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She currently holds the position of Chief Deputy Whip of the Democratic Majority and defeated Republican challenger Carly Fiorina in the United States Senate election on November 2, 2010.<sup>[2]</sup>

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## Early life and family

Barbara Levy Boxer was born in Brooklyn, New York to Jewish parents Sophie (née Silvershein; born in Austria) and Ira Levy.<sup>[3]</sup> She attended public schools, and graduated from George W. Wingate High School in 1958.

In 1962, she married Stewart Boxer and graduated from Brooklyn College with a bachelor's degree in Economics. While in college she was a member of Delta Phi Epsilon (social) sorority.

Boxer worked as a stockbroker for the next three years, while her husband went to law school. Later, the couple moved to Greenbrae, Marin County, California, and had two children, Doug and Nicole. She first ran for political office in 1972, when she challenged incumbent Peter Arrigoni, a member of the Marin County Board of Supervisors, but lost a close election. Later during the 1970s, Boxer worked as a journalist for the Pacific Sun and as an aide to John Burton, then a member of Congress.<sup>[4]</sup> In 1976, Boxer was elected to the Marin County Board of Supervisors, serving for six years.<sup>[5]</sup> She was its first woman president.<sup>[6]</sup>

In 1994, her daughter Nicole married Tony Rodham, brother of then-First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, in a ceremony at the White House. The couple had one son, Zachary, and divorced in 2000.<sup>[7]</sup>

Boxer's husband, Stewart, a prominent attorney in Oakland, represents injured workers in worker's compensation cases, keeping a very low political profile. Many cases are referred to

him by labor unions, including the Teamsters. In 2006, the Boxers sold their house in Greenbrae, where they had lived for many years, and moved to Rancho Mirage.<sup>[8]</sup> Their son, Douglas, a lawyer, practices with Stewart and is a member of the Oakland Planning Commission, having been appointed to that office by then-mayor Jerry Brown.

According to one story, which Boxer has acknowledged,<sup>[citation needed]</sup> in 1972, Stewart had planned to run for the Marin County Board of Supervisors, but decided the campaign would interfere with his law practice in Oakland, so Barbara ran instead. She was supported in that election by Marin Alternative, a broad-based, liberal political organization which she had helped found a few years before. A very active force in Marin County politics for a while, Marin Alternative dissolved in the late 1970s.

Boxer's first novel, *A Time to Run* was published in 2005 by San Francisco-based publishing company Chronicle Books.<sup>[9]</sup> Her second novel *Blind Trust* was released in July 2009 by Chronicle Books.

## U.S. Representative

Boxer was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1982, defeating Dennis McQuaid. Her slogan was "Barbara Boxer Gives a Damn." In the House, she represented California District 6 (Marin and Sonoma Counties) for five terms.<sup>[10]</sup>

During this time she focused on human rights, environmental protection, military procurement reform, and abortion issues from a pro-choice stance.<sup>[citation needed]</sup> She was also involved in seeking protection for whistleblowers in government and pushed for higher budget allocations for health, biomedical research, and education.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, with the help of the Project on Military Procurement (now Project On Government Oversight [POGO]), Boxer exposed the "\$7,600 Pentagon coffee pot" and successfully passed more than a dozen procurement reforms.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

In 1992, Boxer was embarrassed by the House banking scandal, which revealed that more than 450 Congressional Representatives and aides, herself included, wrote overdraft checks covered by overdraft protection by the House Bank. In response, she issued a statement saying "in painful retrospect, I clearly should have paid more attention to my account" and wrote a \$15 check to the Deficit Reduction Fund for each of her 87 overdrafts.<sup>[11]</sup>

In 1991, during the Anita Hill Senate hearings, where Hill accused U.S. Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas of sexual harassment, Boxer led a group of women House members to the Senate Judiciary Committee – demanding that the all-white, all-male Committee of Senators take Hill's charges seriously.<sup>[12]</sup>

## U.S. Senator

### Elections

Democratic Senator Alan Cranston retired in 1992, creating an open contest, which Boxer won in the U.S. Senate elections that year, defeating Bruce Herschensohn, a conservative television political commentator, by 4.9% after a last-minute revelation that Herschensohn had attended a strip club.<sup>[13]</sup> In 1998, she won a second term, beating sitting California State Treasurer Matt Fong by 10% of the vote.<sup>[14]</sup> She had decided to retire in 2004 but says she decided to run to "fight for the right to dissent" against conservatives like Tom DeLay.<sup>[citation needed]</sup> After facing no primary opposition in the 2004 election, Boxer defeated GOP candidate Bill Jones, the sitting California Secretary of State, by a margin of

20 percent.<sup>[15]</sup>

## Committees

- **Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation**
  - Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security
  - Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Insurance
  - Subcommittee on Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard
  - Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security
  - Subcommittee on Science and Space
- **Committee on Environment and Public Works** (Chairwoman)
- **Committee on Foreign Relations**
  - Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs
  - Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs
  - Subcommittee on International Operations and Organizations, Human Rights, Democracy and Global Women's Issues (Chairwoman)
  - Subcommittee on International Development and Foreign Assistance, Economic Affairs, and International Environmental Protection
- **Select Committee on Ethics** (Chairwoman)

A member of the Senate Democratic Leadership, Boxer serves as the Democratic Chief Deputy Whip, which gives her the job of lining up votes on key legislation. She also serves on the Democratic Policy Committee's Committee on Oversight and Investigations.<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup>

## Presidential politics

### 2004

On January 6, 2005, Boxer joined Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-Ohio) in filing a U.S. Congressional objection to the certification of Ohio's Electoral College votes in the 2004 U.S. presidential election.<sup>[16]</sup> She called the objection her "opening shot to be able to focus the light of truth on these terrible problems in the electoral system".<sup>[17][18]</sup> The Senate voted the objection down 1–74; the House voted the objection down 31–267.<sup>[19]</sup> It was only the second Congressional objection to an entire State's electoral delegation in U.S. history; the first instance was in 1877.<sup>[20][21]</sup>



On Valentine's Day 2005, Senator Boxer received 4,500 roses for calling attention to alleged voting irregularities in Ohio during the 2004 presidential election.

As a gesture of appreciation and support for her stance on the alleged Presidential election irregularities and Condoleezza Rice's confirmation hearings, Stacy Davies of California began, via e-mail, the "Barbara Boxer Rose Campaign", wherein people collaborated to buy Senator Boxer roses.<sup>[*citation needed*]</sup>

### 2008



As a superdelegate, Boxer had declared that she would support the winner of the California primary, which was won by Hillary Clinton.<sup>[22]</sup> However, she remained neutral and only officially backed Barack Obama's



Boxer speaks during the second day of the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colorado.

candidacy the day after the last primaries, once he had garnered enough delegate votes to clinch the nomination.<sup>[23]</sup>

## Platform and votes

### Health care

Senator Boxer is part of a coalition to increase medical research to find cures for diseases. In 2007, she authored successful bipartisan legislation with Senator Gordon Smith to combat HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis globally.<sup>[24]</sup> In 1997, she authored a Patients' Bill of Rights. She has written a bill to make health insurance tax-deductible and another bill to let any American buy into the same health insurance program that members of Congress have. She supports comprehensive prescription drug coverage through Medicare and the right of all consumers to purchase lower-cost prescription drugs re-imported from Canada.<sup>[25]</sup>

In October 2002, Boxer urged the Bush Administration to take specific steps to address the causes of the steep increase in autism cases in California.<sup>[26]</sup> She wrote Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tommy Thompson to establish a common national standard for the diagnosis of autism; instruct the CDC and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry to convene a task force to review the current literature on autism and conduct its own study if necessary; and direct the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to work with the states to create a national chronic disease database.

Boxer is an advocate for embryonic stem-cell research, which has the potential to help those with diabetes, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, spinal cord injuries, and other diseases.<sup>[27]</sup>

In March 2010, Boxer voted to support the health care reform agenda of the Obama Administration and Democratic 111th Congress by voting yes on the Health Care Reconciliation Act and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

### Education

Boxer introduced legislation providing Federal funding for local after-school programs, which have been shown to increase student performance while decreasing juvenile delinquency, crime, and drug use. Her 'Computers in Classrooms' law encourages the donation of computers and software to schools.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

Boxer supported the No Child Left Behind Act. Since its passage in 2001, she claims that the bill has been underfunded by billions of dollars. She vows to work towards a goal that assures it will be fully funded going forward, as originally pledged by former President George W. Bush.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

Boxer has voted to increase the maximum award for the Pell Grant program, which provides grants to lower income students for college. In addition, she has supported tax benefits that she claims will help more families pay for higher education.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

Boxer has co-introduced legislation that she claims is designed to allow college graduates to refinance their student loans at market rate, in order to ease the financial burden on those starting their careers.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

Boxer established the Excellence in Education award to recognize teachers, parents, businesses and organizations that are working to make positive changes in education. Since

1997 Senator Boxer has presented the Excellence in Education Award to 38 recipients.<sup>[28]</sup>

### The economy

Senators Boxer and John Ensign (R-NV) are the authors of the Invest in the USA Act. This legislation, which was signed into law in October 2004 as a small part of the more comprehensive American Jobs Creation Act, is intended to encourage American companies to bring overseas profits back to the United States, to create jobs in the U.S., and stimulate domestic economic growth.

In March 2004, Boxer offered an amendment to the Federal budget to create a \$24 billion jobs reserve fund. The amendment would set aside funds for a variety of investments to improve the economy and create jobs by establishing a manufacturing jobs tax credit for companies that create jobs in the United States, expanding investment in science research and development, providing a tax credit to small businesses to pay for health insurance for their employees, and expanding trade adjustment assistance to help those who lose their jobs because of foreign trade. The Boxer amendment would also end the tax break that companies receive after moving plants overseas.

On October 1, 2008, Boxer voted in favor of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act.<sup>[29]</sup>

On May 11, 2010, Boxer voted against the Vitter Amendment to the financial reform bill (no. 3760) originally crafted by Ron Paul, which would have given authorization for a complete audit of the Federal Reserve.<sup>[30]</sup> Boxer instead voted for a stripped down version of the Amendment offered by Senator Bernard Sanders.

### The environment

Boxer successfully led the 2003 Senate floor battle to block oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.<sup>[31]</sup> In 2005, Boxer voted again to block oil drilling at ANWR.

Boxer has introduced the National Oceans Protection Act (NOPA) of 2005.<sup>[32]</sup> Some of the provisions of this act are: strengthen ocean governance; protect and restore marine wildlife and habitats; address ocean pollution; improve fisheries management. The bill also addresses needs regarding marine science, research and technology, marine mammals, coastal development, and invasive species.

Boxer is an original cosponsor of Senator Jim Jeffords' (I-VT) Clean Power Act.<sup>[33]</sup> This legislation would reduce emissions of three pollutants coming from power plants; sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and mercury, and also reduce emissions of carbon dioxide .

As the new head of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in January 2007, Boxer wants to reduce energy consumption. She is attempting to curb global warming by leading pilot programs. The few things that she and some of her fellow Senators are doing could cut electricity consumption by as much as 50 percent in their Capitol Hill offices.<sup>[34]</sup>

Senator Boxer was the Senate sponsor of the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act, which was signed into law by President George W. Bush on October 17, 2006. The bill protected 275,830 acres (1,116 km<sup>2</sup>) of federal land as wilderness and 21 miles (34 km) of stream as a wild and scenic river, including such popular areas as the King Range and Cache Creek.<sup>[35]</sup> Senator Boxer worked with Senator Dianne Feinstein and Representative Mike Thompson (the bill's House sponsor) in the five-year effort to pass the legislation.

Boxer along with her colleague Dianne Feinstein voted in favor of subsidy payments to conventional commodity farm producers at the cost of subsidies for conservation-oriented farming.<sup>[36]</sup>

## Reproductive Rights, Family Planning and Birth control

Boxer maintains a strong stance in support of abortion rights. Boxer authored the Freedom of Choice Act of 2004 and participated in the floor fight for passage of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act.

Boxer is an original cosponsor of the Title X Family Planning Services Act of 2005, S.844, by Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY). This legislation aims to improve access to women's health care. It authorizes funding for family planning services grants; allows states to provide such services to individuals who may not be eligible for Medicaid; prohibits health insurance providers from excluding contraceptive services, drugs or devices from benefits; establishes a program to disseminate information on emergency contraception; requires hospitals receiving federal funding to offer emergency contraception to victims of sexual assault; provides grants to public and private entities to establish or expand teen pregnancy prevention programs; and requires that federally funded education programs about contraception be medically accurate and include information about health benefits and failure rates.



Boxer speaking at an ACLU event.

She was strongly critical of the Stupak-Pitts Amendment, which would prevent taxpayer-funded abortions possibly resulting in women not being able to pay with their own funds for abortion coverage Affordable Health Care for America Act.<sup>[37]</sup>

## Social Security

Boxer supports the current system of Social Security, and opposed President George W. Bush's plan for partial privatization of Social Security.<sup>[38][39]</sup> She introduced the 401(k) Pension Protection Act to protect retirement by requiring the diversification of 401(k) plans. A modified version of the bill was signed into law as part of the 1997 tax bill.

Following the Enron scandal, Boxer again worked to ensure that retirement plans are diversified. She also introduced a bill to prohibit accounting firms from auditing and consulting for the same company.

## National security

After the September 11, 2001 attacks, Boxer authored a bill to protect commercial airliners against attacks by shoulder-fired missiles, and wrote the law allowing airline pilots with special training to carry guns in the cockpit.

Boxer wrote the High-Tech Port Security Act, and sponsored the Chemical Security Act to address terrorist threats against chemical plants. Senator Boxer also cosponsored comprehensive rail security legislation.

## Iraq War

In October 2002, Boxer voted against the joint resolution passed by the U.S. Congress to authorize the use of military force by the Bush Administration against Iraq.<sup>[40][41][42]</sup> In June



Senator Boxer has lunch with California Marines during her visit to

2005, Senators Boxer and Russ Feingold (D-WI) cosponsored Senate Resolution 171 calling for a timeframe for U.S. troop withdrawal from Iraq.

Iraq. (2005-03-22)

Boxer's petition demanding an exit strategy from Iraq drew 107,218 signatures.<sup>[43]</sup>

### Surveillance

In June 2008 Boxer spoke in the Senate in opposition to the FISA Amendments Act of 2008,<sup>[44]</sup> a pending bill in the United States Congress to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act,<sup>[45]</sup> and later broke with her counterpart Sen. Dianne Feinstein and voted against it.<sup>[46]</sup>

### Election reform



Senators Boxer and Clinton unveil the Count Every Vote Act

([http://www.pfaw.org/pfaw/dfiles/file\\_493](http://www.pfaw.org/pfaw/dfiles/file_493) . (2005-02-18)

Boxer voted in support of the 2002 Help America Vote Act, which mandated the use of voting machines across the country, among other provisions. On February 18, 2005 Senators Boxer, Hillary Clinton, and Representative Stephanie Tubbs Jones introduced the Count Every Vote Act of 2005, which would provide a voter verified paper ballot for every vote cast in electronic voting machines and ensure access to voter verification for all citizens. The bill mandates that this ballot be the official ballot for purposes of a recount. The bill sets a uniform standard for provisional ballots and requires the Federal Election Assistance Commission to issue

standards that ensure uniform access to voting machines and trained election personnel in every community. The bill also mandated improved security measures for electronic voting machines.<sup>[47]</sup> The bill did not pass.

### Bush nominees

During the confirmation hearings for the United States Secretary of State nominee Condoleezza Rice in January 2005, Boxer challenged her to admit to alleged mistakes and false statements made by the Bush Administration in leading the United States into the 2003 invasion of Iraq, and ultimately voted against confirmation, along with twelve other senators.<sup>[48][49]</sup> The dissent was the highest vote against a Secretary of State nominee since 1825 when Henry Clay was so named.<sup>[50]</sup>

Boxer voted against John Bolton's nomination for U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and filibustered him on the Senate floor. As a result of the strong Democratic opposition Bolton could not obtain Senate approval. However, President Bush bypassed the Senate by employing the constitutional right of recess appointment, only the second time such an appointment has been used for a United States ambassador to the United Nations since the UN's founding in 1945. Recess appointments themselves have been used numerous times by various presidents.

Boxer voted against the confirmation of Chief Justice of the United States nominee John Roberts, and against the confirmation of Associate Justice nominee Samuel Alito.<sup>[51][52]</sup>

### Foreign policy

In 1997, the Senate passed a Boxer resolution calling on the United States not to recognize

the Taliban as the official government of Afghanistan because of its human rights abuses against women.

In 2002, Senator Boxer voted against the U.S. invasion of Iraq. She has subsequently referred to that vote as the best vote of her career. She also voted against the first Gulf War (Operation Desert Storm) while a member of the House in 1991<sup>[53]</sup> and was a very vocal protester against the Vietnam War in the 1970s.<sup>[54]</sup>

Boxer is a cosponsor of S. 495, or the Darfur Accountability Act of 2005, which would impose sanctions against perpetrators of crimes against humanity in Darfur.



Senator Boxer meets Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. (2005-03-30)

## The Internet

Along with former Republican Senator George Allen (R-VA), Boxer authored the Jumpstart Broadband Act. This bill would make more spectrum available for use by devices that incorporate new broadband technology, such as WiFi. The Federal Communications Commission is now implementing the Boxer-Allen bill.

## Drug Policy Reform

Senator Boxer has come out against reforming marijuana policy and is opposed to the California Ballot measure to legalize and tax marijuana for those 21 and older in the state.<sup>[55]</sup> Notably, this position is against the majority of Californians, of whom a recent Field Poll pegs 56% as supporting taxing and legalizing the plant.<sup>[56]</sup>

## Gun control

Senator Boxer joined colleagues to pass a Federal ban on various semi-automatic firearms and established the COPS program. She supports reauthorization of both programs.<sup>[citation needed]</sup>

## LGBT issues

The Human Rights Campaign gave Boxer ratings of 100%, 88% and 100% for the 107th, 108th, and 109th sessions of Congress, respectively, indicating a support of the HRC's slate of pro-gay rights legislative issues.<sup>[57]</sup> In 1996, she was one of fourteen Senators to vote against the Defense of Marriage Act<sup>[58]</sup> and also voted against the Federal Marriage Amendment in 2004 and 2006,<sup>[59]</sup> although when San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom issued a directive to the city-county clerk to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples she stated that she supported California's domestic partnership law but agreed with its definition that marriage was between a man and a woman.<sup>[60]</sup> However, her 2010 re-election campaign website states that "Senator Boxer supports marriage equality."<sup>[61]</sup>

She has also co-sponsored the Matthew Shepard Act,<sup>[62]</sup> which expanded the federal definition of hate crimes to include crimes based on the victim's sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as the Uniting American Families Act.<sup>[63]</sup> She opposed Proposition 8, a constitutional amendment that prohibited same-sex marriage in California. Proposition 8 passed with a 52.30% to 47.70% majority.

## India-U.S. nuclear deal

Boxer is one of the most outspoken critics of the nuclear energy deal between the United States and India. Boxer is of the opinion that India should not get help from the U.S. in the civilian nuclear energy sector until it breaks its relationship with Iran.<sup>[64]</sup>

### Indian gaming

The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, formerly the Federated Coast Miwok, was officially recognized by the U.S. government on December 27, 2000, pursuant to an act of Congress. California 6th District Representative Lynn Woolsey introduced the Graton Rancheria Restoration Act (105th CONGRESS, 2d Session, H.R. 4434) August 6, 1998. It was ultimately approved and signed by President Clinton as Title XIV of the Omnibus Indian Advancement Act (Public Law No. 106-568).

Representative Woolsey's original bill (H.R. 4434, later H.R. 946) would not have permitted the FIGR to have a casino. Senator Boxer removed that prohibition when she included Woolsey's bill in the Omnibus Act.

### Censuring President Bush

Senator Boxer was, along with Iowa Senator Tom Harkin, one of only two Senate Democrats to come out in favor of Wisconsin Senator Russ Feingold's resolution to censure President George W. Bush.<sup>[65]</sup>

### Support for Fellow Democrats

Senator Boxer is a major supporter of fellow Democrats running for office. Boxer's PAC for a Change (<http://www.actblue.com/page/pacforachange>) , an ActBlue-active PAC, is a progressive organization that advocated for basic human rights, economic justice, and social justice, and supports candidates who share those values.



Boxer speaking at an Obama rally in 2010

### Congressional scorecards

See also

- Biography ([http://www.votesmart.org/bio.php?can\\_id=53274](http://www.votesmart.org/bio.php?can_id=53274)) , voting record ([http://www.votesmart.org/voting\\_category.php?can\\_id=53274](http://www.votesmart.org/voting_category.php?can_id=53274)) , and interest group ratings ([http://www.votesmart.org/issue\\_rating\\_category.php?can\\_id=53274](http://www.votesmart.org/issue_rating_category.php?can_id=53274)) at Project Vote Smart

Project Vote Smart provides the following results from congressional scorecards.<sup>[66]</sup>

- American Civil Liberties Union – 83% for 2005–2006
- Americans for Democratic Action – 95% for 2006
- American Land Rights Association – 11% for 2006
- Americans for Tax Reform – 5% for 2006
- AFL-CIO – 100% in 2006
- Campaign for America's Future – 100% for 2005–2006
- Conservative Index-John Birch Society – 20% for Fall 2004
- Children's Defense Fund – 100% for 2006
- Drum Major Institute – 100% for 2005
- Family Research Council – 0% for 2006
- FreedomWorks – 17% for 2006
- Gun Owners of America – 0% for 2006
- Humane Society of the United States – 100% for 2005–2006
- League of Conservation Voters – 100% for 2006

- NARAL Pro-Choice America – 100% for 2006
- National Association of Wheat Growers – 0% for 2005
- National Education Association – 100% for 2005–2006
- National Federation of Independent Business – 0% for 2005–2006
- National Journal – Composite liberal score of 95% for 2006
- National Organization for Women – 96% for 2005–2006
- National Rifle Association – F for 2006
- National Right to Life Committee – 0% for 2005–2006
- National Taxpayers Union – 11% for 2006
- Population Connection – 100% for 2006
- Republican Liberty Caucus – 10% for 2005
- Secular Coalition for America – 90% on 2006 scorecards<sup>[67]</sup>
- United States Chamber of Commerce – 25% for 2006

## Public image, political reception and controversy

As a liberal and also a feminist, Boxer has often been described as a tenacious fighter for what she thinks is right, both by herself and in news accounts.<sup>[68][69]</sup>

### Conversation with Brigadier General Michael Walsh

In 2009, Boxer was criticized for berating a general for calling her "ma'am." Brigadier General Michael Walsh was testifying on the Louisiana coastal restoration process in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and answered Boxer's query with "ma'am" when Boxer interrupted him. "Do me a favor," Boxer said. "can you say 'senator' instead of 'ma'am?'" "Yes, ma'am," Walsh interjected. "It's just a thing, I worked so hard to get that title, so I'd appreciate it. Thank you," she said. The Army's guide to protocol instructs service members to call members of the U.S. Senate "sir," "ma'am" or "senator."<sup>[70][71][72]</sup> Boxer's adversary in the 2010 Senate election, Carly Fiorina, has used this incident prominently in campaign ads. Hollywood director David Zucker created a parody of the exchange, which he hopes to run in a 30-second ad.<sup>[73]</sup>

### Criticizing Condoleezza Rice's judgment

Boxer criticized then United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's judgment in relation to the war in Iraq: "I personally believe – this is my personal view – that your loyalty to the mission you were given, to sell the war, overwhelmed your respect for the truth."<sup>[74]</sup>

In January 2007, Boxer was in the news for comments she made when responding to Bush's plans to send an additional 20,000 troops to Iraq. "Who pays the price?" Boxer asked Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. "I'm not going to pay a personal price. My kids are too old and my grandchild is too young. You're not going to pay a personal price with an immediate family. So who pays the price? The American military and their families... not me, not you." When Rice interjected, Boxer responded by saying, "Madam Secretary, please. I know you feel terrible about it. That's not the point. I was making the case as to who pays the price for your decisions. And the fact that this administration would move forward with this escalation with no clue as to the further price that we're going to pay militarily... I find really appalling."<sup>[75]</sup>

*The New York Post* and White House Press Secretary Tony Snow considered this an attack on Rice's status as a single, childless female and referred to Boxer's comments as "a great leap backward for feminism."<sup>[76]</sup> Rice later echoed Snow's remarks, saying "I thought it was okay to not have children, and I thought you could still make good decisions on behalf of the country if you were single and didn't have children." Boxer responded to the controversy by saying "They're getting this off on a non-existent thing that I didn't say. I'm saying, she's

like me, we do not have families who are in the military."<sup>[77]</sup>

Keith Olbermann accused the commentators, particularly Rush Limbaugh, of making Boxer's comments into an issue when the same people were not outraged when "Laura Bush said Secretary Rice would never be elected president because she was not married."<sup>[78]</sup>

## Television appearances

She has made cameo appearances as herself in several television shows, including *Murphy Brown* (1994),<sup>[79]</sup> *Gilmore Girls* (2002)<sup>[79]</sup> and *Curb Your Enthusiasm* (2007),<sup>[80]</sup> as well as a cameo (as herself) in the 2000 film *Traffic*.<sup>[79]</sup> On November 2, 2005 she made an appearance on The Daily Show with Jon Stewart to discuss her new novel "A Time To Run".

## Awards and honors

Boxer has been honored in Congress by:

- Consumer Federation of America
- Planned Parenthood
- League of Conservation Voters
- Public Citizen
- Sierra Club
- Center for Environmental Education (now The Ocean Conservancy)
- Center for Defense Information
- American Association of University Women

Boxer has also been recognized by:

- The Anti-Defamation League
- The Human Rights Campaign
- The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights
- Women's Image Network, The WIN Awards Lifetime Achievement Honoree 2006
- The Family Violence Law Centre
- Division of Women's Issues of the New York State Psychological Association
- NETWORK, National Catholic Social Justice Lobby

Boxer has been awarded with two Doctor of Laws honorary degrees, one from Mills College and the other from Dominican University of California.

## Major speeches and statements

- Excerpts from Senator Boxer's Senate Floor Statement on the Resolution Authorizing the Use of Military Force against Iraq, October 10, 2002 ([http://web.archive.org/web/20021017220016/http://boxer.senate.gov/newsroom/200210/20021003\\_frelat.html](http://web.archive.org/web/20021017220016/http://boxer.senate.gov/newsroom/200210/20021003_frelat.html))
- On Her Objection to the Certification of Ohio's Electoral College Votes, January 6, 2005 (<http://boxer.senate.gov/news/record.cfm?id=230450>)
- Transcript from the Confirmation Hearing of Condoleezza Rice, January 18, 2005 (<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2005/01/18/RICEBOXER.DTL>)
- Senate Floor Debate on the Confirmation of Condoleezza Rice as Secretary of State, January 26, 2005 ([http://boxer.senate.gov/senate/20050126\\_print.cfm](http://boxer.senate.gov/senate/20050126_print.cfm))
- On the Nomination of Alberto Gonzales to be Attorney General, February 1, 2005 (<http://boxer.senate.gov/news/record.cfm?id=231270>)
- On the President's Budget, February 7, 2005 (<http://boxer.senate.gov/news/record.cfm?id=231697>)
- On Social Security, February 11, 2005 (<http://boxer.senate.gov/news/record.cfm?id=232056>)
- Senate Floor Debate on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, March 16, 2005

([http://boxer.senate.gov/senate/20050316\\_print.cfm](http://boxer.senate.gov/senate/20050316_print.cfm))

- Statement on Earth Day, April 20, 2005 (<http://boxer.senate.gov/news/record.cfm?id=236664>)
- On the Iraq War, July 6, 2005 (<http://boxer.senate.gov/news/20050706sf.cfm>)
- On Karl Rove's CIA Leak, July 20, 2005 (<http://www.buzzflash.com/contributors/05/07/con05247.html>)
- On the Energy Bill, July 29, 2005 (<http://boxer.senate.gov/news/record.cfm?id=242296>)
- On Her Opposition to the Confirmation of Chief Justice Nominee John Roberts, September 21, 2005 (<http://boxer.senate.gov/news/record.cfm?id=246228>)
- Addressing World Affairs Council of Northern California (Video), October 13, 2006 (<http://fora.tv/fora/showthread.php?t=414>)

## Congressional service

Public Offices						
Office	Branch	Location	Elected	Term began	Term ended	
Representative	Legislative	Washington, D.C.	1982	January 3, 1983	January 3, 1985	
Representative	Legislative	Washington, D.C.	1984	January 3, 1985	January 3, 1987	
Representative	Legislative	Washington, D.C.	1986	January 3, 1987	January 3, 1989	
Representative	Legislative	Washington, D.C.	1988	January 3, 1989	January 3, 1991	
Representative	Legislative	Washington, D.C.	1990	January 3, 1991	January 3, 1993	
Senator	Legislative	Washington, D.C.	1992	January 3, 1993	January 3, 1999	
Senator	Legislative	Washington, D.C.	1998	January 3, 1999	January 3, 2005	
Senator	Legislative	Washington, D.C.	2004	January 3, 2005	January 3, 2011	
United States Congressional service						
Dates	Congress	Chamber	Majority	President	Committees	Class/District
1983–1985	98th	U.S. House	Democratic	Ronald Reagan	Armed Services	District 6
1985–1987	99th	U.S. House	Democratic	Ronald Reagan	Armed Services	District 6
1987–1989	100th	U.S. House	Democratic	Ronald Reagan	Armed Services	District 6
1989–1991	101st	U.S. House	Democratic	George H. W. Bush	Armed Services	District 6
1991–1993	102nd	U.S. House	Democratic	George H. W. Bush	Armed Services	District 6
1993–1995	103rd	U.S. Senate	Democratic	Bill Clinton	Commerce, Environment, Foreign Relations	Class 3
1995–1997	104th	U.S. Senate	Republican	Bill Clinton	Commerce, Environment, Foreign Relations	Class 3

1997–1999	105th	U.S. Senate	Republican	Bill Clinton	Commerce, Environment, Foreign Relations	Class 3
1999–2001	106th	U.S. Senate	Republican	Bill Clinton	Commerce, Environment, Foreign Relations	Class 3
2001–2003	107th	U.S. Senate	Republican	George W. Bush	Commerce, Environment, Foreign Relations	Class 3
2003–2005	108th	U.S. Senate	Republican	George W. Bush	Commerce, Environment, Foreign Relations	Class 3
2005–2007	109th	U.S. Senate	Republican	George W. Bush	Commerce, Environment, Foreign Relations	Class 3
2007–2009	110th	U.S. Senate	Democratic	George W. Bush	Commerce, Environment (chair), Foreign Relations	Class 3
2009–2011	111th	U.S. Senate	Democratic	Barack Obama	Commerce, Environment (chair), Foreign Relations	Class 3
2011–Present	112th	U.S. Senate	Democratic	Barack Obama	Commerce, Environment, Foreign Relations	Class 3

## Electoral history

*Main article: Electoral history of Barbara Boxer*

Boxer was first elected to the Senate by a 4.9% margin in 1992. She was reelected in 2010, defeating businesswoman Carly Fiorina.

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External links

- United States Senator Barbara Boxer (http://boxer.senate.gov/) *official U.S. Senate site*
- Barbara Boxer 2010 Senate (http://www.barbaraboxer.com/) *official campaign site*
- Biography (http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=b000711) at the *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*
- Voting record (http://projects.washingtonpost.com/congress/members/b000711) maintained by *The Washington Post*
- Biography (http://www.votesmart.org/bio.php?can\_id=53274) , voting record (http://www.votesmart.org/voting\_category.php?can\_id=53274) , and interest group ratings (http://www.votesmart.org/issue\_rating\_category.php?can\_id=53274) at Project Vote Smart
- Biography (http://www.whorungov.com/Profiles/Barbara\_Boxer) at *WhoRunsGov.com* at *The Washington Post*
- Congressional profile (http://www.govtrack.us/congress/person.xpd?id=300011) at GovTrack.us
- Congressional profile (http://www.opencongress.org/people/show/300011\_Barbara\_Boxer) at OpenCongress
- Appearances (http://www.c-spanvideo.org/person/2470) on C-SPAN programs
- Issue positions and quotes (http://www.ontheissues.org/Senate/Barbara\_Boxer.htm) at On The Issues
- Financial information (http://www.opensecrets.org/politicians/summary.php?CID=N00006692) at OpenSecrets.org
- Staff salaries, trips and personal finance (http://www.legistorm.com/member/11/Sen\_Barbara\_Levy\_Boxer.html) at LegiStorm.com
- Campaign finance reports and data (http://herndon1.sdrdc.com/cgi-bin/can\_detail/S2CA00286) at the Federal Election Commission
- Collected news and commentary (http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/b/barbara\_boxer) at *The New York Times*
- NPR: Barbara Boxer: Rice Hearings and the 2004 Vote (http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4493675) , Terry Gross, February 10, 2005
- Progressive Magazine: Barbara Boxer Interview (http://progressive.org/mag\_intv0705) , Ruth Conniff, July 2005
- Barbara Boxer speaks at The World Affairs Council of Northern California (http://fora.tv/fora/showthread.php?t=414) video, October 13, 2006

United States House of Representatives		
Preceded by <b>Phillip Burton</b>	<b>Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from California's 6th congressional district</b> <div>1983–1993</div>	Succeeded by <b>Lynn C. Woolsey</b>
United States Senate		
Preceded by <b>Alan Cranston</b>	<b>United States Senator (Class 3) from California</b> <div>1993 – present</div> <div>Served alongside: <b>Dianne Feinstein</b></div>	<b>Incumbent</b>
Political offices		
Preceded by <b>Jim Inhofe</b>	<b>Chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee</b> <div>2007 – present</div>	<b>Incumbent</b>

Preceded by <b>George Voinovich</b>	<b>Chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee</b> 2007 – present	
<b>Party political offices</b>		
Preceded by <b>Alan Cranston</b>	<b>Democratic Party nominee for United States Senator from California (Class 3)</b> 1992, 1998, 2004, 2010	Succeeded by <b>Most recent nominee</b>
Preceded by <b>John Breaux</b>	<b>Chief Senate Democratic Deputy Whip</b> 2005 – present	<b>Incumbent</b>
<b>United States order of precedence</b>		
Preceded by <b>Dianne Feinstein</b> <b>D-California</b>	<i><b>United States Senators by seniority</b></i> 23rd	Succeeded by <b>Patty Murray</b> <b>D-Washington</b>

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