



Jeff Bingaman was born on October 3, 1943. He grew up in the southwestern New Mexico community of Silver City. His father was a chemistry professor and chair of the science department at Western New Mexico University. His mother taught in the public schools.

After graduating from Western (now Silver) High School in 1961, Jeff attended Harvard University and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in government in 1965. He then entered Stanford Law School where he met, and later married, fellow law student Anne Kovacovich.

Upon earning his law degree from Stanford in 1968, Jeff and Anne returned to New Mexico. They have one son, John.

After law school Jeff spent one year as an assistant attorney general and eight years in private law practice in Santa Fe. Jeff was elected Attorney General of New Mexico in 1978 and served four years in that position. In 1982 he was elected to the United States Senate. He was re-elected to a fifth term in the Senate in 2006. At the end of that term he chose not to seek re-election and completed his service in the Senate on January 3, 2013.

At the time of his retirement from the Senate he was Chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. He also served on the Finance Committee, the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee and the Joint Economic Committee.

In April of 2013 he began a year as a Distinguished Fellow with the Steyer-Taylor Center for Energy Policy and Finance at Stanford Law School. In the fall of 2015 he taught a seminar on national policy and the Congress in the Honors College at the University of New Mexico.