

NORTH DAKOTA

(Population 1998, 638,000)

SENATORS

KENT CONRAD, Democrat, of Bismarck, ND; born in Bismarck on March 12, 1948; graduated Wheelus High School, Tripoli, Libya, 1966; attended University of Missouri, Columbia, 1967; B.A., Stanford University, CA, 1971; M.B.A., George Washington University, Washington, DC, 1975; assistant to tax commissioner, Bismarck, 1974–80; director, management planning and personnel, North Dakota Tax Department, March–December 1980; tax commissioner, State of North Dakota, 1981–86; married Lucy Calautti, February 1987; one child by former marriage: Jessamyn Abigail; elected to the U.S. Senate on November 4, 1986; committees: Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry; Budget; Finance; Indian Affairs; Select Committee on Ethics; was not a candidate for a second term to Senate seat he had won in 1986; subsequently elected by special election on December 4, 1992, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Quentin Burdick, whose term would have expired on January 3, 1995; took the oath of office on December 14, 1992, and continued his Senate service without interruption; re-elected on November 8, 1994.

Office Listings

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BYRON L. DORGAN, Democrat, of Bismarck, ND; born in Dickinson, ND, May 14, 1942; graduated, Regent High School, 1961; B.S., University of North Dakota, 1965; M.B.A., University of Denver, 1966; North Dakota State Tax Commissioner, 1969–80, the only elected state tax commissioner in the nation; received 80 percent of the vote in 1976 tax commissioner reelection bid; chairman, Multi-State Tax Commission, 1972–74; executive committee member, National Association of Tax Administrators, 1972–75; selected by the *Washington Monthly* as one of the outstanding state officials in the United States, 1975; chosen by one of North Dakota's leading newspapers as the individual with the greatest influence on State government, 1977; elected to Congress, 1980; elected president of Democratic freshman class during first term; reelected, 1982, with 72 percent of the vote; reelected to Congress in 1984 with 78.5 percent of the vote, setting three election records in North Dakota—largest vote ever received by a statewide candidate, largest vote by a U.S. House candidate, and largest majority by a U.S. House candidate; his 242,000 votes in 1984 were the most received anywhere in the nation by an opposed House candidate; served on three congressional committees during first term in Congress: Agriculture, Small Business, and Veterans' Affairs; named to the Ways and Means Committee, January 1983; called the real successor to Bill Langer and the State's most exciting office holder in generations, by the 1983 *Book of America*; 1990 *New York Times* editorial said, "Mr. Dorgan sets an example for political statesmanship"; named to Select Committee on Hunger in 1985; chairman, International Task Force on Select Committee on Hunger; reelected in 1986; reelected in 1988 with 71 percent of the votes, reelected again in 1990; elected to the U.S. Senate on November 3, 1992; first sworn in on December 15, 1992 to fill remainder of term in North Dakota's open Senate seat, then sworn in January 5, 1993 for six-year term; re-elected on November 3, 1998; committees: Commerce, Science and Transportation; Appropriations; Energy and Natural Resources; Indian Affairs; chairman, Democratic Policy Committee, 106th Congress; assistant Democratic Leader for Policy, 106th Congress; assistant Democratic floor leader, 104th and 105th Congress; assistant Democratic Floor Leader, ex officio, 106th Congress; married to Kim Dorgan; four children: Scott, Shelly (deceased), Brendon, and Haley.