

By the Numbers: Getting to Know Your Members of Congress

Written by Jeff Ignatius
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Most people know that there's a wealth of information available online about members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. But while it's not hidden, it's often scattered among several Web sites, and it's hard to make head-to-head comparisons without a lot of clicking and note-taking.

Here is our attempt to bring some of the available data together in one place for members of Congress representing the Quad Cities. We include Representative Bruce Braley (a Democrat who currently represents Scott County in the House), Representative Dave Loebsack (a Democrat whose redrawn district will include Scott County beginning next year), Representative Bobby Schilling (a Republican representing the Illinois Quad Cities), and four U.S. Senators: Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), Dick Durbin (D-Illinois), and Mark Kirk (R-Illinois). All the information was drawn from four Web sites: OpenSecrets.org, Legistorm.com, GovTrack.us, and VoteSmart.org.

Beyond the basics – their ages and professions, how long they've been in office, and when their terms end – we include information on committee assignments and leadership, how many roll-call votes they've missed, personal net worth and investments, earmarks (and earmarks that went to campaign contributors), aggregate staff compensation, top-paid staffers, how campaign contributions break down from individuals and political action committees (PACs), whether they completed Project Vote Smart's survey of candidates, and assessments from various interest groups.

Note that these charts just scratch the surface. For instance, Legistorm.com includes not just salaries but the personal financial disclosures of each member of Congress and staff member. Durbin, for example, lists residences in Springfield (worth \$250,000) and Chicago (\$283,000) ... and a 1996 Ford truck with an estimated value of \$2,500. David Edmund Young, chief of staff for Grassley, owns rental properties in the Washington, D.C., area valued at \$500,000 to \$1 million and \$1 million to \$5 million, and he owns stock in Casey's General Stores, Wells Fargo, and Bank of America.

OpenSecrets.org allows you to see individual earmarks, and those that went to campaign contributors. GovTrack.us lets you look at members' legislative histories – the bills they

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sponsored and what happened to them. And VoteSmart.org features interest-group ratings and policy positions in a wide variety of areas, and it also tracks key votes and public statements.

Certain stereotypes of Congress hold true with the Quad Cities delegation. They're all white men. Three of the four senators are at least 67 years old, and among all seven elected officials, only Schilling is south of 52. Durbin, Harkin, and Grassley are career politicians, having served continually in Congress for at least 29 years apiece. Four of the seven are attorneys.

Are they wealthy? Certainly not by congressional standards. Only Harkin, with a net worth between \$10 million and \$23 million, ranks in his chamber's top 40 percent. Senators Durbin and Kirk and Representatives Loebbeck and Braley sit in their chambers' bottom halves. (That's a fairly high bar, however. Outside of Kirk, all of these members of Congress have net worths higher than the American median for their age groups.)

From the earmark information, it's obvious that our members of Congress – particularly Grassley and Harkin – are pretty good at bringing home the bacon ... or, from a different perspective, loading the federal budget with dubious pork. (Note that the Fiscal Year 2009 earmarks for the Iowa delegation are abnormally high, a result of federal spending for disaster aid stemming from flooding.)

We plan to revisit this information annually, so if there's something that's not here that you'd like to see included, please e-mail jeff@rcreader.com.

Click on any chart below for a larger version.

Biographical and Personal Information										
Member	Age	Profession	Years in Congress	Years in House	Years in Senate	Education	House Rank	Senate Rank	Net Worth	Political Party
Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL)	47	attorney	1987	2004		Lawrence University MBA; Georgetown MBA; Georgetown PhD; Georgetown PhD; Public & Admin MBA	208 (2008, 2010) 219 (2009, 2011)	19 (2008, 2010) 18 (2009, 2011)	\$1,200,000 \$1,200,000	Dem
Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL)	52	attorney	2010	2010		University of Illinois at Urbana & Champaign PhD; Illinois State PhD; Illinois State PhD; Illinois State PhD	416 (2010)	1 (2010)	\$1,000,000 \$1,000,000	Rep
Rep. Andy Cook (R-IL 11)	46	business owner	2011	2012		University of Illinois at Urbana & Champaign PhD	133 (2011)	1 (2012)	\$400,000 \$400,000	Rep
Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL)	72	attorney	1985	2004		University of Illinois at Urbana & Champaign PhD; University of Illinois at Urbana & Champaign PhD; University of Illinois at Urbana & Champaign PhD	208 (2008, 2010) 219 (2009, 2011)	19 (2008, 2010) 18 (2009, 2011)	\$1,200,000 \$1,200,000	Dem
Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)	79	attorney	1985	2004		University of Illinois at Urbana & Champaign PhD; University of Illinois at Urbana & Champaign PhD; University of Illinois at Urbana & Champaign PhD	118 (2008, 2010) 119 (2009, 2011)	1 (2008, 2010) 1 (2009, 2011)	\$1,400,000 \$1,400,000	Rep
Rep. Glenn Cook (D-IL 12)	59	professor	2007	2012		University of Illinois at Urbana & Champaign PhD; University of Illinois at Urbana & Champaign PhD	222 (2007, 2009) 223 (2010, 2011)	1 (2007, 2009) 1 (2010, 2011)	\$1,000,000 \$1,000,000	Rep
Rep. Bruce Braley (D-IA)	54	attorney	2007	2012		University of Illinois at Urbana & Champaign PhD; University of Illinois at Urbana & Champaign PhD	200 (2007, 2009) 201 (2010, 2011)	1 (2007, 2009) 1 (2010, 2011)	\$1,000,000 \$1,000,000	Rep

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Campaign-Committee Contributions: 2007-12 (Senators), 2011-12 (Representatives)

Member Name	House	Year	Individual Contributions	Organizational Contributions	Political Action Committee Contributions	Foreign Contributions	Top 10 Contributors	Quality Score
Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL)	Senate	2007-12	\$6,799,423	\$6,561,286	\$268,137	\$1,513,612	Legion of Women, Seniors, Veterans, and the Arts; American Legion; American Legion	99
Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL)	Senate	2007-12	\$15,067,589	\$12,214,212	\$1,273,877	\$1,578,699	Legion of Women, Seniors, Veterans, and the Arts; American Legion; American Legion	96
Rep. Bobby Schilling (R-IL)	House	2011-12	\$1,365,494	\$571,362	\$193,845	\$464,891	Leadership PAC; BestNet, Automotive; Leadership PAC; BestNet, Automotive	99
Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA)	Senate	2007-12	\$6,359,659	\$5,665,619	\$1,021,129	\$4,648,386	Legion of Women, Seniors, Veterans, and the Arts; American Legion; American Legion	98
Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)	Senate	2007-12	\$7,281,389	\$1,249,019	\$661,891	\$2,231,819	Health Professionals Insurance Leaders; Health Professionals Insurance Leaders	97
Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-IA)	House	2011-12	\$933,343	\$151,747	\$86,537	\$375,291	Health Professionals Insurance Leaders; Health Professionals Insurance Leaders	95
Rep. Bruce Braley (D-IA)	House	2011-12	\$1,427,375	\$93,485	n/a	\$485,718	Legion of Women, Seniors, Veterans, and the Arts; American Legion; American Legion	100

Note: Only names of contributors, as the campaign disclosure does not include a total for submitted contributors less than \$200. For other elected officials, these values and contributions are combined small individual contributions.

Earmarks: Fiscal Years 2008-2010

Member Name	Fiscal Year 2008 Earmark Amount	Fiscal Year 2009 Earmark Amount	Fiscal Year 2010 Earmark Amount	Fiscal Year 2011 Earmark Amount	Fiscal Year 2012 Earmark Amount	Fiscal Year 2013 Earmark Amount
Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL)	152,154,486,709.00	151,573,886,942.71	125,122,494,729.00	158,666,114.00	101,720,720,299.00	164,945,000,162.00
Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL)	25,130,760,000.00	13,846,896,381.00	0	n/a	0	n/a
Rep. Bobby Schilling (R-IL)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA)	791,120,122,281.00	129,169,896,128.47	222,368,210,019.13	94,216,000,164.00	198,127,138,291.17	142,110,000,124.00
Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)	166,122,182,520.00	0	141,821,412,081.00	0	141,526,892,269.00	115,000,000,124.00
Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-IA)	21,128,760,000.00	\$11,488,896,124.00	26,121,291,000.00	0	12,141,100,000.00	17,000,000,180.00
Rep. Bruce Braley (D-IA)	21,128,760,000.00	95,948,000,124.00	28,121,470,000.00	99,000,000,124.00	21,121,470,000.00	18,900,000,124.00

Note: Earmark information includes his tenure in the House (2003-2010).

Interest-Group Ratings

Member Name	National Journalist Editorial Composite Score (2010)	American Conservative Union Lifetime Score (2010)	AFL-CIO (2010)	National Taxpayers Union (2010)	ACLU (2009-10)	GovTrack.us Sponsorship Analysis
Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL)	78	6	100	6	93	"far-left Democratic leader"
Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL)	39	58	27	68	67	"centrist Republican"
Rep. Bobby Schilling (R-IL)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	"centrist Republican follower"
Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA)	77	8	100	5	92	"moderate Democratic leader"
Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)	24	84	17	93	7	"centrist Republican"
Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-IA)	76	1	100	6	94	"rank-and-file Democrat"
Rep. Bruce Braley (D-IA)	81	1	100	4	94	"rank-and-file Democrat"

Source: blogs.foxnews.com

Staff Compensation: Fiscal Years 2010-2011

Member Name	Fiscal Year 2010 Staff Compensation	Fiscal Year 2011 Staff Compensation	Number of Paid Staff	Highest Compensated Staffers*
Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL)	\$1,193,742	\$2,883,155	63	Mike Daly (senior advisor, \$160,459); Bill Brown (Democratic director, \$142,421); Denis S. Morris (legislative director, \$140,000)
Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL)	\$946,317	\$2,227,000	53	Lee Marston (R-Whashington chief of staff, \$165,000); Eric E. EA (chief of staff, \$156,000); Kate Dickens (policy and communications director, \$148,000)
Rep. Bobby Schilling (R-IL)	n/a	\$481,077	17	Betsy Wright Hawkins (chief of staff, \$168,411); Bobby Frederick (legislative director, \$90,000); Bill Bloom (district director, \$65,000)
Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA)	\$2,867,141	\$2,814,112	52	Brian Richard Alberg (chief of staff, \$169,459); Mark R. Halverson (senior counsel, \$169,459); Kath Cynal (communications director, \$134,079)
Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)	\$2,679,596	\$2,621,953	51	David Edmund Hoag (chief of staff, \$169,459); Rodney Lee Whitsack (health policy director, \$142,000); Penne S. Burton (administrative director, \$124,825)
Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-IA)	\$1,018,412	\$999,795	20	Eric Todd White (chief of staff, \$141,733); Rob Sussell (district director, \$64,300); Morgan Sarah Lira (legislative director, \$65,000)
Rep. Bruce Braley (D-IA)	\$994,169	\$1,056,428	20	John K. Davis (chief of staff, \$103,233); Mike Goodrum (legislative director, \$132,082); Peter De Kock (district director, \$110,880)

Source: legisitem.com
 *Numbers represent the number of people receiving any compensation from the elected official's office for the period of April through September 2011 for senators and October through December 2011 for representatives.
 *Salaries were annualized based on compensation for the period of April through September 2011 for senators' staffs and October through December 2011 for representatives' staffs.
 *Kirk's staff salary information includes his tenure in the House (2003-2010).
 *Schilling's fiscal year 2011 staff salary information includes only three quarters; he took office in the second quarter of the fiscal year.