**Who is JD Vance- Trump’s VP Candidate?**

Before becoming Mr. Trump’s vice-presidential pick, Mr. Vance [once identified himself](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/15/arts/jd-vance-trump-hollywood.html) as “a Never Trump guy” and said he “never liked him.” But Mr. Vance went on to embrace Mr. Trump and accepted the former president’s endorsement in the Republican primary for the open U.S. Senate seat in Ohio that he won. He did not vote for Trump in the 2016 election and said that Trump was cynical, could be America’s Hitler, was reprehensible and makes people afraid for his anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim policies. He voted for Trump in 2020. He is 39 and a 2022 elected senator from Ohio.

He believes in a nationwide abortion ban but supports access to abortion pill, opposes the Affordable Care Act, opposes same sex marriage, opposes interracial marriage, criticizes divorce. He is a leading critic against support for Ukraine—“I don’t really care what happens to Ukraine one way or another.” He also had initiatives in the Senate for cracking down on affirmative action policies at universities. He supports a 15 week abortion ban with exceptions for rape, incest and threats to life of mother. (not sure how this relates to national abortion ban now). He opposes the PRO Act – Right to organize and employees right to collective bargaining. He says that he would not have certified the results of the 2020 election as Mike Pence did.

From 2015 until the day that Mr. Vance became the Republican vice-presidential nominee, Ms. Vance worked as an associate and then as a corporate litigator at Munger, Tolles, and Olson, a law firm with offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington that describes its corporate culture as “radically progressive.”

Vance's childhood was marked by poverty and abuse, and his mother struggled with drug addiction. Vance and his sister Lindsey were raised primarily by his maternal grandparents, James (1929–1997) and Bonnie Vance (née Blanton; 1933–2005), whom they called "Mamaw and Papaw."

**He was born James Donald Bowman** on Aug. 2, 1984, in Middletown, Ohio, an industrial city 30 miles north of Cincinnati and 20 miles south of Dayton. **His maternal grandparents,**Jim and Bonnie Vance — known as “Papaw “and “Mamaw” — moved to Middletown in the late 1940s from Jackson, Kentucky, a town in the heart of southeastern Kentucky’s coal region. Jim was 16; Bonnie was 13 — and pregnant with Jim’s child. They were unmarried at the time.

**Vance’s biological parents,**Donald Bowman and Bev Vance, divorced when he was a toddler. He was later adopted by his mother’s new husband, Bob Hamel, and changed his name to James David Hamel. The name change preserved his nickname, J.D.

**Bev and Bob later divorced,**and Bev [struggled with drug addiction](https://www.icf.com/insights/health/combating-the-opioid-epidemic-jd-vance). Vance was raised primarily by his grandparents — who were, he wrote in *Hillbilly Elegy,*“without question or qualification, the best things that ever happened to me.”

**After graduating from**Middletown High School in 2003, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and served in Iraq as a corporal with the Public Affairs section of the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing. **He graduated from**Ohio State University with a degree in political science and philosophy, before enrolling at Yale Law School in 2010.

**While at Yale,**he attended a talk by Thiel about technological stagnation and the decline of American elites. Thiel later goes on to provide financial support for his campaign. Vance started his venture capitalist career as a junior investor at Mithril Capital, a Silicon Valley firm founded by Thiel who later heavily invested in Vance’s fund Narya Capital and then donated $15 million to Vance’s Senate Campaign.

**Vance’s memoir, *Hillbilly Elegy***was published on June 28, 2016. The book argued that the decline of post-industrial America was due in large part to the social pathologies of the white working class, rather than the decline of the industrial economy in the U.S. “There is a lack of agency here [in Middletown] — a feeling that you have little control over your life and a willingness to blame everyone but yourself,” Vance wrote.

**He was baptized into the Catholic church**in August 2019. At the time, he [credited his conversion](https://thelampmagazine.com/blog/how-i-joined-the-resistance) to his exposure — via Thiel — to the writings of the French philosopher René Girard, whom Thiel studied under at Stanford University. Girard is most famous for his theory of “[mimetic desire](https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.14321/j.ctt7zt8kp)”: that human beings imitate the desires of their peers, ultimately giving rise to rivalries and violent conflicts that are resolved by “[scapegoating” a common enemy](https://iep.utm.edu/girard/#H3).

Usha Vance, his wife, is a corporate litigator at a prestigious San Francisco law firm, Ms. Vance has clerked for Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. and Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh when he was an appeals court judge, and earned degrees from Yale and Cambridge. The daughter of Indian immigrants, Usha Chilukuri grew up in a San Diego suburb. As of 2014, she was a registered Democrat. They have three children.