

## WIKIPEDIA

# Jamie Raskin

**Jamin Ben Raskin** (born December 13, 1962) is an American attorney and politician serving as the U.S. representative for Maryland's 8th congressional district since 2017. A member of the Democratic Party, he served in the Maryland State Senate from 2007 to 2016.<sup>[2]</sup> The district previously included portions of Montgomery County, a suburban county northwest of Washington, D.C., and extends through rural Frederick County to the Pennsylvania border. Following 2022 redistricting, it now encompasses only a portion of Montgomery County.

In Congress, Raskin is the chair of the Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and the co-chair of the Congressional Freethought Caucus. He was also the lead impeachment manager for the second impeachment of President Donald Trump in response to the attack on the U.S. Capitol.<sup>[3][4]</sup> Prior to his election to Congress, he was a constitutional law professor at American University Washington College of Law, where he co-founded and directed the LL.M. program on law and government and co-founded the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project.<sup>[5][6]</sup>

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#### 2016

### Jamie Raskin



**Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Maryland's 8th district**

**Incumbent**

**Assumed office**

January 3, 2017

**Preceded by** Chris Van Hollen

**Member of the Maryland Senate from the 20th district**

**In office**

January 10, 2007 – November 10, 2016

**Preceded by** Ida G. Ruben

**Succeeded by** Will Smith

**Personal details**

<b>Born</b>	Jamin Ben Raskin December 13, 1962 <u>Washington, D.C., U.S.</u>
<b>Political party</b>	<u>Democratic</u>
<b>Spouse</b>	<u>Sarah Bloom</u> (m. 1990)
<b>Children</b>	3 <sup>[note 1]</sup>

<span><span><span></span></span></span>	
<div> <div><span>2018</span></div> <div><span>2020</span></div> <div><span>2022</span></div> </div>	
<b><span>Personal life</span></b>	
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<b>Parents</b>	<span>Marcus Raskin</span> (father) <div>Barbara Bellman (mother)</div>
<b>Education</b>	<span>Harvard University</span> (BA, JD)
<b>Occupation</b>	Attorney, politician, professor
<b>Website</b>	House website ( <span>http://raskin.house.gov</span> )

## Early life and career

Jamin Ben Raskin<sup>[2]</sup> was born to a Jewish family in Washington, D.C. on December 13, 1962, to Barbara (née Bellman) Raskin and Marcus Raskin. His mother was a journalist and novelist,<sup>[7]</sup> and his father was a former staff aide to President John F. Kennedy on the National Security Council, co-founder of the Institute for Policy Studies, and a progressive activist.<sup>[8][9]</sup> Raskin graduated from Georgetown Day School in 1979 at age 16. He graduated *magna cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa from Harvard College in 1983 with a Bachelor of Arts in government with concentration in political theory. In 1987, he received a J.D. degree *magna cum laude* from Harvard Law School, where he was an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*.<sup>[10]</sup>

Raskin was a constitutional law professor at American University Washington College of Law for more than 25 years,<sup>[11]</sup> where he taught future fellow impeachment manager Stacey Plaskett.<sup>[12]</sup> He co-founded and directed the LL.M. program on law and government and co-founded the Marshall-Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project.<sup>[5][6]</sup> From 1989 to 1990, Raskin served as general counsel for Jesse Jackson's National Rainbow Coalition.<sup>[13]</sup> In 1996, he represented Ross Perot regarding Perot's exclusion from the 1996 United States presidential debates. Raskin wrote a *Washington Post* op-ed that strongly condemned the Federal Election Commission and the Commission on Presidential Debates for their decisions.<sup>[14]</sup>

## Maryland legislature

In November 2006, he was elected as a Maryland state senator for District 20, representing parts of Silver Spring and Takoma Park in Montgomery County.<sup>[15]</sup> In 2012, he was named the majority whip for the Senate and was the chairman of the Montgomery County Senate Delegation, chairman of the Select Committee on Ethics Reform, and a member of the Judicial Proceedings Committee.<sup>[9]</sup>

Raskin was a strong proponent of liberal issues in the Maryland Senate and worked well with Republicans and moderate Democrats.<sup>[16]</sup> He was the sponsor of bills advocating the repeal of the death penalty in Maryland, the expansion of the state ignition interlock device program, and the establishment of the legal guidelines for benefit corporations, a type of for-profit corporation that includes a material societal benefit in their bylaws and decision-making processes.<sup>[17][18][19][20]</sup> A former board member of FairVote, he introduced and sponsored the first bill in the country for the

National Popular Vote, a plan for an interstate compact to provide for the first popular presidential election in American history.<sup>[21]</sup> Raskin long championed efforts to reform marijuana laws and legalize medical marijuana in Maryland.<sup>[22][23]</sup> Raskin introduced a medical marijuana bill in 2014 that was signed by Governor Martin O'Malley and went into effect in January 2015.<sup>[24]</sup>

Raskin helped lead the fight to legalize same-sex marriage in Maryland.<sup>[16]</sup> On March 1, 2006, during a Maryland State Senate hearing regarding same-sex marriage, Raskin was noted for his response to an opposing lawmaker: "Senator, when you took your oath of office, you placed your hand on the Bible and swore to uphold the Constitution. You did not place your hand on the Constitution and swear to uphold the Bible."<sup>[25][26][27][28]</sup>

## U.S. House of Representatives

### Elections

#### 2016

On April 19, 2015, *The Baltimore Sun* and *The Washington Post* reported that Raskin announced his campaign for Congress and stated, "My ambition is not to be in the political center, it is to be in the moral center." The district's seven-term incumbent, fellow Democrat Chris Van Hollen, gave up the seat to make an ultimately successful run for the United States Senate.<sup>[29][30]</sup>

During the primary, Raskin enjoyed the endorsement of the Progressive Action PAC, the political arm of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, which grew from 72 members at the time of the endorsement, to 92 members in early 2020.<sup>[31]</sup> Raskin won the crowded seven-way Democratic primary—the real contest in this heavily Democratic district—with 33 percent of the vote.<sup>[32]</sup> He was viewed as the most liberal candidate in the race.<sup>[16]</sup> The primary election was the most expensive House race in 2016, and Raskin was heavily outspent.<sup>[33]</sup>

During the general election, Raskin was endorsed by the Bernie Sanders-affiliated political organizing network Our Revolution,<sup>[34]</sup> and the community organizing effort People's Action.<sup>[35]</sup> Raskin prevailed in the general election, defeating Republican Dan Cox with 60 percent of the vote.<sup>[36]</sup>

### Tenure

As one of his first actions in Congress, Raskin and several other members of House of Representatives objected to the certification of the 2016 presidential election in favor of Donald Trump due to alleged ties with Russia, and Russia's interference in the 2016 election, as well as voter suppression efforts. Then Vice President Joe Biden ruled their objection out of order because it had to be sponsored by at least one member of each chamber, and it had no Senate sponsor.<sup>[37]</sup> Raskin questioned the legitimacy of the election, claiming it was "badly tainted by everything from



Raskin campaigning in 2016 with Senator Elizabeth Warren

cyber-sabotage by Vladimir Putin, to deliberate voter suppression by Republicans in numerous swing states".<sup>[38]</sup> In late June 2017, Raskin was the chief sponsor of legislation to establish a congressional "oversight" commission with the authority to declare a president "incapacitated" and removed from office under the 25th Amendment to the United States Constitution.<sup>[39]</sup>

In April 2018, Raskin, along with Jared Huffman, Jerry McNeerney, and Dan Kildee, launched the Congressional Freethought Caucus. Its stated goals include "pushing public policy formed on the basis of reason, science, and moral values", promoting the "separation of church and state", and opposing discrimination against "atheists, agnostics, humanists, seekers, religious, and nonreligious persons".<sup>[40]</sup> Huffman and Raskin are co-chairs.<sup>[4]</sup>

Raskin supports banning discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. In 2019, he voted in favor of the Equality Act and urged Congress members to do the same.<sup>[41][42]</sup>

On January 12, 2021, Raskin was named the lead impeachment manager for the Senate trial during the second impeachment of then-President Trump.<sup>[43]</sup> He was the primary author of the impeachment article, along with Representatives David Cicilline and Ted Lieu, which charged Trump with inciting an insurrection on the United States Capitol. During the Senate trial, Raskin recounted that after being there on January 6 as the mob was forcibly entering,<sup>[44]</sup> his daughter said to him, "Dad, I don't want to come back to the Capitol".<sup>[45]</sup>

In February 2022, whilst his wife was under consideration for a position as the Federal Reserve's vice chairwoman of supervision, it was reported that Raskin violated the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act by failing to properly disclose share dealings by his wife. One instance was where his wife received stock for advising a Colorado-based financial technology trust company, and the other was where his wife sold stock in Reserve Trust for \$1.5 million, but the sale was not disclosed for a further eight months. His wife had sat on the advisory board of the Federal Reserve when it "granted Reserve Trust unusual access to its master account", but it is not clear when she first acquired the shares.<sup>[46]</sup>

## Investigation into the January 6 attack on the Capitol

On July 1, 2021, Raskin was one of the seven Democrats appointed to the United States House Select Committee on the January 6 Attack by Speaker Nancy Pelosi.<sup>[47]</sup> In a statement following the announcement, Raskin stated that "As Chair of the Oversight Committee's Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Subcommittee, I've helped lead the Oversight Committee's painstaking investigation into violent white supremacy over the last two years. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has declared domestic violent extremism the number one security threat in the country. We saw that threat explode right in front of our eyes at the Capitol on January 6."<sup>[48]</sup>

On July 12, 2022, Raskin co-led the Select Committee's seventh public hearing with Representative Stephanie Murphy. The hearing focused on the role the far-right extremist groups Proud Boys and Oath Keepers played in organizing the attack. Additionally, they discussed the importance of Trump's December 19th tweet "Big protest in D.C. on January 6th. Be there, will be wild!" and how



Raskin speaking at the 2020 AFGE Legislative Conference

it spread throughout the internet to his supporters. to show the impact, the Select Committee played audio recordings of their interview with an anonymous Twitter employee who worked from 2020 to 2021 and was on the team responsible for the platform's content moderation policies. During the interview, they said that the tweet served as a call to action, and in some cases as a call to arms" to his supporters.<sup>[49]</sup>

In Raskin's closing statement of the July 12th hearing, he opened up with emphasizing the importance of the December 19th tweet: "When Donald Trump sent out his tweet, he became the first president ever to call for a crowd to descend on the capital city to block the constitutional transfer of power." He would later summarize the second focus of the hearing "On January 6, Trump knew the crowd was angry. He knew the crowd was armed. He sent them to the Capitol anyway." Finally, he concluded his statement with "We need to defend both our democracy and our freedom with everything we have and declare that this American carnage ends here and now. In a world of resurgent authoritarianism and racism and antisemitism, let's all hang tough for American democracy."<sup>[50][51]</sup>

## Committee assignments

- **Committee on House Administration** (Vice Chair)
- **House Committee on the Judiciary**
  - Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
  - Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law
- **House Committee on Oversight & Reform**
  - Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (Chair)<sup>[52]</sup>
  - Subcommittee on Government Operations
  - Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis<sup>[53]</sup>
- **United States House Committee on Rules**
- **House Select Committee on the January 6 Attack**
  - Outstanding Issues (Chair)<sup>[54]</sup>

## Party leadership and caucus membership

- House Democratic Caucus, Senior Whip
- House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, Freshman Representative
- Congressional Progressive Caucus,<sup>[55]</sup> Vice Chair and Liaison to New Members
- Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus
- House Pro-Choice Caucus
- House Public Education Caucus
- House Quiet Skies Caucus
- House 115th Class Caucus
- House Baltic Caucus<sup>[56]</sup>
- Congressional Freethought Caucus, Co-Founder and Co-Chair<sup>[57]</sup>

- [Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus](#)<sup>[58]</sup>
- [Congressional NextGen 9-1-1 Caucus](#)<sup>[59]</sup>
- [Congressional Solar Caucus](#)<sup>[60]</sup>
- [Medicare for All Caucus](#)

## Electoral history

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### 2016

Democratic primary, Congress, Maryland 8th district, 2016 <sup>[32]</sup>

	Party	Candidate	Votes	%
	<b>Democratic</b>	<b>Jamie Raskin</b>	<b>43,776</b>	<b>33.6%</b>
	<a href="#">Democratic</a>	<a href="#">David Trone</a>	35,400	27.1%
	<a href="#">Democratic</a>	<a href="#">Kathleen Matthews</a>	31,186	23.9%
	<a href="#">Democratic</a>	<a href="#">Ana Sol Gutierrez</a>	7,185	5.5%
	<a href="#">Democratic</a>	William Jawando	6,058	4.6%
	<a href="#">Democratic</a>	<a href="#">Kumar P. Barve</a>	3,149	2.4%
	<a href="#">Democratic</a>	David M. Anderson	1,511	1.2%
	<a href="#">Democratic</a>	Joel Rubin	1,426	1.1%
	<a href="#">Democratic</a>	Dan Bolling	712	0.5%
		<b>Majority</b>	8,376	6.5%
		<b>Total votes</b>	<b>130,403</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Congress, Maryland 8th district, 2016<sup>[36]</sup>

	Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±%
	<b>Democratic</b>	<b>Jamie Raskin</b>	<b>220,657</b>	<b>60.6%</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
	<a href="#">Republican</a>	Dan Cox	124,651	34.2%	-5.5
	<a href="#">Green</a>	Nancy Wallace	11,201	3.1%	+3.1
	<a href="#">Libertarian</a>	Jasen Wunder	7,283	2.0%	+2.0
	Write-ins		532	0.1%	-0.1
		<b>Majority</b>	96,006	26.4%	+4.7
		<b>Total votes</b>	<b>364,324</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

### 2018

Democratic primary, Congress, Maryland 8th district, 2018

Party		Candidate	Votes	%
	<b>Democratic</b>	<b>Jamie Raskin</b>	<b>74,303</b>	<b>90.5%</b>
	<u>Democratic</u>	Summer Spring	4,759	5.80%
	<u>Democratic</u>	Utam Paul	3,032	3.70%
<b>Majority</b>			69,544	84.70%
<b>Total votes</b>			<b>82,094</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Congress, Maryland 8th district, 2018

Party		Candidate	Votes	%	±%
	<b>Democratic</b>	<b>Jamie Raskin</b>	<b>217,679</b>	<b>68.2%</b>	<b>+7.6</b>
	<u>Republican</u>	John Walsh	96,525	30.2%	-4.0
	<u>Libertarian</u>	Jasen Wunder	4,853	1.5%	-0.5
	Write-ins		273	0.1%	-
<b>Majority</b>			121,154	37.9%	+11.5
<b>Total votes</b>			<b>319,330</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

## 2020

Democratic primary, Congress, Maryland 8th district, 2020

Party		Candidate	Votes	%
	<b>Democratic</b>	<b>Jamie Raskin</b>	<b>97,087</b>	<b>86.6</b>
	<u>Democratic</u>	Marcia H. Morgan	9,160	8.2
	<u>Democratic</u>	Lih Young	4,261	3.8
	<u>Democratic</u>	Utam Paul	1,651	1.5
<b>Total votes</b>			<b>112,159</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

## Congress, Maryland 8th district, 2020

	<b>Party</b>	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>±%</b>
	<b><u>Democratic</u></b>	<b>Jamie Raskin</b>	<b>274,716</b>	<b>68.2%</b>	<b>+0.1</b>
	<u>Republican</u>	Gregory Coll	127,157	31.6%	+1.4
	Write-ins		741	0.2%	+0.1
		<b>Majority</b>	147,559	36.7%	-1.3
		<b>Total votes</b>	<b>402,614</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

**2022**

## Democratic primary, Congress, Maryland 8th district, 2022

	<b>Party</b>	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>%</b>
	<b><u>Democratic</u></b>	<b>Jamie Raskin</b>	<b>29,500</b>	<b>93.6</b>
	<u>Democratic</u>	Andalib Odulaye	2,052	6.4%

## Congress, Maryland 8th district, 2022

	<b>Party</b>	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Votes</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>±%</b>
	<b><u>Democratic</u></b>	<b>Jamie Raskin</b>	<b>189,449</b>	<b>79.6%</b>	
	<u>Republican</u>	Gregory Coll	44,854	18.8%	
	<u>Libertarian</u>	Andrés Garcia	3,712	1.6%	

**Personal life**

Raskin is married to Sarah Bloom Raskin, who served as the Maryland Commissioner of Financial Regulation from 2007 to 2010. They live in Takoma Park, Maryland.<sup>[61]</sup> She was nominated by President Barack Obama to the Federal Reserve Board on April 28, 2010.<sup>[62]</sup> On October 4, 2010, she was sworn in as a governor of the Federal Reserve Board by Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke.<sup>[63]</sup> She was nominated by President Joe Biden to assume the chair of the Federal Reserve Board, but Republicans boycotted her committee hearing and Joe Manchin opposed her because of her leadership on climate change issues. Given that stalemate, she withdrew her nomination.<sup>[64]</sup> She served as the United States Deputy Secretary of the Treasury from March 19, 2014 to January 20, 2017.<sup>[65]</sup>

They have two adult daughters, Hannah and Tabitha, and had a son, Thomas. On December 31, 2020, Raskin's office announced that his son Thomas (Tommy), a graduate of Montgomery Blair High School, a graduate of Amherst College, and a second-year student at Harvard Law School, died at the age of 25.<sup>[66]</sup> On January 4, 2021, Raskin and his wife posted a tribute to their son online that stated that, following a prolonged battle with depression, he had died by suicide.<sup>[67][68]</sup> In a farewell note, Thomas said "Please forgive me. My illness won today. Look after each other, the animals and the global poor. All my love, Tommy."<sup>[69]</sup> Thomas was buried on January 5, 2021.



The following day, Raskin was in the Capitol with his daughter and son-in-law during the January 6 Capitol attack.<sup>[70]</sup><sup>[71]</sup> Hours later he began drafting an article of impeachment against President Donald Trump, and six days later, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi named Raskin the lead manager of Trump's second impeachment.<sup>[72]</sup><sup>[73]</sup> His book, *Unthinkable: Trauma, Truth, and the Trials of American Democracy* (2022), focuses on his son's life and his preparation for the impeachment trial.<sup>[74]</sup>

Raskin has been vegetarian since 2009.<sup>[75]</sup> He is a colon cancer survivor, having been diagnosed in May 2010. He received six weeks of radiation and chemotherapy, and surgery to remove part of his colon, followed by more chemotherapy through early 2011.<sup>[76]</sup> He is Jewish and descended from Russian immigrants to the United States.<sup>[77]</sup>

## Publications

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- *The Wealth Primary: Campaign Fundraising and the Constitution* (1994) (with John Bonifaz)<sup>[78]</sup>
- *Overruling Democracy: The Supreme Court versus the American People* (2003)<sup>[79]</sup>
- *We the Students: Supreme Court Cases for and about Students* (2014)<sup>[80]</sup>
- *Youth Justice in America* (2014) (with Maryam Ahranjani and Andrew G. Ferguson)<sup>[81]</sup>
- *Unthinkable — Trauma, Truth, and the Trials of American Democracy* (2022)<sup>[2]</sup>

## Notes and references

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### Notes

1. One child is deceased.<sup>[1]</sup>

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## External links

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- [Congressman Jamie Raskin \(https://raskin.house.gov/\)](https://raskin.house.gov/)
  - [Campaign website \(https://jamieraskin.com/\)](https://jamieraskin.com/)
  - [Jamie Raskin \(https://curlie.org/Regional/North\\_America/United\\_States/Maryland/Government/Federal/US\\_House\\_of\\_Representatives/Jamie\\_Raskin\\_%5BD-8%5D\)](https://curlie.org/Regional/North_America/United_States/Maryland/Government/Federal/US_House_of_Representatives/Jamie_Raskin_%5BD-8%5D) at Curlie
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  - [Financial information \(federal office\) \(https://www.fec.gov/data/candidate/H6MD08457\)](https://www.fec.gov/data/candidate/H6MD08457) at the [Federal Election Commission](#)
  - [Legislation sponsored \(https://www.congress.gov/member/jamie-raskin/R000606\)](https://www.congress.gov/member/jamie-raskin/R000606) at the [Library of Congress](#)
  - [Profile \(https://www.votesmart.org/candidate/65904\)](https://www.votesmart.org/candidate/65904) at [Vote Smart](#)
  - [Urban Legends Reference Pages: Politics \(Jamie Raskin\) \(http://www.snopes.com/politics/quotes/raskin.asp\)](http://www.snopes.com/politics/quotes/raskin.asp)
  - [WCL Faculty Page \(http://www.wcl.american.edu/faculty/raskin/\)](http://www.wcl.american.edu/faculty/raskin/)
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