

# Willie Ong, #49

Cardiologist

as of Feb. 5, 2025



**Age and date of birth:** 61 (Oct. 24, 1963)

**Party:** Aksyon Demokratiko

**Highest Educational Attainment:** Master in Public Health, University of the Philippines Manila

**Highest Government Position Held:** None

## Summary:

A cardiologist and social media personality, Ong is giving the Senate another shot after an unsuccessful bid in 2019 to push for health reforms even while battling with cancer.

## Stance on Key Issues

### On Poverty, Controlling Inflation and Jobs

- Calls on PhilHealth to provide free angiogram and chemotherapy for cancer patients; angiogram, angioplasty, heart bypass, CT scan, MRI, and PET scans for all members
- Favors regulation of agricultural imports to support local farmers and fisherfolk
- Has pushed for more jobs and infrastructure development in the Visayas and Mindanao to balance the country's overall economy
- Supports revision of the Constitution to allow foreigners to own or rent land as a means of boosting foreign direct investments

### On Fighting Graft and Corruption

- Supports a rule preventing members of political dynasties to serve consecutive terms in elected government positions, saying the root cause of corruption are candidates who receive funding from wealthy benefactors
- Proposes to allow only two or three family members of a political dynasty to simultaneously serve in government positions
- Proposes measures to curb corruption, including the computerization of data from PhilHealth, Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs; full disclosure of the Statement of Assets and Liabilities of public officials; and the creation of expenditure roadmaps/line items for congressmen's projects

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## Stance on Key Issues

### On West Philippine Sea

- Suggests pursuing trade and military deals with both the U.S. and China, where the Philippines could benefit the most

### On The Drug War

- Says the criminal justice approach is not the best way to carry out the campaign against drug addiction, a public health issue rooted in the lack of proper rehabilitation and prevention
- Favors arresting drug pushers, saying users are victims of depression who need intervention
- Calls for the provision of more antidepressants / medicines and intervention of psychologists, psychiatrists and social workers in fighting drug addiction

### On Disaster-preparedness

- Urges the public to secure stocks of potassium iodide and build fallout shelters since the Philippines is unprepared for a nuclear attack

## Government Experience/Field of Expertise

- Consultant - Department of Health (2010-2014)

## Issues and Controversies

- During the 2022 presidential election, Ong was forced to skip a campaign in Mindanao after his political party, Aksyon Demokratiko, said the region already had a preferred candidate and did not want him to "lose face." He said he was hurt by the decision.
- Ong clarified in May 2024 that he was not the Willie Ong, a suspected Chinese drug lord and owner of Empire 999 Realty Corporation, investigated for the seizure of some 530 kilos of shabu worth P3.6 million in September 2023.
- Social media posts falsely claimed he is the biological father of businesswoman Cassandra Ong, linked to an illegal online gambling operator in Porac, Pampanga.

## Family Members in Government

- None