

Politicians: Donald Trump

By Biography.com Editors and A+E Networks, adapted by Newsela staff on 09.27.16

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Donald Trump Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Synopsis: Donald Trump was born in 1946, in New York. In 1971, he began making big money building skyscrapers. He became New York City's best-known builder. In 2004, Trump began starring in the NBC reality TV series "The Apprentice." Trump next turned his attention to politics. In 2015, he announced that he was running for president of the United States. On July 19, 2016, Trump became the Republican candidate for president. Republicans and Democrats are the two main political parties, or groups, in the United States.

Early Life and Education

Donald John Trump was born on June 14, 1946, in the New York City borough of Queens. His parents were Frederick and Mary MacLeod Trump. Frederick Trump was a builder and real estate developer. Donald had much energy and behaved badly. When he was 13 years old, his parents sent him to the New York Military Academy, which was a very strict school. They hoped the school would teach him to use his energy positively.

Trump did well at the academy. He became a star athlete and student leader. After graduation, he entered Fordham University, in New York. Two years later, he went to the University of Pennsylvania. He graduated in 1968.

New York Real Estate Developer

Trump followed his father and decided to work in real estate and be a builder. He had much grander goals, though. As a student, Trump worked with his father during the summer. He joined his company, Elizabeth Trump & Son, after graduating from college.

In 1971, Donald Trump took over the company and renamed it the Trump Organization. He started to get to know important people. Trump soon became involved in large building projects that made him a lot of money.

Expanding His Empire

Trump got into the casino gambling business. He either built or bought hotels and casinos in New Jersey, and Las Vegas, Nevada

Ups And Downs Of Business

Trump expanded his business empire. He bought a small airline company for \$365 million. He called it the Trump Shuttle. The business did not last long.

In 1990, Trump claimed that he had a fortune of about \$1.5 billion. Forbes magazine showed that he owed much money and his fortune was really closer to \$500 million.

Personal Life, Politics And Reality TV

Trump married Ivana Zelnickova Winklmayr in 1977. She was a New York fashion model and a competitive skier. The couple had three children.

In 1991, he and Ivana divorced. He got married two more times and has five children.

In 2004, Trump began working on the TV reality series "The Apprentice." The show was so successful that he also starred in "The Celebrity Apprentice." His catchphrase "You're fired!" became popular.

Presidential Contender

On June 16, 2015, Trump said he was running for president as a Republican. There were more than a dozen other candidates. Trump boasted, "I will be the greatest jobs president that God ever created." He said many things and some were not very nice.

Trump was an unusual candidate from the beginning. He insulted Mexicans, women, disabled people and Muslims. He said he would stop Muslims from moving to the United States. He said they were responsible for terror attacks. Several of his campaign events became violent and some people said he did not try to stop the fights.

GOP Presidential Nominee

On July 21, 2016, Trump became the Republican choice for president at the Republican National Convention. Trump spoke about the problems he would deal with as president. They included violence, the economy, immigration, trade with other countries and terrorism.

Trump promised that he would defend the right to own a gun in the United States. He would also reduce taxes and cancel President Barack Obama's healthcare law, which is called Obamacare and gives health insurance to millions of people. Trump also said he would build a wall between the United States and Mexico to stop people from entering the country without permission.

He became the first Republican candidate to talk about lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual Americans at the party's convention.

Trump made many people angry when he attacked Khizr Khan. He is the father of U.S. Army Captain Humayun Khan, who was killed in Iraq. Khan had spoken at the Democratic National Convention. He criticized Trump for many things, including his promise to keep Muslims from entering the United States. His speech was emotional and many Americans felt support for the Khan family.

Trump then said unkind things about the Khans on TV. He asked why Mrs. Khan stood silently at her husband's side while he spoke. Trump suggested that her religion, Islam, forbids her from talking.

Politicians: Hillary Clinton

By Biography.com Editors and A+E Networks, adapted by Newsela staff on 09.27.16

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Hillary Clinton speaking with supporters at a campaign rally at Carl Hayden High School in Phoenix, Arizona Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Synopsis: Hillary Clinton was born on October 26, 1947, in Chicago, Illinois. She has a law degree from Yale University and married Bill Clinton in 1975. After her husband became president, she served as first lady from 1993 to 2001. She became a U.S. senator in 2001 and secretary of state in 2009. In 2016, she became the first woman in U.S. history to be chosen by a major political party as its candidate for president.

Background

Hillary Clinton was born Hillary Diane Rodham on October 26, 1947, in Chicago, Illinois. Her parents were Hugh Rodham and Dorothy Emma Howell Rodham. Her father was a wealthy fabric store owner.

As a young woman, Clinton was active in Republican groups. Republicans and Democrats are the two major political parties, or groups, in the United States. She was inspired to work in public service after hearing a speech by the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. She became a Democrat in 1968.

Education And Early Career

Hillary Clinton attended Wellesley College in Massachusetts. She was elected senior class president. She then attended Yale Law School in Connecticut, where she met Bill Clinton. She graduated with honors in 1973.

Hillary Clinton taught at University of Arkansas Law School in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Her Yale Law School classmate and boyfriend, Bill Clinton, also taught there.

Marriage To Bill Clinton

Hillary Clinton married Bill Clinton on October 11, 1975. In 1980 they had a daughter who they named Chelsea.

In 1976, Hillary Clinton worked on Jimmy Carter's campaign for president. Her husband was elected attorney general, the top lawyer for the state of Arkansas. Bill Clinton then became governor of Arkansas in 1978 at age 32.

Hillary Clinton worked as a lawyer in Little Rock, the capitol of Arkansas. In 1988 and 1991, The National Law Journal named her one of the 100 most powerful lawyers in America.

First Lady

Bill Clinton ran for president in 1992 and was elected. Hillary Clinton was an important part of his campaign. As president, he named her to head the Task Force on National Health Reform. It came up with a complicated plan that was never used.

Senate Win And Presidential Run

In 2001, Clinton became a U.S. senator from New York. She was the first wife of a president to be elected to a public office. She won reelection in November 2006.

In early 2007, Clinton announced her plans to be the first female president. In 2008, Clinton dropped out of the race when it became clear that Barack Obama would be the Democratic choice for president.

U.S. Secretary Of State

After he was elected, Obama named Clinton secretary of state. In this role, Clinton traveled around the world. She emphasized women's rights and human rights.

As secretary of state, Clinton was in charge of the the State Department. In 2012, an attack in Benghazi, Libya, killed U.S. ambassador Christopher Stevens. A committee investigated the attack and found many problems at the State Department.

Clinton left her position on February 1, 2013. She had previously said she only wanted to serve one term.

Campaign Issues

In 2015, Clinton announced that she would once again run for president.

On her campaign site, Clinton talks about many issues that are important to her. She wants to lower student debt, the amount of money students owe for their college education. She wants to improve health care. Women's rights are also important to her.

In the past, Clinton has changed her positions on some issues. Some people think she changes her mind too much. For example, she used to be against gay marriage, but now she supports it. She has changed her mind about the rules for how we should trade goods with other countries. She is also in favor of the death penalty but says it should only be used in rare cases.

Email Scandal

In 2015, it came out that Clinton had used her personal email account for official government business while she was secretary of state. The FBI investigated this. The next year, the FBI said that Clinton should not be charged with a crime. The director said that she and her staff members were "extremely careless" in handling secret information, though.

Making History

In July 2016, Clinton became the Democratic candidate for president. It was a historic achievement for women in the U.S. Clinton is the first woman in the 240-year history of the country to be chosen as the presidential candidate for a major political party.