

WASHINGTON COLLEGE

CITATION

Steny H. Hoyer

In politics, there are show horses and workhorses. Steny Hoyer, House Majority Leader, falls into the latter category, working quietly and effectively behind the scenes to accomplish the goals of the Democratic Party and to build consensus in passing key legislation. During a political career spanning four decades and 14 terms in the United States Congress—he was just 27, fresh out of Georgetown University’s law school, when he won a seat in the Maryland Senate—Congressman Hoyer has gained the respect and admiration of his colleagues on Capitol Hill and his Maryland constituents.

The second-ranking House Democrat was a critical member of the team that returned control of Congress back to the Democrats in 2006. He serves on the Appropriations Committee, one of the most powerful committees in Congress. In the early weeks of the Obama administration, Hoyer worked to engineer a victory for the new president’s economic stimulus package. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, a momentous measure signed into law earlier this week, is intended to save or create more than 3.5 million jobs and breathe new life into a crippled economy.

His achievements in Congress include passage of comprehensive election reform legislation in 2002; landmark civil rights legislation that helped millions of disabled Americans enter the workforce; and legislation to restructure the pay system for federal employees. An influential voice on the Appropriations Committee, Congressman Hoyer has secured funding for a number of important projects throughout Maryland, including economic development, environmental protection, and education. A former member of the Maryland Board of Higher Education, Hoyer is also committed to early childhood education. The Judy Centers, established in 2000 as a tribute to his late wife, ensure school readiness for all students throughout Maryland.

Smart, seasoned and insightful, Hoyer is a statesman of the truest sense of the word. In recognition of his exceptional career in service to our state and our nation, Washington College is pleased to confer on Congressman Steny H. Hoyer the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

Baird Tipson
President
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B I O G R A P H Y



Steny H. Hoyer

CONGRESSMAN STENY HOYER represents Maryland's Fifth congressional District, which includes Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties and portions of Prince George's and Anne Arundel counties. Now serving as majority leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, Hoyer is charged with managing the House Floor as well as scheduling legislation to be considered on the Floor. He also plays a key role in helping House Democrats determine their legislative agenda and political strategy, and in building support for the Party's positions and delivering the Democratic message both in Washington and nationally. Prior to being elected majority leader, Hoyer served two terms as the Democratic Whip.

Members on both sides of the aisle recognize Hoyer as an effective leader and committed consensus builder who knows how to get things done. He is widely regarded as a champion for Federal employees and is a well known leader on education issues. As the former chairman of the Helsinki Commission, he also is a respected voice on human and civil rights. He is perhaps best known for serving as the lead House sponsor of historic Federal election reform (the "Help America Vote Act") and for guiding the landmark Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) to passage.