

1950 :: Patricia Lynn Johns is born to Beverly and David Johns. She and her twin sister are the second and third of seven children in the Johns family.

1965 :: David Johns is diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and over the next few years the family struggles with medical bills and has to, for a time, rely on food stamps. Beverly finds part-time work as a bookkeeper.



★ **1968** :: Enrolls at Washington State University, and pays for school with the help of Pell Grants and student loans.

1972 :: Interns at Seattle's Veterans Affairs hospital working with injured soldiers who returned from Vietnam.

Graduates from WSU with degree in physical education.



Marries Rob Murray '75.



1975 :: The Murrays move to Shoreline.

1976 :: Son Randy is born.

1979 :: Daughter Sara is born.



JOHN FROSCHAUER/AP

1983 :: Patty becomes a citizen lobbyist, sparked by a desire to save a state-funded co-op preschool program in her community. It was while she was campaigning to save the preschool that a legislator tells her she is just "a mom in tennis shoes".

1984 :: Starts teaching at Shoreline Community College.

1985 :: Joins the Shoreline School District Board of Directors and serves terms as president and legislative director.

1988 :: Elected to Washington State Senate.

1990 :: Becomes the state Democratic whip.

1991 :: Announces her plan to run for U.S. Senate.

★ **1992** :: Patty earns NOW's endorsement, which leads to other local and national support. Patty is elected. The number of women in the U.S. Senate climbs from two to six.

1993 :: Starts work as Washington State's first woman senator. Joins the Senate Appropriations Committee.

★ **1995** :: Becomes the first woman to join the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.

2001 :: Becomes the chair of the Senate Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee.



JASON REED/REUTERS

2005 :: Exposes a greater-than \$1 billion shortfall in VA funding. Publicly rebukes Senate colleagues and VA administrators for under-serving war veterans.

2007 :: Named Democratic Conference Secretary, the fourth most powerful position among Senate Democrats.



★ **2009** :: Patty participates in the signing of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law, continuing her efforts to support women's issues.



ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES

★ Patty attends Senate confirmation hearings for Gary Locke to become U.S. Commerce Secretary. Along with her rise to power in the Senate, the Locke confirmation, the appointment of Seattle Police Chief Gil Kerlikowske as the White House "drug czar," and the nomination of King County Executive Ron Sims to be deputy secretary of Housing and Urban Development are providing Washington State a growing presence in the Capital.

Chronology of a Senator

Using details from her own biography, news stories, speeches, and testimony, we have listed some of the key events along Patty Murray's journey from a preschool classroom in Shoreline to the marble halls of Washington, D.C.