

Pete Buttigieg

Peter Paul Montgomery Buttigieg (/ˈbuːtɪdʒədʒ/ *BOOT-ih-jəj*,^{[2][3]} born January 19, 1982) is an American former naval intelligence officer who has been the mayor of South Bend, Indiana since 2012.

Buttigieg graduated from Harvard College and, on a Rhodes Scholarship, from Pembroke College, Oxford. From 2007 to 2010, he worked at McKinsey and Company, a management strategy consulting firm.^[4] From 2009 to 2017, Buttigieg served as an intelligence officer in the United States Navy Reserve, attaining the rank of lieutenant and deploying for the War in Afghanistan in 2014.^{[5][6]}

Buttigieg was first elected mayor of South Bend in 2011 and was reelected in 2015. During his tenure as mayor, Buttigieg's policies were widely credited with significantly spurring economic growth and business investment. Buttigieg also campaigned for Indiana State Treasurer in 2010 and for chair of the Democratic National Committee in 2017, losing both elections.

On April 14, 2019, Buttigieg formally announced he was running for the Democratic nomination for president of the United States in 2020, after having formed an exploratory committee in January 2019.^{[7][8][9]} His platform includes support for universal healthcare, reducing income inequality, pro-environmental policies, dialogue and cooperation between the Democratic Party and organized labor, universal background checks for firearms purchases, the Equality Act, and preserving the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program for children of immigrants. Buttigieg also supports reforms that would end gerrymandering, overturn the *Citizens United v. FEC* decision, and abolish the Electoral College.^{[10][11]}

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Buttigieg in 2019

32nd Mayor of South Bend

Incumbent

Assumed office

January 1, 2012

Preceded by Steve Luecke

Personal details

Born	Peter Paul Montgomery Buttigieg ^[1] <div>January 19, 1982</div> South Bend, Indiana, U.S.
Political party	Democratic
Spouse(s)	Chasten Buttigieg (m. 2018)
Mother	J. Anne Montgomery
Father	Joseph Buttigieg
Education	Harvard University (BA)

Early life and education

Buttigieg was born in South Bend, Indiana, the only child of Jennifer Anne (née Montgomery) and Joseph Buttigieg.^[12] His father, an immigrant from Hamrun, Malta, initially studied to be a Jesuit priest before immigrating to the United States and embarking on a secular career as a professor of literature at The University of Notre Dame in South Bend.^{[13][14]} The surname Buttigieg is of Semitic origin; "*tigieg*" is Maltese for "poultry."^[15] His mother was a professor at Notre Dame for 29 years.^[16]

In 2000, Buttigieg was valedictorian of his high school senior class at St. Joseph High School in South Bend.^[17] That year, he was the recipient of a first prize for the *JFK Profiles in Courage* Essay Contest awarded by the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston. He traveled to Boston to accept the award and met Caroline Kennedy and other members of President Kennedy's family. Buttigieg had written about the integrity and political courage demonstrated by U.S. Congressman Bernie Sanders of Vermont, one of only two independent politicians in Congress.^{[18][19]}

Buttigieg attended Harvard College, majoring in history and literature.^[20] While at Harvard, he was president of the Harvard Institute of Politics Student Advisory Committee and worked on the institute's annual study of youth attitudes on politics.^{[21][22]} He wrote his undergraduate thesis on the influence of puritanism on U.S. foreign policy, as reflected in Graham Greene's novel *The Quiet American*.^[23]

Upon graduating from Harvard in 2005, Buttigieg was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship and in 2007 he received a Bachelor of Arts degree with first-class honors in philosophy, politics and economics from Pembroke College, Oxford (later promoted to a Master of Arts (Oxon) per tradition).

Early career and military service

Before graduating from college, Buttigieg worked as an investigative intern at WMAQ-TV, Chicago's NBC news affiliate. He also worked as an intern for Jill Long Thompson's unsuccessful 2002 congressional campaign.^[24] He later served as an adviser to her unsuccessful 2008 gubernatorial campaign.^{[25][26]}

From 2004 to 2005, Buttigieg worked in Washington, D.C. as conference director for former Secretary of Defense William Cohen's international strategic consulting firm, The Cohen Group. He also spent several months working on Senator John Kerry's 2004 presidential campaign, where he was a policy and research specialist.^[27] After earning his Oxford degree, he worked as a consultant at McKinsey & Company from 2007 through 2010.^{[28][29]}

Buttigieg was commissioned as a naval intelligence officer in the Navy Reserve in 2009 and deployed to Afghanistan in 2014.^{[30][31]} After a seven-month deployment, Buttigieg returned to South Bend.^[32] He remained a lieutenant in the Navy Reserve until 2017.^{[33][34]}

Buttigieg was the Democratic Party nominee for State Treasurer of Indiana in 2010. He was defeated by Republican incumbent Richard Mourdock, garnering 37.5% of the vote.^{[35][36]}

Mayor of South Bend

	Pembroke College, Oxford (MA)
Website	Government website (http://southbendin.gov/official/mayor-pete-buttigieg) Campaign website (http://peteforameric.com)
Military service	
Allegiance	 United States
Service years	2009–2017
Rank	 Lieutenant
Unit	 United States Navy Reserve
Battles/wars	War in Afghanistan

First term

Buttigieg was elected mayor of South Bend in the November 2011 election, with 74% of the vote.^[37] He took office in January 2012 at age 29, becoming the second-youngest mayor in South Bend history—Schuyler Colfax III became mayor at age 28 in 1898^[38]—and the youngest mayor of a U.S. city with at least 100,000 residents.^{[37][39]}

In 2012, Buttigieg demoted South Bend police chief Darryl Boykins after a federal investigation found that the police department had improperly recorded telephone calls.^[40] He also fired the police department's communications director, who had "discovered the recordings but continued to record the line at Boykins' command".^[40] The police communications director alleged that the recordings captured four senior police officers making racist remarks and discussing illegal acts.^{[40][41]} Buttigieg has written that his initial decision to reappoint Boykins (the city's first ever African American police chief) was his "first serious mistake as mayor," while Boykins sued the city for racial discrimination over being demoted by the mayor,^[42] arguing that the taping policy existed under previous police chiefs, who were white.^[43] Buttigieg opted to settle suits brought by Boykins, the communications director, and the four officers out of court, resulting in the city spending over \$800,000 on out of court settlements.^{[40][44]} In 2015, a federal judge ruled that Boykins's recordings violated the Federal Wiretap Act.^[41] Buttigieg came under pressure from political opponents to release the tapes, but said that doing so would be a violation of the Wiretap Act.^[41] He called for the eradication of racial bias in the police force.^[40] An Indiana court is hearing a case for release of the tapes.^[45]

Buttigieg was named mayor of the year for 2013 by GovFresh.com, tying with third-term New York City mayor Mike Bloomberg.^{[46][47]} In 2014, *The Washington Post* called Buttigieg "the most interesting mayor you've never heard of" based on his youth, education, and military background.^[37] In 2016, *New York Times* columnist Frank Bruni published a column praising his work as mayor with a headline asking if he might be "the first gay president".^[48]

One of Buttigieg's signature programs has been the "Vacant and Abandoned Properties Initiative" (known locally as "1,000 Properties in 1,000 Days"), a project to repair or demolish blighted properties across South Bend.^{[49][50]} The goal was reached by the program's scheduled end date in November 2015.^[51]

Buttigieg served for seven months in Afghanistan as a lieutenant in the Navy Reserve, returning to the United States on September 23, 2014.^[52] While deployed, he was assigned to the Afghan Threat Finance Cell, a counterterrorism unit that targeted Taliban insurgency financing.^{[53][54]} In his absence, Deputy Mayor Mark Neal, South Bend's city comptroller, served as executive from February 2014 until Buttigieg returned to his role as mayor in October 2014.^[52]

Second term

In 2014, Buttigieg announced that he would seek a second term.^[55] He won the Democratic primary with 78% of the vote, defeating Henry Davis Jr., the city councilman from the Second District.^[56] In November 2015, he was elected to his second term as mayor of South Bend with over 80% of the vote, defeating Republican Kelly Jones.^[57]



The County-City Building in downtown South Bend houses the Office of the Mayor



Buttigieg at a 2017 Democratic National Convention event.

In 2015, during the controversy over Indiana Senate Bill 101—the original version of which was widely criticized for allowing discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people—Buttigieg emerged as a leading opponent of the legislation, and shortly thereafter came out as gay to express his solidarity.^{[58][59]}

In 2013, Buttigieg proposed a "Smart Streets" urban development program to improve South Bend's downtown area, and in early 2015—after traffic studies and public hearings—he secured a bond issue for the program backed by tax increment financing.^{[40][60][61]} "Smart Streets" was aimed at improving economic development and urban vibrancy as well as road safety.^[62] The project involved the conversion of one-way streets in downtown to two-way streets, traffic calming measures, the widening of sidewalks, streetside beautification (including the planting of trees and installation of decorative brickwork), the addition of bike lanes,^[61] and the introduction of roundabouts.^[62] Elements of the project were finished in 2016,^[40] and it was officially completed in 2017.^[62] The project was credited with spurring private development in the city.^[61]

As mayor, Buttigieg was a leading figure behind the creation of a nightly laser lighting display along downtown South Bend's St. Joseph River trail as public art. The project cost \$700,000, which was raised from private funds.^[63] The "River Lights" installation was unveiled in May 2015, as part of the city's 150th anniversary celebrations.^[40] Under Buttigieg, South Bend launched a \$50 million investment in the city's parks, many of which had been neglected during the preceding decades.^[63]

In December 2018, Buttigieg announced that he would not seek a third term as mayor of South Bend.^[64]

2017 DNC chair election

In January 2017, Buttigieg announced his candidacy for Chair of the Democratic National Committee in its 2017 chairmanship election.^[65] He "built a national profile as an emerging dark horse in the race for the chairmanship with the backing of former DNC Chairman Howard Dean" and former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley.^{[66][67]} Buttigieg "campaigned on the idea that the aging Democratic Party needed to empower its millennial members".^[66] He withdrew from the race on the day of the election.^[66]

2020 presidential election

On January 23, 2019, Buttigieg announced that he was creating an exploratory committee for a candidacy for President of the United States in the 2020 election. Buttigieg is seeking the Democratic nomination.^{[68][69][70]} If elected, he would be the youngest and the first openly LGBT American president.^[7] He officially launched his campaign on April 14, 2019, in South Bend.^{[8][71]}



Presidential campaign logo

Buttigieg describes himself as a progressive and a supporter of democratic capitalism.^[72] He favors universal healthcare with retention of private insurance; dialogue and cooperation between the Democratic Party and organized labor; universal background checks for firearms purchases; and environmentalist policies to combat pollution and climate change, which Buttigieg views as a national security threat. He supports subsidizing solar panels and supports the Paris Agreement; after President Trump withdrew the United States from the Paris Agreement, Buttigieg was one of many U.S. mayors to sign the Mayors National Climate Action Agenda, pledging that their cities would continue to adhere to the agreement. Buttigieg supports the Equality Act, a proposed bill to extend federal non-discrimination protections to LGBT persons. He opposes the Trump Administration's ban on transgender service members. Buttigieg supports the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program and federal legislation that would create a pathway to citizenship for

undocumented youth brought to the country illegally as children.^{[73][72]} He supports abortion rights.^[74] Buttigieg identifies companies lobbying government for favorable business legislation (i.e. regulatory capture) as a significant problem in American society.^[72]

Personal life

Buttigieg is Christian,^{[75][76][77]} and said his faith has had a strong influence in his life.^{[78][48]} His parents baptized him as Catholic as an infant and he attended Catholic schools.^[79] While at Oxford University, Buttigieg began to attend Christ Church Cathedral and said he felt "more-or-less Anglican" by the time he returned to South Bend.^[79] St. Augustine, James Martin, and Garry Wills are among his religious influences.^[78] A member of the Episcopal Church, Buttigieg is a congregant at the Cathedral of St. James in downtown South Bend.^[77]



St. James Cathedral in South Bend, where Buttigieg is a member.

Buttigieg claims to speak several languages. In addition to English, he taught himself to speak some Norwegian and has some knowledge of Spanish, Italian, Maltese, Arabic, Dari Persian, and French,^{[80][81][82]} though it is unclear to what degree he knows these languages.^[83] Buttigieg plays guitar and piano,^{[84][85]} and in 2013 performed with the South Bend Symphony Orchestra as a guest piano soloist along with Ben Folds.^{[86][87]} Buttigieg was named a 2014 Aspen Institute Rodel Fellow.^[88] He was named a recipient of the John F. Kennedy New Frontier Fenn Award in 2015.^[89]

In a June 2015 special piece in the *South Bend Tribune*, Buttigieg announced that he is gay.^[90] He is the first openly gay municipal executive in Indiana.^[91] He also is the first openly gay presidential candidate for the Democratic Party; the first openly gay presidential candidate was Fred Karger, who ran for the Republican nomination in 2012.^[92]

In December 2017, Buttigieg announced his engagement to Chasten Glezman, a junior high school teacher; they had been dating since August 2015 after meeting on the dating app Hinge.^{[93][94][95]} They were married on June 16, 2018, in a private ceremony at the Cathedral of St. James.^{[96][76]} As of April 2019, Chasten also uses the surname Buttigieg.^[97]

Books

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External links

- [Presidential campaign website \(http://peteforamerica.com\)](http://peteforamerica.com)
- [Buttigieg on the issues \(http://meetpete.org\)](http://meetpete.org)
- [Mayor of South Bend website \(http://southbendin.gov/official/mayor-pete-buttigieg\)](http://southbendin.gov/official/mayor-pete-buttigieg)
- [Appearances \(https://www.c-span.org/person/?petebuttigieg\)](https://www.c-span.org/person/?petebuttigieg) on **C-SPAN**
- [Pete Buttigieg \(https://www.imdb.com/name/nm8771668/\)](https://www.imdb.com/name/nm8771668/) on **IMDb**
- [Profile \(http://votesmart.org/candidate/biography/127151/pete-buttigieg\)](http://votesmart.org/candidate/biography/127151/pete-buttigieg) at **Vote Smart**

Party political offices		
Preceded by Michael W. Griffith	Democratic nominee for Indiana State Treasurer 2010	Succeeded by Mike Boland
Preceded by Steve Luecke	Democratic nominee for Mayor of South Bend 2011, 2015	Most recent
Political offices		
Preceded by Steve Luecke	Mayor of South Bend January 1, 2012 – present	Incumbent

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