

Rich Williamson

Rich Williamson was delighted when he was elected Illinois Republican National Committeeman in April, 2010, and joined a strong team of Illinois GOP leaders. Earlier Rich had served as Illinois Republican Party State Chairman (1999-2001) and been the Illinois Republican nominee for the US Senate in 1992.

An Illinois native, Rich's father was a Republican Precinct Captain. He grew up in Chicago's northern suburbs and attended public schools. He received his BA from Princeton University and JD from the University of Virginia.

Rich has been a partner in two major Chicago law firms and currently is a principal in Salisbury Strategies, LLP, an international consulting firm. He also is Senior Fellow at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institute in Washington, DC.

Rich has been fortunate to have had several opportunities to serve in government. After serving as Deputy to the Chairman, Senator Paul Laxalt, in the 1980 national Ronald Reagan for President Campaign, he joined Reagan's White House staff as a Special Assistant to the President and Deputy to the Chief of Staff. He later served on President Reagan's White House Senior staff as Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs. Subsequently he has served as Ambassador to the United Nations offices in Vienna, Austria, Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs, a member of the President's General Advisory Committee on Arms Control, Ambassador to the United Nations for Special Political Affairs, Ambassador to the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland, and, most recently, as President George W. Bush's Special Envoy to Sudan. In addition to serving three Republican Presidents, Rich was appointed a member of the Illinois Economic Development Commission by Governor Jim Thompson and Chairman of the Illinois Regulatory Relief Task Force by Governor Jim Edgar.

A firm believer in Ronald Reagan's vision of smaller government, lower taxes and less regulation, Rich is committed to helping Republicans win office to advance the Republican philosophy and renew America. Through his service in various foreign policy positions, Rich has developed a keen appreciation of American Exceptionalism and the responsibility and opportunity that America has to serve as a "shinning city of the hill" for the entire world.

Rich is delighted to continue to serve the Illinois Republican Party at all levels and to contribute to the Republican Party's rebirth and success throughout Illinois and throughout the United States.