

Biography of Congressman José E. Serrano of New York

Congressman José E. Serrano was born in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. At the age of seven, he and his family moved to the South Bronx where he lives today.

Prior to elective office, Mr. Serrano attended Lehman College in the Bronx. He proudly served his country as a United States Army medic from 1964-1966. Returning from service, he went on to work at the New York City Board of Education and became Chairman of the South Bronx Community Corporation.

Mr. Serrano was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1974, where he served more than 15 years. During that time, he became the first Latino to serve as Chairman of the Committee on Consumer Affairs (1979-1983) and the Committee on Education (1983-1990). He also helped found the New York State Assembly and Senate Puerto Rican-Hispanic Task Force.

After winning a special election to replace former Congressman Robert García, Mr. Serrano was sworn in as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives on March 21, 1990. He is as a member of the House Appropriations Committee, where he serves as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies and Vice Chairman of the Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government. He is the Dean of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and served as its Chairman from 1993-1994. He is now the senior most Hispanic Democrat and longest-serving Puerto Rican in the U.S. Congress.

In March 2019, Mr. Serrano announced his decision to retire at the end of the 116th Congress due to a diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease. He currently represents the 15th Congressional District of New York.