



Life in Brief

Born: February 9, 1951

Hometown: Seattle, WA

Current Residence: Olympia, WA

Education:

- J.D., Willamette University Law School, 1976
- B.A., Economics, University of Washington, 1973

Family:

- Married, Trudi; three sons

Work History:

- Governor of Washington, 2013-present
- U.S. Representative for Washington's 1st district, 1999-2012
- Regional Director, Department of Health and Human Services, 1997-98
- Attorney, Gorden, Thomas, Honeywell, Peterson, & Daheim, 1995-96
- U.S. Representative for Washington's 4th district, 1993-95
- State Representative for the 14th legislative district, 1989-93
- Attorney, Peters, Fowler, & Inslee, 1976-92

Professional Associations

- Thomas C. Wales Foundation
- Governors' Wind Energy Coalition
- Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition
- National Governors Association
- Democratic Governments Association

Electoral Overview

- After an unsuccessful run in 1996, won 2012 gubernatorial election by 2% and won re-election in 2016 by a margin of 8%
- Elected to the U.S. House in 1992 by a 2% margin but lost re-election in 1994. Ran again in 1998, winning by 6%. Won re-election six times by an average margin of 25%

Quick Summary

Climate hawk and fifth generation

Washingtonian; balances progressive energy and social policies with strong relationships with major state employers

- Born and raised in Washington; has lived and worked in urban and rural communities all over the state
- In Congress and as Governor, has made climate his central focus, pursuing clean energy policies to reduce carbon emissions and protect state resources, such as the orca and salmon populations
- Briefly ran for president in 2020 on a platform of climate policy
- Advocate for expanding access to education, including through grants for financial aid
- Has prioritized criminal justice system reform to reduce racial disparities, including through issuing pardons for marijuana-related charges
- Champion of industry giants in state including Boeing, Amazon, and Microsoft; sees his state as a model for combined environmentally-friendly legislation and economic growth

Approach and Motivations

Driven to public service through involvement in education advocacy

- Got his start in public service in 1985 when he and his wife helped lead the effort to build a new public high school in Selah, WA; this experience sparked Inslee's interest in politics, emboldening him to run for political office
- Issue of affordable college is personal; he was supposed to attend Stanford University but had to drop out when he couldn't afford it

Green agenda with an intersectional lens

- Grew up taking trail clean up hikes with his parents; cites protecting moments of connection with nature as a primary motivation
- Argues that clean energy fuels job growth and promotes national security
- Believes climate policy is crucial to achieving equality and justice, citing disproportionate impact of climate disasters on minority communities

Policy Positions and Areas of Focus

Prioritizes environmental issues, access to education, and criminal justice reform, emphasizing how these policies impact underserved populations

Energy & Climate: *Investing in renewable energy to reduce carbon emissions and spark economic growth*

- In Congress, sponsored bills to fund and expand clean energy research programs, including marine and hydrokinetic energy
- As Governor, unveiled proposal aimed at reducing state's carbon emissions by 2030, through clean fuel standards, energy efficient buildings, and electric and low-emission vehicles
- Crafted "Evergreen Economy" plan to boost the U.S. economy with clean energy jobs and energy-efficient infrastructure upgrades

Education: *Advocates for inclusive and accessible education, particularly higher education*

- In Congress, introduced legislation to provide grants to nonprofits for the purpose of outreach and mentoring to encourage disadvantaged students to attend college
- As Governor, signed Workforce Education Investment Act to expand access to free college and financial aid; has spoken out in support of the DREAM Act
- Increased funding and expanded eligibility requirements for state's preschool program; has opposed private school vouchers and charter schools

Criminal Justice Reform: *Pursues reforms that protect minority communities*

- Provided an expedited process for people convicted of small-time cannabis possession to apply for and receive pardons, citing its impact on restoring justice for communities of color
- Declared death penalty moratorium, citing unequal application of capital punishment
- Signed bill to require police officers to take additional de-escalation trainings and modify the standard for use of deadly force

Core Communities

Alliances with Democratic Governors, climate groups, and state industry leaders

Governors: *Active in governors' groups; works to elevate Democrats to governorship*

- Active in Democratic Governors Association, most recently as Chair with Gina Raimondo (RI)
- Alongside Andrew Cuomo (D-NY) and Jerry Brown (D-CA), founded the bipartisan U.S. Climate Alliance, a coalition of governors working to uphold U.S. goals under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change
- Campaigned for fellow Democratic governors Gretchen Whitmer (MI) and Steve Sisolak (NV)

Environmental Activists: *Collaborates with leaders in the public and private sphere to tackle climate change*

- Partners with groups including the Pacific Coast Collaborative, Ocean Acidification Alliance, and the Under2 Coalition to reduce emissions and promote clean energy jobs
- Regularly cites and speaks out in support of climate scientists including Dr. Maria Caffrey and Dr. Gavin Schmidt
- Friends with former Vice President and climate activist Al Gore; launched Clean Grid Initiative with John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia

State Employers: *Allies with top job creators on economic growth and green initiatives; defender of Boeing and Amazon*

- Launched Career Connect Washington, a program to combine classroom learning with apprenticeships, naming executives at Alaska Airlines, Amazon, Boeing, Microsoft, and Kaiser Permanente to the Task Force
- Has applauded green initiatives by companies including Microsoft, who signed a five-year agreement to buy hydropower from Chelan County for its campuses in Washington
- Negotiated deal with Boeing to keep production in Washington, in exchange for tax breaks; defended Amazon against attacks from President Trump on the company causing losses to USPS and failing to pay taxes

Relevant Financial Information

Attracts high-dollar donations from in-state companies, philanthropists and activists; donor to Democratic congressional campaigns

Biggest Industry Donors (Career)

- Party Committees: \$5.2 million
- Lawyers & Lobbyists: \$2.2 million
- Computer Equipment & Services: \$900,000
- Retired: \$800,000
- Education: \$700,000

Biggest Group Donors (Career)

- Microsoft (Redmond, WA), \$16,400
- Washington Education Association (Federal Way, WA), \$16,300
- Amgen (Thousand Oaks, CA), \$14,700
- T-Mobile (Bellevue, WA), \$12,800
- Washington Federation of State Employees Council (Olympia, WA), \$12,700

Biggest Individual Donors (Career)

- Harriet Stimson Bluitt, Philanthropist (Leavenworth, WA), \$15,700
- Cynthia Lovelace Sears, Retired Writer/Filmmaker (Bainbridge Island, WA), \$15,200
- David Cornfield, Film Producer (Seattle, WA), \$14,800
- Maryanne Tangey-Hones, Philanthropist (Seattle, WA), \$13,200
- Duncan Haas, Photographer/Director (Seattle, WA), \$13,200

Political Donations

- Ted Strickland (D-CA) for Senate, \$500, 2015
- Richard Romero (D-CA) for House \$1,000, 2002
- Jill Long Thompson (D-IN) for House, \$1,000, 2002
- Al Gore (D-TN) for President, \$500, 1999
- Patty Murray (D-WA) for Senate, \$250, 1997
- Maria Cantwell (D-WA) for House, \$250, 1991

Publications, Media, and Speaking

Public engagement centers around climate policy initiatives at the local, national, and international level

Publications: *Has written op-eds in state newspapers on environmental policy and the economy; wrote a book on the future of clean energy*

- Favorite Subjects: Climate goals, clean energy, job growth
- Preferred Outlets: State newspapers including the News Tribune and the Seattle Times
- With Backen Hendricks, co-wrote *Apollo's Fire: Igniting America's Clean Energy Economy*, calling for a revolution in clean energy

Media: *Appears in national and local cable news channels to speak on climate policies*

- Favorite Subjects: Environmental regulations, clean energy proposals
- Preferred Outlets: National outlets including MSNBC, and local news stations including KGW News and WMUR TV
- Social Media Habits: Active on professional and personal Twitter accounts

Speaking: *Discusses proposals for U.S. leadership on climate change in environmental forums; also engages with local companies and groups on the state economy*

- Favorite Subjects: Clean energy, the Paris Agreement, economic development
- Preferred Audience: Climate conferences including United Nations Climate Change Conference and the American Renewable Energy Conference; economic stakeholders including Microsoft, the South Sound Chambers of Commerce, and the Workforce Development Center

Family and Personal Background

Raised in Washington with the importance of nature instilled in him at an early age; hobbies include exercise and art

Humble upbringing in Washington; parents involved in local community

- His mother worked as a sales clerk at Sears
- Father was a high school counselor, football coach, and athletic director for Seattle Public Schools
- Interest in environmental issues since he was a child; his parents led groups of high school students on trips cleaning Mount Rainier

In his free time, enjoys staying active

- Basketball and football star in high school
- Now, he is avid cyclist and charter member of Hoopaholics, a youth basketball academy

Amateur artist

- Writes and illustrates children's books as Christmas presents for his grandkids
- Sold doodles to raise money for his Presidential campaign
- Uses various mediums including watercolors and pastels; favorite subject matter includes landscapes, seascapes, and animals

Criticisms and Controversies

No notable controversies

COVID-19 Response

Early state leader in responding to the COVID-19 crisis who has erred on the side of caution, instituting mandatory screenings, expanding state resources, and issuing a stay-at-home order

Relevant Positions

- Governor of Washington, the first state to report a case of COVID-19 and the first state to report a death; has visited with Mike Pence to discuss the crisis

Actions: *Restrictions on business operations and public gatherings; works to increase benefits for impacted individuals*

- Declared a state of emergency on February 29
- Announced that the state will cover the costs of testing for Washington residents without health insurance
- Announced mandatory screening for visitors and staff at nursing homes
- Announced that workers who have reduced hours or temporary unemployment due to the outbreak are eligible for unemployment benefits
- Ordered all public and private K-12 schools in Washington state to close through April 24
- Issued state-wide a stay at home order on March 23 for at least two weeks; banned group social, spiritual, and recreational gatherings
- Announced the closing of all sit-down restaurants statewide
- Named retired Navy Admiral Raquel C. Bono to lead the state's health system response
- Signed emergency funding bill for local government and tribes to respond to the disease, and for businesses that have been financially impacted; signed another law to increase capacity at hospitals and expand testing

Statements: *Outspoken on the importance of quarantine*

- Has stated that very strong measures are necessary to slow the spread of the disease