

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL)



Background

Democrat Dick Durbin is the Senate Minority Whip. Originally from East St. Louis, Illinois, he earned a B.S. from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in 1966 and later received a J.D. from Georgetown in 1969. After graduating, Durbin started a law practice in Springfield, Illinois, and later became the legal counsel to the Illinois State Senate Judiciary Committee until 1982. From 1978 until 1983, Durbin also taught at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. Durbin was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1982 to represent a largely rural district and won a seat on the House Committee on Agriculture. He then ran a successful campaign as a senator for Illinois in 1996. After then Democratic Leader Tom Daschle's defeat in 2004 and the elevation of Harry Reid as minority leader, Durbin became minority whip. Durbin has served as the Senate Democratic Whip since 2005, the second-highest position in Democratic leadership in the Senate. Durbin is married to his wife, Loretta, and they have three children together.

State Profile

State: Illinois

Status: Senior Senator

Serving with: Tammy Duckworth (D)

Cook PVI: D+7

Official Contact Info

Capitol Hill Office Building: Hart

Room Number: 711

Phone Number: (202) 224-2152

Facebook: @SenatorDurbin

Instagram:

Twitter: @SenatorDurbin

Biography

First Elected: 11/5/1996

Party: Democrat

Birth date: 11/21/1944

Education: Georgetown U., B.S. 1966, J.D. 1969

Family: Spouse: Loretta Schaefer, 3 children (1 deceased); 3 grandchildren

Election Results

2014 General

Dick Durbin (D) 54%

Jim Oberweis (R) 43%

Committees

- Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
- Appropriations
- Rules and Administration
- Judiciary