



# Elinor Ostrom

*Bloomington, Monroe County*

August 7, 1933 – June 12, 2012

Elinor Ostrom was an American political economist. Born in Los Angeles, CA, she graduated from Beverly Hills High School. She earned her Bachelor's degree from UCLA in political science. Because she was dissuaded from pursuing mathematics, Ostrom was rejected for an economics PhD at UCLA. Instead, she was admitted to the university's graduate program in political science, where she earned an MA in 1962 and a PhD in 1965.

In 1963, she married Vincent Ostrom, a political scientist, whom she met while assisting his research. They moved to Bloomington, Indiana, in 1965, when Vincent became a political science professor at Indiana University. Joining him on the faculty, Elinor rose to the rank of distinguished professor.

Ostrom's early work emphasized the role of public choice on decisions influencing the production of public goods and services. Her later work focused on how humans interact with ecosystems to maintain long-term sustainable resource yields. In 2009, Ostrom became the first woman to receive the prestigious Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences. The Royal Swedish Academy of Science cited Ostrom, "for her analysis of economic governance," saying her work had demonstrated how common property could be successfully managed by groups using it.

Elinor Ostrom was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in October 2011, and died in Bloomington, Indiana, on June 12, 2012. She continued to write and lecture. On the day of her death, she published her last article, "Green from the Grassroots," in Project Syndicate.

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For more information about Elinor Ostrom, go to:

[http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel\\_prizes/economic-sciences/laureates/2009/ostrom-bio.html](http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/economic-sciences/laureates/2009/ostrom-bio.html).

For more information about *Writing Her Story*, go to: <http://www.in.gov/icw/2440.htm>.

Photo: Motzkau, Holger (2010). *Elinor Ostrom*. Retrieved from: Wikipedia:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elinor\\_Ostrom](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elinor_Ostrom).

  
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