

Ted's timeline



SOURCES: Associated Press, Biography.com
Graphic by BRAD GUIGAR / Staff artist
Photo by ELIZABETH FLORES / Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel

● **Feb. 22, 1932:** Edward "Ted" Kennedy is born in Boston as the youngest of nine children.

● **1950:** Attends Harvard University. He is expelled the next year for having another student take a Spanish exam in his place.

● **1951:** Enlists in the Army. His father's influence gains him an assignment as a guard at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Command in Paris, France.

● **1953:** He enrolls again at Harvard and is accepted. In addition to his studies there, he plays football for the Harvard Crimson.

● **1955:** Green Bay Packers attempt to recruit him. Kennedy declines, saying he wanted to go to law school and enter another contact sport — politics.

● **1958:** Manages brother John's re-election campaign for U.S. Senate.



● **Nov. 29, 1958:** Marries Virginia Joan Bennett. They will have three children together: Kara Anne, Edward Jr. and Patrick.

● **1959:** After a brief time at the International Law School (The Hague), he earns a law degree at Virginia Law School.

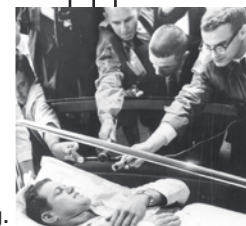
● **1960:** He campaigns for his brother John's presidential bid.

● **1962:** After working briefly as an assistant district attorney for Suffolk County, Mass., Ted is elected to John's former U.S. Senate seat at age 30.



● **1963:** President John F. Kennedy is assassinated in Dallas.

● **1964:** He survives a plane crash and spends weeks in the hospital recovering.



● **1964:** Despite being unable to actively campaign for re-election for a full term, he is swept back into office by a landslide.

● **1967:** He begins to speak out against the Vietnam War.

● **1968:** Brother Robert F. Kennedy is assassinated during a bid for the presidency.

1950s

1960s

● **1969:** He becomes the youngest-ever majority whip in the U.S. Senate, and an early front-runner for the Democratic presidential nomination.

● **July 18, 1969:** He accidentally drives his car off a bridge on Chappaquiddick Island, near Martha's Vineyard, Mass. His companion in the car, 28-year-old Mary Jo Kopechne, drowns. A judge later finds Kennedy guilty of leaving the scene of an accident.



● **1970:** Despite the scandal, he is re-elected to the Senate.

1970s

● **1972:** Declines a run for the presidency.

● **1976:** He wins re-election to the Senate.

● **1980:** He launches a presidential campaign against Democratic incumbent Jimmy Carter.



● **1980:** After winning only 10 of the primaries, he concedes, delivering perhaps his most famous speech at the Democratic National Convention.



1980s

● **1981:** The presidency of Ronald Reagan will place him at odds with fellow Democrats as he struggles with minority-party status.

● **1982:** After 24 years of turbulent marriage, he and wife Joan divorce.

● **1982:** He wins re-election to the Senate.

● **1988:** He wins re-election to the Senate.

● **1991:** Ted accompanies his son Patrick and nephew William Kennedy Smith to a bar where they meet Michelle Cassone and Patricia Bowman. Smith and Bowman have sex, which she later claims was not consensual. The media frenzy around the case places Ted's life once again in the spotlight.

1990s



● **1992:** He marries Washington, D.C., lawyer Victoria Reggie, crediting his recovery to their relationship.

● **1992:** Under the Bill Clinton presidency, he regains power and supports health-care reform.

● **1994:** He wins re-election to the Senate.

● **2000:** He wins re-election to the Senate.

● **2006:** He wins re-election to the Senate.

● **May 17, 2008:** He enters Cape Cod Hospital after suffering a seizure. Three days later, he is diagnosed with a malignant glioma, an especially lethal type of brain tumor.

● **June 2, 2008:** He undergoes surgery to remove the tumor.



2000s

● **2008:** He endorses Illinois Senator Barack Obama for president and makes an emotional appearance at the Democratic Convention.

● **Jan. 20, 2009:** During Obama's post-inauguration luncheon at the U.S. Capitol, Kennedy suffers another seizure. He returns to work after several weeks' rest.

● **Tuesday:** Kennedy dies of brain cancer.