

U.S. Rep. PETER DeFAZIO

Congressman Peter DeFazio earned a bachelor's degree in Economics and Political Science from Tufts University in 1969. In 1977, he earned a master's degree from the University of Oregon, in Interdisciplinary Studies, specializing in Public Administration and Gerontology.

DeFazio began his political career, with former Rep. Jim Weaver as a caseworker in the Eugene district office in 1977. He went on to work for Weaver in Washington D.C. as a legislative assistant from 1978-1980, and returned to Eugene in 1980 to be the director of constituent services. DeFazio was elected to the Lane County Board Commissioners in 1982, and chaired the board from 1984-1986.

He was first elected to the U.S. Congress in 1986, after Weaver retired and vacated the seat.

At the start of the 108th Congress, DeFazio took a leave of absence from the House Resources Committee in order to serve on the Select Committee on Homeland Security. On this Committee, he serves on the Subcommittee on Infrastructure and Border Security and the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness and Response. DeFazio will maintain his seniority on the House Resources Committee should he return to the Committee in the future.

DeFazio is also a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. He is ranking member of the Aviation Subcommittee, where he is a vocal advocate for consumers, aviation safety and security. He also serves as a member of the Railroads Subcommittee and the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee.

Peter DeFazio lives with his wife, Myrnie, in Springfield with his two dogs and two cats. He has logged over three million miles commuting to and from Washington, D.C., traveling cross-country an average of three times a month to represent the people of Oregon's Fourth Congressional District in Congress.