



## **Ileana Ros-Lehtinen**

### **Former Member of Congress**

A native of Cuba, former U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) served for almost three decades as a Member of Congress representing diverse areas in South Florida. She was the Chairwoman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Chairwoman of the Subcommittee on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). In these roles, she led on pressing foreign policy issues, including championing the advancement of freedom and democracy for all, fighting Islamist extremism; supporting free trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea; and imposing sanctions on human rights violators in Venezuela. Her record over nearly four decades of public service includes fighting against tyranny and oppression, particularly in her native homeland of Cuba, as well as working diligently to support and strengthen the US - Israel strategic partnership.

**During Ros-Lehtinen’s tenure in Congress, she worked to ensure that all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity were treated and protected equally under the law. She was a founding member of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus as well as the Congressional Anti-Bullying Caucus. She was the lead Republican member on the Respect for Marriage Act to repeal DOMA, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, Every Child Deserves a Family Act, Restore Honor to Service Members Act, and the Student Non-Discrimination Act.**

Rep. Ros-Lehtinen holds multiple education degrees, including a doctorate from the University of Miami, Master’s and Bachelor’s degrees from Florida International University, and an Associate’s degree from Miami Dade College. She began her career as a Florida certified teacher, and then founded, and served as the principal of a private bilingual elementary school.

She was the first Hispanic woman elected to Congress, as well as to the State of Florida House of Representatives and Senate. She is married to Dexter Lehtinen, former US Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, and a decorated Vietnam combat veteran. They have four adult children and nine grandchildren.

### **Public Service and Affiliations**

- Member, U.S. House of Representatives (1989-2019)
- Chairwoman, Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute
- Board Member, Running Start (2022)
- Board Member, U.S. Capitol Historical Society (2022)
- Board Member, Close Up Foundation (2023)
- Board Member, Association of Former Members of Congress (2023)
- Board Member, American Jewish International Relations B’nai B’rith (2023)
- Board Member, Friends of the Global Fight, 2023
- Congressional Advisory Board Member, Middle East Media Research Institute (2022)
- Advisory Board Member, American Jewish International Relations Institute (2022)

- Advisory Board Member, Georgetown Institute of Politics and Public Service, McCourt School of Public Policy (2021)
- Advisory Council Member, American Latino Veterans Association (2021)
- Advisory Council Member, International Republican Institute, Latin American and the Caribbean (2023)
- Advisory Council Member, George W. Bush Institute (2023)
- Leadership Council, Kids In Need of Defense (KIND) (2023)
- Advisory Council Member, Leadership Council for Women in National Security (2024)