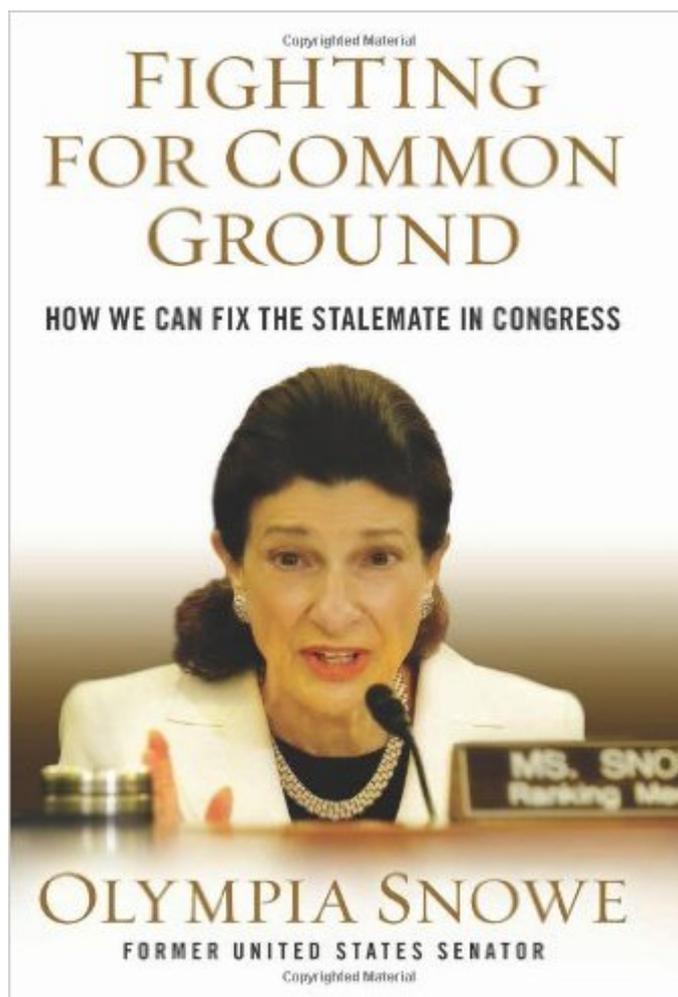


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# Fighting For Common Ground: How We Can Fix The Stalemate In Congress



## Synopsis

An outspoken centrist, Senator Snowe stunned Washington in February 2012 when she announced she would not seek a fourth term and offered a sharp rebuke to the Senate, citing the dispiriting gridlock and polarization. After serving in the legislative branch at the state and federal levels for 40 years, including 18 years in the U.S. Senate, she explained that Washington wasn't solving the big problems anymore. In this timely call to action, she explores the roots of her belief in principled policy-making and bipartisan compromise. A leading moderate with a reputation for crossing the aisle, Senator Snowe will propose solutions for bridging the partisan divide in Washington, most notably through a citizens' movement to hold elected officials accountable. Senator Snowe recounts how the tragedies and triumphs of her personal story helped shape her political approach. Born in Augusta, Maine, Senator Snowe was orphaned at nine, and raised by an aunt and uncle. When she was twenty-six, her husband, a Maine state representative, was killed in an auto accident. Already dedicated to public service, she ran for and won her husband's seat. The book will include anecdotes from throughout her career, and address her working relationships with Presidents Reagan through Obama, Senator Ted Kennedy, Majority Leader Bob Dole, and many others. As a senior member of the powerful Senate Finance Committee, the high-profile Commerce and Intelligence Committees, and the Senate Small Business Committee, Senator Snowe has been directly involved with the most talked-about legislative challenges of recent decades: the country's response to 9/11; the 2008 financial crisis; the Affordable Healthcare Act; the debt ceiling debacle, and much more. Her new book will draw on the lessons she's learned as a policymaker, and the frustration she shares with the American people about the government's dwindling productivity. Senator Snowe passionately argues that the government has now lost its way, shows how this happened, and proposes ways for the world's greatest deliberative body to, once again, fulfill its mission.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Early personal tragedies (orphaned at age 9, widowed at age 26) could have caused Olympia Snowe to face life with a chip on her shoulder. Instead, strengthened by her Greek Orthodox faith and the conviction that others could benefit from lessons learned through her hardships, she determined to use these tragedies to good purpose. Still grieving her young husband's untimely death, she sought and won his seat in the Maine House of Representatives. From there she entered the US Congress, first as a Representative in the US House, and then as Senator Snowe. With perspective gained from 30+ years in politics, she brings a discerning, critical analysis to what has caused the dysfunction and polarization in our current national political process. She relates how the lack of bipartisan input, epitomized in the Health Care Bill which was essentially drafted under the direction of Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reed (Pelosi's explanation, "Yes, we [Democrats] drafted it; WE won!"), led to entrenched bitterness among the slighted Republicans and fueled the growing popularity of the Tea Party. The analogy which came to mind while reading was that of a marriage going bad, with each party turning a deaf ear to the other and demanding its own way to the point of such bitterness that the relationship is irretrievably broken. Our national body politic is at just such a juncture. Snowe, as a moderate Republican, recognizes that stalemate is the eventual result. While she brings her willingness to compromise to the bargaining table, she eventually finds both Democrats and Republicans unhappy with her efforts and concludes that that is a losing battle, and she decides the better road is to take her efforts to seek common ground beyond the walls of Congress. Snowe is not above poking fun at herself.

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