

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. Horrified at the manner in which individuals with disabilities were treated, he vowed to make a difference in not just 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, and 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 established a bipartisan panel of legislators and economic experts to develop reforms that address the state's most challenging fiscal problems. The Economic and Fiscal Policy Workgroup issued a series of far-reaching recommendations that will help to avert crisis conditions, maintain fiscal stability, reduce the costs of government and allow the state to support vital needs and services.

The Senate President has also fought for full and fair funding with "The School Funding Reform Act" and the "Vocational Education Bond Act" to provide vocational job training and to increase school security. He successfully advocated for a Corporate Business Tax to relieve some of the pressure on individual homeowners in New Jersey who no longer can deduct the full amount of their local taxes after the passage of the Trump tax cuts.

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

Senator Sweeney also has sponsored numerous laws to strengthen the ability of law enforcement to protect children from sex offenders, protect the families of police officers, firefighters and

emergency services personnel killed in the line of duty and create a statewide network of Child Advocacy Centers that provide safe places for abused children. To ensure that all people in New Jersey are treated equally in the criminal justice system, he sponsored legislation that requires the state Attorney General to oversee all investigations into fatal police shootings.

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. He also authored the bill to ban smoking on New Jersey's beaches.

Senator Sweeney was born on June 11, 1959 in Camden.