

# Senator Jeff Sessions



## Biography

Jeff Sessions is an outspoken critic of illegal immigration whom the conservative National Review dubbed "amnesty's worst enemy." In 1985, he was nominated for a federal judgeship but was attacked by liberals for "gross insensitivity" in racial matters when he prosecuted vote fraud cases, and his nomination never went to the Senate floor. When Sessions then ran for the Senate, he avoided debates and won the election. In 2006, Sessions emerged as one of the most vocal opponents of the bipartisan immigration bill sponsored by Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-MA) and Sen. John McCain (R-AZ). He staunchly opposed a provision granting immigrants who had entered the country illegally a pathway citizenship. Over the next two years, as Congress debated changes in immigration policy, Sessions was a major roadblock to proposals easing immigration restrictions. In 2010, he teamed with Democrat Claire McCaskill on an amendment to raise the federal debt limit and to impose multi-year caps on discretionary spending. The pair offered the measure several times until it fell just one vote short of the 60 required to pass. Sessions has been a staunch defender of the oil, gas and nuclear power industries. When Sen. Barbara Boxer told him at an August 2012 hearing that 98% of scientists agree that humans are responsible for climate change, he scoffed, "I am offended by that ... I don't believe that's correct." Sessions supported the Bush administration on the Iraq war and was one of nine senators to vote against an amendment banning "cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment" of prisoners.

## Biography

Senator, Alabama  
Elected: 1996

Education:  
Huntingdon Col., B.A. 1969, U. of AL, J.D. 1973

Religion: Methodist

Contact: 202-224-4124  
Russell Office Building 326  
Washington, DC 20510

## Stance on Issues

- Supported a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage
- Opposes the Affordable Care Act
- Strongly opposes raising the national debt
- Opposes background checks for gun ownership
- Opposes closing the Guantanamo Bay prison

## Committees

- Senate Armed Services
- Senate Budget
- Senate Judiciary
- Senate Environment & Public Works

## Election Results

2014 General	
Jeff Sessions (R)	Unopposed

Sources: Ballotpedia, 2016; National Journal Research, 2016.