

Iris Y. Martinez

★★★★ for Clerk of the Cook County Circuit Court



In 2002, **Iris Y. Martinez** became the first Hispanic woman elected to the Illinois State Senate. Martinez later became the first Latina ever appointed to senate leadership. She currently serves as Assistant Majority Leader and Vice Chair of the Senate's Special Committee on State and Pension Fund Investments. She is also a member of the Education, Energy and Public Utilities, Executive, Commerce and Economic Development and Transportation committees.

Senator Martinez has used her leadership position in the State Senate to fight for Illinois' most vulnerable residents including children, seniors, veterans, the homeless and working-class families. She advocates for affordable housing, expanding health care access and ensuring seniors and the disabled receive proper care.

Throughout the years Martinez has passed landmark legislation, such as a law requiring insurance companies in Illinois to cover birth control pills and other forms of contraception; the Grow Your Own Teacher initiative, a program designed to train people to become teachers in hard-to-staff schools; and the Consumer Fairness Act, which helps Illinoisans pay off their debt in a timely manner by decreasing the post-judgment interest rate and decreasing the time-frame to collect on a debt.

As a member of the Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus, Senator Martinez has worked on initiatives that are important to minorities. She championed a law allowing non-English speaking people, as well as those who are hearing-impaired, to have an interpreter in the courtroom and fought to ensure that health care facilities treating Medicaid patients develop and implement language services.

Senator Martinez is a founding member of the Illinois Women in Leadership (IWIL) and former Vice-Chair of the Illinois Democratic Party. She is a recognized leader at the national level as well. She currently serves as the Chairman of the DNC Hispanic Caucus and is a member of the Executive and Rules & Bylaws committees for the Democratic National party. Martinez is past president of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators, and member of the National Association of Latino Elected Officials, and the National Conference of State Legislators.

Senator Martinez was born and raised in Chicago's West Town community. She resides in the city's Albany Park neighborhood and has a daughter, Jacklyn Nicole. Her district includes some of Chicago's most diverse neighborhoods including Albany Park, Avondale, Belmont, Cragin, Hermosa, Humboldt Park, Logan Square and Portage Park.