

*Biography of*  
**THE HONORABLE C. DAVID BURNETT**  
**ARKANSAS STATE SENATOR**



**CHAIRMAN – JOINT ENERGY**  
**SENATE DISTRICT 22**

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Arkansas State Senator David Burnett is in his second term in the Senate and represents Senate District 22, which is comprised of Mississippi and Poinsett Counties and part of Craighead County. He was first elected to the Senate in 2010 and re-elected in 2012. He is chairman of Joint Energy and vice chairman of Senate State Agencies and Governmental Affairs, Senate Constitutional Issues Subcommittee and the Joint Committee on Constitutional Amendments. His committee memberships for the current 90<sup>th</sup> General Assembly include:

- Senate Efficiency
- Senate Judiciary
- Joint Budget Committee (JBC)
- Legislative Joint Auditing
- Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace Legislative Oversight Committee
- Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission Oversight Committee
- Legislative Joint Auditing-State Agencies
- JBC-Special Language
- Task Force on Substance Abuse Treatment Services

During the 89<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, Senator Burnett was chairman of Senate Rules, Resolutions & Memorials and the Senate Public Health, Labor & Environment Subcommittee and vice chairman of Senate City, County & Local Affairs Committee. Additionally, he held membership on several committees including: Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor; Senate Children and Youth; Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC), Joint Budget Committee (JBC); Legislative Joint Auditing; ALC-Claims Review, JBC–Claims; ALC-Game & Fish/State Police, Code Revision Commission, ALC-charitable, Penal and Correctional Institutions,

Arkansas Lottery Commission Legislative Oversight Committee, ALC-Higher Education Subcommittee, ALC-Litigation Reports Oversight Subcommittee, Legislative Joint Auditing-Counties and Municipalities, the Task Force on Substance Abuse Prevention and the Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace Legislative Oversight Committee.

In the 88th General Assembly, he served as chairman of Joint Performance Review and vice chairman of Senate City, County and Local Affairs. He held membership on Legislative Joint Auditing; Arkansas Legislative Council; Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor; Senate Rules, Resolutions and Memorials; and as an alternate on Joint Budget Committee.

Regionally and nationally, Senator Burnett is active with several key organizations. He sits on the Energy and Environment Committee of the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) and on the Legislative Effectiveness Standing Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL).

Senator Burnett is a retired circuit and chancery judge for the Second Judicial District of Arkansas, which comprises six counties. From 2007-2009, he was chief judge of the district. He also served as prosecuting attorney for the Second District from 1974-1982. Currently, he is an attorney and an adjunct professor at Arkansas Northeastern College.

During his legal career he served in leadership positions with many organizations and groups:

- President, Arkansas Prosecuting Attorneys Association,
- President, Trial Judges Section of the Arkansas Judicial Council,
- President, Arkansas Judicial Council,
- Chairman, Judicial Advisory Board to Department of Corrections, and
- Chairman, Arkansas Supreme Court Commission on Criminal Practice.

A native of Blytheville and a graduate of Blytheville High School, Senator Burnett received his bachelor's degree in history and political science in 1963 and a law degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 1966. He also received various training and certificates from several universities, including the University of Nevada Judicial College, the

University of Memphis and the University of Oxford England Durham College. He was certified to practice law before the United States Supreme Court in 1966. From 1967 through 1969, Senator Burnett was on active duty with the Army in Vietnam. He was a captain in the Military Police Corp and was awarded a Bronze Star and the Army Commendation Award.

Civically, Senator Burnett is a proud Eagle Scout along with his father and his son. Senator Burnett also earned the Award of Merit and membership in the Order of the Arrow and has been active in numerous capacities with several organizations and received important recognitions over the years:

- Current chairman, Arkansas Northeastern College Foundation Board of Directors
- 2011 Arkansas Prosecuting Attorneys Association Advocate of Justice Award
- President, Osceola Kiwanis Club
- President, Eastern Arkansas Boy Scout Council
- President and Chairman of the Board, First Christian Church of Osceola
- Secretary, Osceola Port Authority
- Little Rock Boy Scout Council Member
- Scoutmaster, Troop 222 of the Boy Scouts of America
- VFW of Osceola
- American Legion Post 24 of Blytheville
- National Eagle Scout Association
- Mississippi River Parkway Commission
- Governor's DWI Commission, and
- Silver Beaver Award

Senator Burnett and his wife, Sonja, attend First Christian Church in Osceola where he has served as chairman of the board. They have two children, United States Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Burnett and Amanda Burnett Marsh, and three grandchildren.