

## LEGISLATOR

US Senator

**JOE MANCHIN (D-WV)****IN OFFICE**

Up for re-election in 2018

**2nd Term**

Re-elected in 2012

**SENIORITY RANK**

55

Out of 100


**CONTACT**

 **Email** [Contact Form](http://www.manchin.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact)  
<http://www.manchin.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact>

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

 **Twitter** [@Sen\\_JoeManchin](https://twitter.com/Sen_JoeManchin)  
[http://twitter.com/Sen\\_JoeManchin](https://twitter.com/Sen_JoeManchin)

 **Facebook** [View on Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/JoeManchinIII)  
<http://www.facebook.com/JoeManchinIII>

 **DC Office** 306 Hart Senate Office Building

## BGOV BIOGRAPHY

By Greg Giroux and Chris Strohm

The transition to senator from governor has been frustrating for West Virginia Democrat Joe Manchin, who has chafed at the Senate's partisanship and slow pace.

“The last four years are the most unproductive years of my working life,” Manchin said in January 2015, according to the Associated Press.

So unproductive that Manchin began the 114th Congress weighing a campaign for governor in 2016, before his Senate term expires at the end of 2018. Manchin, who led West Virginia from 2005 to 2010, is one of 10 former governors now serving in the Senate.

In April 2015, Manchin announced that he'd tough it out in the Senate and wouldn't seek to reclaim his old job. “I feel that I can have the greatest impact on West Virginia and America by staying in Washington,” he said. “This place may not be working now, but I'm not going to stop fighting to make it work.”

Manchin said he noticed the polarization in the Senate right after he won the seat held for more than 50 years by legendary Robert C. Byrd, who died in 2010. Manchin went to his first Senate Armed Services Committee hearing and noticed that Democrats sat on one side of the dais and Republicans on the other.

The two parties were more collegial in the West Virginia legislature, while the political architecture of the Senate “is designed to push us apart, not to bring us together,” Manchin said in December 2010 at a panel on partisanship hosted by a bipartisan group calling itself No Labels.

Manchin's bipartisan impulses come in a state that used to be dominated by conservative Democrats and is now a Republican stronghold. Manchin is among just five Democratic senators in the 114th Congress from states President Barack Obama lost in the 2012 election. West Virginia gave Obama his lowest vote share -- 36 percent -- among those five

states.

That helps explain why Manchin might be Senate Republicans' best Democratic friend. While resisting a party switch, he has bucked Democratic leaders to side with Republicans on issues related to government spending, jobs, energy and gay rights. Manchin has said that he is simply trying to carry on the tradition of independence he saw in Byrd, the longest serving senator in history.

In January 2015, Manchin was among nine Democrats who voted for a Republican-sponsored bill to speed up approval of the Keystone XL oil pipeline. Obama vetoed the measure.

In April 2015, Manchin aligned himself with Third Way, which describes itself as a centrist think tank.

He resigned as an honorary co-chairman of No Labels after the group backed Republican Cory Gardner's 2014 election victory over incumbent Democratic Senator Mark Udall.

Among the founders of No Labels is Michael Bloomberg, majority owner of Bloomberg News parent Bloomberg LP.

Raised in the small coal-mining town of Farmington, Manchin is particularly critical of the Environmental Protection Agency. He has opposed rules proposed to regulate water standards, air quality and electricity usage.

"We need the EPA and our federal government to work with us as allies, not as adversaries who continually implement onerous regulations and move the goalposts before we even have a chance to comply," Manchin said in March 2015, when he joined South Dakota Republican John Thune in introducing a bill that would block the EPA from lowering the ground-level ozone standard.

In a television ad for his 2010 Senate campaign, Manchin used Democratic-backed climate-change legislation for target practice, loading a rifle and firing a single bullet into a copy of the cap-and-trade bill that would basically penalize utilities for burning coal.

As West Virginia governor, he sued the EPA over new mining permit standards for mountaintop removal coal mining.

Manchin supports gun owners' rights and has won campaigns with the support of the National Rifle Association. In February 2015, Manchin was in a bipartisan group of senators behind legislation to promote recreational shooting and expand hunting and fishing opportunities on federal lands.

He ran afoul of the NRA in 2013, when Manchin teamed up with Pennsylvania Republican Pat Toomey on a proposal that would have expanded background checks of gun purchasers. After it fell six votes short of the 60 needed for adoption, Manchin said it would have been adopted without "the twist that was put on everything" by the NRA and its warning that senators would be rated on how they voted.

### Early Years

A son of Italian immigrants, Manchin attended West Virginia University on a football scholarship. He took time off to help rebuild his parents' grocery store after it burned down, taking it over after graduation. He later owned Enersystems Inc., an energy-brokering company now run by his son, Joseph Manchin IV.

He was first elected to public office in 1982 to serve in the West Virginia House of Delegates. After four years, he was elected to the state Senate, where he served until 1997.

He lost a bid for governor in 1996, though he had backing from businesses, the NRA and West Virginians for Life. He was elected West Virginia secretary of state in 2000 before becoming governor in 2005. He won re-election in 2008 in a landslide.

After Byrd died in June 2010, Manchin appointed one of his former aides, Carte Goodwin, to the Senate on a temporary basis, then won the seat himself that November with 53 percent of the vote. Manchin cruised to a full six-year term in 2012, even as Obama was trounced in West Virginia.

Updated April 20, 2015

---

## BIO FROM REPRESENTATIVE'S WEBSITE

From the Senator's Website

U.S. Senator Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) was sworn into the United States Senate on November 15, 2010 to fill the seat left vacant by the late Senator Robert C. Byrd. For Senator Manchin, serving as West Virginia's Senator is truly an honor and a privilege.

## Bloomberg GOVERNMENT

Born and raised in the small coal mining town of Farmington, W.Va., Sen. Manchin grew up learning the values that all West Virginians share ^ family, common sense, fairness and hard work. As a small businessman, he learned firsthand from his grandfather, Papa Joe, who was an Italian immigrant and the town grocer, the importance of serving the public. As a young man, his beloved grandmother, Mama Kay, inspired Senator Manchin's belief in public service through her unflagging compassion and desire to help those less fortunate. More than anything, it is his family and the values he learned growing up among the hardworking men and women of West Virginia that define who Senator Manchin is and the public servant he strives to be.

From his days as a state legislator to his six years as Governor to his current role, Senator Manchin has always been committed to his philosophy of 'retail government'"-- in other words, connecting with all of his constituents and making service to them his top priority.

Throughout his public life, he has never let politics or ideology stand in the way of commonsense solutions. Instead, he believes that only by putting politics aside and working hard to bring people together can we do what is right for West Virginia and the nation.

He began his tenure as West Virginia's 34th governor in January 2005. Then-Governor Manchin approved millions of dollars in tax relief for West Virginia's citizens and businesses, fixed the state's workers' compensation system, established the first comprehensive teacher pay package in more than 15 years and dramatically decreased the state's debt. In six years, more than \$13 billion in business investments were made, and West Virginia was often cited nationally for its strong fiscal management. During his term as Governor, he worked closely with Republicans and Democrats to cut taxes, reduce regulations, attract record investments, create new jobs and expand vital social services for seniors and the poor, all while leaving the state with budget surpluses every year.

As a Senator, Joe Manchin is committed to bringing this same spirit of bipartisanship to Washington. As he has done throughout his entire life, he remains committed to working with Republicans and Democrats to find commonsense solutions to the problems our country faces and is working hard to usher in a new bipartisan spirit in the Senate and Congress.

Legislatively, job creation is Senator Manchin's top priority, and he believes that government should act as a partner, not an adversary, in helping to create the environment that produces good American jobs. Senator Manchin also firmly believes that our nation can and must do what he did in West Virginia - put our fiscal house in order. He believes we must find commonsense ways to cut spending while keeping our promises to our seniors and veterans by protecting Social Security and Medicare.

Senator Manchin is strongly committed to developing a national energy plan that utilizes all of our resources and that finally ends our dependence on Middle East oil. He believes that a balanced, commonsense approach that considers the needs of our environment and the demands of our economy, can and must be developed if we are to achieve energy independence within this generation.

Senator Manchin currently serves on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the Senate Armed Services Committee, the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Senate Special Committee on Aging - four critical committees that tackle the important work of addressing our nation's energy needs, standing up for the members of the military, defending our small banks and local credit unions, helping the housing market recover and keeping our promises to seniors.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS-

Senator Manchin has served in several leadership capacities on various associations, including- Chairman of the National Governors Association, Chairman of the Southern States Energy Board, President of the Council of State Governments, Chairman of the Democratic Governors Association and Chairman of the Southern Governors' Association.

Sen. Manchin served as Secretary of State from 2000 to 2004, and his office was known for excellent customer service. He was a state legislator from 1982 to 1996, where he earned a reputation for standing up for West Virginians.

Sen. Manchin became a successful businessman after attending West Virginia University on a football scholarship.

Sen. Manchin is an avid pilot, outdoorsman, hunter, angler and motorcyclist. He has been married for more than four decades to the former Gayle Conelly of Beckley. They have three children- Heather, Joseph IV and Brooke, and are the proud grandparents of Joseph V, Sophie, Kelsey, Madeline, Chloe, Jack, Carly and Vivian.

---

## PERSONAL PROFILE

# Bloomberg GOVERNMENT

## COMMITTEES

[Senate Committee on Armed Services](#)

[Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs](#)

[Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources](#)

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

## CAUCUSES

[Congressional Veterans Jobs Caucus](#)

[Senate General Aviation Caucus](#)

[Senate Pilots Caucus](#)

Birthdate 08/24/1947

Birthplace Farmington, WV

Political Party Democratic Party

Marital Status Married

Spouse Gayle Conelly

Family 3 children; 8 grandchildren

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

### Education

West Virginia University

Bachelor's Degree 1970

1982 - 1986 State Delegate, (WV)House of Delegates 1986 - 1996 State Senator, (WV)Senate 2000 - 2004 Secretary of State, State of West Virginia 01-2005 Governor, State of West Virginia 11-15-2010 - Present Senator:West Virginia, (US)Senate