

Biography of
THE HONORABLE ROBERT F. THOMPSON
ARKANSAS STATE SENATOR



**CHAIRMAN JOINT PUBLIC RETIRMENT & SOCIAL
SECURITY PROGRAMS
SENATE DISTRICT 20**

Senator Robert F. Thompson of Paragould serves as State Senator for District 20, which is comprised of Clay, Greene and Lawrence counties and parts of Craighead and Randolph counties. For the 89th General Assembly he is chairman five important committees: Joint Public Retirement & Social Security Programs, Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC) Claims Review, Joint Budget Committee-Claims, Desegregation Litigation Oversight Committee, and the Arkansas Lottery Commission Legislative Oversight Committee. He is vice chairman of Senate Judiciary. He holds membership on the following committees: Senate State Agencies and Governmental Affairs; Senate Children and Youth; Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC); Senate Children & Youth Subcommittee; ALC-Game & Fish/State Police; ALC-Higher Education Subcommittee; Joint Budget; Senate Rules, Resolutions and Memorials; JBC - Special Language; ALC-Policy Making; ALC-Litigation Reports Oversight Subcommittee and Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission Oversight.

During the 88th General Assembly, Senator Thompson was Senate Majority Leader, chairman of the Claims Subcommittee of Joint Budget, vice chairman of Arkansas Legislative Council and co-chairman of the Arkansas Lottery Commission Advisory Council. He was a member of Joint Budget Committee, Senate Judiciary, Senate State Agencies and Governmental Affairs, Senate Efficiency Committee, and the Arkansas Lottery Commission Oversight Committee.

Regionally and nationally, Senator Thompson has worked with legislators as a member of several organizations, including the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Law and Criminal Justice Standing Committee and Redistricting & Elections Task Force, the Council of State Governments (CSG) Public Safety and Justice Task Force, and the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) Energy and Environment Committee.

Thompson served a two-year term representing the District 78 in the Arkansas House of Representatives from 2005-2006 before his election to the Senate in 2007.

Senator Thompson has been recognized by many organizations and groups:

- June 2004 - Named one of *Arkansas Business*' "40 Under 40" up-and-coming young leaders in 2004,
- December 2004 - Selected as *NEA Business Today*'s 25 Outstanding Young Professionals in northeast Arkansas,
- May 2005 – Named one of five "promising legislative newcomers" by the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, and
- Named one of 24 fellows in the 2008 class of the Aspen Institute's Rodel Fellowships in Public Leadership.

Professionally, Senator Thompson is a partner with the Paragould law firm Branch, Thompson, Warmath & Dale, P.A. A native of Paragould, he holds a bachelor's degree from Hendrix College, where he graduated summa cum laude. He also holds a graduate diploma from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland and a juris doctorate from the University of Arkansas School of Law. He and his wife, Tori, have two sons, Cross and Henry, and a daughter, Victoria.