

First Ladies of America



Hillary Rodham Clinton, the oldest of three children, was raised in a Methodist household in Park Ridge, Ill. Her parents worked hard and expected their children to do the same. Mrs. Clinton's mother had a difficult childhood, seeing firsthand discrimination against Japanese Americans and how early disadvantages affected a child's future. Her mother's experiences shaped Mrs. Clinton's lifelong dedication to the needs of children. Her parents also felt strongly that their daughter should and could pursue any career she wanted. She was an athlete, Girl Scout, the class vice president in her junior year of high school and a member of the National Honor Society.

Her father was politically conservative; Mrs. Clinton campaigned for Republican candidate Barry Goldwater in the U.S. presidential election of 1964 when she was a teenager. Her Methodist youth minister, who was concerned with issues of social justice, took Mrs. Clinton and others to a speech given by Martin Luther King Jr. in Chicago in the early 1960s. This, along with other events, would eventually change her political views.

Her interest in politics continued when she attended Wellesley College, where she majored in Political Science. She was still a Republican at this time, and she served as the president of the Wellesley chapter of the Young Republicans. Her concern over civil rights and the Vietnam War caused her to step down from that position. In her junior year, she supported the antiwar candidate for President, Democrat Eugene McCarthy. After graduating from Wellesley, she entered Yale Law School, where she met Bill

Clinton. In keeping with her focus on children, Mrs. Clinton spent a year at the Yale Child Study Center to research issues that affect children. She worked for the Children's Defense Fund in Massachusetts after graduation.

In 1974, she joined the faculty at the University of Arkansas Law School in Fayetteville, where Bill Clinton taught as well. They married in 1975 and she kept her maiden name for work. When Mr. Clinton was elected Attorney General of the state, they moved to Little Rock. She joined the long-established Rose Law Firm becoming the firm's first woman partner. Her husband was soon elected Governor and served five non-consecutive terms. During this time, she changed her name to Hillary Rodham Clinton. Their only child, Chelsea, was born in 1980. Mrs. Clinton served 12 years as the state's First Lady, juggling motherhood, family, work and her continued focus on children. She chaired the Arkansas Educational Standards Committee, and she served on the boards of the Children's Defense Fund and the Arkansas Children's Hospital Legal Services.

Upon Mr. Clinton's election to the Presidency, she worked alongside him and was an active voice in the administration for children and, by extension, families. Mrs. Clinton led the push to make health care more affordable. Because of her direct participation in legislative issues, Mrs. Clinton was the first First Lady to have an office in the West Wing of the White House. She went on to set other firsts for First Ladies, serving as a Senator for New York from 2001 to 2009 and as Secretary of State, under President Barack Obama, from 2009 to 2013. In 2016, she set another first by becoming the Democratic Party's candidate for the Presidency.

**Bill
Clinton
Administration,
1993-2001**



Hillary Rodham Clinton

Born: October 26, 1947, in Chicago, Illinois

Education: Maine Township High School, East and South, Park Ridge, Illinois; Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts; Yale Law School, New Haven, Connecticut

Marriage: 1975 to William Jefferson "Bill" Clinton

Children: Chelsea Victoria, born in 1980