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John Sullivan (Oklahoma)

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(Redirected from [John A. Sullivan](#))

For other people named John Sullivan, see [John Sullivan \(disambiguation\)](#).

John A. Sullivan (born January 1, 1965) is the U.S. Representative for [Oklahoma's 1st congressional district](#), serving since 2002. He is a member of the [Republican Party](#). The district is based in [Tulsa](#).

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Early life, education and career [edit]

Sullivan was born in Oklahoma City and graduated from [Bishop Kelley High School](#). He subsequently entered [Northeastern State University](#), where he received a B.B.A. in marketing in 1992. He is a former realtor who sold 6 houses before entering politics on a platform of tax cuts and less government spending.

Early political career [edit]

Sullivan was a [Republican](#) member of the [Oklahoma House of Representatives](#) from 1995 to 2002. In 2002, when seven-year incumbent [Steve Largent](#) resigned from Congress to focus on his campaign for [governor](#), Sullivan entered the Republican primary for his seat. Incumbent governor [Frank Keating](#)'s wife, Cathy, was widely expected to win the Republican primary, which was thought to be [tantamount to election](#) in this

The Honorable
John Sullivan



Member of the U.S. House of Representatives
from [Oklahoma's 1st district](#)

Incumbent

Assumed office
February 15, 2002

Preceded by [Steve Largent](#)

Personal details

Born
January 1, 1965 (age 46)
[Tulsa, Oklahoma](#)

Political party [Republican](#)

Spouse(s) [Judy Sullivan](#)

Residence [Tulsa](#)

Alma mater [Northeastern State University](#)

Occupation [real estate broker](#)

Religion [Roman Catholic](#)

heavily Republican district. Hiring an out of town manager for the Keating campaign set the stage for a few fumbles, which allowed Sullivan to score a surprise upset in the February special election. Since then, he went on to hold the seat in the general election in November and has been reelected four times, increasing his margin of victory in each election.

U.S. House of Representatives

[[edit](#)]

Committee assignments

[[edit](#)]

As of the [112th Congress](#), John Sullivan is a member of the following committees:

- **[Committee on Energy and Commerce](#)**
 - [Subcommittee on Energy and Power](#) (Vice Chair)
 - [Subcommittee on Environment and Economy](#)
 - [Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations](#) (Vice Chair - Energy and Power)

Political views

[[edit](#)]

According to the American Conservative Union, Sullivan is consistently among the most conservative members of Congress. He received a 100% rating from the organization in 2009 and 2010 earning their the "Defender of Liberty" award both years.^[1] He is opposed to all legalized abortion, believes that life begins at conception, and opposes stem cell research on embryonic cells. He has been rated 100% by the [Christian Coalition](#) for his views.^[2] He is opposed to gun control and has been commended by the [National Rifle Association](#) for his position.^[3]

Sullivan was tapped to serve on the House Energy and Commerce Leadership team for the 112th Congress where he plays a key role in the national energy debate.^[4] He is the primary sponsor of H.R. 1380, the New Alternative Transportation to Give America Solutions (NAT GAS) Act of 2011, legislation designed to decrease U.S. dependence on foreign oil by encouraging more natural gas powered vehicles on American roads.^[5]

Sullivan is a vocal critic of the Environmental Protection Agency, claiming that regulations being pushed by the Obama Administration are harmful to the U.S. economy. Legislation he introduced to study the cumulative economic impact of twelve significant EPA regulations was passed by the House Energy and Power Subcommittee on May 24, 2011.^[6] In February 2011, Sullivan handed the ethanol industry its first significant legislative loss in Congress when the House passed his amendment to block the EPA's decision to sell a higher blend, E15, ethanol gasoline for late model cars by a vote of 285-136.^[7] Sullivan also sponsored the Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation (TRAIN) Act of 2011 (H.R. 2401), "to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes",^[8] which has passed the House and will go on to the [Senate](#).^[8]

Regarding immigration, he is on record as supporting a fence between the US and Mexico or other permanent barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border. Prior to the 2006 Congressional election his campaign staff distributed small placards that explicitly linked immigration from Mexico with threats to U.S. national security. The same campaign literature featured the figure of "20 million illegal aliens in America" and warned that "thousands more [are] coming everyday". During that same campaign Sullivan repeatedly characterized the issue of (illegal) immigration from Mexico as one relating to "national security" and the "war on terror", stating, "Border security is national security...Our way of life in America is precious and must always be protected."^[*dead link*]^[9]

Sullivan voted to make the [PATRIOT Act](#) permanent, without any future option for Congressional review or revocation.^[10] He supports a constitutional amendment to ban flag burning^[11] and wishes to strip the independent judiciary of the ability to decide any question pertaining to the interpretation of the Pledge of Allegiance. He has been rated as 0% by the ACLU on civil rights issues.^[12] He also

supports continued U.S. military involvement in Iraq and opposed any "rapid troop pullout".^[13]

On October 3, 2008, Sullivan was one of two Oklahoma Republican Congressman to vote for the **Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008** which created the **Troubled Assets Relief Program**.^[14] On December 9, 2008, Sullivan voted against a bailout of the automobile industry saying "taxpayers should not be asked to reward failure by subsidizing the very business practices that got them into this situation in the first place".^[15] He also was a proponent of the **2009 Tea Party protests** which condemned any bailouts, and even spoke at a rally in Tulsa.^[16]

Controversies

[[edit](#)]

A point of contention during Sullivan's re-election campaign in 2004 was his **police record**. According to opponent Doug Dodd, Sullivan had been arrested four times in the Tulsa area^[*citation needed*]. Sullivan claimed to have only been arrested once. A review by local media concluded he had at least three arrests:^{[17][18]} for assault and battery of an off-duty police officer in 1982, when he was 17 year old,^[19] and for public intoxication and disturbing the peace in 1985, while still under-age. His last arrest, at age 27, was due to an outstanding **bench warrant** issued after he failed to appear in court for a traffic violation.

In July 2004, Dave Pearson, a former GOP communications consultant who was fired by Sullivan, claimed he was owed \$20,000 for work he did on Sullivan's 2002 special election. Pearson put out a press release attacking his former candidate, and sent a letter to all of Sullivan's campaign contributors: "Sullivan is the most dishonest, disingenuous and crooked politician I have ever known. He is a liar because he repeatedly lied to me and others about his business background, his arrest records and many other things." Sullivan responded by saying that Pearson was fired for "not doing his job" and "owes me money probably." In May 2010 Pearson turned over the claim to a collection agency after declining a \$5000 settlement.^[20] Tulsa attorney J. Douglas Mann, working on behalf of the Sullivan campaign, sent a letter to the FEC stating that the statute of limitations (5 years per Oklahoma law) on the disputed debt had expired and that under Oklahoma law "...Congressman Sullivan is barred by the applicable statute of limitations and such claim no longer has any legal viability." The debt has since been removed from Sullivan's quarterly reports per the FEC letter stating "This debt was removed due to the advice of legal counsel." ^[21]

On May 28, 2009, Rep. Sullivan entered the Betty Ford Center in California to receive treatment for his addiction to alcohol.^[22]

Electoral history

[[edit](#)]

Oklahoma's 1st congressional district: Results 2000–2010^{[23][24][25]}

Year	Democrat	Votes	Pct	Republican	Votes	Pct	3rd Party	Party	Votes	Pct
2000	Dan Lowe	58,493	29%	Steve Largent *	138,528	69%	Michael A. Clem	Libertarian	2,984	1%
2002	Doug Dodd	50,850	44%	John Sullivan	61,694	54%	Neil Mavis	Independent	1,758	2% *
2002	Doug Dodd	90,649	42%	John Sullivan	119,566	56%	Joe Cristiano	Independent	4,740	2%
2004	Doug Dodd	116,731	38%	John Sullivan	187,145	60%	John Krymski	Independent	7,058	2%
2006	Alan Gentges	56,724	31%	John Sullivan	116,920	64%	Bill Wortman	Independent	10,085	5%
2008	Georgianna Oliver	98,863	34%	John Sullivan	193,361	66%				

2010				John Sullivan	151,173	77%	Angelia O'Dell	Independent	45,656	23%
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*The first 2002 election was the special election on January 8 to fill the remainder of Steve Largent's term upon his retirement. Write-in and minor candidate notes: David Fares received 388 votes in the 2002 special election.

Personal life

[[edit](#)]

He and his wife, Judy Beck, have four children. His oldest, Tommy, plays football for his old high school.

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External links

[[edit](#)]

- [Congressman John Sullivan](#) ↗ *official U.S. House site*
- [Biography](#) ↗ at *WhoRunsGov.com* at *The Washington Post*
- [Biography](#) ↗ at the *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress*
- [Voting record](#) ↗ maintained by *The Washington Post*
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- [Campaign contributions](#) ↗ at the [National Institute for Money in State Politics](#)
- [Appearances](#) ↗ on [C-SPAN](#) programs
- [Profile](#) ↗ at [SourceWatch](#)
- [Remarks by former Vice President Cheney at a Reception for Congressman John Sullivan](#) ↗, Adam's Mark Hotel, Tulsa, Oklahoma, December 5, 2003

United States House of Representatives		
Preceded by Steve Largent	Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Oklahoma's 1st congressional district February 15, 2002 – present	Incumbent
United States order of precedence		
Preceded by Joe Wilson R-South Carolina	<i>United States Representatives by seniority</i> 194th	Succeeded by Rodney Alexander R-Louisiana

v · d · e Oklahoma's current delegation to the United States Congress	
Senators	James Inhofe (R), Tom Coburn (R)
Representatives	John Sullivan (R), Dan Boren (D), Frank Lucas (R), Tom Cole (R), James Lankford (R)
Other states' delegations	Alabama · Alaska · Arizona · Arkansas · California · Colorado · Connecticut · Delaware · Florida · Georgia · Hawaii · Idaho · Illinois · Indiana · Iowa · Kansas · Kentucky · Louisiana · Maine · Maryland · Massachusetts · Michigan · Minnesota · Mississippi · Missouri · Montana · Nebraska · Nevada · New Hampshire · New Jersey · New Mexico · New York · North Carolina · North Dakota · Ohio · Oklahoma · Oregon · Pennsylvania · Rhode Island · South Carolina · South Dakota · Tennessee · Texas · Utah · Vermont · Virginia · Washington · West Virginia · Wisconsin · Wyoming · <i>Non voting:</i> · American Samoa · District of Columbia · Guam · Northern Mariana Islands · Puerto Rico · U.S. Virgin Islands ·

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2nd district	Fulton · Morgan · Hastings · Robertson · Hastings · Nichols · Stigler · Edmondson · McSpadden · Risenhoover · Synar · Coburn · Carson · D. Boren
3rd district	Davenport · Creager · Davenport · Carter · Cartwright · Stewart · Albert · Watkins · Brewster · Watkins · Lucas
4th district	Carter · Murray · McKeown · Pringey · McKeown · Gassaway · L. Boren · G. Johnson · Steed · McCurdy · Watts · Cole
	Ferris · Thompson · Harreld · Swank · Stone · Swank · Lee · Hill · G. Smith ·



5th district	Monroney • Jarman • Edwards • Istook • Fallin • Lankford
6th district	Ferris • Gensman • Thomas • Johnson, Sr. • Morris • Wickersham • Morris • Wickersham • Johnson, Jr. • J. Smith • Camp • English • Lucas
7th district	McClintic • Massingale • Wickersham • Peden • Wickersham
8th district	Morgan • Swindall • Herrick • Garber • Marland • Ferguson • Rizley • Wilson • Belcher
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