

= Mike Capuano =

Michael Everett " Mike " Capuano (/ ˈkæpjuːnoʊ / ; born January 9 , 1952) is an American politician who serves as the U.S. Representative for Massachusetts 's 7th congressional district . A member of the Democratic Party , his district includes the majority of Boston , as well as parts of Cambridge and other communities immediately north and south of Boston . Prior to being elected to Congress he served as an Alderman and later Mayor of Somerville .

He was born and raised in Somerville , and after graduating from Dartmouth College and Boston College Law School , he worked as an attorney and Somerville alderman . After losing two elections for Mayor in 1979 and 1981 , he went to work as legal counsel for the Massachusetts General Court . He ran for a Mayor a third time in 1989 and won , serving from 1990 to 1999 .

In 1998 he navigated a crowded Democratic primary to replace Joseph Kennedy II in Congress and has since been re-elected six times . He represented the state 's 8th district until it was redrawn in 2013 into the 7th district . In Congress he is a staunch liberal and member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus . He ran in the 2010 special election to fill the seat in the United States Senate made vacant by the death of Ted Kennedy , his predecessor 's uncle , but lost the primary to Martha Coakley , who in turn lost the general election to Republican Scott Brown .

= = Early life and education = =

Capuano was born January 9 , 1952 in the Spring Hill neighborhood of Somerville , Massachusetts , to Rita Marie (née Garvey) and Andrew Capuano . His father left to serve in World War II shortly after getting married , and after returning ran for the Somerville Board of Aldermen , and became the first Italian American elected to the board . His mother was of Irish descent .

Capuano graduated from Somerville High School in 1969 , and later attended Dartmouth College , where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1973 . Capuano later went on to earn his Juris Doctor in 1977 from Boston College Law School , specializing in tax law .

= = Early political career = =

In 1976 , Capuano was elected to the Somerville Board of Aldermen representing Ward 5 , once served in by his father . Capuano served one term , stepping down in 1979 to run for Mayor of Somerville . In the 1979 mayoral election he faced Eugene Brune , Paul Haley , and incumbent , Thomas August . He lost the nomination to Brune , who went on to defeat August . Capuano ran again in 1981 to challenge Brune , placing second in a three-person runoff election . Capuano promoted his opposition to the state ballot question Proposition 2 ½ and criticized Brune for expanding the mayoral staff in the face of tight city budgets , while Brune touted his prevention of service cuts after the proposition passed . Capuano lost in the general election with 40 % of the vote .

From 1978 to 1984 Capuano served as chief legal counsel for the Massachusetts General Court 's Joint Committee on Taxation . Capuano left the committee in 1984 to join the Beacon Hill law firm and lobbying group Joyce & Joyce . In 1985 he returned to the Somerville Board of Aldermen as an at-large member .

= = Mayor of Somerville = =

In 1989 Capuano ran for Mayor a third time in and won . Capuano served as Mayor from 1990 to 1999 , where he earned a reputation as a hands-on administrator . One of his priorities was to lower the city 's population density , which at time was the highest of any New England municipality , by using state grants to demolish several buildings and replace them with playgrounds and parking spaces . As Mayor he oversaw the reduction of school class sizes to a maximum of 19 students .

= = U.S. House of Representatives = =

== Elections ==

In 1998 , Joseph Kennedy II announced his retirement after six terms in what was then the 8th District . Capuano entered a crowded 10 @-@ way Democratic primary--the real contest in this heavily Democratic district , which was once represented by John F. Kennedy and Tip O 'Neill . The early front @-@ runner was former Boston Mayor and US Vatican Ambassador Raymond Flynn . However , Capuano won the primary with 23 % , largely due to large turnout in Somerville , all but assuring him of election in November . He easily won the general election in November , taking 81 percent of the vote . He has been reelected seven times , never dropping below 80 % of the vote . Since his initial run for the seat , Capuano has been unopposed in all but two reelection bids ; he faced a minor @-@ party candidate in 2006 and an independent in 2012 . To date , he has only faced a Republican once , during his initial run in 1998 .

== Tenure ==

During his tenure , Capuano has helped found five congressional caucuses , on : Community Health Centers ; Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities ; Sudan ; and Korea ; as well as one for former Mayors .

Capuano voted against the War in Iraq and supported immediate withdrawal of troops . In 2005 Capuano visited Iraq and met with military leaders to assess the future of the region . Capuano is considered to be one of the biggest supporters in Congress for increasing international aid funding , and has advocated bringing attention to the crisis in Sudan and helped secure funding aimed at assisting developing African nations .

Capuano is pro @-@ choice and supports open access to abortions . In 2012 a fundraiser hosted by Pope John XXIII High School where Capuano and fellow Massachusetts Congressman Ed Markey were to receive awards was cancelled due to their " positions [being] inconsistent with church doctrine ; " both were humble in response to the news . During the 2010 Senate Democratic primary Capuano criticized his opponent Martha Coakley , claiming she wouldn 't have voted for the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act with Stupak ? Pitts Amendment which would have barred federal funding of abortions ; which Capuano said he only did to " keep the health care debate alive . " Capuano 's comments were characterized by WBUR political analyst as " an empty charge against her since he has the same position as she does . "

After the 2006 election that created a Democratic majority in the House , he was appointed Chairman of the Speaker 's Task Force on Ethics Enforcement by Nancy Pelosi , with whom he has a close relationship . After serving as the Chairman of the Task Force on Ethics Enforcement , in 2008 Capuano introduced H.R. 895 which established the Office of Congressional Ethics . Capuano has had a long @-@ running relationship with former Congressman Anthony Weiner , whom he shared a Washington , D.C. apartment with for 12 years . Following Weiner 's sexting scandal Capuano did not call on him to resign , saying : " I am not the guy who likes to judge other people . I figure that is between them and the people who are appropriately named to do that ? and that is the Ethics Committee . "

Capuano is a strong supporter of labor rights and unions ; in February 2011 during a rally at Beacon Hill in Boston , in support of the 2011 Wisconsin budget protests , Capuano told the crowd , " I 'm proud to be here with people who understand that it 's more than just sending an email to get you going . Every once and awhile you need to get out on the streets and get a little bloody when necessary " . Following criticism , Capuano expressed regret for his " choice of words . "

Following the 2008 financial crisis and subsequent bank bailouts , at a House Financial Services Committee hearing Capuano berated the bank CEOs for their practices , saying at one point : " You come to us today on your bicycles after buying Girl Scout cookies and helping out Mother Teresa and telling us , ' We 're sorry , we didn 't mean it , we won 't do it again , trust us . ' Well , I have some people in my constituency that actually robbed some of your banks and they say the same

thing . " Capuano 's speech was included in the 2010 documentary film Inside Job , described by director Charles H. Ferguson as being about " the systemic corruption of the United States by the financial services industry and the consequences of that systemic corruption . "

A self @-@ described " fiscal conservative , " in 2013 Capuano joined Senator Elizabeth Warren and Boston Mayor Thomas Menino in a rally against the then @-@ upcoming sequester , with Capuano calling it " stupid . " In 2012 Capuano along with fellow Massachusetts Congressman Barney Frank introduced legislation to combine the Securities and Exchange Commission and Commodity Futures Trading Commission into the " Securities and Derivatives Commission . "

= = Campaigns for higher office = =

= = = 1994 Secretary nomination = = =

Capuano ran for Massachusetts Secretary of the Commonwealth in the 1994 election , running against former State Representatives Augusto Grace and William F. Galvin for the Democratic nomination . During the race he framed himself as an advocate for the poor and urban communities , and criticized aid formulas which he argued left less @-@ wealthy municipalities with less per @-@ capita revenue . To appear on the Democratic primary required the support of at least 15 % of delegates in the state party convention . In what the Boston Globe deemed " an embarrassing defeat , " he was disqualified from the race with only 13 % of delegate votes . When asked why he staged the difficult race to begin with , he responded , " Because I wasn 't ready to run for Governor . "

= = = 2010 Senate campaign = = =

After the death of incumbent Senator Ted Kennedy , a special election to succeed him was scheduled . On September 8 , 2009 , Capuano collected nomination papers to run for the seat and on September 18 , he announced his candidacy . Capuano ran as a " Washington insider , " comparing himself to Kennedy saying : " was [Kennedy] not the ultimate insider ... I think that ? s probably one of the best things that we share . ? In his campaign Capuano received several high @-@ profile endorsements , including House Speaker Pelosi and former Massachusetts Governor and 1988 Democratic presidential nominee , Michael Dukakis .

Consistently polling below incumbent Massachusetts Attorney General , Martha Coakley , on December 8 , 2009 Capuano lost the Democratic primary to Coakley , winning only 28 % of the vote to Coakley 's 47 % , amongst a field of four candidates .

= = = 2014 gubernatorial election = = =

Capuano considered running for Governor of Massachusetts in 2014 . On January 21 , 2013 , former Mayor of Springfield , Massachusetts and member of the Massachusetts Governor 's Council Michael Albano endorsed Capuano to run , posting on his Facebook page : " while the Congressman has not made a decision to compete for the [Democratic] nomination [for Governor] at this time , it is not too early to make the case and encourage his candidacy . " When asked in February 2013 whether he might run for Governor , Capuano responded : " Part of me thinks that some of the more interesting , more important fights over the next several years might be conducted at statehouses around the country and not necessarily on Capitol Hill . " In a statement in September 2013 , Capuano announced he would not run for Governor , and would instead focus on running for re @-@ election to Congress . His decision was attributed to his loss against Martha Coakley in the Democratic primary for Senate , virtually closing any possibility for running for higher office .

= = Personal life = =

Capuano was named after his two grandfathers , and has seven siblings , one of whom died in childbirth and another died of polio at the age of 5 . Capuano married Barbara Teebagy in 1974 , and together they have two boys , Michael and Joseph . He is the uncle of actors Chris Evans of the Fantastic Four and Captain America film series , and Scott Evans of the soap opera One Life to Live . In 2003 the City of Somerville dedicated a new school in Capuano 's honor ; the Michael E. Capuano Early Childhood Center officially opened in September that year .