

Biography of
THE HONORABLE CECILE BLEDSOE
ARKANSAS STATE SENATOR



VICE CHAIRMAN - JOINT PERFORMANCE REVIEW
SENATE DISTRICT 8

Senator Cecile Bledsoe represents Senate District 8, which comprises a portion of Benton County. She is serving her first term in the Arkansas Senate.

During the 88th General Assembly, she serves as vice chairman of Joint Performance Review (JPR) and on the following committees: Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor; Insurance and Commerce; Senate Efficiency; Joint Budget Committee; Arkansas Legislative Council; and Legislative Joint Audit.

During the 87th General Assembly, Bledsoe was vice chairman of the Senate Substance Abuse Treatment Services Subcommittee and vice chairman of Legislative Joint Auditing – State Agencies Committee. She held membership on several committees: Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor; Senate City, County and Local Affairs; Joint Performance Review; Legislative Joint Auditing; Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC); ALC – Administrative Rules and Regulations; and the JPR – Property Assessments Subcommittee.

Nationally, Senator Bledsoe is active with several key organizations. She holds membership on the Health and Human Services Task Force of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), the Human Services and Public Safety Committee of the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) and the Human Services and Welfare Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL).

In 1998, Senator Bledsoe was elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives and served three consecutive terms. As a State Representative, she served on the House Judiciary, Education, Health and Welfare, Insurance and Commerce, State Agencies and Governmental Affairs, Joint Budget, and Joint Performance Review committees. Throughout her tenure as State Representative, she co-sponsored tort reform and passed legislation making safe retractable needles available to health care workers. Other key legislation covered issues on adoption, water resources, body piercing, medical savings accounts, medical student loan programs and perpetrators of sex crimes. She also helped secure grants and appropriations for several fire departments, city and community organizations, Northwest Arkansas Community College, and the Fayetteville Veterans Home.

She received several accolades during the 87th General Assembly; the Arkansas Medical Society selected Senator Bledsoe for their "Legislator of the Year Award" and she was recognized as a "Distinguished Legislator" by the Arkansas Municipal League.

Civically, Senator Bledsoe has served on the board of Miller Place and the board of directors for the Northwest Arkansas Agency on Aging, and is a former board member of the Kendrick Fincher Memorial Foundation and Our Farm, Inc. She is a member of the Benton County Republican Committee and the Benton County Republican Women.

Senator Bledsoe is a graduate of the University of Georgia with a bachelor's degree in journalism. She has resided in Rogers more than three decades and is married to Dr. Jim Bledsoe, her husband of 39 years. They have three adult children and five grandchildren. They are founding members of Grace Point Church.