



Senator Dick Durbin, a Democrat from Springfield, is the 47th U.S. Senator from the State of Illinois, the state's senior senator, and the convener of Illinois' bipartisan congressional delegation.

Durbin also serves as the Assistant Democratic Leader, the second highest ranking position among the Senate Democrats. Also known as the Minority Whip, Senator Durbin has been elected to this leadership post by his Democratic colleagues every two years since 2005.

Elected to the U.S. Senate on November 5, 1996, and re-elected in 2002, 2008, and 2014, Durbin fills the seat left vacant by the retirement of his long-time friend and mentor, U.S. Senator Paul Simon.

Durbin sits on the Senate Judiciary, Appropriations, and Rules Committees. He is the Ranking Member of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on the Constitution and the Appropriations Committee's Defense subcommittee.

Senator Durbin makes approximately 50 round trips a year between Washington and Illinois. He is married to Loretta Schaefer Durbin. Their family consists of three children--Christine (deceased), Paul and Jennifer--as well as three grandchildren, Alex, Ona and Floyd. They reside in Springfield.

Biographical Facts

Name

Richard J. Durbin

Born

November 21, 1944 in East St. Louis, IL

Parents

William Durbin and Ann Durbin (née Kutkin)

Family

Married to Loretta Schaefer Durbin
Three children and three grandchildren

Education

Assumption High School, East St. Louis, IL
Georgetown University, B.S., 1966
Georgetown University, J.D., 1969

Occupation

Attorney/Legislator

Honorary Degrees

Millikin University, 1994
Lincoln College, 1997
Illinois Institute of Technology, 2003

Public Office

Jan. 1983 – Jan. 1997, U.S. House of Representatives
Jan. 1997 – Present, U.S. Senate