

Biography of
THE HONORABLE KIM HENDREN
ARKANSAS STATE SENATOR



ASSISTANT PRO TEMPORE
SENATE DISTRICT 9

Senator Kim Hendren, Assistant Pro Tempore of the 88th General Assembly, represents Senate District 9, which is composed of the western half of Benton County.

During the 88th General Assembly, he serves as and chairman of the Joint Energy Committee and holds membership on several other committees including Joint Budget, Arkansas Legislative Council, Special Language, ALC-Rules & Regulations, ALC-Game & Fish/State Police, Senate Education, Senate State Agencies & Governmental Affairs, Senate Rules, Resolutions & Memorials, Arkansas State Game & Fish Commission Oversight Committee, Public School Desegregation Lawsuit Resolution Task Force, Academic Facilities Oversight Committee and ALC-Higher Education Subcommittee.

During the 87th General Assembly, he served as chairman of Joint Energy and vice chairman of ALC-Litigation Reports Oversight Subcommittee. A legislative veteran with 14 years of experience in the House and Senate, Hendren has sponsored acts to limit teenage drivers from using cell phones while driving and to strengthen enforcement of laws prohibiting motorists from passing school buses while they are loading and unloading students. Hendren has sponsored or co-sponsored legislation to make property tax collections more fair and to grant tax relief for homeowners, to improve education and to promote economic development.

Before serving in the Arkansas legislature, Senator Hendren was elected to the Gravette City Council and the Gravette School Board. His first term in the Arkansas Senate was in 1979 and 1981 when he was a Democrat, and in 1982 he ran for governor as a Democrat. In 2002, he was elected to the Arkansas Senate again and has served continuously since the 2003 Regular Session (84th General Assembly). In 2009, he ran for the United States Senate seat now held by Senator John Boozman.

A native of Gravette, he graduated from Gravette High School and earned a B.S. degree in Industrial Engineering from the University of Arkansas. Professionally, he is an engineer and a businessman with numerous interests, including a 600-acre farm that produces livestock and poultry, a radio station, real estate and an automobile dealership. He is the founder of Hendren Plastics, Inc. He has managed Franklin Electric and taught at John Brown University, the University of Arkansas and Gravette High School. Civically, he is a member of the Kiwanis Club and the Gideons. Since 1965 he has been a member of the Arkansas Board of Professional Engineers and the Arkansas Real Estate Council.

Senator Hendren and his wife, Marylea, have two daughters, Gayla and Hope, and two sons, Mark and Jim.