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Party Affiliation: Democrat

# TheINSIDER

Providing ECASB Members Information and Insight about our Elected Officials

## Genator Charles Schumer





Left: Senator Chuck Schumer appears on "Face the Nation". Above: Senator Schumer appears at a Pro Life Rally in Washington, D.C..

## Political Positions...

## **Local Issues:**

Schumer prides himself on visiting every one of the 62 counties in New York State each year.

### Drugs:

May 2001, Schumer and Republican John McCain introduced legislation intended to make it more difficult for makers of brand-name drugs to keep cheaper generic drugs off the market. In October 2001, Schumer states his desire for generic ciprofloxacin to be available for government use. At the time Bayer was holding exclusive patent rights for its commercial product Cipro. Schumer also believed that the federal government had the authority to order immediate production of generic ciproflaxin to expand government stockpile of the drug. In July 2020, Senate passed the bill introduced in 2001 that would lower the costs of generic drugs. The legislation also attempted to prevent frivolous lawsuits filed by brand-name drug manufacturers claiming generic drugs were infringing their patients.

## *FBI*:

November 2001, Schumer joined fellow New York senator Hillary Clinton to call for legislation encouraging the FBI to share information on terrorism with local and state police. In 2016, Schumer said he lost all confidence in James Comey when he announced the reopening of an investigation on whether Hillary Clinton had mishandled classified emails. In 2018, Schumer claimed that the United States has had to endure conspiracy after conspiracy from the right wing, Republican Congressmen, senators and the of course the right wing press. Schumer and House Minority Leader, Nancy Pelosi sent a letter to Deputy Attorney calling for a bipartisan "Gang of Eight" briefing that would involve the congressional leadership from both chambers.

## Supreme Court:

In 2005, Schumer outlined the positive of Roberts as his brilliance, his being a "lawyer



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## Senator Charles Schumer

**COMMITTEES:** 

Committee on Rules and
Administration
Select Committee on Intelligence.

## **Caucus Memberships:**

- Afterschool Caucuses
- Congressional Next-Gen 9-1-1

Charles Schumer was born in Midwood, Brooklyn November 23, 1950. He is the son of Selma and Abraham Schumer. His mother was a homemaker and his father ran an exterminating business. He and his family are Jewish. He is married to his wife Iris, and they have two children. They were married September 21, 1980 and the ceremony took place at the Windows on the World at the top of the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

He is a cousin to comedian Amy Schumer.

Senator Schumer is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School. He graduated as the class valedictorian from James Madison High School in 1967, competed on the television quiz show It's Academic and scored a super-score on his SAT with a score of 1600. Although he earned his Juris Doctor with honors in 1974, and went on to pass the New York State bar exam in 1975 he never practiced law, and instead chose to enter the field of politics instead. He was a three-term member of the New York State Assembly from 1975–1980. He served in the House of Representatives from 1981 - 1999, first representing New York's 16th congressional district, before it was redistricted to the 10th congressional district in 1983, and the 9th congressional district ten years later. In 1998, he was elected as US. Senator after defeating 3 term incumbent Al D'Amato.

He was re-elected in 2004 with 71% of the vote, in 2010 with 66 percent of the vote, and in 2016 with 70% of the vote.

From 2005-2009, he was chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee . During that time, he oversaw 14 Democratic gains in the senate from 2006-2008.

He was the third-ranking Democrat in the Senate, behind Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid and Minority Whip Dick Durbin. He served as Vice Chairman of the Democratic Caucus in the Senate from 2007—2017. Charles Schumer won his fourth term in the Senate in 2016 and was unanimously elected Minority Leader to succeed Harry Reid.

In January of 2007, he published a book called "Positively American: Winning Back the Middle Class-Majority One Family at a Time, outlining strategies with which Democrats could court middle class voters.



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## **Political Positions Continued...**

above all", and "judicial philosophy and modesty and stability" during the confirmation hearings for Roberts by the Enate Judicial Committee. In 2018, Schumer stated that Roberts was demeaning the Supreme Court as it was becoming more political, citing the court ruling in favor of anti-abortion clinics in California. In 2009, he told reporters that the nominee Sonia Sotomayor was more of test of the Republican Party, than it is of Judge Sotomayor. In 2016, Schumer said that he was going to go after Trump if he did not nominate candidates who were more mainstream.

## Net Neutrality:

In January 2018 Schumer announced that all 49 members of the Democratic Caucus supported a resolution overturning the FCC vote on net neutrality. In May, the senate adopted a measure to revive the Obama –era internet regulations. Schumer claimed that the republic controlled house gave the green light to the big ISP's to charge middle –class Americans, small business owners, schools, rural Americans, and communities of color more to use the internet.

### Abortion.

Schumer is pro-choice and has been given a 100 % rating by NARAL Pro-Choice America.

## Agriculture:

In 2019, Schumer was one of the 38 senators to sign a letter warning that dairy farmers have continued to face market instability and are struggling to survive the 4th years of sustained low prices.

## **Clinton Impeachment:**

Schumer voted "no" on all counts in committee and on the floor during the 1999 hearings.

## Gun Laws:

In 1994, Schumer co-authored the Assault Weapons Ban which expired in 2004.

### Immigration.

In 2013, he was one of the Gang of Eight, a bipartisan group to write a comprehensive immigration reform bill.

## Health Care Reform:

He supported and voted for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in December 2009, and he voted for the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010. In 2009, Schumer also proposed that any new government-run health insurance programs follow all standards applicable to private insurance.

## Immigration:

Schumer is one of the Gang of Eight, a bipartisan group of four Democratic and four Republican senators who wrote and sponsored a 2013 comprehensive immigration reform bill. The bill passed the Senate with a strong majority (68-32), however the House of Representatives refused to take up the bill and legislation died. Schumer offered Trump congressional approval of upward of \$20 billion for his border wall in exchange for protecting recipients of DACA. Trump declined the offer. In June of 2018, ahead of a planned meeting with Trump and House Republicans for discussions on the compromise bill, Schumer warned the moderates in the House would loose credibility if succumbing to pressure and enacting "the hard right's agenda".