



ROLAND W. BURRIS

United States Senator

Roland Burris (Democrat) was appointed to the U.S. Senate on Dec. 30, 2008, and sworn in as the junior Senator from Illinois on Jan. 15, 2009, filling the seat left vacant when Barack Obama was elected President of the United States.

Burris has been elected four times to statewide office in Illinois — three terms as Comptroller, serving from 1979 to 1991, and one term as Attorney General, serving from 1991 to 1995. He also served as director of the Illinois Department of Central Management Services from 1973 to 1977. Prior to becoming a U.S. Senator, Burris served as chair and CEO of Burris & Lebed Consulting, LLC, a consulting firm concentrating in the areas of public relations, governmental representation, and political and corporate strategies.

In the U.S. Senate, Burris continues to be a vocal advocate for the people of Illinois. He is a strong proponent of health-care reform and has worked to ensure that every American has access to quality, affordable health care. He is a member of three Senate Committees: Veterans' Affairs; Armed Services; and Homeland Security and Government Affairs. As a member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Senator Burris is committed to providing our servicemen and women with the resources, care and opportunities they deserve, both at home and abroad. He also recognizes the dire need for accountability in government, and has introduced legislation to provide increased oversight of how American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds are distributed and spent.

Burris was born and raised in Centralia. He attended Southern Illinois University Carbondale, receiving his bachelor's degree in political science. He studied international law as an exchange student at the University of Hamburg in Germany, and earned his J.D. degree from Howard University School of Law.

Senator Roland Burris resides in Chicago with his wife, Berlean, and has two adult children.

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