



Arizona LGBTQIA+ Archives

Peter Buttigieg Archives®



United States Secretary of Transportation
Peter Buttigieg in 2022

Peter Paul Montgomery Buttigieg (/ˈbuːtɒdʒədʒ/ *BOOT-ə-jəj*; ^[aɪ]^{[1][2]} born on January 19, 1982) a United States politician, former military officer, and Gay man who served as the [United States Secretary of Transportation](#). A member of the [Democratic Party](#), and the 32nd [mayor of South](#)

[Bend, Indiana](#) from 2012 to 2020. His time as a city mayor earned him the nickname "**Mayor Pete**".

Buttigieg graduated both [Harvard College](#) and [Oxford University](#), attending Oxford on a [Rhodes Scholarship](#). From 2009 to 2017, Buttigieg was an [intelligence officer](#) in the [United States Navy Reserve](#), attaining the rank of [lieutenant](#). He was mobilized and [deployed](#) to the [War in Afghanistan](#) for seven months in 2014.

Before being elected as mayor of South Bend [in 2011](#), Buttigieg worked on the [political campaigns](#) of Democrats [Jill Long Thompson](#), [Joe Donnelly](#), and [John Kerry](#), and ran unsuccessfully as the Democratic nominee for [Indiana state treasurer in 2010](#).

While serving as South Bend's mayor, Buttigieg [came out](#) as being a Gay man in 2015. He married [Chasten Glezman](#), a schoolteacher and writer, in June 2018. Buttigieg made the decision to decline seeking a third term as mayor.



Buttigieg ran as a candidate for president in the [2020 Democratic Party presidential primaries](#), launching [his campaign](#) for the [2020 United States presidential election](#) on April 14, 2019.

He became one of the first openly Gay men to launch a major party presidential campaign.^[b] Despite initially low expectations, he gained significant momentum in mid-2019 when he participated in several [town hall meetings](#) and [television debates](#). Buttigieg narrowly won the [Iowa caucuses](#) and placed a close second in the [New Hampshire primary](#).^{[4][5][6]}

By winning Iowa, he became the first openly Gay candidate to ever win a presidential primary or a caucus. Buttigieg later dropped out of the race on March 1, 2020, and endorsed [Joe Biden](#) as candidate for United States President the next day.

President-elect Biden named Peter Buttigieg as his nominee for Secretary of Transportation in December 2020. That nomination was confirmed on February 2, 2021, by a Congressional vote of 86 to 13, making him the first Openly Gay Cabinet Secretary in United States history.^[c] Nominated at age 38, he was also the youngest Cabinet member in the [President Biden Administration](#) and the youngest person ever to serve as Secretary of Transportation in the United States.



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