

Biography of
THE HONORABLE JIMMY JEFFRESS
ARKANSAS STATE SENATOR



CHAIRMAN - SENATE EDUCATION
SENATE DISTRICT 24

Senator Jimmy Jeffress of Crossett represents Senate District 24, which comprises Ashley, Bradley, Chicot and Drew counties and a portion of Desha County.

During the 88th General Assembly Senator Jeffress, a retired teacher, will again serve as chairman of the Senate Education Committee. He has taken a special interest in public schools since he was elected to the House of Representatives in 1997.

Elected to the Senate in 2001, Senator Jeffress served on the Senate Education Committee in the 2004-2005 special session called in response to the Arkansas Supreme Court ruling public school funding was not adequately funded, as mandated by the Arkansas Constitution. In large part due to legislation developed by the Education Committee during that special session, the Supreme Court later ruled the state had satisfied its constitutional requirements to fund schools equitably and adequately.

Senator Jeffress' support has been vital to the Southeast Arkansas Human Development Center at Warren. He has also sponsored legislation for the University of Arkansas at Monticello and its satellite campuses, the Colleges of Technology in Crossett and McGehee.

Senator Jeffress was the lead sponsor of Act 394 of 2009, the graduated drivers license bill. The law requires Arkansas teenagers to first get an intermediate license and drive without any violations or traffic accidents in order to obtain a regular license. It also restricts teens from driving after 11 p.m. unless accompanied by an adult.

He co-sponsored legislation requiring police departments to develop stricter policies on racial profiling. Senator Jeffress has been a supporter of retired teachers and retired state employees, and he has worked to address the state's shortage of certified nurses.

Senator Jeffress is a member on the following legislative committees: Arkansas Legislative Council; Joint Budget; Joint Retirement and Social Security Systems; Agriculture, Forestry and Economic Development; Joint Energy; and the Senate Interim Committee on Children and Youth.

Previously he served in the House of Representatives from 1997-2000. His civic duties include Crossett City Council (1987-1993) and the Ashley County Quorum Court (1995-1996).

He holds a bachelor's degree in music education from the University of Arkansas at Monticello and a master's in music education from Northeast Louisiana University. He completed the Kennedy School of Government program at Harvard University.

He served as the chair of the Southern Legislative Conference's Education Committee from 2009-2010. In 2001, he was chosen as the Legislator of the Year by the Arkansas Municipal League. In 2000, he received the Legislator of the Year Award from the Arkansas School Counselors Association. In 1994 and 1998 he was named the Choral Director of the Year by the Southeast Arkansas Choral Directors Association.

He and his wife, Candace, have four daughters.