

Steve Sweeney

Senate President

Senate President Steve Sweeney represents the Third Legislative District, which includes portions of Gloucester and Cumberland counties and all of Salem County.

Steve Sweeney entered public service after his daughter was born with Down syndrome. He was horrified at the manner in which individuals with disabilities were treated and set out to make a difference not just in his daughter's life, but in the lives of those in his community.

He served on the Gloucester County Board of Chosen Freeholders from 1997 to 2010 and was Freeholder Director from 1998 until 2010. First elected to the New Jersey Senate in 2001, he has been reelected five times. He was chosen by the Democratic Majority to lead the Senate in 2009 and was selected by his Senate Democratic colleagues to maintain his leadership position again in 2013 and 2017.

An ironworker by trade, Senator Sweeney has sponsored laws to raise New Jersey's minimum wage, has advocated for legislation to protect unemployment funds and to create New Jersey's Paid Family Leave program.

As Senate President, he has taken a leading role in promoting property tax relief, replenishing the Transportation Trust Fund, sweeping reforms to the public employee pension and health benefits systems that will save taxpayers over \$120 billion and crafting the state's two-percent property tax cap. He has fought for full and fair funding with "The School Funding Reform Act" and the "Vocational Education Bond Act" to provide vocational job training.

Senator Sweeney sponsored legislation to establish marriage equality for all New Jersey residents. He has also sponsored bills to provide equal pay for women and for a "Sexual Assault Bill of Rights" for victims of assault.

Senator Sweeney also has sponsored numerous laws to strengthen the ability of law enforcement to protect children from sex offenders, to protect the families of police officers, firefighters and emergency services personnel killed in the line of duty, and a plan to create a statewide network of Child Advocacy Centers that provide safe places for abused children.

The Senate President sponsored a law that expands the development of offshore wind energy, making New Jersey a leader in the development of this alternative energy source and paving the way for the state to become the nation's wind-energy manufacturing hub. He fought to ban the hazardous gasoline additive MTBE and is a strong supporter of farmland and open space preservation.

Senator Sweeney was born on June 11, 1959 in Camden and is a graduate of Pennsauken High School. Senator Sweeney and his wife, Patti, were married in 1986. They live in West Deptford and have two children, Stephen and Lauren.