



Rep. Al Williams
District 168

Biography

State Representative Al Williams proudly serves the citizens of House District 168 in Georgia. Elected to the Georgia General Assembly in 2002 after a life of civic and political involvement, he was sworn in among a cohort of 52 freshmen state representatives on January 13, 2003. Rep. Williams embodies the essence of a devoted family man, dedicated church leader, military veteran, businessman, and a steadfast advocate for the hardworking people of Georgia.

In his role within the Georgia House of Representatives, Rep. Williams contributes his expertise to various important committees. He serves on the Rural Development Council, Appropriations Subcommittee for Public Safety, the Special Subcommittee on State Prisons, the House Rules Committee, as well as committees focused on Economic Development and Tourism, Defense and Veteran Affairs, Game Fish and Parks, and Regulated Industries. His commitment extends beyond these committees as he is also a member of the Georgia Joint Military Defense Commission. Notably, he has served as the past chairman of the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus, the largest Black caucus in America, and has received numerous local, state, and national accolades, including the nationally prestigious Trumpet Award in 2008.

Rep. Williams' political journey began at a young age. At just 13 years old, he became a door knocker for John F. Kennedy during the 1960 presidential campaign. This early involvement fueled his passion for civic engagement, leading him to obtain his first NAACP card and become the inaugural NAACP Youth Council president for the Liberty County Branch. His leadership roles continued as he served as the State Youth Council vice president for Georgia, the first African American national committeeman for the Young Democrats of Georgia, and as the first African American state representative from Liberty County since Reconstruction. He also contributed as a political advisor and session aide to influential leaders like Zell Miller and the late Senator Glenn Bryant.

Rep. Williams' commitment to civil rights is highlighted by his participation in historic marches. He marched in the first "March on Washington" in 1963 and participated in the Selma to Montgomery march in 1965. Throughout the Civil Rights Movement, he was jailed 17 times for his activism. His dedication to the Democratic Party is reflected in his service as a delegate to

eight Democratic National Conventions (DNC), where he also sat on the Rules Committee during the DNC in Philadelphia.

In addition to his political service, Rep. Williams is an esteemed board member of the Liberty County Visitors and Tourism Committee, the Chairman of the Liberty County Development Authority, and a board member of the Midway Coast Regional Airport Authority. He is the vice chairman of Fair Fight Action and a founding board member alongside Stacey Abrams. He holds the title of NAACP Silver Life Member and is an active participant in several organizations, including the Liberty County Democratic Committee, Liberty County Chamber of Commerce, National Association of State Legislators, National Black Caucus of State Legislators, and the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus. His leadership extends to his role as chairman of Liberty County's development and tourism authorities.

Born and raised in Liberty County to the late Alexander and Carrie Williams, Rep. Williams was nurtured in a family steeped in strong church and community values. He grew up with his twin sister and two other siblings, influenced by a father who worked as a laborer and a mother who dedicated her career to teaching in the Liberty County School System. His grandfather, the late Rev. W. C. Shipman, holds the distinction of being the first Black registered voter and first NAACP member in Liberty County.

As a Vietnam War veteran, Rep. Williams brings a wealth of experience to his service. He pursued his education at Saint Leo University and John Marshall School of Law, earning an Honorary Doctorate of Humanities from Trinity Bible College.

One of Rep. Williams' most cherished memories is a visit to the Holy Land in 2000 with his beloved wife, Olivia. Together, they have celebrated more than 40 years of marriage and are proud parents to five sons.

Through his enduring commitment to public service, Al Williams continues to exemplify the best qualities of leadership, advocating for the needs and aspirations of his community while fostering a legacy of empowerment and progress.