

★ CURRENT MEMBERS ★

Al Green
1947–

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
DEMOCRAT FROM TEXAS

2005–



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE MEMBER

In 2005, Judge Al Green took the congressional oath of office to serve the people of Texas's new 9th Congressional District and began his first term in the United States House of Representatives. As a Houston judge and lawyer, and the Houston National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) branch president, he has dedicated most of his life to fighting for those in society whose voices are too often unheard, taken for granted, or simply ignored.

Born in New Orleans, Louisiana, Representative Green learned the importance of education from his parents and extended family, who instilled within him the drive and determination to succeed in spite of obstacles. After graduating from Chactawhatchee High School, he attended Florida A&M University and Tuskegee Institute of Technology. Although he did not acquire an undergraduate degree, he entered law school. In 1974, Representative Green earned his law degree from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University, where he later served as an instructor.

Upon graduating from law school, Green cofounded and co-managed the law firm of Green, Wilson, Dewberry and Fitch. In 1977, he was appointed judge of a Harris County justice court, where he served for 26 years before retiring in 2004.

Throughout his career, Green has earned the respect of his colleagues and a wide cross section of community leaders. He has been recognized for his superior legal skills, impeccable character, and innate ability to communicate skillfully with people from diverse backgrounds.

For nearly 10 years, Green served as president of the Houston branch of the NAACP. Under his leadership, the organization grew to unprecedented heights, acquiring property and increasing its membership from a few hundred to thousands.

Representative Green would become known as an unwavering defender of equality and a champion of justice for all. During his tenure, he oversaw the purchase and renovation of two buildings that would serve as the Houston NAACP's headquarters. In an effort to ensure that all Houstonians could participate in their economy, Green created the Houston Fair Share Program, which encourages corporations to join with minority firms in joint ventures and to hire minority vendors. He also cofounded the Black and Brown Coalition with Judge Armando Rodriguez to bring together Houston's African-American and Latino communities to work on issues of common interest.

During his first term as a Member of the 109th Congress (2005–2007), Representative Green acquired a seat on the Financial Services Committee. He has remained an active member of that committee in the 110th Congress (2007–2009), serving on the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit as well as the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity. In the 109th Congress, he also acquired a seat on the Science Committee (later renamed Science and Technology), serving on the Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee—a key appointment considering the proximity of the 9th District to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Johnson Space Flight Center. In the 110th Congress, Representative Green left the Science and Technology Committee to take a spot on the Homeland Security Committee. He sits on the Subcommittee on Border, Maritime, and Global Counterterrorism and the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats, Cybersecurity, and Science and Technology.

Green's chief legislative priorities for his second term in office are creating a federal living wage; reducing chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats; eliminating policies and practices that have historically victimized low- and moderate-income communities; and increasing the availability of affordable housing to ensure that every American can realize the dream of having a place to call home.

While working on current priorities, Representative Green maintains his focus on his compelling goals of eliminating poverty, expanding economic opportunities, protecting Social Security, providing affordable health care, perfecting national security, improving education, and promoting world peace.

Representative Green was elected Whip of Region VI and serves as the Housing Task Force Chair for CAPAC, the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

FOR FURTHER READING

"Green, Al," *Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, 1774–Present*, <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=G000553>.