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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 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 Loebsack 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.

Written by Jeff Ignatius
Thursday, 26 April 2012 06:00

Click on any chart below for a larger version.

Biographical and Personal Information

	Age	Previous Occupation	In Current Office Since	Current Term Ends	Chamber Leadership and Committee Assignments	Missed Roll Call Votes (oneline 2-4%)[1]	Net worth 2010 (Chamber Rank)[2]	Top 3 Industries Invested in	Project Vote Smart Political Coverage Test[1]
Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL)	67	attorney	1997	2014	Assistant Majority Leader (Democratic Whip); Appropriations; Foreign Relations; Judiciary; Rules & Administration	238/12,284 (2%), 1/1983-6/2012	$999,651 to $1,199,549 (68)	Real Estate ($25,6,93); Securities & Investment ($12,470); Automotive ($20,350)	Yes (3908)
Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL)	52	attorney	2010	2016	Appropriations; Banking, Housing, & Urban Affairs; Commerce, Science, & Transportation; Veterans Affairs; Labor, & Pensions	416/7,226 (6%), 1/2001-6/2012	$20,000 to $140,000 (96)	Insurance ($15,000)	No (2010)
Rep. Bobby Schilling (R-IL)	40	business owner	2011	2012	Agriculture; Armed Services	13/1,181 (1%), 1/2011-6/2012	$407,000 to $1,409,998 (189)		No (2010)
Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA)	72	attorney	1985	2014	Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry; Appropriations; Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions (chair); Small Business & Entrepreneurship	734/13,956 (5%), 1/1975-6/2012	$10,276,133 to $22,918,831 (1)	Defense ($1,080,000); Energy & Natural Resources ($681,000); Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate ($237,910)	No (2008)
Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)	78	agriculture	1981	2016	Agriculture, Nutrition, & Forestry; Budget; Finance; Judiciary (ranking member)	119/4,13,857 (1%), 1/1975-6/2012	$1,604,000 to $4,711,000 (68)	Agriculture, Forestry, & Food Processing ($415,010); Real Estate ($16,000); Insurance ($4,900)	No (2010)
Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-IA)	59	professor	2007	2012	Armed Services; Education & the Workforce	122/4,632 (3%), 1/2007-6/2012	$228,017 to $770,089 (264)	Real Estate ($1,000)	No (2010)
Rep. Bruce Braley (D-IA)	54	attorney	2007	2012	Oversight & Government Reform; Veterans' Affairs	260/4,632 (6%), 1/2007-6/2012	$206,056 to $665,089 (282)	Food & Beverage ($50,000)	No (2010)
Source						GovTrack.us (4/17/2012)	*OpenSecrets.org*		*VoteSmart.org*

Notes:
[1]Missed vote information includes U.S. House tenure for Durbin (1983-1996), Kirk (2001-2010), Hulshin (1975-1984), and Grassley (1975-1980). Furthermore, Kirk suffered a stroke in January 2012, affecting his missed vote information; he has missed all votes in 2012.
[2]Net worth is based on personal financial disclosures, which classify assets and liabilities in dollar ranges.

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

	Total Contributions	Individual Contributions	Small Individual Contributions	Large Individual Contributions	PAC Contributions	Top 3 Industry Contributions	Top 3 Contributors	Quality of Disclosure
Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL)	$9,791,423	$6,501,590 (66%)	$366,933 (4%)	$6,134,652 (63%)	$2,578,604 (26%)	Lawyers/Law Firms, Securities & Investment, Real Estate	Simmons Cooper LLC; CME Group; Citigroup Inc	99
Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL)	$15,067,685	$12,234,272 (81%)	$1,375,657 (9%)	$10,858,630 (72%)	$2,582,562 (17%)	Securities & Investment, Retired, Lawyers/Law Firms	Kirkland & Ellis; Citadel Investment Group; Madison Dearborn Partners	90
Rep. Bobby Schilling (R-IL)	$1,305,944	$575,262 (52%)	$110,865 (10%)	$464,497 (42%)	$467,085 (42%)	Leadership PACs, Retired, Automotive	Crawford Group; Caterpillar Inc; Midwest Control Products Corp	99
Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA)	$8,371,059	$5,666,918 (68%)	$1,021,529 (12%)	$4,645,386 (55%)	$2,411,267 (29%)	Lawyers/Law Firms, Health Professionals, Lobbyists	TPG Capital; Herbalife International; Intrepublic Group	98
Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)	$7,885,389	$3,374,955 (46%)	$663,435 (9%)	$2,235,343 (31%)	$3,385,696 (45%)	Health Professionals, Insurance, Leadership PACs	Blue Cross/Blue Shield; Leon Medical Centers; Chevron Corp	97
Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-IA)	$813,245	$535,737 (39%)	$84,537 (10%)	$231,200 (28%)	$461,238 (57%)	Health Professionals, Building Trade Unions, Leadership PACs	University of Iowa; National Education Associates; Ernst	95
Rep. Bruce Braley (D-IA)[1]	$1,427,775	$924,485 (65%)	n/a	n/a	$485,718 (34%)	Lawyers/Law Firms, Public Sector Unions, Health Professionals	Williams Hoekstra; Robbins, Geller et al; Herman, Herman et al	100
Source	*OpenSecrets.org*							

Note:
[1]Braley itemizes all contributions, so his campaign disclosures do not include a total for unitemized contributions less than $200; for other elected officials, those unitemized contributions are considered small individual contributions.

Earmarks: Fiscal Years 2008-2010

	Fiscal Year 2008 Earmarks: Number; Amount (Chamber Rank)	Fiscal Year 2008 Earmarks to Campaign Contributors: Earmark Amount; Contribution Amount	Fiscal Year 2009 Earmarks: Number; Amount (Chamber Rank)	Fiscal Year 2009 Earmarks to Campaign Contributors: Earmark Amount; Contribution Amount	Fiscal Year 2010 Earmarks: Number; Amount (Chamber Rank)	Fiscal Year 2010 Earmarks to Campaign Contributors: Earmark Amount; Contribution Amount
Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL)	150; $342,406,708 (9)	$13,571,000; $67,775	125; $225,404,750 (24)	$500,000; $1,650	105; $129,755,300 (43)	$9,840,000; $6,750
Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL)	20; $30,706,000 (130)	$3,041,000; $8,100	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)	191; $297,332,200 (17)	$29,160,000; $20,547	222; $448,250,036 (3)	$6,250,000; $4,650	198; $273,589,200 (7)	$42,511,000; $12,450
Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)	166; $323,028,520 (12)	0	147; $321,412,484 (4)	0	143; $206,862,300 (36)	$31,070,000; $20,300
Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-IA)	27; $28,766,800 (342)	$13,440,000; $25,300	29; $217,293,500 (1)	0	32; $41,108,000 (92)	$7,920,000; $49,769
Rep. Bruce Braley (D-IA)	27; $28,803,480 (153)	$9,598,000; $7,669	28; $13,470,350 (67)	$950,000; $1,750	27; $32,653,600 (122)	$8,900,000; $250
Source	*OpenSecrets.org*					

Note:
[1]Kirk's earmark information includes his tenure in the House (2001-2010)

Interest-Group Ratings

	National Journal Liberal 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	*VoteSmart.org*					*GovTrack.us*

Staff Compensation: Fiscal Years 2010-2011

	Fiscal Year 2010 Staff Compensation	Fiscal Year 2011 Staff Compensation	Number of Paid Staff[1]	Highest-Compensated Staffers[2]
Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL)	$3,191,742	$2,883,155	63	Mike Daly (senior adviser, $169,459); Bill Houlihan (Downstate director, $142,457); Dena S. Morris (legislative director, $140,000)
Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL)[3]	$946,317	$2,727,000	53	Les Munson III (Washington chief of staff, $165,000); Eric E. Elk (chief of staff, $156,000); Kate Dickens (policy and communications director, $148,000)
Rep. Bobby Schilling (R-IL)[4]	n/a	$481,077	17	Betsy Wright Hawkings (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 Ahlberg (chief of staff, $169,459); Mark B. Halverson (senior counsel, $169,459); Kate Cynul (communications director, $134,079)
Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)	$2,639,596	$2,621,953	51	David Edmund Young (chief of staff, $169,459); Rodney Lee Whitlock (health-policy director, $142,000); Penne S. Barton (administrative director, $124,825)
Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-IA)	$1,018,412	$999,795	20	Eric Todd Witte (chief of staff, $141,733); Rob Sweppel (district director, $84,365); Meagan Sarah Linn (legislative director, $65,000)
Rep. Bruce Braley (D-IA)	$994,169	$1,056,428	20	John K. Davis (chief of staff, $163,533); Mike Goodman (legislative director, $132,087); Pete De Kock (district director, $110,880)
Source	*Legistorm.com*			

Notes
[1]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.
[2]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.
[3]Kirk's staff-salary information includes his tenure in the House (2001-2010)
[4]Schilling's Fiscal Year 2011 staff-salary information includes only three quarters; he took office in the second quarter of the fiscal year.