U.S. SENATORS FROM ILLINOIS

114th Congress



DICK DURBIN (D)

Dick Durbin of Springfield is Illinois' 47th U.S. senator. First elected to the Senate in 1996 to fill the seat vacated by his political mentor, the late U.S. Sen. Paul Simon, Durbin was re-elected in 2002, 2008 and again in 2014. He has served as the assistant Democratic leader, or Democratic whip, since 2004 and is only the fifth senator from Illinois to serve as a Senate leader. In addition to seats on the Judiciary, and Rules and Administration Committees, Durbin also serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee — where he is the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Defense.

During his time in the Senate, Durbin has been a strong advocate for working families, striving to pro-

mote economic growth, enhance public education, advance public health, protect the environment, reduce crime and strengthen safety net programs.

Born in East St. Louis, Durbin received his B.A. and J.D. from Georgetown University. He began his public service to the state of Illinois in 1982 when he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives representing the 20th Congressional District. He and his wife, Loretta, reside in Springfield. They have three children (one deceased) and three grandchildren.

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Mark Steven Kirk of Highland Park won simultaneous elections to the U.S. Senate on Nov. 2, 2010. A special election allowed Kirk to complete the term of his predecessor, while the general election seated him for a six-year Senate term commencing on Jan. 4, 2011. He serves on the Senate Committees on Appropriations; Banking, Housing and Urban Development; Health, Education, Labor and Pensions; and the Special Committee on Aging.

Kirk was first elected to serve the people of Illinois in 2000, winning a U.S. House seat representing the 10th Congressional District. He was re-elected four times, serving until his election to the Senate. Prior to his 10 years in Congress, Kirk served on the staff of Congressman John Porter, as a special assistant to the assistant secretary of



MARK KIRK (R)

state and as counsel to the U.S. House International Relations Committee.

Born in Champaign, Kirk received his B.A. from Cornell University, his M.S. from the London School of Economics and his J.D. from Georgetown University. He served as an intelligence officer in the Navy Reserve from 1989 until 2013, when he retired with the rank of commander.

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