

SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO (R-WV)

**IN OFFICE**

Up for re-election in 2020

1st Term


Elected in 2014

SENIORITY RANK

88

Out of 100


CONTACT

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BGOV BIOGRAPHY

By James Rowley, Bloomberg News

An advocate of West Virginia's coal, natural gas and chemical industries, Shelley Moore Capito has built a record of opposition to government regulation of emissions of greenhouse gas emissions to curtail global warming.

First elected to Congress in 2000, Capito is the daughter of Arch Moore Jr., one of West Virginia's most storied politicians. He served the longest as the state's governor, and went to prison for political corruption.

Capito has sought to boost energy independence and limit environmental regulation in the U.S., introducing legislation to promote the development of clean-coal technology.

Her voting record in the House has won plaudits from groups such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, with a 91 percent lifetime score through 2013, and the National Association of Manufacturers.

In the House she affiliated with the Republican Main Street Partnership, which says it represents "the governing wing" of the Republican Party. She won that group's endorsement in 2014, along with that of the National Rifle Association.

She has supported House Republican legislation to streamline approvals of oil and gas pipeline construction permits, and to give states the primary legal authority to regulate natural-gas fracking.

Capito co-sponsored legislation to prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from enforcing regulations that limit emissions of coal-fired power plants. She and other Republicans call the rules part of the Obama administration's "war on coal." She also co-sponsored House-passed legislation that would require votes of Congress to approve major government regulations before they take effect.

In 2014, she won House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approval of her legislation to require the EPA to consider the effect of its water-pollution regulation of coal mining on jobs in the industry. The measure would restrict the agency's ability to override state water-quality permitting decisions.

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In 2010, Capito voted against the Affordable Care Act and supported a series of House Republican measures to limit its implementation, including one that would narrow the number of small businesses required to provide workers with health-insurance coverage.

As a member of the House Financial Services Committee, Capito voted against the Troubled Asset Relief Program in 2008 to rescue financially troubled banks during the financial crisis. And as chairman of the panel's Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee, she advocated for small and medium-sized banks seeking relief from government regulations that also apply to the biggest financial institutions.

She sponsored legislation to require financial regulators to determine whether smaller institutions must be subject to the same capital requirements as the largest Wall Street banks.

Early Years

Capito was just shy of her third birthday when her father was elected to the first of his six terms in the U.S. House.

Moore served in the House from 1957-69 and two separate stints as the state's Republican governor, from 1969 to 1977 and again from 1985 to 1989. Moore lost his 1988 re-election bid amid corruption allegations. He pleaded guilty in 1990 to extortion and tax evasion, and served almost three years in federal prison. Prosecutors said Moore extorted \$573,000, 25 percent of a refund of more than \$2 million that he had agreed to help a Beckley coal company obtain from the state's fund to compensate miners who contract black-lung disease.

Capito earned a B.S. in zoology from Duke University and has a masters of education from the University of Virginia. She is married to Charles L. Capito, an investment adviser.

After college she was a career counselor at West Virginia State College and then director of the state's Educational Information Center.

When the youngest of her three children was 11, she ran for and won a seat in the West Virginia House of Delegates.

From there, in 2000, she won election to the House in a tight, expensive open-seat election. Her re-elections since then were by more comfortable margins, including a 40 percentage point victory in 2012.

After winning her seventh House term in 2012, Capito announced plans to challenge Democratic Senator Jay Rockefeller in 2014. Her path was made easier in early 2013 when Rockefeller announced he wouldn't seek election to a sixth term. On her Senate campaign website, Capito pledged to "stand up to President Obama, fight for coal, jobs, health-care reform and veterans."

Personal Note

Capito told Politico she enjoys tennis and golf in her spare time. "I love to play any sports," she said. "I was a big tomboy when I was young," she said, calling herself "a very active person." She's run in an annual three-mile race in Washington that draws dozens of members of Congress, finishing in 26 minutes 40 seconds in 2014.

Updated Oct. 31, 2014

BIO FROM REPRESENTATIVE'S WEBSITE

From the Senator's Website

Shelley Moore Capito was elected by the people of West Virginia to the United States Senate in 2014. She is the first female U.S. senator in West Virginia's history and was elected with the largest margin of victory for a Republican in state history ^ winning more than 62 percent of the vote and all 55 counties.

After serving West Virginia's Second Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives for 14 years, and as a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates for four years prior, Shelley decided to run for Senate with the goal of being an even stronger voice for the Mountain State. She also saw an opportunity to restore order to a Senate stuck in gridlock for far too long.

Shelley believes that the challenges of our day demand bipartisan solutions and cooperation across the aisle to advance legislation that benefits West Virginia and the country as a whole.

Shelley serves on the Appropriations Committee, the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, the Environment and Public Works Committee, and the Rules and Administration Committee. This committee portfolio puts Shelley in a strong position to build on the work she began in the House, and to fight for West Virginia coal, jobs and families.

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On the Senate Appropriations Committee, Shelley will ensure West Virginia has a seat at the table when our nation's spending priorities are determined. On the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, her first order of business will be passing a long-term highway bill and fighting the EPA. And, on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee she will advocate for policies that protect West Virginia's energy jobs.

Shelley is committed to being accessible and responsive to the people of the Mountain State. She regularly travels the state to listen and meet with West Virginians.

A lifelong West Virginian, Shelley was born in Glen Dale in the Northern Panhandle. She holds a B.S. in Zoology from Duke University and a M.Ed. from the University of Virginia. Shelley and her husband Charles L. Capito Jr. reside in Charleston. They have three adult children- two sons, Charles (wife Laura) and Moore (wife Katie), and one daughter, Shelley (husband Colin Macleod). They have also been blessed with a grandson, Charlie, and a granddaughter, Celia.

PERSONAL PROFILE

COMMITTEES

[Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works](#)

[Senate Committee on Appropriations](#)

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

[Senate Committee on Rules and Administration](#)

[Joint Committee on the Library](#)

CAUCUSES

[Diversifying Technology Caucus](#)

[Congressional Community Health Center Caucus](#)

[Senate Steel Caucus](#)

Birthdate 11/26/1953

Birthplace Glen Dale, WV

Political Party Republican Party

Marital Status Married

Spouse Charles L. Capito Jr

Residence Charleston, SC

Family 3 children; 3 grandchildren

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Education

University of Virginia
Master's Degree 1976

Duke University
Bachelor's Degree 1975

1997 - 2001 State Delegate, (WV)House of Delegates 01-03-2001 - 01-03-2015 Representative:West Virginia, (US)House of Representatives 01-06-2015 - Present Senator:West Virginia, (US)Senate