

E C A S B

Erie County Association of School Boards

Where professional development,  
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## The INSIDER

Proudly Serving As New York State  
Senator representing All ECASB  
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<https://www.facebook.com/SenKirstenGillibrand>



@SenGillibrand



**Party Affiliation:**  
Democrat

Providing ECASB Members Information and Insight about our Elected Officials

## Senator Kirsten Gillibrand



Left: Senator Kirsten Gillibrand listens to Chuck Schumer while attending an event". Above: Gillibrand supports a pro-choice rally in Washington, D.C.

## Political Positions...

*During her tenure in the House of Representatives, Gillibrand was known as a centrist Democrat. While serving in the House, she was a member of the Blue Dog Coalition, a caucus of fiscally conservative Democrats. During her house tenure, she voted against the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, spoke against the issuance of driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants, and voted for a bill that would withhold federal funds from immigrant sanctuary cities. She also voted in favor of a bill that limited information sharing between federal agencies about firearm purchases. She advocated for civil unions for same-sex couples.*

### Since Joining the Senate:

*Senator Gillibrand's positions have moved in a liberal direction. She has expressed support for same-sex marriages, moved in a direction of gun control, called to abolish Immigration and Customs Enforcement. She has embraced a number of proposals looking to expand social safety nets and benefits for lower-income families. In 2019, she reversed her previous position and stated that she supported driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants.*

*Senator Gillibrand supports abortion rights, is a supporter of Medicare for all, and supports a federal jobs guarantee. She has rejected corporate Political Action Committee funds and within her own campaigns focuses*



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## Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

### COMMITTEES:

- Committee on Environment & Public Works
- Committee On Armed Services
- Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
  - Committee on Aging

### Ratings from Advocacy Organizations:

Human Rights Campaign  
100%

League of Conservation Campaign  
100%

Planned Parenthood Action Fund  
100%

American Civil Liberties  
86%

US Chamber of Commerce  
40%

The Club For Growth  
19%

Numbers USA  
18%

Americans for Prosperity  
12%

Freedom Works  
0%

Senator Gillibrand was born in Albany, New York. She attended Dartmouth College and graduated from UCLA School of Law. After holding positions in government and private practice and working Hillary Clinton's 2000 US. Senate campaign, Gillibrand was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 2006 and re-elected in 2008.

When Senator Clinton's appointment as U.S. Secretary of State took place in 2009, Governor David Patterson selected Gillibrand to fill the Senate seat. Gillibrand, then won a special election in 2010.

She is married to John Gillibrand, and they have 2 children. Her parents were both attorneys and her father worked as a lobbyist. She is one of three children. She has an older brother, Douglas Rutnik and a younger sister, Erin Rutnik Tschantret. Her maternal grandparents were businessmen. Her grandmother Polly Noonan was founder of the Albany Democratic Women's Club.

During her childhood, Gillibrand used the nickname "Tina". She graduated in 1984 from Emma Willard School, all women's private school located in Troy, New York. At Dartmouth College, she marked in Asian Studies and studied in Beijing and Taiwan. She was a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority, and while in college interned at Republican U.S. Senator Alfonse D'Amato's Albany office.

After passing the bar exam in 1991, she worked for the Manhattan-based law firm of Davis, Polk & Wardwell, but left in 1992 to serve as a law clerk to Judge Roger Miner on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in Albany.

While working at the law firm, she served as a defense attorney for Philip Morris during major litigation, including both civil lawsuits and criminal and civil racketeering and perjury probes. She defended the company's executives against criminal investigation into whether they had committed perjury in their testimony before Congress when they claimed that they had no knowledge of a connection between tobacco smoking and cancer.

While working at the law firm, she became involved in, and eventually the leader of the Women's Leadership Forum and was greatly inspired by Hillary Clinton when she said, "If you leave all the decision-making to others, you might not like what they do and you will have no one but yourself to blame.

In 2001, she switched to the law office of Boies, Schiller and Flexner, where she transferred to their Albany office after informing them that she was interested in running for office. She worked at their office until 2005 when she began her 2006 campaign.

While working at some of the major law firms, she was able to take on pro bono cases and defended women and their children and tenants seeking safe housing conditions. She served as Special Counsel to Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, chair Andrew Cuomo. In 1999, Gillibrand began working on Hillary Clinton's 2000 U.S. Senate

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campaign. Gillibrand and Clinton became close during the election, with Clinton becoming a mentor to the young attorney.

When Governor Patterson was selecting a replacement for Hillary Clinton, her name was among other high-profile New York Democrats including Andrew Cuomo, Fran Drescher, and Caroline Kennedy. She was sworn in on January 26, 2009; at 42 years of age, she entered the chamber as the youngest senator in the 111th Congress. When she ran for the Senate in 2012, she won the election with 72.2% of the vote and had achieved the largest victory margin for a statewide candidate in New York History. She carried all but two counties in Western New York.

## Political Positions Continue...

*heavily on online fund-raising. Nearly 97% of her 2018 campaign totaled donations of \$100 or less.*

*Kirsten Gillibrand is a fierce defender of women's rights. She declared a "zero tolerance" doctrine regarding accusations of sexual misconduct by members of Congress. In November of 2017, amid the MeToo movement, she was among one of the first democrats to state that Bill Clinton should have resigned when his affair with Monica Lewinsky was revealed.*

*In May 2017, Gillibrand co-sponsored the Israel Anti-Boycott Act (S.270) which made it a federal crime punishable by a maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment, for Americans to encourage or participate in boycotts against Israel and Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories if protesting actions by the Israeli government.*

*In 2020, Kirsten Gillibrand contemplated running as one of the candidates for the 2020 Democratic nominee, however after failing to qualify for the third debate, she withdrew from the race in August 2019.*

