

*Biography of*  
**THE HONORABLE GILBERT BAKER**  
**ARKANSAS STATE SENATOR**



**CHAIRMAN - JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE**  
**SENATE DISTRICT 30**

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As the second-ranked Arkansas State Senator, Gilbert Baker is currently serving his sixth consecutive term for Senate District 30. Comprised of part of Faulkner County, his district encompasses the cities of Conway, Greenbrier, Mayflower and Vilonia. First elected to the Senate in 2000, Senator Baker has served District 30 since 2001.

During the 88th Legislative Session, Senator Baker serves as chairman of Joint Budget Committee and vice chairman of State Agencies and Governmental Affairs. Additional committees he serves on include Education; Senate Efficiency; Arkansas Legislative Council; and the Joint Interim Committee on Legislative Facilities.

During the 87th Legislative Session he served as chairman of Joint Budget Committee and chairman of Arkansas Legislative Council's (ALC) Higher Education Subcommittee. In addition he was vice chairman of the Senate State Agencies and Governmental Affairs Committee. He held membership on other legislative committees: Senate Efficiency; Senate Children and Youth; Arkansas Legislative Council; Legislative Facilities; Economic and Tax Policy; Blue Ribbon Committee on Highway Finance; Highway Finance - Revenue Transfer Subcommittee and Academic Facilities Oversight Committee. He served on several subcommittees of the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee. Senator Baker is also the former chairman of the Republican Party of Arkansas. Baker worked as Senate point person on budgeting and bills for transparency in higher education. He also served as budget chairman during the first fiscal session, which convened on February 8, 2010, and sine died on March 4, 2010.

Senator Baker is involved with regional and national organizations as well. He works with other legislators in his involvement with the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), where he serves on the Budgets and Review Committee and Education Committee. He is also a member of the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) and serves on the Education Committee.

Some of the issues Senator Baker has made a priority during his senatorial service include higher education improvements, National Guard tuition incentives, economic development across Arkansas, fiscal accountability and transparency. He sponsored part of the ethics bill requiring a one-year cooling-off period for outgoing lawmakers and top state officials before becoming lobbyists.

Senator Baker is very active in his church and his community, having served on the boards of Independent Living Services, Habitat for Humanity, Faulkner County Area Agency on Aging, Life Choices Crisis Pregnancy Center and the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board. In June 2009, he was honored by the Arkansas Municipal League with the Distinguished Legislator Award. In September 2009, Baker was honored by the National Guard Association at its annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee.

A graduate of O. Perry Walker High School in New Orleans, Senator Baker holds degrees from Louisiana Tech and the University of Arizona. With more than two decades of service to higher education, he is a retired music professor, advisor and former administrator at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway. He is married to the former Susan Chatham. Senator and Mrs. Baker live in Conway with their children.