

Biography of
THE HONORABLE LINDA PONDEXTER CHESTERFIELD
ARKANSAS STATE SENATOR



CHAIRMAN – JOINT ENERGY
SENATE DISTRICT 30

Senator Linda Pondexter Chesterfield represents Senate District 30, which comprises part of Pulaski County. She is serving her second term in the Arkansas Senate. In the current 89th General Assembly, she is chairman of Joint Energy and Arkansas Legislative Councils (ALC)-Policy Making. She is vice-chairman of Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor, Legislative Joint Auditing and the Executive Committee of Legislative Joint Auditing. Her other committee memberships include:

- Senate Transportation, Technology & Legislative Affairs
- Senate Children and Youth
- Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC)
- Joint Budget Committee (JBC)
- Joint Advanced Communications and Information Technology
- Senate Children and Youth Subcommittee
- ALC-Claims Review
- Economic and Tax Policy Committee
- ALC-Charitable, Penal and Correctional Institutions
- ALC-Higher Education Subcommittee
- Public Health-Senate Health Services
- ALC-Personnel
- Legislative Joint Auditing-Counties and Municipalities
- ALC-Hospital and Medicaid Study Subcommittee
- Legislative Joint Auditing-Medicaid Subcommittee
- Public Health-Senate Labor & Environment Subcommittee
- JBC-Personnel
- Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace Legislative Oversight Committee
- Community Services Oversight & Planning Councils
- Governor's Emergency Fund Review Committee

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.

Regionally and nationally, Senator Chesterfield works with legislators as a member of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC). With NCSL, she is a member of the Energy, Transportation and Agriculture Standing Committee and with SLC, she is a member of three committees including the Economic Development, Transportation & Cultural Affairs, Energy & Environment and Human Services and Public Safety.

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.

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 and is the current treasurer of the organization.

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.