

*First-Term Black-  
American Members  
of the 110th Congress\**



*Yvette Clarke*

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE  
DEMOCRAT FROM NEW YORK

**CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES:**

Education and Labor  
Homeland Security  
Small Business

**BORN:** November 21, 1964, Brooklyn, New York

**FAMILY:** Single

**EDUCATION:** Attended Oberlin College, 1982–1986

**MILITARY:** N/A

**POLITICAL CAREER:** New York city council, 2002–2006

**PROFESSIONAL CAREER:** Public policy, public service

**SOURCES**

*Online Biographical Directory of the United States  
Congress, 1774–Present:* <http://bioguide.congress.gov>;  
individual Member offices.

*\*The closing date for this volume was December 31, 2007.*



*Keith Ellison*

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE  
DEMOCRAT FROM MINNESOTA

**CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES:**

Financial Services  
Judiciary

**BORN:** August 4, 1963, Detroit, Michigan

**FAMILY:** Wife: Kim; children: Jeremiah, Isaiah, Elijah, and Amirah

**EDUCATION:** B.A., Wayne State University, 1986; J.D., University of Minnesota, 1990

**MILITARY:** N/A

**POLITICAL CAREER:** Minnesota state house of representatives, 2003–2006

**PROFESSIONAL CAREER:** Lawyer and community activist



*Hank Johnson*

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE  
DEMOCRAT FROM GEORGIA

**CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES:**

Armed Services  
Judiciary  
Small Business

**BORN:** October 2, 1954, Washington, DC

**FAMILY:** Wife: Mereda Davis Johnson; children: Randi and Alex

**EDUCATION:** B.A., Clark Atlanta University, 1979; J.D., Texas Southern University, 1979

**MILITARY:** N/A

**POLITICAL CAREER:** DeKalb County (GA) board of commissioners, 2001–2006

**PROFESSIONAL CAREER:** Lawyer



## *Laura Richardson*<sup>\*</sup>

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE  
DEMOCRAT FROM CALIFORNIA

**CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES:**

Transportation and Infrastructure  
Science and Technology

**BORN:** April 14, 1962, Los Angeles, California

**FAMILY:** Divorced

**EDUCATION:** B.A., political science, University of California at Los Angeles, 1984; M.B.A., University of Southern California, 1996

**MILITARY:** N/A

**POLITICAL CAREER:** Long Beach, California, city council, 2000–2006, tidelands and harbor committee chair, state legislation and environmental committee chair, budget oversight committee chair; California state assembly, 2006–2007, assistant speaker *pro tempore*

**PROFESSIONAL CAREER:** Marketing representative, Xerox Corporation, 1987–2001; field representative (part-time), Representative Juanita Millender-McDonald, 1996–1998; southern California director, California Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante, 2001–2005.

\*Elected on August 21, 2007, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of U.S. Representative Juanita Millender-McDonald