

Biography of
THE HONORABLE LINDA PONDEXTER CHESTERFIELD
ARKANSAS STATE SENATOR



CHAIRMAN – SENATE EFFICIENCY
SENATE DISTRICT 30

Senator Linda Pondexter Chesterfield represents Senate District 30, which comprises part of Pulaski County. She is serving her third term in the Arkansas Senate. Senator Chesterfield is chairman of the Senate Efficiency Committee and co-chairman of Local 911 Systems Blue Ribbon Committee. She is vice-chairman of Legislative Joint Auditing and its Executive Committee. She is also chairman of the Arkansas Legislative Black Caucus for the 90th General Assembly. Her current committee memberships include:

- Senate Judiciary
- Senate State Agencies & Governmental Affairs
- Senate Children and Youth
- Joint Budget Committee (JBC)
- Legislative Joint Auditing-Counties and Municipalities
- JBC-Personnel
- State & Public School Life & Health Insurance Task Force
- Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC)
- ALC-Claims Review
- Academic Facilities Oversight Committee
- Joint Committee on Constitutional Amendments
- Health Reform Legislative Task Force
- Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace Legislative Oversight Committee
- ALC-Policy Making
- ALC-Personnel
- Legislative Printing Requirements and Specifications
- Legislative Joint Auditing-Medicaid Subcommittee
- State Agencies & Governmental Affairs-Senate Constitutional Issues Subcommittee
- Desegregation Litigation Oversight Subcommittee

During the 89th General Assembly, she was chairman of Joint Energy, Local 911 Systems Blue Ribbon Committee and the Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC)-Policy Making. She was vice-chairman of Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor, Legislative Joint Auditing and the Executive Committee of Legislative Joint Auditing. (SLC).

During the 88th General Assembly, she served as chairman of the Senate Transportation, Technology and Legislative Affairs Committee and held membership on several other committees, including Joint Budget; Arkansas Legislative Council; Legislative Joint Auditing; Senate Revenue and Taxation; Senate Children and Youth; and Senate Rules, Resolutions and Memorials.

Regionally and nationally, Senator Chesterfield works with legislators as a member of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), the Council of State Governments and the Southern Legislative Conference. She serves on two SLC Committees - Human Services & Public Safety and Energy & Environment. She also serves on the Interbranch Affairs Committee of CSG and both the Redistricting & Elections and Law & Criminal Justice & Public Policy Committees of NCSL. On June 19, 2013, the Arkansas Municipal League honored Chesterfield with the Distinguished Legislator Award for her exemplary service benefiting cities and towns of Arkansas.

Senator Chesterfield came to the Senate with a wealth of legislative experience. She was elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives in 2002 to serve House District 36, where she served three consecutive terms. While in the House of Representatives, she served as chair of Aging, Children and Youth, Legislative and Military Affairs; as chair of Desegregation Litigation; and as chair of the K-12, Vocational - Technical School Institutions Subcommittee of Education. Formerly she served as the president of the Arkansas Democratic Black Caucus.

Civically, she has been active in many local, state and national organizations and has held various leadership positions, including past president of the Little Rock School Board and the Pulaski County Association of Classroom Teachers and past two-term president of the Arkansas Education Association. She is the only Arkansan to have been elected to the nine-member Executive Committee of the National Education Association.

Professionally, Senator Chesterfield is a retired educator with over 30 years of classroom experience. She and her husband, Emry, own a consulting firm, Pondexter Chesterfield Consulting. A native of Hope, Arkansas, Senator Chesterfield was the first African-American to graduate from Hendrix College. The Chesterfields reside in Little Rock and attend First Baptist Church.