

Francis Rooney

Ambassador Francis Rooney represented Florida's 19th Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives from 2017 to 2021. In the 115th Congress, Rooney served as Vice-Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee and a member of the Joint Economic Committee. In the 116th Congress, Rooney served as the ranking member of the Western Hemisphere subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs Committee. He was the Republican co-chair of the Climate Solutions Caucus and a member of the bi-partisan Everglades and Estuary caucuses, which focus on restoring Florida's ecosystems. He succeeded in accomplishing his primary congressional objectives – extending the 2006 moratorium on offshore drilling in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico and fully funding the projects contained in the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) to protect and restore the Lake Okeechobee watershed. He is proud to have been the most bipartisan Republican member in Congress and to have pushed for action on climate change and environmental degradation, working with the Speaker and Democrat leadership. He was one of two Republicans to introduce carbon tax bills in the 116th Congress.

Before he served in Congress, Rooney served as the United States Ambassador to the Holy See (2005-2008), appointed by President George W. Bush. He subsequently wrote a book about diplomacy and the U.S.-Holy See relationship titled *The Global Vatican*. Until 2005, Ambassador Rooney served as CEO of Rooney Holdings, Inc., a diversified group of companies engaged in construction, energy, real estate development, finance and electronics manufacturing. A graduate of Georgetown University (A.B. 1975) and Georgetown University Law Center (J.D. 1978), Rooney has honorary degrees from the University of Notre Dame (2006) and the University of Dallas (2010). Ambassador Rooney has also published over 150 op-ed articles in publications such as The Hill, Newsweek, and The National Review, as well as local Florida publications.

More information about Ambassador Rooney can be found here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Rooney

Benji Backer

Benji Backer is an entrepreneur and political activist from Seattle, WA, and a recent graduate of the University of Washington. He is the President and Founder of the American Conservation Coalition (ACC), the nation's largest market-based environmental organization, which is dedicated to mobilizing young people around environmental action through common-sense, market-based, and limited-government ideals. He also serves on the Wisconsin Conservative Energy Forum's Leadership Council. Backer has been awarded the Grist 50, Forbes 30 Under 30, RedAlert 30 Under 30, and GreenBiz 30 Under 30.

He grew up in Wisconsin and is an avid Wisconsin sports fan. He spends his free time hiking, skiing, and drinking unsweetened iced tea. More information about the ACC and a more complete biography of Mr. Backer's work can be found here: <https://www.acc.eco/>

Julian Brave NoiseCat

Julian Brave NoiseCat's work cuts across the fields of journalism, policy, research, art, activism and advocacy, often engaging multiple disciplines at once. He is the Vice President of Policy & Strategy with Data for Progress, a think tank; the Narrative Change Director of The Natural History Museum, an artist and activist collective; and a fellow at the Type Media Center, NDN Collective and the Center for Humans and Nature. He is a columnist for *Canada's National Observer* and a contributing editor at *Canadian Geographic*. Mr. NoiseCat's journalism has been widely recognized. In 2021, Mr. NoiseCat was named to the TIME100 Next list of emerging leaders for his work on the climate crisis.

Mr. NoiseCat studied history at Columbia University and the University of Oxford, where he was a Clarendon scholar. More information about his work and accomplishments can be found here: <https://www.julianbravenoisecat.com/>

Noel Bakhtian

Dr. Noel Bakhtian is the director of the Berkeley Lab Energy Storage Center at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. She has previously served as the director for Idaho National Laboratory's Center for Advanced Energy Studies, as well as a senior policy advisor for the United States Office of Science and Technology Policy in the White House.

Early in her career, Dr. Bakhtian became a Science and Technology Policy fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in 2012. At the United States Department of Energy, Dr. Bakhtian joined the office for international affairs, where she managed water and energy policy projects with China, Israel, Brazil, the UAE and the EU. She developed nexus engagements including a US-China Commission Clean Energy Research Center and was technical lead of the \$8M Wave Energy Prize. Bakhtian is a member of the Women's Council on Energy and the Environment and was described as one of the most powerful female engineers in the world by Business Insider in 2018.

Dr. Bakhtian did her undergraduate work at Duke University, holds Master's degrees from University of Cambridge and Stanford University, and completed her doctorate at Stanford University's Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics. More information about her research and interests can be found here: <http://adl.stanford.edu/people/NoelBakhtian.html>

Rebecca Henderson

Rebecca Henderson is a John and Natty McArthur University Professor at Harvard University's Business School, a research fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research and a fellow of both the British Academy and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Her research explores the degree to which the private sector can play a major role in building a more sustainable economy. Henderson sits on the boards of Idexx Laboratories and of CERES. Her most recent publication is *Reimagining Capitalism in a World on Fire*, which was shortlisted for the FT/McKinsey 2020 Business Book of the Year Award.

More information about Professor Henderson's work can be found here:
<https://rebeccahenderson.com/>