



President George W. Bush

George W. Bush, the 43rd President of the United States, was sworn into office on January 20, 2001 and served as Commander in Chief for two consecutive terms.

Before his presidency, he served for six years as Governor of the State of Texas.

President Bush was born July 6, 1946, in New Haven, Connecticut, to Barbara and George H.W. Bush—later the 41st President of the United States. In 1948, the family moved to Texas, where President Bush grew up in Midland and Houston. He received a bachelor's degree in history from Yale University in 1968, and then served as a pilot in the Texas Air National Guard. President Bush received a master's degree in business administration from Harvard Business School in 1975. Following graduation, he moved back to Midland and began a career in the energy business. After working on his father's successful 1988 Presidential campaign, President Bush led a group of partners that purchased the Texas Rangers baseball franchise in 1989.

On November 8, 1994, George W. Bush was elected the 46th Governor of Texas. He became the first governor in Texas history to be elected to consecutive four-year terms when he was re-elected on November 3, 1998. In Austin, he earned a reputation for his bipartisan governing approach and his compassionate conservative philosophy, which was based on limited government, personal responsibility, strong families, and local control.

As President, George W. Bush worked to expand freedom, opportunity and security at home and abroad. His first initiative as President was the No Child Left Behind Act, a bipartisan measure that raised standards in schools, insisted on accountability in return for federal dollars, and led to measurable gains in achievement –

especially among minority students. Faced with a recession when he took office, President Bush cut taxes for every federal income taxpayer, which helped lead to an unprecedented 52 straight months of job creation. President Bush also modernized Medicare by adding a prescription drug benefit that provided access to needed medicine for 40 million seniors and other beneficiaries.

President Bush implemented free trade agreements with more than a dozen nations; empowered America's armies of compassion by creating USA Freedom Corps and the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives; promoted a culture of life; improved air quality and made America's energy supply more secure; designated more ocean area habitats for environmental protection than any predecessor; transformed the military to meet the changing threats of the 21st century and nearly doubled government support for veterans; pioneered a new development strategy that tied American foreign aid to reform and good governance; launched global HIV/AIDS and malaria initiatives that have saved millions of lives; expanded the NATO alliance; forged a historic new partnership with India; and appointed Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The most significant event of President Bush's tenure came on September 11, 2001, when terrorists killed nearly 3,000 people on American soil. President Bush responded with a comprehensive strategy to protect the American people. He led the most dramatic reorganization of the federal government since the beginning of the Cold War, reforming the intelligence community and establishing new institutions like the Department of Homeland Security. He built global coalitions to remove violent regimes in Afghanistan and Iraq that threatened America, liberating more than 50 million people from tyranny. Recognizing that freedom and hope are

the best alternative to the extremist ideology of the terrorists, he provided unprecedented American support for young democracies and dissidents in the Middle East, Eastern Europe and elsewhere. In the more than seven years President Bush remained in office following September 11, 2001, the United States was not attacked again.

Since leaving office, President Bush has focused his attention on developing the George W. Bush Presidential Center at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, which will encompass the Presidential Library and Museum, Archives, and the George W. Bush Institute. The Institute, which President Bush announced in the fall of 2009, will advance the principles that guided him during his time in public service and has four areas of engagement: education, global health, human freedom, and economic growth, and two cross-cutting areas that permeate the four: the women's initiative and social entrepreneurship. The Institute will engage in action-oriented research and create partnerships with foundations, social entrepreneurs, NGOs, government entities, and faith-based organizations. The Institute's mission is to turn ideas into action.

In his 2010 bestselling memoir, *Decision Points*, President Bush shares a strikingly personal and candid account revealing how and why he made the defining decisions in his presidency and personal life.

President Bush is married to Laura Welch Bush, a former teacher and librarian whom he met at a friend's backyard barbecue. They have twin daughters, Barbara and Jenna, and a son-in-law, Henry Hager. The Bush family also includes two dogs, Barney and Miss Beazley and a cat, Bob.



Larry J. Sabato

Election Analyst and University Professor

Dr. Larry J. Sabato, called “the most quoted college professor in the land” by the Wall Street Journal, is the founder and head of the University of Virginia’s Center for Politics, where his ‘Crystal Ball’ electoral analysis expertly navigates the shifting sands of American electoral politics, accurately predicting the landslides, the nail-biters, and everything in between.

Larry Sabato provides expert knowledge of what is coming down the pike, preparing us for the changing of the guard in Washington, DC and the nation. He bridges the gap between the rhetoric and the reality, showing audiences how the art of politics and the science of the American voting psyche come together to produce our nation’s next batch of leaders.

“Politics Is a Good Thing!” In July 2008, Dr. Sabato correctly projected that Barack Obama would win the presidency in a near-landslide. He predicted a 364-174 margin in the Electoral College, just one vote away from the final tally of 365-173, as well as the correct 53% popular vote margin. He also accurately predicted 98% of Senate, House, and governor winners in 2006, 2008, and 2010 – by far the best showing in the business. He is the author of 24 books and countless essays on politics, including the well known *Feeding Frenzy*, *A More Perfect Constitution*; and *The Year of Obama*. His latest book, *Pendulum Swing*, discusses the 2010 midterm elections.

Professor, Pundit, and Political Seer. A former Rhodes Scholar and Danforth Fellow, Dr. Sabato has received every major teaching award at UVA. In 2001, he was named the Thomas Jefferson Award winner, UVA’s highest honor. He has also served on many national

and state commissions, including the National Commission for the Renewal of American Democracy and the Senate Campaign Finance Reform Panel. He is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship and several teaching awards, and he has been a guest scholar at the Brookings Institution, Oxford University, and Cambridge University.

Sabato has appeared on myriad news channels and is also a regular contributor to NPR. In 2006, he was named the most accurate prognosticator by an unusual combination of news organizations: FOX News, MSNBC, CNBC, and Pew's Project for Excellence in Journalism. With bold but nuanced observations, Dr. Larry J. Sabato speaks to the core of American politics and to the essence of the nation at every sociopolitical stage.



Chris Isaak

Throughout his impressive recording career -- right from his stunning 1985 debut to this latest stellar effort -- Chris Isaak has tunefully and artfully explored the good, the bad and the ugly of love, as well as other matters of profound human interest. He has done so with an abiding respect for popular music's past, but at the same time with clear and vital passion for the here and now.