

## U.S. SENATORS — 110th CONGRESS

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**Dick Durbin**, a Democrat from Springfield, is the senior U.S. Senator from Illinois and Democratic Whip, the second-highest position in the party leadership in the Senate. He became majority Whip when the 110th Congress convened on January 4, 2007. Durbin is the 47th U.S. Senator from Illinois and the first to serve on the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee in more than a quarter of a century. Elected to the U.S. Senate in November 1996 and re-elected in 2002, Durbin filled the seat left vacant by the retirement of his long-time friend and mentor, the late U.S. Senator Paul Simon. During his tenure, Durbin has taken a leading role on issues ranging from protecting children from tobacco marketing and gun violence to championing food safety, ethanol use,

and tax cuts for health insurance and college tuition.

Durbin, 62, was first elected in 1982 to represent the 20th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. He and his wife, Loretta, have three children and one grandchild.

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**Barack Obama**, Democrat, was elected Nov. 2, 2004, and is the only African-American currently serving in the U.S. Senate. Obama serves on the Senate's Health, Education, Labor and Pensions; Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; Foreign Relations; and Veterans' Affairs Committees.

Prior to his election, Obama, 45, served two terms as an Illinois State Senator, representing Chicago's southside neighborhood of Hyde Park. He also has worked as a community organizer in Harlem and Chicago, as a civil rights attorney and as a senior lecturer on constitutional law at the University of Chicago.

Obama is a graduate of Columbia University with a degree in political science and a specialty in international relations. He earned his J.D. degree from Harvard Law School, where he served as the first African-American president of the Harvard Law Review, and was a member of the executive board of the Black Law Students Association. Obama and his wife, Michelle, have two daughters, Malia Ann and Natasha.

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