMITTEES

[House Committee on Financial Services](#)

CAUCUSES

[House Republican Study Committee](#)

[House Small Brewers Caucus](#)

[Congressional Chicken Caucus](#)

Birthdate 06/16/1969

Birthplace New York, NY

Political Party Republican Party

Marital Status Married

Spouse Kathy

Residence Chatham, VA

Family 3 children

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Education

Hampden Sydney College

Bachelor's Degree 1991

Episcopal High School

Graduated

Mississippi College

JD 1995

Deputy Attorney, County of Pittsylvania VA
2000 - 2001 Council Member, County of
Chatham GA 2002 - 2008 State Delegate,
(VA)House of Delegates 2008 - 2010 State
Senator, (VA)Senate 01-03-2011 - Present
Representative:Virginia, (US)House of
Representatives