

The Energy Initiative Coalition

Coalition Co-Chairs



Senator John Breaux, *Senior Counsel, Patton Boggs LLP.*

Senator Breaux joined Patton Boggs as Senior Counsel upon his retirement from the United States Senate in 2005. He provides strategic advice to the firm's attorneys and clients on a wide range of public policy matters, with special concentration in the areas of health care and energy law.

Senator Breaux led a long and distinguished career in Congress. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1972 at the age of 28—at the time of his election he was the youngest member of the US Congress. He represented the 7th District of Louisiana for 14 years before being elected to fill Senator Russell Long's seat in 1986.

Senator Breaux was a widely recognized bipartisan leader in the Senate, and in 1993 was elected by his Democratic colleagues to the post of Deputy Minority Whip, a position he held until his retirement. He also held a number of key Senate committee positions. A senior member of the Finance Committee, Senator Breaux served as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Security and Family Policy. He also held positions on two other Finance subcommittees, the Subcommittee on Health Care and the Subcommittee on Taxation and IRS Oversight. From his position on the Finance Committee, he played instrumental roles in forging the compromises that led to passage of the welfare reform and health insurance reform bills in 1996. He was also a leader in the efforts to reduce the capital gains tax and to provide tax relief for college education expenses.

While in the Senate, Senator Breaux was a recognized leader on energy issues. He served as Co-Chair of the Oil and Gas Caucus and was a conferee on energy legislation that eventually was written into the 2005 Energy Bill. Senator Breaux was active in advancing legislation to promote domestic oil and gas production, and was a Co-Sponsor of the Marginal Well Preservation Act, a tax-incentive program to encourage oil production from marginal oil wells. He was also a principal author of the Outer Continental Shelf Land Act.

Senator Breaux was a founder of the Centrist Coalition of Senate Democrats and Republicans and served as Chairman of the Democratic Leadership Council. In 2005 President George W. Bush appointed Senator Breaux as the Co-Chair of the President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform, while in 2006, Senator Breaux was chosen to be a Co-Chair of the Advisory Committee on Transformational Diplomacy at the U.S. Department of State.



Mayor Beverly O'Neill, City of Long Beach, California

Mayor Beverly O'Neill is Long Beach's only three-term, citywide elected Mayor. Initially elected in 1994, she was re-elected in 1998 with almost 80% of the vote, and was re-elected to a third term as a write-in candidate—the nation's only large city Mayor to accomplish such an historic feat.

Long Beach is California's 5th largest city and the 32nd largest in the nation. Mayor O'Neill has been a major force in changing the Long Beach economy into a diversified mix of international trade, tourism, emerging technologies, and expanding retail.

Mayor O'Neill has won national and international acclaim for her ability to bring varied constituencies of the city together to build an economically and culturally vibrant city. She has fought to bring the issues affecting the people of Long Beach to decision-makers in Washington, D.C. and the State Capitol. Some of the major issues she addressed in her third-term included transportation, neighborhoods, public safety, clean water and beaches and building pride in what has been identified as one of the nation's most diverse major cities.

As a member of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Mayor O'Neill chaired the standing committee on Jobs, Education and Workforce for four years. She led efforts to focus attention on the issue of the nation's skill gap and co-hosted Mayor's Skills Summits in New Orleans, Long Beach, Boston and Kansas City. In June 2001, she was recognized for her efforts with election as a Trustee of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. This followed her election to the organization's Advisory Board in 1999. In June 2005, Mayor O'Neill was elected President of the organization. Starting in 2001, the Mayor served one term as President of the League of California Cities.

A product of the Long Beach public school system, starting with the Long Beach Day Nursery up to her graduation from California State University, Long Beach. Dr. O'Neill pursued her post-graduate studies at the University of Vienna, and received her doctorate from the University of Southern California. Prior to becoming mayor, Dr. O'Neill spent a 31-year career at Long Beach City College beginning as a music instructor and women's advisor. In the succeeding years she advanced to Campus Dean, Dean of Student Affairs, Vice President of Student Services and spent her last five years as Superintendent-President.

Numerous organizations have honored Beverly O'Neill for her devotion to the city, education and youth. Among them are the 1999 EDDY Award given by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, the 1999 Leadership Long Beach Excellence in Leadership Award, Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen of the Year (1997), California 54th Assembly District Woman of the Year (1995), the National Conference of Christian and Jews Humanitarian Award (1991), YMCA Woman of Excellence (1990), and many others. In 2004, *American City and County Magazine* named her the Municipal Leader of the Year.