

# Learning About Nancy Pelosi



Nancy Pelosi is a U.S. politician for the Democratic Party. She is the first woman to lead the Democratic Party in Congress and to be the speaker of the House of Representatives. The U.S. Congress is the legislative branch of the government and is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Congress writes and approves the laws of the United States.

Nancy Pelosi was born in 1940 in Baltimore, Maryland. She comes from a family that was involved in politics. Her father was the mayor of Baltimore for 12 years and also served in Congress. Pelosi was known as the mayor's daughter for most of her childhood. She and her siblings often worked on his campaigns.

Pelosi went to Trinity College in Washington, D.C. and graduated in 1962. She met her husband, Paul Pelosi, while studying there. They later moved to San Francisco. They have five children.

She started her political career as a volunteer for the Democratic Party. Pelosi worked her way up in the party and was elected to the House of Representatives in 1987, and continues to serve today. She currently represents California's 12th congressional district, which includes parts of San Francisco.

During her time as congresswoman, Pelosi has supported better health care initiatives and housing programs. She also cares about improved access to college education and an energy policy that focuses on cleaner energy that is better for the environment.

Nancy Pelosi is the highest-ranking woman in U.S. politics. In the position of speaker of the House, she is second in line to the presidency after the vice president.

**Directions:** Answer the questions below. Use text evidence to support your answers.

1. Nancy Pelosi is the first woman to lead the Democratic Party and the first to be the speaker of the House.

2. How did Nancy Pelosi's childhood and upbringing influence her life as an adult?

Her father was in Congress and he was also a mayor. As a child, Nancy Pelosi would attend political campaign events. Her exposure to politics as a child might have helped her decide to become a politician herself.

3. How did Nancy Pelosi start her career in politics?

Pelosi started her career in politics by volunteering for the Democratic Party. Later on she was elected to represent California in the House of Representatives.

4. What are some of the causes that Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi supports?

Nancy Pelosi supports better health care, access to college, and cleaner energy.