

Representative Senfronia Thompson



Bringing Texas Together:
Campaign for Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives
for the
80th Legislative Session, 74th Speaker of the House

BIOGRAPHY

Texas native Senfronia Thompson was born in Booth, Texas, and raised in Houston. She represents Northeast Houston and Humble.

Dean of women legislators, Rep. Thompson has served longer in the Legislature than any other woman or African-American in Texas history. A Houston attorney, Ms. Thompson is currently serving her 17th term in the Texas House of Representatives.

Rep. Thompson currently chairs the Texas Legislative Black Caucus and the Women's Health Caucus. She is also a member of the Democratic National Committee, a state director of Women in Government, and a member of the Energy Council. She serves on the House Committees on Insurance and Juvenile Justice and Family Issues. For 12 years, she chaired one of the Legislature's busiest committees, the House Judicial Affairs Committees. In 1987, she chaired the first standing committee in the Legislature to have a female majority.

Rep. Thompson has authored and passed more than 200 Texas laws, including Texas' first alimony law, the James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Act, laws prohibiting racial profiling, the state minimum wage, the Durable Power of Attorney Act, the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act, the Sexual Assault Program Fund, the Model School Records Flagging Act, the Uniform Child Custody & Jurisdiction Enforcement Act, contraceptive parity, and scores of other reforms benefiting women, children and the elderly. Rep. Thompson pushed through major reforms in child support enforcement, simplified probate proceedings, and complete overhauls of statutes dealing with statutory county courts and municipal courts. In 2005, she passed legislation requiring free testing for the human papilloma virus (HPV), an early indicator of cervical cancer, for women who have health insurance.

Among many other honors, in 2005, Rep. Thompson was presented with the Matt Garcia Award by the Mexican-American Legislative Caucus; *PinkDome.com* named her one of the Top 2 House members. In 2001, Rep. Thompson was one of *Texas Monthly's* "Top 10 Legislators"; *AP* named her one of 6 lawmakers "Who Rocked the Legislature." In 2003, she was selected one of the Top 5 House members by *Gallery Watch*; *Nation* magazine named her one of 8 legislators in the country "who could teach Congressional Democrats." She was selected as an Eleanor Roosevelt Fellow by the Center for Policy Alternatives and named one of the Top 3 legislators in family law four sessions in a row. She is the only recipient of the Legislative Black Caucus' Rosa Parks Award.

Rep. Thompson has been in the forefront of every campaign against discrimination for the last four decades. Ms. Thompson has among the highest ranks of any legislator for her voting record on issues of concern to women, minorities, labor, consumers, reform advocates, domestic violence victims, the elderly, teachers and civil libertarians.

A former public school teacher, Ms. Thompson firmly believes in the value of public education; she has a Bachelor of Science degree in biology, a Master's degree in Education, a law degree, and a Masters of Law in international law. For many years, she has served on the advisory board of the United Negro College Fund. Ms. Thompson has two adult children and one grandson.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Representative Senfronia Thompson

Campaign Address

7611 Sterlingshire

Houston, Texas 77016

Phone: (713) 651-9353

Email address: SenfroniaThompson@yahoo.com

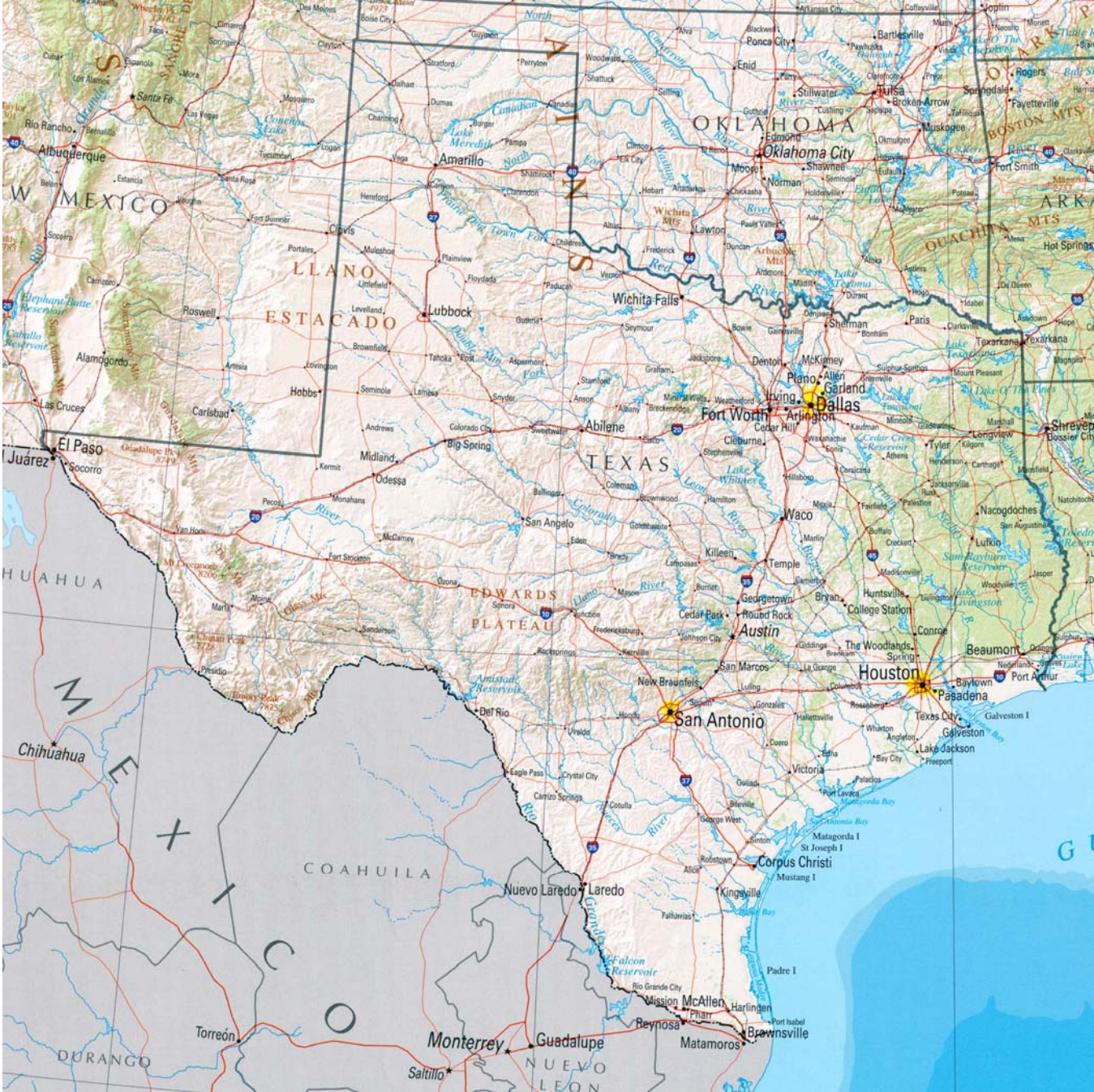
Website: www.SenfroniaForTexas.com

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Representative Senfronia Thompson: Over 33 Years of Service to the State of Texas

- ★ [Top Ten Best Legislator](#) – *Texas Monthly*, “The Best and the Worst Legislators”, Paul Burka and Patricia Kilday Hart, July 1, 2001.
- ★ [One of the Top Eight legislators in the country](#) – *The Nation*, “Local Heroes”, John Nichols, June 9, 2003.
- ★ [Woman of the Year](#) – Texas Women’s Political Caucus
- ★ [Top Five House Members](#) – Gallery Watch, 2003.
- ★ [One of the “25 Most Distinguished Women Leaders”](#) – *Houston News Pages*
- ★ [Rosa Parks Award](#) – Texas Legislative Black Caucus
- ★ [One of Six Lawmakers “Who Rocked the Legislature”](#) – *Associated Press*, 2001.
- ★ [The Matt Garcia Award](#) – Mexican American Legislative Caucus
- ★ [One of the Top Two House Members](#) – PinkDome.com
- ★ [Way With Words](#) – *Austin Chronicle*, “Best of 2005: Critics: Politics & Personalities: Way With Words”.
- ★ [Eleanor Roosevelt Fellow](#) – Center for Public Policy Alternatives
- ★ [Mary Polk Legislative Leadership Award](#) – Texas Council on Family Violence’s highest award
- ★ [Bettie Naylor Lifetime Achievement Award](#) – Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby
- ★ [John Walzel Political Equality Award](#) – Human Rights Campaign Houston
- ★ [Top Three Legislators in Family Law three years in a row](#) – Texas State Bar Association
- ★ [“Celebrating a Treasure: Honoring 30 Years of Dedicated Service”](#) – Honorary event for Rep. Thompson’s more than 30 years of public service, Houston, TX, October 5, 2002.
- ★ [Chair of Texas’ largest bipartisan urban caucus](#) – Harris County Delegation
- ★ [Keynote Speaker](#) – Southern Methodist University’s 31st Annual Women’s Conference.
- ★ [Legislative Commendation](#) – Texas County and District Attorney’s Association
- ★ [Legislative Commendation](#) – Texas Silver-Haired Legislature – For her work on the personal needs allowance which allows nursing home residents to keep a little of the pensions or Social Security to pay for personal items like toiletries, shoes, robes, radios, reading materials and haircuts.
- ★ [Legal Accomplishment for Education](#) – Her Amicus brief on public school financing was cited by the Texas Supreme Court majority when they declared Texas old public school finance system unconstitutional.
- ★ [Legal Accomplishment for Fairness](#) – In 1977, Rep. Thompson used her own funds to successfully convince the United States Justice Department to sue Texas for discrimination in financing, hiring and admissions at Texas traditionally Black public universities, creating a fund to improve facilities, libraries and faculty.

THE STATE OF TEXAS



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