



**Senator Gary Peters has been honored to represent the State of Michigan in the U.S. Senate since 2015. He has focused on uniting our communities by fighting for the things we all agree on — a stronger economy, good-paying jobs, affordable health care, a secure retirement and an opportunity for everyone to succeed.**

## **MICHIGAN ROOTS**

Gary was born in Pontiac, Michigan – a 5th generation Michigander. His father, a World War II veteran, worked as a public school teacher and NEA union member for more than 30 years. His mother – who survived Nazi occupation of France and met Gary’s father while he served in Europe during the war – worked as a nurse’s aide at a local nursing home. She helped organize her workplace and became a SEIU union steward.

Growing up, Gary learned the importance of hard work and fairness from his parents. He started his own small business delivering newspapers at age 11. In junior high, he bused tables at a Big Boy restaurant, and in high school and college, he worked at a local retailer and on a grounds crew. Gary is an Eagle Scout and in 2019, he was humbled to receive the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award from the Boy Scouts of America.

Gary is also a product of Michigan schools. After graduating from Rochester High School, he attended Alma College, where he earned a B.A. in Political Science.

Gary and his wife, Colleen, live in Oakland County and have three children: Gary Jr., Madeleine and Alana. They recently became proud grandparents.

## **EARLY CAREER: SERVICE TO MICHIGAN & COUNTRY**

Gary worked in the private sector for over 20 years as both a financial advisor and in a variety of management positions with two major financial service firms. He was an assistant vice president at Merrill Lynch before working at UBS/PaineWebber as a vice president.

While working a full-time job, he went on to earn an M.B.A. in Finance from the University of Detroit Mercy, an M.A. in political science from Wayne State University, an M.A. in Philosophy from Michigan State University with a focus on the ethics of development and a law degree (J.D.) from Wayne State University Law School.

Gary began his public service as a Rochester Hills City Councilman in 1991. In 1994, Gary was elected to the Michigan State Senate and served two terms. During his eight years of service, he authored and passed more bills signed into law than any other member of his party.

His combination of business and policy experience prompted then-Governor Granholm to appoint Gary to run the Michigan Lottery. As State Lottery Commissioner, he managed a multibillion-dollar business and consistently raised record amounts of money for the state School Aid Fund.

Gary volunteered for the U.S. Navy Reserve at age 34, where he earned a Seabee Combat Warfare Specialist designation and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Commander. After the September 11th terrorist attacks on our country, he volunteered again for drilling status and served overseas as part of his Reserve duty. He later earned a diploma from the College of Naval Command and Staff, U.S. Naval War College.

## **FIGHTING FOR MICHIGAN FAMILIES**

Gary was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2008, where he served on the Financial Services Committee. While in his first term and one of the most junior members of the House, the Speaker appointed Gary to serve on the conference committee that wrote and finalized the sweeping Dodd-Frank Wall Street and Consumer Protection Act. He continued being a leading voice for Michigan – whether it was advocating for the auto rescue and Michigan manufacturing or ensuring small businesses had access to the capital needed to start, grow and succeed after the Great Recession.

In the current Congress, Gary serves as the Ranking Member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, which oversees the Department of Homeland Security and is the Senate’s top oversight committee. He also serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senate Armed Services Committee, and the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. In addition, Gary serves as one of six Congressional Regents on the Smithsonian Institute’s Board of Regents, which governs and administers the organization.

In the U.S. Senate, Gary is recognized as one of the most effective and bipartisan Senators, according to the non-partisan Center for Effective Lawmaking (University of Virginia and Vanderbilt University) and the Lugar Center (Georgetown University).

During the 118th Congress (2023-2024), Gary authored and passed 15 standalone bills into law with broad bipartisan support. In the 117th Congress (2021-2022), Gary authored and was the principal sponsor of 19 bipartisan bills signed into law – the most enacted into law by a U.S. Senator during a single Congress in over 40 years. Gary was recognized as the #1 most effective Senator in both the 116th and 117th Congresses for his ability to build coalitions and work across the aisle to pass bills into law. In the 116th Congress (2019-2020), he earned this recognition despite serving as a member of the minority party – an achievement that hadn’t been accomplished since the non-partisan Center for Effective Lawmaking began collecting data over 50 years ago. During those three Congresses, Gary was the principal sponsor and author of more standalone bills signed into law than any Democratic or Republican member serving in either the Senate or House. In 2023, the non-partisan Lugar Center recognized Gary as the 2nd-most bipartisan Senator – and the most bipartisan Democrat – for his bipartisan work during the 117th Congress.

His bills signed into law help address issues that are important to Michiganders, including protecting the Great Lakes and securing historic funding for restoration efforts, strengthening border security, supporting our nation’s veterans and servicemembers, making government work more efficiently, and saving taxpayer dollars.