

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

A former seven-term member of the U.S. House of Representatives and three-term U.S. Senator from Ohio, Senator-Elect Sherrod Brown returns to Congress with a long record supporting U.S. engagement in the world. Senator Brown has argued that "**we [must] use our economic toolkit to advance the breadth of issues that impact our U.S. national security and foreign policy**."

USGLC has been proud to host Brown in Cleveland and Washington, DC, where he has spoken out on the importance of U.S. international assistance and diplomacy programs, strategic competition with China, partnerships with NATO, Israel, and Ukraine, and securing global supply chains that protect American industry -- saying from our stage in 2019, "When we fail to support workers abroad, or invest in global health and education, it hurts America's economy and it hurts our national security.... We don't have to choose between supporting workers at home or supporting development abroad—they go hand in hand."

As the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Senator Brown engaged on a host of U.S. national security issues through an economic lens – from supporting sanctions against Russia and countering threats from China, to promoting American industry – saying "you can't separate the economy and our national security."

Before entering Congress, Brown served as Ohio's Secretary of State and as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives. He has a bachelor's in Russian studies from Yale University and graduate degrees from Ohio State University.

ON U.S. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND GLOBAL HEALTH:

- In 2004 testimony on the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Brown emphasized that "the more that we put in, the more we can encourage philanthropists and other governments to put in," urging broader participation in the fund.
- At a June 2013 hearing on CDC funding, Brown said, "Due to globalization, it matters a great deal how other countries respond to health threats, and the CDC plays an essential role in helping their international partners react to these threats."
- In 2023, Brown joined lawmakers in reintroducing the Dr. Paul Farmer Memorial Resolution, which called for increasing annual global health aid to $125 billion to advance a 21st-century global health strategy and reduce preventable deaths.
- Recounting his visit to a school feeding program in Haiti in a 2013 interview, Brown said he saw "how McGovern-Dole is feeding kids" and helping encourage families to send girls to school.

ON RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE:

- Brown has characterized Russia's invasion as an attack not only on Ukraine but a global assault, stating, "Putin wanted to jeopardize the future of a sovereign democracy, and in the process, to threaten the world order," and that, "the United States and the West must continue to hold the lawless Russian regime accountable. We must use every tool to protect U.S. national security and stand with our allies."
- In an October 2023 letter seeking continued Ukraine funding, Brown and fellow senators wrote, "Now is not the time to slow our aid to Ukraine. Russian forces continue to bomb civilian populations – targeting hospitals, schools, churches and apartment buildings."

ON GLOBAL COMPETITION WITH CHINA:

- U.S. competition with China is an issue that hits close to home for him, noting that "corporations in search of even bigger profits shut down manufacturing in Ohio and across the U.S. [and] moved production to China."
- At a 2024 Senate Banking Committee hearing on the threats from illicit fentanyl, CCP-aligned control of U.S. military technology and U.S. farmland, Brown said, "Addressing these threats from the Chinese government, and improving our domestic capability to compete with China have been a top priority."

ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT:

- In April 2012 remarks, Brown said the Export-Import Bank is "one of the most important resources to help small business and mid-size manufacturers boost their exports," warning that failing to reauthorize it would be like "unilaterally disarming" against foreign competitors.
- In a May 2025 interview, Brown explained his approach to tariffs, saying, "I've seen tariffs can work if they're well thought through, they're aimed at countries that cheat. You don't need tariffs on Canada, you don't need tariffs on France or Germany."

ON CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

- In a March 2026 interview about the Iran war, Brown criticized the administration for failing to set clear objectives, saying, "the White House, the government has not explained why we're there, has not explained any plan to get out."
- Following the October 7 Hamas attacks, Brown stated, "I want to be clear: Israel has the right to exist and the right to self-defense. I will keep working in a bipartisan way to ensure that Israel has the resources to defend itself and that the United States is doing everything we can to support our ally."
- In an October 2024 statement on the Israel-Gaza war, Brown said, "Israel and Hamas must agree to a ceasefire that ends the war, frees the hostages, and delivers desperately needed humanitarian aid to Gaza."