

# 98th General Assembly

## Office of the Senate President

The Senate President is the presiding officer of the Illinois Senate, elected by the 59 members of the Senate to serve a two-year term. The Illinois Constitution, statutes and rules define the functions and responsibilities of the office.

The President appoints Senate members to standing committees and permanent and interim study commissions, designating one member as chair. The President also appoints the Majority Leader and Assistant Majority Leaders, who serve as officers of the Senate.

With the Speaker of the House, the Senate President shares primary responsibility for legislative procedures and operations. By strategically directing the flow of legislation, the President ultimately sets the pace of work in the Senate. The President is required to approve all vouchers for the expenditure of funds appropriated for use by the Senate and certify that all bills passed by the Senate are in accordance with Senate rules.

As chair of the Senate Operations Commission, the President oversees a seven-member management committee responsible for deciding Senate policy, hiring Senate employees, purchasing supplies, renting equipment, and maintaining the Senate chambers and office, among other duties.

In addition to presiding over the Senate, the President is the leader of the majority party in the legislature's upper chamber. Likewise, the Senate Minority Leader, selected by the minority party and formally elected by all Senate members, speaks on behalf of the minority party. Responsibilities of the Senate Minority Leader include appointing members to serve on certain boards, commissions and standing committees and selecting assistant leaders and staff.



**John J. Cullerton**  
Senate President

**John J. Cullerton** (Democrat) has been a member of the General Assembly for more than three decades, gaining a reputation for his ability to negotiate and willingness to reach across the aisle for the best policy outcomes. Senator Cullerton was elected to his first term as Senate President in January 2009 and has worked to encourage bipartisanship and cooperation among party leaders.

Cullerton began his service in the General Assembly in 1979 when he was elected to the Illinois House, serving as Speaker Pro Tempore and Democratic Floor Leader. He was elected to the Senate in 1992 representing the 6th Legislative District and most recently re-elected in November 2012. He has served as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee and

was Majority Caucus Whip in the 95th General Assembly.

Throughout his Senate career, Cullerton has dedicated himself to issues of traffic safety and public health. He spearheaded the state's mandatory seatbelt law and the Child Passenger Safety Act, and sponsored the statewide smoking ban. Senator Cullerton also has advocated public safety initiatives, criminal justice system reform and tax modernization. At the conclusion of the 93rd and 94th General Assemblies, Cullerton was recognized for successfully sponsoring more laws than any other legislator.

Cullerton received both his undergraduate and law degrees from Loyola University Chicago. He is a partner with the Chicago law firm of Thompson Coburn. Senator Cullerton and his wife, Pamela, live in Chicago and have five children.

**James F. Clayborne, Jr.** (Democrat) was elected Senate Majority Leader in January 2009. First sworn in as a Senator representing the 57th Legislative District in 1995 to serve the remaining term of the late Senator Kenneth Hall, Senator Clayborne was elected to a full term in 1996 and most recently re-elected in November 2012.

Senator Clayborne is an active member of the Illinois State Board of Investment and the Autism Task Force. He was recognized as Legislator of the Year by the St. Louis Regional Chamber and Growth Association for four consecutive years, and received the Exemplary Service to Education Award from the Illinois Association of School Administrators in 2008.

Clayborne was born Dec. 29, 1963, in St. Louis, Mo., and raised in East St. Louis. After graduating from Tennessee State University in 1985, he earned his J.D. degree in 1988 from the University of Miami School of Law in Coral Gables, Fla. He served as an assistant state's attorney and a felony prosecutor in St. Clair County before practicing law in the private sector.

Senator Clayborne is a partner with the law firm of Clayborne, Sabo and Wagner, LLP, of Belleville. He has four sons and resides in Belleville.



**James F. Clayborne, Jr.**  
Senate Majority  
Leader



**Christine Radogno**  
Senate Minority  
Leader

**Christine Radogno** (Republican) has served in the General Assembly since 1997, when she was elected to the Senate to represent the 24th Legislative District. She was re-elected in 2002 to represent the newly drawn 41st Legislative District and most recently re-elected in November 2012.

In January 2009, Senator Radogno was elected Senate Minority Leader, the first female to hold the position in Senate history, and was re-elected to a third term in 2013. She served as Assistant Minority Leader from 2007 to 2009.

During her Senate tenure, Radogno has served on the Appropriations Committee, becoming the lead budget expert and negotiator for the Senate Republican Caucus. She also has served on the Committees on Public Health and Human Services; Executive; Rules; and Transportation.

Senator Radogno is a recognized leader, emphasizing fiscal responsibility and commitment to restoring discipline and accountability to the state's borrowing and contracting practices. She is a long-time advocate for ethical and fiscal reform in state government, and is dedicated to fostering a responsible health-care system in Illinois. She has introduced measures to create parity within the health-care system and expand medical assistance to indigent families, the elderly, persons with disabilities and children.

Senator Radogno received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Loyola University Chicago. She and her husband, Nunzio, reside in Lemont. They have three children and one grandson.

## Office of the Speaker of the House

The Speaker of the House of Representatives derives responsibility and influence over legislative activities through statutes, constitutional mandates and House rules of procedure. Chosen by members of the House, the Speaker invites participation from a wide range of philosophies from members of both parties in determining a legislative agenda.

As the presiding officer of the House, the Speaker determines when the House will meet and what type of business it will conduct. As manager of debate on bills, resolutions and amendments, the Speaker is responsible for recognizing members, formally calling votes, deciding parliamentary issues and maintaining decorum in the House chambers.

The comprehensive duties of the office include managing all House offices, facilities, professional and clerical staff, custodians and security personnel. Administratively, the Speaker signs and authenticates all acts, proceedings, orders, writs, warrants and subpoenas issued by the House.

In organizing a team to help ensure smooth operation of House proceedings, the Speaker selects the Majority Leader, Deputy Majority Leaders and Assistant Majority Leaders. The House Majority Leader serves as party spokesperson and assists with the flow of legislation. The Speaker may appoint chairs and majority members of standing committees, which are the public forums of proposed legislation.

Traditionally, the Office of the Speaker of the House has a profound bearing on the effectiveness of Illinois government and citizen representation in the state.



**Michael J. Madigan**  
Speaker of the House

**Michael J. Madigan** (Democrat) was re-elected Speaker of the House in January 2013, a position he has held since 1983, with the exception of the 89th General Assembly (1995-96). He also has served as House Democratic Leader and House Majority Leader.

As Speaker, Madigan has worked to build consensus, bring equitable treatment to all regions of the state, and work in a bipartisan manner to address Illinois' most pressing issues. He advocates for honest, efficient government and has fought to improve the quality of life for working families. Under his leadership, the legislature has enacted sweeping ethics laws, the first campaign finance limits in state history, and needed reforms to the state budget process and workers' compensation system. His work during the current General Assembly includes requiring universal background checks on potential gun buyers, continuing to pay down the state's backlog of bills, and passing pension reforms needed to stabilize the state's finances and the retirements of teachers and state employees.

Speaker Madigan was first elected as a delegate to the 1970 Constitutional Convention and then as a state Representative the same year. He was born April 19, 1942, in the district he now represents. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame and Loyola University Chicago School of Law and practices law in Chicago.

Speaker Madigan and his wife, Shirley, have three daughters, a son and three granddaughters. Mrs. Madigan serves as chair of the Illinois Arts Council. Their daughter, Lisa, is the Illinois Attorney General. Speaker Madigan has served as chair of the Democratic Party of Illinois since 1998.



**Barbara Flynn Currie**  
Majority Leader

**Barbara Flynn Currie** (Democrat) is the first woman Majority Leader in the history of the General Assembly, a position she has held since 1997. As the second ranking House official, she works closely with the Governor and legislators from both parties and all regions of the state to address the challenges facing Illinois.

Representative Currie joined the Illinois House in 1979 and was most recently re-elected in November 2012. Her legislative accomplishments include sponsorship of the Illinois Earned Income Tax Credit Act and the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. She has fought to protect those who blow the whistle on corrupt public officials, toughen revolving-door prohibitions on former state employees, and prohibit sexual harassment in the workplace. Representative Currie has sponsored legislation to allow online voter registration; protect juvenile court records; prevent the abuse of nursing-home residents; improve child-support enforcement; and expand the protections of the Equal Pay Act.

Currie graduated from the University of Chicago, where she also earned a master's degree in political science. She serves on the board of directors of the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois and is a member of the Hyde Park Kiwanis Club, the League of Women Voters, Women United for South Shore and the Sierra Club.

Representative Currie has two children and four grandchildren. Her late husband, David P. Currie, was a professor at the University of Chicago Law School.

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**Jim Durkin** (Republican) was elected House Minority Leader in August 2013. He served in the House from 1995 through 2002, when he became the Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate. He returned to the General Assembly in 2006 when he was elected to represent the 82nd District.

In 2008-09, Representative Durkin served as the ranking Republican on the House Special Investigative Impeachment Committee that recommended impeachment and removal from office for former Governor Blagojevich. In 2011, he led the charge to reform the College Illinois! prepaid tuition program. His efforts as chair of the College Illinois Recovery Task Force have helped bring stability to the program. Prior to being elected Minority Leader, Durkin served as an Assistant Minority Leader, was a member of the Illinois Task Force on Gang Violence, fought to protect children from sexual predators, and is a founding member of the Illinois Legislative Diabetes Caucus.

Durkin received his bachelor's degree from Illinois State University and his law degree from The John Marshall Law School. He is a former assistant Cook County state's attorney and assistant attorney general, and currently is a partner with the law firm of Arnstein and Lehr, LLP.

Representative Durkin lives in Burr Ridge with his wife, Celeste, and their four daughters.



**Jim Durkin**  
Minority Leader