

# Rep. Henry J. Hyde (R)



## Elected 1974; 14th term

Like Robert Louis Stevenson's fictional character, the House's Mr. Hyde has two different personalities — or at least a pair of distinct public images.

Among his colleagues, Hyde is respected as an old-fashioned wit, one of the sharpest legal minds on Capitol Hill and a genuinely nice man. As staunch a liberal as fellow Chicagoland Rep. Jesse L. Jackson Jr. once called Hyde "a voice of moderation." At the same time, his detractors condemn Hyde as the implacable leader of the drive to impeach President Clinton. An icon of the anti-abortion movement, his legislative legacy is a measure blocking federal funding of abortions for poor women — an accomplishment he is proud to claim but that his opponents decry.

The biggest riddle surrounding Hyde is which of his personalities will be dominant in the twilight of his career, when he is taking on an important new assignment in the House. Forced by GOP-imposed term limits to give up the gavel of the Judiciary Committee, in 2001 Hyde leveraged his seniority and his stature to secure the chairmanship of the International Relations Committee, something of a legislative backwater in recent years. Hyde has not been heavily involved in foreign policy for more than a decade, although during the Reagan administration he had a significant role on arms control issues and in the debate over Central America. He also served on the committee investigating the Iran-contra affair and was ranking Republican on the Intelligence Committee from 1987 through 1990.

Most of his own foreign policy views fall within mainstream Republican thinking, although he says he would like to build support for the further incremental expansion of NATO and write legislation that would condition U.S. aid to the Palestinian Authority on an end to violence and a return to peace negotiations with Israel. Given his status as a hero of the anti-abortion movement, he also can be expected to take a hard line in the annual battle over funds for international family planning groups.

Hyde, who attended Georgetown University on a basketball scholarship, is a hulk of a man whose imposing physical presence is paired with a rousing oratorical style. He is often the most impressive spokesman in legislative battles, pouncing on flaws in foes' arguments with all the wit and sarcasm he once used as a Chicago trial lawyer. He clearly loves the institution of Congress.

Hyde performed yeoman's service in the "Republican revolution," swiftly adapting himself to the influx of conservatives elected in the 1990s — and also helping them adapt to the House. Still, he has had some high-profile differences with the party's right wing. He gave a pivotal speech on the House floor in 1990 in favor of what later became the Family and Medical Leave Act. He voted to ban certain assault-style weapons in 1994 and 1996. And he adamantly opposes term limits, although he allowed proposed constitutional amendments on the issue to pass through his committee.

While now viewed as something of an elder statesman among House Republicans, he has never found the time right to bid for a spot in the party leadership. His highest position, in the early 1990s, was chairman of the Republican Policy Committee. He is still mentioned as a possible candidate for Speaker if the GOP rank-and-file lose faith in the current leadership.

On the legislative front, he is best known for the "Hyde amendment," written in 1976 during his first term, which blocked federal funding of abortions, and remains a source of controversy during debates over appropriations for social services.

Hyde also will always be remembered for leading the impeachment trial

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### COMMITTEES

International Relations - chairman

Judiciary

### HOMETOWN

Bensenville

### BORN

April 18, 1924, Chicago, Ill.

### RELIGION

Roman Catholic

### FAMILY

Widowed; four children

### EDUCATION

Duke U., attended 1943-44; Georgetown U., B.S.

1947; Loyola U., J.D. 1949

### MILITARY SERVICE

Navy, 1944-46; Naval Reserve, 1946-68

### CAREER

Lawyer

### POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Republican nominee for U.S. House, 1962; Ill.

House, 1967-75 (majority leader, 1971-73)

### ELECTION RESULTS

#### 2000 GENERAL

Henry J. Hyde (R) 133,327 58.9%

Brent Christensen (D) 92,880 41.1%

#### 2000 PRIMARY

Henry J. Hyde (R) unopposed

#### 1998 GENERAL

Henry J. Hyde (R) 111,603 67.3%

Thomas A. Cramer (D) 49,906 30.1%

George Meyers (LIBERT) 4,199 2.5%

### PREVIOUS WINNING PERCENTAGES

1996 (64%); 1994 (74%); 1992 (66%); 1990 (67%);

1988 (74%); 1986 (75%); 1984 (75%); 1982 (68%);

1980 (67%); 1978 (66%); 1976 (61%); 1974 (53%)

of Clinton. When the House voted to institute an impeachment inquiry by the Judiciary Committee in 1998, Hyde, the panel's chairman, approached the process with unswerving determination. He said that Clinton, as the nation's chief law enforcement officer, had undermined "the rule of law" by lying to a federal grand jury about his affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

Hyde was a ready target of critics of the proceedings. He even had to endure revelations by the Internet magazine Salon that he had engaged in an affair with a married woman when he was in his early 40s — which he dismissed as a "youthful indiscretion."

Hyde was able to win nearly unanimous support among House Republicans to impeach Clinton. But when the impeachment matter went before the Senate in 1999, Hyde hit a brick wall. Senate GOP leaders sought to dispose quickly of the politically unpopular impeachment proceedings when it became clear that they did not have the votes to remove Clinton from office. Hyde was blocked from mounting the far-reaching case he wanted to make.

As the trial in the Senate progressed, Hyde conceded that he and his 12 fellow House "managers" chosen to prosecute the case were an annoyance. "But," he added, "we are a constitutional annoyance." Clinton was acquitted on both impeachment articles brought by the House.

The imbroglio did not completely hamper Hyde's efforts to lead the politically riven Judiciary Committee. In 2000, he scored a personal triumph with enactment of a law, which he had been pushing since 1993, to make it more difficult for federal agents to seize private property that they suspect is linked to a crime. He said that the previous system had been abused by law enforcement agencies and that not enough protections existed for the innocent.

While Hyde has no great reputation for championing parochial concerns, he puts much importance on seeing to the construction of a third airport to serve the Chicago area. His website declares the issue to be his highest priority in Congress. He opposed the reauthorization of federal aviation law in 2000 because it called for more flights at O'Hare, which is in his district.

Hyde grew up in Chicago as an Irish Catholic Democrat. He began having doubts about the Democratic Party in the late 1940s; by 1952, he had switched parties and backed Dwight D. Eisenhower for president.

Elected to the Illinois House in 1966, Hyde was one of its most outspoken and articulate debaters, rising to majority leader, but losing a bid for Speaker. In 1974, longtime GOP Rep. Harold Collier retired from the suburban Chicago 6th District. Capitalizing on his fundraising prowess and his army of precinct workers, Hyde won 53 percent and has been invincible ever since.

## ILLINOIS 6

### Northwest and west Chicago suburbs

Adjacent to the north half of Chicago, the 6th includes northern DuPage County and northwest suburban Cook County. It's full of older, mostly built-out bedroom communities along commuter rail lines running into the city. Many of these towns have been revitalizing their downtown districts.

Most residents of the 6th have traditionally commuted to Chicago, but some now travel to booming northwest satellite cities like Schaumburg and Naperville. The 6th's commercial district is concentrated on the far north side near one of the world's busiest airports, O'Hare International (an extension of the city of Chicago). Rosemont, a suburb just east of the airport, has few residents but houses thousands of businesses and hotels for people who use O'Hare as a commuter hub.

The 6th has a reputation as a Republican machine, historically working in opposition to Chicago's Democrats. DuPage County, where two-thirds of the district's population lives, is solidly Republican in both the

## KEY VOTES

### 2000

- Yes Raise hourly minimum wage by \$1 over two years
- Yes Halt funding for U.S. mission in Kosovo unless European nations pay more
- Yes Provide Medicare benefits to military retirees and their dependents
- Yes Grant China permanent normal trade status
- Yes Phase out estate, gift and trust taxes
- Yes Prohibit implementation of president's national monument designations
- Yes Approve GOP plan to provide prescription drug coverage for Medicare beneficiaries
- No Increase help for poor nations indebted to international financial institutions

### 1999

- No Impose steel import quotas
- Yes Kill proposal to take aviation trust funds off budget
- Yes Require background checks on buyers only at gun shows with 10 or more vendors
- Yes Remove barriers among banking, securities and insurance companies
- No Authorize state grants to hire teachers and reduce class size
- No Overhaul campaign finance law; ban "soft money" and restrict advocacy advertising
- Yes Approve bipartisan plan to increase rights of patients in managed-care health plans

## INTEREST GROUPS

|      | AFL-CIO | ADA | CCUS | ACU |
|------|---------|-----|------|-----|
| 2000 | 20%     | 10% | 71%  | 76% |
| 1999 | 22%     | 15% | 75%  | 72% |
| 1998 | 0%      | 0%  | 88%  | 92% |
| 1997 | 25%     | 20% | 70%  | 68% |

## CQ VOTE STUDIES

|      | PARTY UNITY |        | PRESIDENTIAL SUPPORT |        |
|------|-------------|--------|----------------------|--------|
|      | Support     | Oppose | Support              | Oppose |
| 2000 | 89%         | 11%    | 35%                  | 65%    |
| 1999 | 89%         | 11%    | 31%                  | 69%    |
| 1998 | 92%         | 8%     | 20%                  | 80%    |
| 1997 | 91%         | 9%     | 28%                  | 72%    |

6th and 13th districts. The county does have a number of Hispanics who came when agriculture dominated the landscape. Many stayed as Chicago's suburbs began to creep west and take over farmland during the 1970s and '80s. Suburban Cook County's population, including quite a few empty-nesters, is also traditionally conservative.

### MAJOR INDUSTRY

Airport, health care, light manufacturing

### CITIES

Des Plaines (pt.), 52,639 (1990); Elmhurst, 44,153; Wheaton (pt.), 38,464 (1990); Lombard (pt.), 38,032 (1990); Park Ridge, 37,866; Addison, 34,259

### UNUSUAL FEATURES

Donald E. Stephens Museum of Hummels, collectible ceramic figurines; Sen. and former First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, native of Park Ridge.