

Biography of
THE HONORABLE PAUL BOOKOUT
ARKANSAS STATE SENATOR



PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE-ELECT
SENATE DISTRICT 14

Senator Paul Bookout of Jonesboro serves as State Senator for District 14, which is composed of a portion of Craighead County. He is the President Pro Tempore-Elect of the Arkansas Senate for the upcoming 88th General Assembly, which will convene January 10, 2011. Senator Bookout will be the first son of a former President Pro Tempore to serve in the same capacity in Arkansas history.

During the current 87th General Assembly he is an Assistant Pro Tempore and serves as chairman of three committees, including Joint Budget Committee-Special Language, Arkansas State Game & Fish Commission Oversight Committee and Arkansas Legislative Council-Game & Fish/State Police. Additionally, he is vice chairman of the Arkansas Legislative Council Personnel Subcommittee. Senator Bookout is a member of 14 other legislative committees, including Senate Insurance and Commerce; Senate Transportation, Technology and Legislative Affairs; Joint Energy; and Joint Budget.

Regionally and nationally, Senator Bookout works with legislators as a member of the Energy Council, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), the Council of State Governments (CSG) and the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC). Currently, he serves on the Budget and Review Committee and Legislative Effectiveness Committee of NCSL, Associates Advisory Council of CSG, and Agriculture and Rural Development Committee and Human Services and Public Safety Committee of SLC.

Senator Bookout came to the Senate with a wealth of legislative experience. From 1999 to 2004 he served in the Arkansas House of Representatives. He joined the Arkansas Senate by special election in 2006 after the death of his father, longtime State Senator and former President Pro Tempore Jerry Bookout, earlier that year.

Apart from legislative work Senator Bookout has served on several boards, including the executive board of the Jonesboro Comprehensive Learning Center and St. Bernard's Hospice Board, where he served as president.

Born in El Dorado, Arkansas, Senator Bookout holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Arkansas State University and is co-owner of Langford Bookout Funeral Home in Jonesboro. He and Sherry, his wife of over 25 years, have one son and one daughter.