

NAME: Johnny Isakson
PARTY: Republican
SEEKING: U.S. Senate



Why are you seeking your office?

I don't take your vote lightly, and I hope to continue to work effectively as your representative to find solutions to the challenges we face as a nation. As a businessman, I have fought to roll back burdensome government regulations. I have introduced legislation to fix Washington's broken budget process. I have fought Obamacare and never voted for a tax increase. I will not stop fighting to eliminate the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and those who carry out radical terrorism. I am working to change the culture of corruption at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?

I will fight to "undo" all the damage caused in the last eight years. I will continue fighting for a better economy, a tax code that works for hardworking Americans and job creators. I will work to repeal and replace Obamacare, and I will not stop in my efforts to change the culture of corruption at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

I am one of the few businessmen in the U.S. Senate. A background of 40-plus years in the real estate industry gives me a perspective few others have. I have signed the front of a paycheck, and I know how hard it sometimes is to make your payroll on Friday. And I know what it means to be a job creator. I have a distinguished record of public service that I invite anyone to explore. I will do everything in my power to protect our country and our state and to repay what has been given to me.

What are the key issues in your race?

Some of the key issues are bringing Georgia values to Washington, ensuring that our economy gets back on track, balancing our federal budget, and keeping our nation safe. Washington operates under a culture of wasteful spending. I have introduced several pieces of legislation to change the way Washington does business. Among these efforts, I am working to pass legislation that would convert the annual federal budgeting process to a two-year cycle that requires more oversight. Additionally, if we don't take a leadership role in addressing and attacking ISIL, we will no longer be a leader on the world stage.

Pick one issue. Expand on how you will address it.

When scandals surfaced at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, I was horrified. I began digging into the problems, first by holding a Senate committee hearing on veteran suicide, and last year becoming chair of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. Our committee immediately passed legislation to help prevent veteran suicides, and we passed a bill to allow veterans seeking care to receive it from private doctors if necessary. I just announced the *Veterans First Act* to hold bad actors at the VA accountable, change the culture of corruption and provide enhancements to veterans' health care and benefits.

Give a 100 word summary of your background.

As a businessman, I enjoyed 40-plus successful years in real estate. I have served in the state legislature, U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate. I also served as chairman of the Georgia Board of Education. In the U.S. Senate, I am the only Republican chairing two committees — the Ethics Committee and the Veterans' Affairs Committee. I also serve on the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Finance Committee, and the Foreign Relations Committee. My wife Dianne and I have been married since 1968, and we have three grown children and nine grandchildren.