



STATE SENATOR

MARK SPENCER

REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT 3

ABOUT SENATOR SPENCER

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Mark Spencer is an Indiana State Senator, educator, filmmaker, and arts administrator whose career has uniquely combined public service, arts education, filmmaking, and cultural leadership for more than thirty years. A lifelong resident of Gary, Indiana, Spencer is a graduate of the first class of Emerson School for the Visual and Performing Arts and has dedicated his professional life to expanding educational and creative opportunities for young people throughout Northwest Indiana.

Spencer began his career as a teacher of speech and drama before rising to become Director of Performing Arts for the Gary Community School Corporation. In 1996, he founded the West Side Theatre Guild, which has grown into one of the region's premier performing arts organizations and educational theater programs. Under his leadership, the Guild has produced an extensive body of theatrical productions, concerts, films, television projects, and educational initiatives while providing real-world performance and technical training to generations of students.

Through the West Side Theatre Guild, Spencer has helped bring internationally respected artists, performers, speakers, and cultural icons to Northwest Indiana while cultivating an environment where local talent could thrive. Former students and collaborators have gone on to careers in theater, music, dance, television, and film, including performances on Broadway and with nationally recognized entertainment organizations.

As a filmmaker, Spencer has written, directed, and produced multiple independent films and creative projects, earning recognition for work that highlights the history, culture, and spirit of urban communities. His productions have received critical recognition at regional and national film festivals and have featured respected actors, musicians, and literary figures.

In public service, Spencer previously served as a Gary City Councilman before being elected to the Indiana State Senate, where he represents District 3. In the legislature, he has earned bipartisan support for initiatives centered on education, community development, public engagement, and quality-of-life issues affecting working families and underserved communities.

Spencer holds degrees from Indiana University Northwest, Calumet College of St. Joseph, and Indiana Wesleyan University. Widely respected for his ability to bridge education, government, and the arts, he remains committed to mentoring young people, strengthening communities, and using culture and public service as tools for transformation and opportunity.