

Biography of U.S. Representative Chris Bell and information on the 25th Congressional District.

Since taking office on January 7, 2003, U.S. Representative Chris Bell has been committed to bringing the voice of the 25th district to Washington. As a former Houston City Council Member, Chris Bell earned a reputation as an independent thinker with a common sense approach to governing. While on City Council, Mr. Bell authored and passed landmark ethics reforms and the City's only property tax rate rollback in recent times.

The son of a decorated veteran, Congressman Bell was born on November 23, 1959, in Dallas, Texas. He first expressed interest in public service while attending the University of Texas at Austin, where he received a Bachelor of Journalism degree in 1982. While there he served as President of the Interfraternity Council and was a member of the Texas Cowboys. He was named Omicron Delta Kappa Leader of the Year for his pivotal role in reviving the student government. Prior to receiving a law degree from South Texas College of Law in 1992, he pursued a successful career as an award winning television and radio reporter. In 1990, Bell was selected best radio reporter in the state by the Texas Associated Press.

Within the House of Representatives, Congressman Bell serves on three standing committees. His standing committee assignments include the International Relations Committee, the Science Committee and the Committee on Government Reform. As a member of the International Relations Committee, Congressman Bell plays a vital role in developing foreign policy and national security measures.

Congressman Bell and his wife Alison, have two children, Atlee, who is seven years old and Connally, who is five. The Bells have remained active in their community and are members of the Christ Church Cathedral. Congressman Bell has long been a champion for children, serving on the board of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Gulf Coast Region and the Houston / Harris County Joint Commission on Children. He also served on the boards of the Downtown Houston Association and American Diabetes Association, Taping for the Blind, and the Houston Area Parkinson Society. Demonstrating his commitment to the underserved, Congressman Bell has volunteered his time on a weekly basis to cook and feed the homeless at the Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church Way Station.

The 25th district is in the heart of the Houston metropolitan area and is the most culturally diverse district in the State of Texas. The district boundaries include southwest and eastern portions of Harris County as well as the City of Houston's precincts in Fort Bend County. The southwest side of the district includes the communities of Bellaire, Southhampton, Rice University, Southgate, Braeburn, Westwood, Alief, Gulfton, Braeswood, Fondren Southwest, Meyerland, Westbury, Sunnyside, West University, Southside Place, the Medical Center, Willow Meadows - Braes Meadow, River Oaks, and Hiram Clarke. Precincts running along the southern Harris County border connect the southwest and eastern portions of the district. The Houston Ship Channel and the Port of Houston extend along the East Side of the district.