



Bios for Congressional Honorary Co-Chairs

Representative James P. McGovern (D-MA-2nd District)



Jim McGovern has earned a national reputation as a tireless advocate for his district and as a champion for food security, human rights, campaign finance reform, social justice and peace. Born and raised in Worcester, Massachusetts, Jim is the son of two successful small business owners, Walter and Mindy. Both his sisters are teachers in the Worcester Public Schools. Jim is married to Lisa Murray McGovern and they have a son, Patrick and a daughter, Molly.

Since his first election to Congress in 1996, Jim has consistently delivered millions of dollars for jobs, vital local and regional projects, small businesses, public safety, regional and mass transportation projects, and affordable housing throughout his district and Massachusetts. Currently, Jim serves as the Chair of the powerful House Rules Committee, and a member of the House Agriculture Committee. In those roles, Jim has secured millions of dollars in federal grants and assistance for Massachusetts. Jim is also co-chair of both the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission and the House Hunger Caucus.

Before his election to Congress, Jim spent 14 years working as a senior aide for the late U.S. Representative John Joseph Moakley (D-South Boston). In 1989, Moakley tapped Jim to lead the investigation into the murders of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter. The investigation ultimately led to a seminal change in U.S. foreign policy towards El Salvador when it determined that the Salvadoran military was implicated in the murders. That landmark determination led to future military aid from the U.S. being conditioned on an improved human rights record. Jim's time in El Salvador strengthened his personal and political beliefs.

In Congress, Jim has authored important legislation to increase Pell Grant funding to allow more students access to higher education; to provide funds to preserve open space in urban and suburban communities; and to give tax credits to employers who pay the salaries of their employees who are called up to active duty in the Guard and Reserves.

A strong proponent of healthcare reform, his legislative efforts included reducing the cost of home health care, giving patients the dignity to be cared for in their own homes with the help of medical professionals.

Jim voted against the initial authorization of force in Iraq in 2002 and has been among the most prominent Congressional voices on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Jim introduced a

bipartisan, bicameral bill calling for a flexible timetable for withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan as a matter of national security and fiscal responsibility.

Jim has also taken a leadership role in the fight against hunger at home and abroad, successfully expanding the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program, which helps alleviate child hunger and poverty by providing nutritious meals to children in schools in the world's poorest countries. Every year, Jim walks 43 miles throughout the Pioneer Valley to raise awareness of hunger in our community and to raise funds for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.

Jim is one of the leading voices in Congress fighting to overturn Citizens United, and has become one of the main advocates in the fight against corporate personhood.

Jim earned his Bachelor of Arts ('81) and Masters of Public Administration ('84) degrees from The American University, working his way through college by serving as an aide in the office of U.S. Senator George McGovern (D-SD). He went on to manage Senator McGovern's 1984 Presidential campaign in Massachusetts, and delivered his nomination speech during the 1984 Democratic National Convention in San Francisco.

Representative Jamie Raskin (D-MD-8th District)



Congressman Jamie Raskin proudly represents Maryland's 8th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. The district includes Montgomery, Carroll, and Frederick Counties. Congressman Raskin was sworn into his third Term at the start of the 117th Congress on January 3, 2021.

This is Rep. Raskin's third term serving on the House Judiciary Committee, the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and the Committee on House Administration. This is his second term serving on the Rules Committee and the Coronavirus Select Subcommittee. He was also renamed Chair of the Oversight Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and Chair of the Rules Subcommittee on Expedited Procedures for the 117th Congress.

Prior to his time in Congress, Raskin was a three-term State Senator in Maryland, where he also served as the Senate Majority Whip. He earned a reputation for building coalitions in Annapolis to deliver a series of landmark legislative accomplishments. He was also a professor of constitutional law at American University's Washington College of Law for more than 25 years. He authored several books, including the Washington Post best-seller *Overruling Democracy: The Supreme Court versus the American People* and the highly-acclaimed *We the Students: Supreme Court Cases For and About America's Students*, which has sold more than 50,000 copies.

Congressman Raskin is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School.

Representative Chris Smith (R-NJ-4th District)



A senior member of the House of Representatives, Chris Smith (R-NJ) is in his twenty-first term in Congress. Having been first elected in 1980, the former Executive Director of the New Jersey Right to Life Committee, serves as a senior member on the Foreign Affairs Committee, and is Ranking Member of its [Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights Subcommittee](#), in this the 117th Congress.

Congressman Smith the Co-Chair of the [Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission](#), and Ranking Member of the bicameral [Congressional-Executive Commission on China \(CECC\)](#), twice serving as chairman. He is the “[Special Representative](#)” on [Human Trafficking](#) for the [OSCE Parliamentary Assembly](#).

Congressman Smith ranks second among the entire 435 current Members of the House of Representatives when it comes to successfully turning policy initiatives into law. He has written 48 bills that were enacted, including five human trafficking laws.

Congressman Smith has championed legislation promoting human rights for all, worldwide. He has visited more than 50 countries advancing human rights and working against religious and political persecution, human trafficking, torture and anti-Semitism. His most significant legislative achievements include the landmark [Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000](#) — our country’s first national anti-trafficking law — and subsequent anti-trafficking laws in [2003](#) and [2006](#), each enhancing the fight against human trafficking, and all of which have influenced many countries to adopt their own anti-trafficking laws and to create a global movement to eradicate the scourge of human trafficking and violence against women. In 2019, the President signed Smith’s [Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act](#) (HR 2200, now Public Law 115-425) into law.

He is also the author of the [International Megan’s Law of 2016](#), based on the tragic murder of a seven-year-old girl in New Jersey in 1994, which would protect children at home and abroad from convicted pedophiles.

Congressman Smith is the co-chair of the bipartisan Human Trafficking Caucus, which he co-founded 15 years ago. He has chaired two dozen hearings on human trafficking.

Congressman Smith has received numerous national and international awards for his leadership in fighting to protect victims of human trafficking, who are mostly women and children.

Congressman Smith and his wife Marie, who is a human rights and pro-life leader in her own right, have four grown children and several grandchildren. They are members of St. Gregory’s parish in Hamilton, New Jersey.

Rep. Ann Wagner (R-MO-2nd District)



Ann Wagner's career is both deep and broad in service to her hometown, state and nation with over 30 years of work in the private sector, community and public service, and the political arena.

The 2nd District has always been home for Ann. It is where she and her husband of over thirty years, Ray, grew up, went to school, raised their children, work, volunteer, and go to church. This community has given her extraordinary opportunities to make a difference.

At an early age, Ann started working in the family business, a retail carpet store called Carpetime in Manchester. Working beside her parents she learned the value of a dollar, a strong work ethic, honesty, integrity, and that government should stay off the backs and out of the way of hard-working Americans trying to make a living.

Ann then took that experience to the University of Missouri-Columbia and received her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis in Logistics. After college, Ann went to work in the private sector and held management positions at Hallmark Cards in Kansas City and Ralston Purina in St. Louis.

Ann's most important jobs, however, have always been as a wife, mother, and now grandmother. Ann and Ray have three children: Raymond, an Army Captain who recently welcomed his first child, Isabella, into the world with his wife Julia; Stephen, a Client Services Manager for a St. Louis area financial management company; and Mary Ruth, a recent college graduate who moved back to the 2nd District and is working as a Business Development Coordinator.

Ann Wagner's public service began at the grassroots level. She served for nine years as a local committeewoman in Lafayette Township and went on to Chair the Missouri Republican Party, delivering historic Republican gains. She also served as Co-Chairman of the Republican National Committee during the first term of President George W. Bush.

In 2005, following nomination by President Bush and confirmation by the U.S. Senate, Ann was sworn in as the 19th U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. She served as U.S. Ambassador for four years before returning to her home in Ballwin, Missouri.

Ann then decided to put her own name on the ballot and won her first Congressional race with over 60% of the vote, receiving more votes that election cycle than any other Republican Congressional candidate in Missouri. She took office in January of 2013 and was selected by both her freshman and sophomore class to be their representative on the Elected Leadership Committee.

As your representative from the 2nd District, Congresswoman Wagner serves as Vice Ranking Member on both the House Financial Services Committee and House Foreign

Affairs Committee. She has worked tirelessly to demand transparency and accountability from federal regulators, while continuing to investigate waste, fraud, and abuse. During her time in Congress, Representative Wagner has been committed to regulatory reform, authoring bills such as the Retail Investor Protection Act which protects access to retirement savings for middle class families.

Ann has made combating sex trafficking and online exploitation of women and children major legislative priorities. She authored the SAVE Act, which amended the Federal criminal code to allow prosecutions of those who knowingly advertise sex slavery, along with the Put Trafficking Victims First Act and the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act (FOSTA). FOSTA became law in April of 2018 and is the most significant anti-trafficking law Congress has passed in nearly 20 years, finally giving local, state, and federal prosecutors the tools they need to hold websites accountable when they profit from the sale of sex trafficking victims.