Dianne Feinstein

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 (Redirected from Diane Feinstein)

Dianne Goldman Berman Feinstein (pronounced /ˈfaɪnstaɪn/; born June 22, 1933) is the senior U.S. Senator from California and a member of the Democratic Party. Feinstein was first elected to the U.S. Senate in 1992, was re-elected in 1994, 2000 and in 2006 for a term ending in January 2013. She also served as Mayor of San Francisco from 1978 to 1988.

Feinstein was the first female President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, San Francisco's first (and, so far, only) female mayor, the first woman to serve in the Senate from California, and the first woman to chair the Senate Rules Committee and Senate Intelligence Committee.[1] Feinstein is also the first woman to have presided over a U.S. presidential inauguration.[2][3]

Contents

Dianne Feinstein

United States Senator from California
Incumbent
Assumed office
November 10, 1992
Serving with Barbara Boxer

Preceded by	John F. Seymour

Chairwoman of the United States Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
Incumbent
Assumed office
January 6, 2009

Preceded by	John D. Rockefeller IV

Chairman of the International Narcotics Control Caucus
Incumbent

Assumed office	
January 3, 2009	
Preceded by	Joe Biden

Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration

In office
January 4, 2007 – January 3, 2009

Preceded by	Trent Lott
Succeeded by	Chuck Schumer

38th Mayor of San Francisco

In office
December 4, 1978 – January 8, 1988

Preceded by	George Moscone
Succeeded by	Art Agnos

Member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors

In office
1970–1978

Born	June 22, 1933
	San Francisco, California
Political party	Democratic
Spouse(s)	Judge Jack Berman (div.)
	Bertram Feinstein (deceased)
	Richard C. Blum (1980 -)
Children	Katherine Feinstein Mariano
Residence	San Francisco, California
Alma mater	Stanford University (B.A.)
Occupation	United States Senator
Religion	Judaism

Early life

Feinstein was born **Dianne Emiel Goldman**[4] in San Francisco to Betty (née Rosenburg), a former model, and Leon Goldman, a nationally renowned surgeon. Feinstein's paternal grandparents were Jewish emigrants from Poland, while her maternal grandparents, who were of the Russian Orthodox faith, left St. Petersburg, Russia, after the 1917 Russian Revolution.[5]

Personal life

Feinstein graduated from Convent of the Sacred Heart High School (California) in 1951 and from Stanford University in 1955 with a B.A. in History.

In 1956, she married Jack Berman (died 2002), a colleague in the San Francisco District Attorney's office. Feinstein and Berman divorced three years later. Their daughter, Katherine Feinstein Mariano (b. 1957), is a Superior Court judge in San Francisco.

In 1962, shortly after beginning her career in politics, Feinstein married neurosurgeon Bertram Feinstein; her second husband died of colon cancer in 1978.

In 1980, Feinstein married Richard C. Blum, an investment banker. In 2003, Feinstein was ranked the fifth-wealthiest senator, with an estimated net worth of $26 million.[6] By 2005 her net worth had increased to between $43 million and $99 million.[7] Her 347-page financial-disclosure statement[8] – characterized by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as "nearly the size of a phone book" – draws clear lines between her assets and those of her husband, with many of her assets in blind trusts.[9]

Early political career

In 1961, Feinstein worked to end housing discrimination in San Francisco.[10] Prior to elected service, she was appointed by then-California Governor Pat Brown to serve as a member of the California Women's Parole Board.

President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors

In 1969, Feinstein was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. She remained on the Board for nine years.

During her tenure on the Board of Supervisors, she unsuccessfully ran for mayor of San Francisco twice, in 1971 against mayor Joseph Alioto, and in 1975, when she lost the contest for a runoff slot (against George Moscone) by one percentage point, to supervisor John Barbagelata.

She was elected president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1978 with initial opposition from Quentin Kopp.

On November 27, 1978, San Francisco mayor George Moscone and supervisor Harvey Milk were assassinated by a rival politician, Dan White, who had resigned from the Board of Supervisors only two weeks prior. Feinstein was close by in City Hall at the time of the shootings, and discovered Milk's body after hearing the gunshots and going to investigate. Later that day at a press conference originally organized by Moscone to announce White's successor, Feinstein announced the assassinations to the stunned public, stating: "As president of the board of supervisors, it's my duty to make this announcement. Both Mayor Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk have been shot and killed."[11]

Feinstein appears in archival footage and is credited in the Academy Award-winning

documentary film *The Times of Harvey Milk* (1984). She appears again briefly in archival footage, announcing the death of Moscone and Milk in the 2008 film *Milk*. Feinstein and her position as President of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors are also alluded to several times in the movie, and a portrayal of her character has a few off-screen lines.

As president of the Board of Supervisors upon the death of Mayor Moscone, Feinstein succeeded to the mayoralty on December 4, 1978.

Mayor of San Francisco

Feinstein served out the remainder of Moscone's term. She made no staffing changes to his team until she was elected in her own right in 1979. She was re-elected in 1983 and served a second full term.

One of the first challenges to face Feinstein as mayor was the state of the San Francisco cable car system. In late 1979, the system had to be shut down for emergency repairs, and an engineering evaluation concluded that it needed comprehensive rebuilding at a cost of $60 million. Feinstein took charge of the effort, and helped win federal funding for the bulk of the rebuilding job. The system closed for rebuilding in 1982 and reopened in 1984 in time for the Democratic National Convention that was held in the city that year.[12] Feinstein also oversaw planning policies to increase the number of high rise buildings in San Francisco.[13]

As mayor of San Francisco, 1978-1988

Perhaps because of her statewide ambitions, Feinstein was seen as a relatively moderate Democrat in one of the country's most liberal cities. As a supervisor, she was considered part of the centrist bloc that included Dan White and was generally opposed to Moscone. As mayor, Feinstein angered the city's large gay community by refusing to march in a gay rights parade and by vetoing domestic partner legislation in 1983. In the 1980 presidential election, while a majority of Bay Area Democrats continued to support Senator Ted Kennedy's primary challenge to President Jimmy Carter even after it was clear Kennedy could not win, Feinstein was a strong supporter of the Carter-Mondale ticket. She was given a high profile speaking role on the opening night of the August Democratic National Convention, urging delegates to reject the Kennedy delegates' proposal to "open" the convention, thereby

allowing delegates to ignore their states' popular vote, a proposal that was soundly defeated.

In the run up to the 1984 Democratic National Convention, there was considerable media and public speculation that Democratic presidential nominee Walter Mondale might pick Feinstein as his running mate. However, he chose Geraldine Ferraro instead. Also in 1984, Feinstein proposed banning handguns in San Francisco, and became subject to a recall attempt organized by the White Panther Party. She won the recall election and finished her second term as mayor on January 8, 1988.

In 1985, at a press conference, Feinstein revealed details about the hunt for serial killer Richard Ramírez, and in so doing angered detectives by giving away details of his crimes.[14]

In 1987, *City and State* magazine named Feinstein the nation's "Most Effective Mayor." Feinstein served on the Trilateral Commission during the 1980s while mayor of San Francisco.

Governor's election

In 1990, Feinstein made an unsuccessful bid for Governor of California. Although she won the Democratic Party's nomination for the office, she then lost in the general election to Republican Senator Pete Wilson, who vacated his seat in the Senate to assume the governorship. In 1992, she was fined $190,000 for failure to properly report campaign contributions and expenditures associated with that campaign.[15]

U.S. Senate career

Elections

On November 3, 1992, Feinstein won a special election to fill the Senate seat vacated a year earlier when Senator Pete Wilson resigned to become governor. The election was held at the same time as the general election for U.S. President and other offices. Barbara Boxer was elected at the same time for the Senate seat to be vacated by Alan Cranston. Because Feinstein was elected to an unexpired term, she became a senator as soon as the election was certified in November while Boxer would not take office until the expiration of Cranston's term in January; thus Feinstein

became California's senior senator, even though she was elected at the same time as Barbara Boxer. Feinstein was re-elected in 1994, 2000, and 2006.

Official senate photo from 2003

Approval ratings

Source	Date	Approve	Disapprove	Undecided
Survey USA (http://www.surveyusa.com/client/PollReport.aspx?g=c7ae057c-e8b3-46ed-af9e-0facee11dd12/)	September 17, 2010	40%	50%	10%

Committees

- **Committee on Appropriations**
  - Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies
  - Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
  - Subcommittee on Defense
  - Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
  - Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies (Chairwoman)
  - Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Feinstein in 2010, as she hosted an event in which 5 members of the U.S. Senate attended Feinstein's home

- **Committee on the Judiciary**
  - Subcommittee on Administrative Oversight and the Courts
  - Subcommittee on the Constitution
  - Subcommittee on Crime and Drugs
  - Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Refugees
  - Subcommittee on Terrorism and Homeland Security
- **Committee on Rules and Administration**
- **Select Committee on Intelligence** (Chairwoman)

Political positions

Main article: Political positions of Dianne Feinstein

2008 presidential politics

As a superdelegate, Feinstein had declared that she would support Hillary Clinton for the Democratic presidential nomination. However, once Barack Obama became the presumptive nominee for the party, she fully backed his candidacy. Days after Obama amassed enough delegates to win the Democratic Party nomination, Feinstein lent her Washington, DC home to both Clinton and Obama to have a private one on one meeting.[16] Feinstein did not attend the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver because she fell and broke her ankle.[17]

The line for unclaimed tickets to the inauguration outside Feinstein's office

She chaired the United States Congress Joint Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, and acted as mistress of ceremonies, introducing each participant at the 2009 presidential inauguration.[18]

2010 Gubernatorial election

Feinstein had been reported as considering a run for Governor of California in 2010 to replace term limited Republican incumbent Arnold Schwarzenegger. A private poll in July 2008 showed Feinstein far outpacing former governor Jerry Brown, 50 percent to 24 percent, with Congressman John Garamendi at 10 percent.[19] A February 2009 poll showed that 36 percent of Democrats sampled in the poll said they would support Feinstein if she ran for governor. Brown earned 14 percent, followed by Gavin Newsom and Antonio Villaraigosa, at 9 percent and 22 percent undecided.[20] By October, although undeclared, in a poll by Field Research she led the Democratic field with 52 percent of all voters and 68 percent of Democratic voters.[21] After months of speculation, Feinstein announced in February 2010 that she would not be running for governor.[22] Feinstein became campaign chair for Barbara Boxer in the United States Senate election which resulted in Boxer's reelection.[23][24]

Awards and honors

Feinstein was presented with the Woodrow Wilson Award for public service by the Woodrow Wilson Center of the Smithsonian Institution on November 3, 2001 in Los Angeles, California.

Offices held

Public Offices					
Office	**Type**	**Location**	**Elected**	**Term began**	**Term ended**
Mayor	Executive	San Francisco	1978	December 4, 1978	January 8, 1980
Mayor	Executive	San Francisco	1979	January 8, 1980	January 8, 1984
Mayor	Executive	San Francisco	1983	January 8, 1984	January 8, 1988
Senator	Legislature	Washington, D.C.	1992	November 10, 1992	January 3, 1995
Senator	Legislature	Washington, D.C.	1994	January 3, 1995	January 3, 2001
Senator	Legislature	Washington, D.C.	2000	January 3, 2001	January 3, 2007
Senator	Legislature	Washington, D.C.	2006	January 3, 2007	January 3, 2013
United States Senate service					
Dates	**Congress**	**Chamber**	**Majority**	**President**	**Committees**	**Class**
1993–1995	103rd	U.S. Senate	Democratic	Bill Clinton	Rules, Judiciary, Appropriations, Intelligence	1
1995–1997	104th	U.S. Senate	Republican	Bill Clinton	Rules, Judiciary, Appropriations, Intelligence	1
1997–1999	105th	U.S. Senate	Republican	Bill Clinton	Rules, Judiciary, Appropriations, Intelligence	1
1999–2001	106th	U.S. Senate	Republican	Bill Clinton	Rules, Judiciary, Appropriations, Intelligence	1
2001–2003	107th	U.S. Senate	Democratic	George W. Bush	Rules, Judiciary, Appropriations, Intelligence	1
2003–2005	108th	U.S. Senate	Republican	George W. Bush	Rules, Judiciary, Appropriations, Intelligence	1

2005–2007	109th	U.S. Senate	Republican	George W. Bush	Rules, Judiciary, Appropriations, Intelligence	1
2007–2009	110th	U.S. Senate	Democratic	George W. Bush	Rules (chair), Judiciary, Appropriations, Intelligence	1
2009–2011	111th	U.S. Senate	Democratic	Barack Obama	Rules, Judiciary, Appropriations, Intelligence (chair)	1

Electoral history

California gubernatorial election, 1990				
Party	**Candidate**	**Votes**	**%**	**±%**
Republican	Pete Wilson	3,791,904	49.2	
Democratic	Dianne Feinstein	3,525,197	45.8	
Libertarian	Dennis Thompson	145,628	1.9	
American Independent	Jerome McCready	139,661	1.8	
Peace and Freedom	Maria Elizabeth Munoz	96,842	1.3	
	Total votes	7,699,232	%	
	Majority	266,707	3.4	
	Turnout			
Republican **hold**		**Swing**		

California United States Senate special election, 1992				
Party	**Candidate**	**Votes**	**%**	**±%**
Democratic	Dianne Feinstein	5,853,651	54.3	
Republican	John F. Seymour (incumbent)	4,093,501	38.0	
Peace and Freedom	Gerald Horne	305,697	2.8	
American Independent	Paul Meeuwenberg	281,973	2.6	

Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±%
Libertarian	Richard Benjamin Boddie	247,799	2.3	
	Total votes	10,782,621	%	
	Majority	1,760,050	16.3	
	Turnout			
Democratic **gain** from Republican		**Swing**		

California United States Senate election, 1994				
Party	**Candidate**	**Votes**	**%**	**±%**
Democratic	Dianne Feinstein (incumbent)	3,979,152	46.7	-7.6
Republican	Michael Huffington	3,817,025	44.8	+6.8
Peace and Freedom	Elizabeth Cervantes Barron	255,301	3.0	+0.2
Libertarian	Richard Benjamin Boddie	179,100	2.1	-0.6
American Independent	Paul Meeuwenberg	142,771	1.7	-0.9
Green	Barbara Blong	140,567	1.7	+1.7
	Total votes	8,513,916	%	
	Majority	162,127	1.9	-14.4
	Turnout			
Democratic **hold**		**Swing**	-14.4	

California United States Senate election, 2000				
Party	**Candidate**	**Votes**	**%**	**±%**
Democratic	Dianne Feinstein (incumbent)	5,932,522	55.8	+9.1
Republican	Tom Campbell	3,886,853	36.6	-8.2
Green	Medea Susan Benjamin	326,828	3.1	+1.4
Libertarian	Gail Lightfoot	187,718	1.8	-0.3
American Independent	Dianne Beall Templin	134,598	1.3	-0.4
Reform	Jose Luis Olivares Camahort	96,552	0.9	+0.9
Natural Law	Brian M. Rees	58,537	0.5	+0.5

Total votes	10,623,608	%		
Majority	2,045,669	19.2	+17.3	
Turnout				
Democratic **hold**		**Swing**	+17.3	

California United States Senate election, 2006					
Party	**Candidate**	**Votes**	**%**	**±%**	
Democratic	Dianne Feinstein (incumbent)	5,076,289	59.4	+3.6	
Republican	Dick Mountjoy	2,990,822	35.0	-1.6	
Green	Todd Chretien	147,074	1.7	-1.4	
Libertarian	Michael S. Metti	133,851	1.6	-0.2	
Peace and Freedom	Marsha Feinland	117,764	1.4	+1.4	
American Independent	Don J. Grundmann	75,350	0.9	-0.4	
Total votes		8,541,150	%		
Majority		2,085,467	24.4	+5.2	
Turnout					
Democratic **hold**		**Swing**	+5.2		

See also

- California government and politics

Footnotes

1. **^** Coile, Zachary (2009-01-11). "Feinstein gets nod to chair intelligence panel" (http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/12/16/MNBV14OHE5.DTL&hw) . *The San Francisco Chronicle*. http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi? f=/c/a/2008/12/16/MNBV14OHE5.DTL&hw.
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8. **^** "Senate Public Financial Disclosure Report for Senator Diane Feinstein" (http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/congress/fin_dis/f000062.pdf) (PDF). US Senate/Washington Post. 2006-06-09. http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/congress/fin_dis/f000062.pdf. Retrieved 2007-05-07.
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External links

- United States Senator Dianne Feinstein (http://feinstein.senate.gov/) *official U.S. Senate site*
- Biography (http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=f000062) at the *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*
- Voting record (http://projects.washingtonpost.com/congress/members/f000062) maintained by *The Washington Post*
- Biography (http://www.votesmart.org/bio.php?can_id=53273) , voting record (http://www.votesmart.org/voting_category.php?can_id=53273) , and interest group ratings (http://www.votesmart.org/issue_rating_category.php?can_id=53273) at Project Vote Smart
- Biography (http://www.whorunsgov.com/Profiles/Dianne_Feinstein) at *WhoRunsGov.com* at *The Washington Post*
- Congressional profile (http://www.govtrack.us/congress/person.xpd?id=300043) at GovTrack.us
- Congressional profile (http://www.opencongress.org/people/show/300043_Dianne_Feinstein) at OpenCongress
- Appearances (http://www.c-spanvideo.org/person/15495) on C-SPAN programs
- Issue positions and quotes (http://www.ontheissues.org/Senate/Dianne_Feinstein.htm) at On The Issues
- Financial information (http://www.opensecrets.org/politicians/summary.php?CID=N00007364) at OpenSecrets.org
- Staff salaries, trips and personal finance (http://www.legistorm.com/member/42/Sen_Dianne_Feinstein.html) at LegiStorm.com
- Campaign finance reports and data (http://herndon1.sdrdc.com/cgi-bin/can_detail/S0CA00199) at the Federal Election Commission
- Collected news and commentary (http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/f/dianne_feinstein) at *The New York Times*
- Op-ed archives (http://www.project-syndicate.org/contributors/contributor_comm.php4?id=594) at Project Syndicate
- Profile (http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Dianne_Feinstein) at SourceWatch
- Biography (http://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/feinstein-dianne) at Jewish Women Encyclopedia
- Diane Feinstein's Opening Remarks at the 2009 Presidential Inauguration (http://www.americanrhetoric.com/speeches/dianefeinsteinpresidentialinauguration.htm) at *AmericanRhetoric.com*, video, audio and text

Political offices		
Preceded by	**Mayor of San Francisco**	Succeeded by

George Moscone	1978 – 1988	**Art Agnos**
Preceded by **Trent Lott** **Mississippi**	**Chairman of the Senate Rules Committee** 2007 – 2009	Succeeded by **Chuck Schumer** **New York**
Preceded by **Trent Lott**	**Chairman of the United States Congress Joint Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies** 2008	**Incumbent**
Preceded by **Jay Rockefeller** **West Virginia**	**Chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee** 2009 – present	**Incumbent**
Preceded by **Joe Biden** **Delaware**	**Chairman of the International Narcotics Control Caucus** 2009 – present	**Incumbent**
United States Senate		
Preceded by **John F. Seymour**	**United States Senator (Class 1) from California** November 10, 1992 – present Served alongside: **Alan Cranston, Barbara Boxer**	**Incumbent**
Party political offices		
Preceded by **Tom Bradley**	**Democratic Party nominee for Governor of California** 1990	Succeeded by **Kathleen Brown**
Preceded by **Leo T. McCarthy**	**Democratic Party nominee for United States Senator from California (Class 1)** 1992, 1994, 2000, 2006	Succeeded by **Most recent**
United States order of precedence		
Preceded by **Daniel Akaka** **D-Hawaii**	*United States Senators by seniority* 22nd	Succeeded by **Barbara Boxer** **D-California**

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