

William B. Black

State Representative • 104th District

NEWS
*Deputy
Republican Leader*



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Black Announces Decision to Retire from Illinois House in 2009

Danville, IL. . . State Representative William "Bill" Black of Danville today announced that he would not actively seek another term as State Representative of the 104th district and plans to retire in 2009.

"I want to thank the voters for giving me the honor and privilege of serving as their state representative over the past 22 years," said Rep. Black. "I have always tried my best to represent the legislative districts which I served. I may not have always succeeded, but I always tried."

Black said a new law moving to an earlier primary election date prompted this decision to announce his plans early in order to give others a chance to consider their options.

"Because the primary election date has been moved to February, candidates for the Illinois General Assembly must now begin circulating petitions in August rather than the late fall. I believe the campaign season is already too long and too expensive, which in one reason it is time for me to step aside. My decision opens the door for interested candidates to make a timely decision," said Black.

Rep. Black was first elected to the Illinois House in 1986. He has served as an Assistant Minority Leader, Deputy Republican Leader and Republican Floor Leader since 1991. He is the longest serving member of the Illinois House Republican leadership team.

Rep. Black is also the Republican Spokesperson on the House Rules Committee. He also serves on the Higher Education, Railroad Safety, Fire Protection, and Transportation and Motor Vehicle Committees.

A former educator and community college administrator, Rep. Black has led the charge to improve education in Illinois. He has been an ardent protector of downstate and border communities— Fighting for fair funding of schools, agriculture, roads and infrastructure improvements. Job creation, job retention and keeping border communities competitive with neighboring states have been a top priority of Rep. Black, and this has proven to be ever more difficult as Illinois is perceived to have an anti-business climate.

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Rep. Black has been awarded "Legislator of the Year" 28 times by various organizations for his legislative achievements.

"I have enjoyed being in the Illinois House for the past 22 years and I intend to fulfill the balance of my term. I am proud of my accomplishments, but it is time to slow down," said Black. "At this age, I just want to spend more time with my wife, Sharon, my children and my grandchildren. My grandchildren are growing up before my eyes and I want to enjoy them."

Rep. Black has been married to the former Sharon MacArthur since 1962. Together, they raised two children, Debra and Doug. They have six grandchildren: Lauren, Ryan, Evan, Kole, Kreigh and Brittney.