



# The Begich Betrayal

## *The Last Frontier's Obama Yes Man Is A Thorn In The Side Of Alaska*

### **BEGICH CLAIMS HE'S A THORN IN OBAMA'S SIDE, DESPITE NEAR UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR HIS AGENDA**

**Sen. Mark Begich (D-AK): "I'll Be A Thorn In His [Posterior]. There's Times When I'm A Total Thorn, You Know, And He Doesn't Appreciate It."** "When Sen. Mark Begich talks about his role in American politics, he describes himself as a sharp object, sent to Washington to jab at President Obama. 'I'll be a thorn in his [posterior],' Begich (D-Alaska) said in an interview. 'There's times when I'm a total thorn, you know, and he doesn't appreciate it.'" (David A Farenthold, "Senate Democrat's Reelection Pitch To Alaskans: I'm A Thorn In Obama's Side," [The Washington Post](#), 7/13/14)

### ***But Begich's Tough Talk Doesn't Match With Reality – He Votes With Obama Nearly 100 Percent Of The Time***

**Begich Voted With Obama 97 Percent Of The Time In 2013 According To The Non-Partisan Congressional Quarterly.** (Sen. Mark Begich, [Congressional Quarterly](#), Accessed 9/15/14)

- **Since 2009, Begich Has Voted With Obama 95 Percent Of The Time.** (Sen. Mark Begich, [Congressional Quarterly](#), Accessed 9/15/14)

**Begich Cast A Deciding Vote For ObamaCare, Obama's Crowning Achievement.** (H.R. 3590, [Roll Call Vote #396](#), Adopted 60-39: R 0-39; D 60-0, 12/24/09, Begich Voted Yea)

**Begich Voted For Obama's Wasteful \$830 Billion Stimulus Bill.** (H.R. 1, [Roll Call Vote #64](#), Adopted 60-38: R 3-38; D 57-0, 2/13/09, Begich Voted Yea)

**Begich Has Voted "For Nearly All Of Obama's Court Picks."** "Red-state Democrats such as Sens. Mark Begich (Alaska), Mary Landrieu (La.), Kay Hagan (N.C.) and Mark Pryor (Ark.) have stressed their independence from their party, but they will have to defend their record of voting for nearly all of Obama's court picks." (Alexander Bolton, "Red-State Dems In Hot Seat," [The Hill](#), 7/15/14)

### **BEGICH SAYS HE'S FROM THE "PARTY OF ALASKA," BUT SIDES WITH HARRY REID IN THE SENATE**

**Begich: "I Belong To The Party Of 'A,' And That's A Very Simple Party. It's The Party Of Alaska."** "In speaking with Alaskans, Begich looks for 'the common thread that drives us to be in the state,' he said. 'I belong to the party of 'A,' and that's a very simple party,' Begich said. 'It's the party of Alaska. ... I think we're a unique breed up here in Alaska.'" (Michael Armstrong, "Begich Visits Homer, Lays Groundwork For Campaign," [Homer News](#), 7/2/14)

## ***Begich Is An Acolyte Of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid***

**Begich Is A Member Of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's Leadership Team, Serving As Chair Of The Senate's Steering And Outreach Committee.** (United States Senate Democrats, Website, [democrats.senate.gov](http://democrats.senate.gov), Accessed 8/19/14)

**Begich Voted With Liberal Democrats 91 Percent Of The Time In 2013.** (Sen. Mark Begich, Congressional Quarterly, Accessed 9/15/14)

- **Since 2009, Begich Has Voted With Liberal Democrats 92 Percent Of The Time.** (Sen. Mark Begich, Congressional Quarterly, Accessed 9/15/14)

**On The Campaign Trail, Begich Avoids Answering Whether He Would Support Reid For Majority Leader, Instead Saying "The Decision By The Caucus Gets Decided After The Election."** "First up, my job is to get reelected," Sen. Mark Begich (D-Alaska) said when asked about Reid. Asked again what he would do if he wins reelection in the fall, Begich deadpanned: 'I think I answered your question. ... The decision by the caucus gets decided after the elections.'" (Manu Raju And John Bresnahan, "Harry Reid Set To Lead Democrats, In Majority Or Not," [Politico](http://Politico), 4/3/14)

- **If Begich Is Reelected, It May All But Ensure Reid's Return As Senate Majority Leader.** "A wide cross section of the Senate Democratic Caucus said in interviews that they are willing to back Reid as either majority or minority leader in the next Congress — no matter how controversial the Nevada Democrat has become as part of the furious battle for control of the chamber this fall." (Manu Raju And John Bresnahan, "Harry Reid Set To Lead Democrats, In Majority Or Not," [Politico](http://Politico), 4/3/14)

## **BEGICH ASSAILS "OUTSIDE" SPENDING IN ALASKA, DESPITE RECEIVING MILLIONS FROM REID'S SUPER PAC**

**Begich's Campaign Claims That He "Is The Only Candidate In This Race Serious About Curbing Outside Spending In Elections."** "Democratic Sen. Mark Begich of Alaska responded Tuesday to GOP challenger Dan Sullivan's proposal to try to limit outside spending in the battleground state. 'Mark Begich is the only candidate in this race serious about curbing Outside spending in elections and is a co-sponsor of legislation to throw out Citizens United with a constitutional amendment to limit corporate personhood,' his campaign said in a statement." (Elizabeth Titus, "Begich Responds To Sullivan's Outside-Money Plan," [Politico](http://Politico), 6/10/14)

- **A Begich Campaign Ad Made Note Of Washington, D.C. "Outsiders" Trying To Deceive Alaskan Voters.** NARRATOR: "Have you seen the ads attacking Mark Begich? First, it was a Washington, D.C., actress pretending to be an Alaskan. Now, they are saying Mark Begich supports a carbon tax, but it's not true. Independent watchdog organizations like FactCheck.org and PolitiFact.com both called the attacks quote 'false' and have quote 'nothing to do with Begich.' It's another typical Washington attack to try to fool Alaskans and whose is behind the ads? Two billionaire outsiders, the Koch brothers. The same profiteering Koch brothers that bought the Flint Hills refinery in Fairbanks. Ran it into the ground and announced shutting it down – laying off almost one-hundred workers. All they left behind is polluted drinking water they hadn't cleaned up and false negative ads with fake Alaskans." BEGICH: "I'm Mark Begich, candidate for Senate, and I approve this message because these billionaire outsiders turn their backs on Alaska. I never will." NARRATOR: "Paid for by Alaskans for Begich." ("Outsiders," [Alaskans For Begich](http://Alaskans For Begich), Accessed 8/12/14)

## ***But Begich Is The Primary Beneficiary Of Outside Spending Thanks To Reid***

**Begich Is The Primary Beneficiary Of Outside Spending In Alaska.** "A new analysis shows that the TV ads flooding Alaska's airwaves this election cycle have predominantly come from Democratic incumbent

U.S. Sen. Mark Begich and his allies, as opposed to his Republican opponent, Dan Sullivan, and the groups backing him.” (Nathaniel Herz, “Ad Spending By Senate Campaigns, Outside Groups Tilts In Begich’s Favor,” [Alaska Dispatch News](#), 9/6/14)

- **Begich Has Opposed A Plan That Outside Groups Say “Would Deter The Flow Of Outside Money.”** “But he has proposed a one-time agreement that his campaign and clean elections reformers say would deter the flow of outside money by forcing the candidates’ campaigns to pay a fine every time they benefit from spending by the groups. Begich, however, won’t sign, and Sparks, the campaign manager for Sullivan, said that’s ‘a conscious political decision’ because Begich is benefiting from the attack ads that the outside groups are running.” (Nathaniel Herz, “Ad Spending By Senate Campaigns, Outside Groups Tilts In Begich’s Favor,” [Alaska Dispatch News](#), 9/4/14)

**The Pro-Begich Super PAC, Put Alaska First “Has Derived Most Of Its Funding” From Reid’s Senate Majority PAC.** “Meanwhile, a super PAC supporting Begich, Put Alaska First, has derived most of its funding from Senate Majority PAC, a national Democratic group working to defend vulnerable incumbents like Begich and Sen. Kay Hagan (D-N.C.).” (Samantha Lachman, “Least Competitive Republican Senate Primary Will Decide Mark Begich Opponent,” [The Huffington Post](#), 8/19/14)

- **Senate Majority PAC Has Given “More Than \$4.5 Million” To The Pro-Begich Put Alaska First Super PAC.** “Lottsfeldt runs Put Alaska First, the super PAC that supports Democratic Sen. Mark Begich and has received more than \$4.5 million from the Harry Reid-backed Senate Majority PAC. In fact, Senate Majority PAC is nearly his only donor.” (Andrea Drusch, “How A Pro-Begich PAC Won Freedom From Harry Reid,” [National Journal](#), 8/18/14)

## **BEGICH CLAIMS HE GETS RESULTS FOR ALASKA, BUT HIS RECORD PROVES THE CONTRARY**

**Begich: “At The End Of The Day, What Alaskans Want To Know Is, What Have You Done, What Are You Going To Do. And I Work Across Party Lines To Get Results For Alaska.”** “I get that he’s going to try to nationalize it, use these bumper stickers. But Alaskans want to know details,’ he said about Sullivan. ‘At the end of the day, what Alaskans want to know is, what have you done, what are you going to do. And I work across party lines to get results for Alaska.” (Cameron Joseph, “Sen. Begich Faces Tough Reelection Challenge In GOP-Friendly Alaska,” [The Hill](#), 6/26/14)

### ***Begich’s Doesn’t Have A Record Of Delivering For Alaska In Washington D.C.***

**Begich’s Only Bill Signed Into Law Renamed A Federal Courthouse In Anchorage.** “But he is not actually that well known for anything. In the Senate, Begich is a junior figure, moving through the chamber’s power structure at the speed of a mastodon trapped in a glacier. Over five years, just one of his bills has been passed into law. It renamed a courthouse in Anchorage.” (David Fahrenthold, “Senate Democrat’s Reelection Pitch To Alaskans: I’m A Thorn In Obama’s Side,” [The Washington Post](#), 7/13/14)

**After Six Years In The Senate, Begich Has Yet To “Have A Vote On Any Of His Amendments.”**

“Elected six years ago, Sen. Mark Begich is still waiting for a vote on any of his amendments. It’s a sore point for the Alaska Democrat, who already faces a difficult re-election campaign in a conservative-leaning state.” (David M. Drucker, “Why Mark Begich Still Hasn’t Gotten A Vote On Any Of His Amendments,” [Washington Examiner](#), 7/14/14)

## **BEGICH PROMISED ALASKANS WOULD BE BETTER OFF UNDER OBAMACARE – A LAW THAT’S DRIVING UP COSTS AND CANCELLING PLANS**

**In December 2009, Begich Touted A Congressional Study That Claimed ObamaCare Would Deliver To Alaskans The Largest Reduction In Premiums.** “Alaskans, who currently pay the highest health insurance costs in the nation for premiums purchased by individuals, would see among the largest

insurance premium reductions, under the national health insurance reform bill pending in the U.S. Senate, according to a just-released congressional study. U.S. Sen. Mark Begich welcomed the study results, saying the high cost of health insurance premiums is one of the major complaints he hears from Alaskans in the discussion of health reform.” (Sen. Mark Begich, “Study Shows Health Reform Will Reduce Alaska Premiums,” [Press Release](#), 12/3/09)

**After Voting To Pass ObamaCare, Begich Promised That “Alaskans Who Have Health Insurance Now, And Are Happy With It, Can Keep It.”** “Alaskans who have health insurance now, and are happy with it, can keep it. While the thousands of Alaskans who do not have health insurance, or have insurance they can't really afford, will have access to an insurance exchange offering affordable health insurance choices. An estimated 52,000 Alaskans will qualify for tax credits to help purchase affordable health coverage.” (Press Release, “Sen. Begich Statement On Passage Of Health Reform Bill,” [Senator Mark Begich](#), 12/24/09)

### ***But Alaskans Face Higher Premiums And More Health Plan Cancellations***

**The Alaska Division Of Insurance Announced That Alaskans Who Purchased Individual Plans Under ObamaCare Will Face A Significant Increase On Their Health Care Premiums.** “On Thursday, the Alaska Division of Insurance announced hefty insurance rate increases in 2015 for Alaskans who purchased individual plans under the Affordable Care Act. As politicians spoke out to blame the increase on one another depending on their stance on the national health care law, Alaskans face more immediate questions about how and why they may be affected.” (Laurel Andrews, “Alaska Announces Hefty Individual Insurance Rate Increases For 2015,” [InsuranceNewsNet](#), 9/5/14)

- **Alaskans Who Will Buy Their Insurance Through ObamaCare “Can Expect To Pay An Increase Of More Than 30 Percent On Average For Coverage.”** “Alaskans who buy health insurance on the Affordable Care Act marketplace will see a significant rate hike for next year. The state Division of Insurance says consumers can expect to pay an increase of more than 30 percent on average for coverage.” (Annie Feidt, “Huge Increase For HealthCare.Gov Insurance Rates In Alaska,” [Alaska Public Media](#), 9/5/14)

**Moda Health, One Of Two Health Insurers On The Alaskan Exchange, “Won’t Allow People To Keep Policies Past This Year,” Affecting About 800 Policyholders.** “One of the two health insurers that are part of the federally run online marketplace in Alaska won’t allow people to keep policies past this year that are out of compliance with President Barack Obama’s signature health care law, a state official said. One of the two health insurers that are part of the federally run online marketplace in Alaska won’t allow people to keep policies past this year that are out of compliance with President Barack Obama’s signature health care law, a state official said. Lori Wing-Heier, director of Alaska’s Division of Insurance, said her best guess is that the decision by Moda Health will affect about 800 policies.” (Becky Bohrer, “Official: Moda Won’t Extend Some Alaska Policies,” [The Associated Press](#), 9/14/14)

- **In 2013, 5,400 Alaskans Received Notifications That Their Plans Would Be Cancelled Due To ObamaCare.** (“Policy Notifications And Current Status, By State,” [The Associated Press](#), 12/26/13)

## **BEGICH CLAIMS HE OPPOSES ENERGY POLICIES THAT DRIVE UP COSTS, BUT WON’T STAND IN THE WAY OF OBAMA’S EPA**

**In 2013, Begich Claimed Alaskans Do Not Want An Energy Policy That “Adds More Layers Of Regulation Or More Layers Of Cost.”** “Sen. Mark Begich (D-Alaska), who is also up for reelection in an oil state, told POLITICO that his constituents ‘don’t want to have something that adds more layers of regulation or more layers of cost.’ He said policymakers should focus on measures like increasing energy efficiency, rather than capping greenhouse gas emissions. ‘If we’re just going to have the same dance



we've had the last several years, we're never going to get through this,' he said." (Andrew Restuccia and Darren Goode, "W.H. Climate Weakness: Senate Dems," [Politico](#), 3/25/13)

### ***But Begich Has Avoided Taking A Position On Obama's New EPA Regulations That Will Drive Up Costs For Alaskans***

**In A Statement, Begich Said He Was Skeptical About The Obama Administration's Latest EPA Regulations But Did Not Come Out Against Them.** "It is no secret that I have long been skeptical of this Administration and their understanding of Alaska's unique needs when it comes to energy policy and this will be no different," said Begich. "Today's announcement from the Administration is the first step in a long process that I will be closely monitoring to determine any impact on Alaska – especially for consumers. Alaska is ground zero for climate change and there are common sense approaches to dealing with that reality, but we must protect consumers along the way." "From the initial review of materials released today, this rule exempts all of rural Alaska, but could impact a handful of Railbelt power plants," said Begich. "My office has already asked the EPA for additional information and I will work closely with both the EPA and the State of Alaska to ensure that any final rule is flexible and protects Alaska businesses and families." (Press Release, "Begich Statement on New Proposed EPA Rule," [Sen. Mark Begich](#), 6/2/14)

- **Begich Didn't Condemn Obama's New Emissions Rules That Would Affect Alaskans.** "Begich says he wants to make sure the state has the flexibility the EPA is promising, but he's not condemning the proposed carbon rules. 'At least at this point it seems to us, it does not affect rural Alaska in anyway, and second as you know the goal of the state is to get 50 percent renewable energies by 2025, so it's very possible we're already on the way,' Begich said." (Liz Rushkin, "What Do The EPA's New Carbon Rules Mean For Alaska?" [Alaska Public Radio](#), 6/5/14)

**In May, Obama Announced New Carbon Regulations, Taking Aim At The Country's Coal-Fired Power Plants.** "The Obama administration on Monday announced one of the strongest actions ever taken by the United States government to fight climate change, a proposed Environmental Protection Agency regulation to cut carbon pollution from the nation's power plants 30 percent from 2005 levels by 2030. The regulation takes aim at the largest source of carbon pollution in the United States, the nation's more than 600 coal-fired power plants." (Coral Davenport, "Unveiling New Carbon Plan, E.P.A. Focuses On Flexibility," [The New York Times](#), 6/2/14)

- **"In Alaska, The Plan Calls For A Cut Of Carbon Pollutants By Nearly 26 Percent Over The Next 15 Years."** ("EPA: Alaska Ordered To Cut Emissions By 26 Percent," [The Associated Press](#), 6/2/14)

### **BEGICH HAS TRIED TO MISLEAD ALASKAN VOTERS ON HIS RESIDENCY**

**Begich Has Made Alaska Roots The Centerpiece Of His Reelection Campaign.** "The first-term senator and his allies have repeatedly raised questions about whether his opponent, former Alaska Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Dan Sullivan (R), has deep enough ties to Alaska. Sullivan lived in the Washington, D.C. area while he worked in President George W. Bush's administration, and Begich allies have recently returned to attacks about Sullivan claiming his Maryland home as his primary residence, which Maryland authorities say they will look into. Sullivan's time outside Alaska has been a focal point of the campaign." (Cameron Joseph, "Begich Listed DC Address For FEC Reimbursements," [The Hill](#), 9/10/14)

- **Begich: "Alaska Is My Home. This Is Where I Live."** BEGICH: "No, I still live there. I still live in East Anchorage. Alaska is my home. This is where I live. This is where my family is raised. It's a great place. And I love it because it reminds me to make sure people know that." (Mark Begich, Remarks At Campaign BBQ, Anchorage, AK, 5/24/14)

## ***But Begich And His Family Live In A Million-Dollar D.C. Home And Use The Home As His Address For Official Documents***

**Begich Has Listed The Address Of His Washington, D.C. Home On His Federal Election Commission Filings.** “Sen. Mark Begich (D-Alaska) listed the address of his Washington, D.C. home rather than his Anchorage home on Federal Election Commission filings—a choice that could muddle attacks Begich has made on whether his opponent has close enough ties to Alaska. Begich listed his Capitol Hill address for reimbursements on a number of publicly available FEC forms over the past year.” (Cameron Joseph, “Begich Listed DC Address For FEC Reimbursements,” [The Hill](#), 9/10/14)

- **Begich Also Uses His Washington, D.C. Address On His Anchorage Property Records.** “This isn't the only time Begich has opted to use his D.C. address over his one in Anchorage — he also lists his D.C. address as the mailing address on Anchorage municipal property records.” (Cameron Joseph, “Begich Listed DC Address For FEC Reimbursements,” [The Hill](#), 9/10/14)

**Begich Purchased His D.C. Home In June 2009.** “In June, the family purchased a house on Capitol Hill, which will cut down on commuting time he would have faced: ‘Both of us would love to live in Virginia, but when you compute it, I would have spent — even if we lived in Alexandria or McLean — at least 40 hours a month commuting, which is equal to a whole workweek. Then you add in these weird Senate schedules, where I’d rather be able to go home have dinner and then go back to vote.’” (Daniel Libit, “Sen. Mark Begich Hits The Road: 4,500 Miles To D.C.,” [Politico](#), 8/25/09)

- **According To Property Tax Records, Begich Resides In A Capitol Hill Home In Washington, D.C. That Is Worth More Than \$1 Million.** ([Office Of Tax And Revenue – Property Detail](#), The District Of Columbia, Accessed 9/10/14)
- **In August Of 2009, Begich Moved His Family From Alaska To Washington, D.C.** “The Begich crew began their voyage last Monday, heading north out of Anchorage to Tok, a town of 1,400 people that is located along the Alaska Highway. From there, they tripped to the town of Haines, boarded a ferry to Prince Rupert, Canada, navigated a broad stretch of the Canadian toll ways system, and finally pulled into Great Falls, Mont., on Wednesday. Begich has been in Congress for six months, but the family waited until now to embark on the 4,500-mile drive to Washington, where they recently purchased a home.” (Daniel Libit, “Sen. Mark Begich Hits The Road: 4,500 Miles To D.C.,” [Politico](#), 8/25/09)