



## **Profile of House Ways and Means Committee Chairman-Select Jason Smith (R-MO)**

January 9, 2023

### ***Background:***

Rep. Smith was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in June 2013 in a special election following the resignation of Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO). He serves in the 8<sup>th</sup> District, which represents Southeast and South Central Missouri.

He has served on the House Ways and Means Committee since 2015, where he is a member of the Health Subcommittee.

Rep. Smith serves as Ranking Member of the House Budget Committee. When he was named Ranking Republican in December 2020, Rep. Smith vowed to “Fight for a budget for all Americans, that starts with focusing on security. Economic security, allowing families to keep more of their hard-earned paychecks; community security, ensuring that the small towns, communities, and cities where Americans raise their families are kept safe and secure; and educational security, empowering families to make their own decisions about when and where their kids go back to school and not forcing a one size fits all Washington standard on them.”

Prior to serving in Congress, he was a member of the Missouri House of Representatives from 2005-2013. While there, he was selected to serve as Majority Whip and then as Speaker Pro Tem.

Before his election to public office, he worked as an attorney and helped run his family’s fourth-generation cattle farm.

Rep. Smith earned degrees in Agricultural Economics and Business Administration from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2001, and a J.D. from Oklahoma City University in 2004.

### ***Legislative Priorities:***

Rep. Smith said in a December 7, 2022 interview that his working class background would help shape his priorities as House Ways and Means Committee Chairman.

He outlined a number of those priorities in a January 9, 2023 statement, saying, "Ways and Means Republicans will build an economy that is strong by prioritizing our most valuable

economic resource, the American worker. We will build on the success of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and examine how our policies can reward working families with a tax code that delivers better jobs, higher wages, and more investment in America. We must also examine whether it is in the best interests of the American people to continue showering tax benefits on corporations that have shed their American identity in favor of a relationship with China.” He said, “We will examine using both trade policy and our tax code to re-shore and strengthen our supply chains, where products and services vital to our national security are made here at home using American labor, as well as craft policies that help America achieve food and medical security rather than dependence on nations like China. We must also look at ways to encourage domestic energy production and achieve energy independence through the tax code instead of using it as a tool to punish energy producers as President Biden has suggested.”

In discussing the domestic labor force, he said “we cannot expect our labor force to recover if Congress makes work less valuable than a government check, as Democrats did when they dismantled the Child Tax Credit in 2021.”

Incoming Chairman Smith said the Ways and Means Committee would champion:

- “Utilizing the tax code to increase jobs, grow wages, and build financial and health care security for families.
- Reasserting Congress’s oversight responsibility by investigating politically motivated leaks of taxpayer information by the IRS and rolling back efforts by the Biden Administration to use the agency to target the middle class.
- Re-shoring and strengthening supply chains to create food, medical, and energy independence.
- Advancing the interests of American workers and punishing unfair trade practices that benefit China at the expense of the American workforce and job creators.
- Unleashing American energy production that rebuilds America’s energy independence while lowering costs for consumers.
- Restoring and strengthening policies that will transition able-bodied adults off of welfare and back to the workforce.”

He said in a December 7, 2022 interview that the book minimum tax would be his “last priority.” He said, “The book minimum tax may be the most vocal thing you hear in Washington, D.C. because there’s a lot of high paid lobbyists and folks that are pushing it because they don’t like what just happened, but that’s going to be in the back of the line in the priorities of a Jason Smith for Chairman because we have to deliver for working class Americans. That would be my last priority.”

Rep. Smith expressed support for raising the debt limit, but said that it should include policy provisions. He said, “I truly believe that the House Republicans can pass a debt limit that can also reduce reckless spending. I believe that we can pass a debt limit that helps provide

energy independence and helps lower the price of energy costs. I believe we can pass a debt limit that helps secure the border.”

Rep. Smith has expressed an interest in conducting oversight of the Biden Administration, including with respect to its student loan forgiveness policy. He also has expressed concerns about what the IRS plans to do with the \$80 billion in increased funding that was included in the IRA. He said in a November 25, 2022 statement, “So what will this significantly more powerful government agency do with all that money? It’s going to hire 87,000 new agents to target and harass middle- and low-income Americans. Projections based on historical IRS audit data show that under this expansion, the IRS will conduct an additional 700,000 audits on Americans making less than \$75,000 a year. In Missouri alone, an additional 18,000 families making less than \$200,000 will be victims of IRS audits. In other words, Washington Democrats are stealing from the poor to give to the rich.”

Rep. Smith said that he intends to schedule a number of Ways and Means field hearings in areas of the United States that are not frequently heard from in Congress. He said, “We need to travel the country and know that the best ideas are not up here in Washington, D.C.”

Rep. Smith introduced several tax bills in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, including:

- The Permanent Tax Relief for Working Families Act (H.R. 1380) that would make permanent the increase in the child tax credit that was enacted as part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.
- The Main Street Tax Certainty Act (H.R. 1381) that would make permanent the tax deduction for qualified business income enacted under TCJA.
- The Death Tax Repeal Act (H.R. 1712) that would repeal the estate and generation-skipping transfer taxes and make conforming changes to the gift tax.
- The Eliminate Lavish Incentives To Electric Vehicles Act, or the ELITE Vehicles Act (H.R. 3796), that would terminate the credit for new qualified plug-in electric vehicles.
- The Upward Mobility Enhancement Act (H.R. 4428) that would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the exclusion for educational assistance programs and to allow the exclusion with respect to education-related tools and technology.
- The Student Empowerment Act (H.R. 605) that would allow tax-exempt distributions from qualified tuition programs (known as 529 plans) to be used for additional educational expenses in connection with enrollment or attendance at a primary or secondary school.
- The Child Tax Credit for Pregnant Moms Act (H.R. 6505).
- No Abortion Bonds Act (H.R. 606) that would impose federal taxes on bonds used to provide facilities owned by abortion providers.