



Marsha Blackburn

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TN-7

**509 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515**

Biography

United States Representative

Marsha Blackburn is an established, conservative, results-oriented legislator who solves problems. She was sent to the U.S. House of Representatives at the start of the 108th Congress where she was one of only a few newly-elected congressmen selected to serve as an assistant whip on the majority whip team. Blackburn is a dedicated public servant who believes in serving others.

As a member of the Tennessee State Senate she led the fight against imposing a state income tax and as the Representative of Tennessee's Seventh District she has led successful efforts to reduce the tax burden on Tennessee taxpayers. She quickly earned a reputation for keeping her legislative focus on defending and expanding individual freedom and free enterprise.

Blackburn willingly accepts the responsibility of helping shape American fiscal policy as a member of the exclusive House Energy & Commerce Committee. For 208 years, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the oldest legislative standing committee in the U.S. House of Representatives, has served as the principal guide for the House in matters relating to the promotion of commerce and to the public's health and marketplace interests.

Previously, As the Vice-Chairman of the Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Efficiency and Financial Management, she targeted waste, fraud, and abuse in Federal government operations. Blackburn also served as the Government Reform Committee's member designee to the Joint Committee on Taxation in 2003.

In 2003, Blackburn helped lead the effort to pass tax relief for virtually all taxpayers, restore concurrent receipt for veterans, enact legislation to give small business employees greater health care access, provide our men and women in uniform an across the board pay raise, prohibit partial birth abortion, and reform the Department of Defense personnel system.

An advocate for reducing government spending, each year Blackburn has sponsored three bills to require across the board spending cuts in the Federal budget during the 108th Congress. In recognition of her conservative voting record, *National Journal* rated Blackburn a "top House conservative" in 2004.

Biography - continued

Representing both a portion of metropolitan Nashville and the suburbs of Memphis, Blackburn has strong ties with some of the nation's premier songwriters and performers. In 2003, Blackburn founded the Congressional Songwriters Caucus to give the nation's creative community access to Capitol Hill. The caucus focuses on the protection of intellectual property and tax policy.

Service in Tennessee Government

In 1995, Blackburn was appointed Executive Director of the Tennessee Film, Entertainment, and Music Commission. Under her leadership the reformed commission both reduced its budget and broadened its mission to include interactive technology.

Blackburn was elected State Senator in 1998, becoming the first woman to represent Tennessee's 23rd Senate District. She served as minority whip in the 101st General Assembly and served on the General Welfare, Health and Human Services, Government Operations, Judiciary, and Transportation Committees.

While in the Tennessee Senate, Blackburn led a statewide grassroots campaign to defeat the proposed state income tax. Her frequent appearances on talk radio and positive mention in national publications like the Wall Street Journal made her a recognized national anti-tax and government reform advocate. In addition to the income tax debate, while in the state senate Blackburn sponsored legislation to protect the Second Amendment, keep quality childcare affordable, and begin work to eliminate a loophole allowing illegal aliens to acquire valid Tennessee drivers licenses.

Education and Family

A graduate of Mississippi State University and a small business owner, Blackburn has been actively involved in Tennessee grassroots politics and civic organizations for more than 25 years.

Blackburn was born on June 6, 1952. Marsha and Chuck Blackburn have been married for thirty-two years. They have two children, Mary Morgan Ketchel, and Chad Blackburn.

Blackburn Achievements:

Blackburn was selected to serve as an Assistant Majority Whip in the 108th Congress and an Assistant Minority Whip for the 109th Congress. Whip Roy Blunt has recently selected Congressman Blackburn to serve as a Deputy Whip for the 110th Congress

She has been named the Communications Chairman for the Republican Study Committee, a large group of fiscally conservative Republicans that make up a majority of Republicans in Congress

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Blackburn was also named by Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) as the Communications Chairman for the National Republican Congressional Committee, which recruits and supports Republican candidates for the United States Congress

Americans for Tax Reform called Blackburn a “Taxpayer Hero” in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006

Biography - continued

Blackburn received *National Journal's* highest conservative voting rank for any female member of Congress and placed tenth overall in the House

Roll Call named Blackburn one of five House Republican “rising stars” in 2003

Blackburn serves as Co-Chairman of the Congressional Songwriters Caucus she founded in 2003 to give Tennessee's community of songwriters a voice on Capitol Hill

Blackburn has received the 2004 “spirit of enterprise” award from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Military Officers Association of America of Middle Tennessee thanked Blackburn for pro-military service member voting record and concurrent receipt legislation efforts

The Small Business Survival Committee named Blackburn a “small business advocate” in 2003

National Journal described Blackburn as a “freshman to watch” and a “top House conservative” in 2003 and 2004

Blackburn scored a perfect 100 in the American Shareholders Association 2003 ranking

The Family Research Council gave Blackburn the “true blue” award for the first half of the 108th Congress

Blackburn praised for supporting Federal whistleblower protection by the Government Accountability Project

National Right to Life praised Blackburn for supporting the pro-senior Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act

The American Legion National Headquarters recognized Blackburn for voting to support increased Veterans Affairs medical care funding

Co-Chairman of the Congressional Art Competition in 2005