

Background on the Senator-elect's statements, positions, and record on diplomacy, international assistance, and U.S. international affairs programs.

A native Alaskan and member of the Yup'ik nation, Senator-Elect Mary Peltola brings her previous congressional experience to the Senate. Peltola served for four years in the U.S. House of Representatives after winning a 2022 special election to fill the vacancy created by Representative Don Young (R-AK)'s death. On humanitarian assistance and global stability, Peltola has stated "I want peace and prosperity everywhere. I think that it's really important that we continue to provide humanitarian relief wherever we can."

As a member of the House, Congresswoman Peltola served on the Natural Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Education and Labor Committees. She was the first Alaska Native elected to Congress and the first woman to represent Alaska in the House. She will now become the first Alaska Native to represent the state in the Senate. Before entering Congress, Peltola served as an Alaska State Representative for ten years, a judge on the Orutsaraimiut Native Council, a member of Bethel City Council, and as Executive Director of the Kuskokwim River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

ON DIPLOMACY AND U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY:

- In the House, Peltola voted for the 2024 national security supplemental measures providing military and humanitarian assistance to Ukraine, Israel, and the Indo-Pacific, saying, "With these bipartisan bills, we're taking definitive action affirm[ed] our commitment to democracy at home and abroad, upholding our promises to our allies, asserting American dominance in the face of tyranny, and providing humanitarian assistance."

ON RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE:

- During a recent debate, Peltola voiced support for Ukraine, noting, "It's so important that we stand with Ukraine and our allies... we should be doing everything in our power to help support them."
- She has described defending Ukraine as part of a broader fight for democracy globally, criticizing U.S. policies that she believes abandon the Ukrainian people, saying, "They're on the front lines fighting for us, fighting for democracy while we're just turning our backs on them."
- In a February 2023 Anchorage Daily News report, Peltola warned against "oversight being used as an excuse for shrinking the aid that Ukraine needs to survive, which would encourage further Russian aggression."

ON THE GLOBAL COMPETITION WITH CHINA:

- Peltola approaches competition with China from an Arctic security perspective, citing Coast Guard reports of "warships that belong to Russia and China doing drills, doing practice formations in our waters" as "a tremendous concern."
- Speaking in support of a Biden-Harris administration executive order on banning Russian fish marketed through China using Uighur slave labor, Peltola hoped the order would "signal to the seven other largest economies in the G7 that this is not either sustainable or humane."

ON AMERICA'S ALLIANCES:

- Peltola has voiced concerns that the United States is "turning our back on our allies" by entertaining the idea of buying oil from Russia. She further emphasized the risks of inconsistent messaging to our allies, saying "it's diminishing our own power. And I think that we need to take these things very seriously."

ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT:

- In an October 2026 campaign video, Peltola criticized tariffs on Canada, saying, "Tariffs are really hammering businesses and small businesses, and there's so much uncertainty, and these are our allies, these are our neighbors."
- At an April 2023 Vital Voices forum, Peltola argued that the United States should favor responsibly produced oil rather than imports from adversarial governments, asking, "Why would we forego that in favor of purchasing oil from countries that are not democratic?"

ON CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

- In May 2026, Peltola supported a congressional war-powers resolution on Iran and said, "Our system was designed for a balance of powers." She added, "We have got to have a Congress that doesn't just cede all of their power."
- At an October 2026 campaign event, Peltola said the Iran war was "depleting our munitions", arguing that it was leaving Alaska exposed to security threats from Russia and China.
- In November 2023, Peltola called Israel "a crucial ally for our country, which is why I can't support making them a political pawn," while opposing an aid bill, she said the measure "makes aid for Israel conditional on a political scheme to help rich Americans dodge taxes."
- At a 2024 Alaska House debate, Peltola said of the crisis in Gaza, "We need to make sure that people are getting adequate amounts of food and water and that we are preventing as many youth, you know, as many civilians from being killed as possible." She added that aid to Gaza should be "for humanitarian purposes only."