



Rep. Richard Smith
District 139

Biography

Richard Smith was born in Wrightsville, Georgia. Richard moved to Madison, Georgia and graduated from Morgan County High School. During Richard's senior year, he was quarterback for the state championship football team at Morgan County High School. Upon completion of high school, he earned a Bachelor of Science from Louisiana State University (LSU) (1968) and a Master of Science from the University of Florida (UF) (1970). While at LSU, Richard was inducted into the honorary fraternity, Alpha Zeta.

In 1970, Richard began his career with the UF Cooperative Extension Service. In 1978, he transferred to the University of Georgia (UGA) Cooperative Extension Service. During his tenure with the UGA Cooperative Extension Service, Richard served in Statesboro, Cedartown and Columbus. While serving as extension director, he also served as an adjunct faculty member of the UGA Fanning Leadership Center from 1990 until 1999.

Richard is no stranger to public service. Prior to being elected as the state representative for House District 131 (currently House District 134), Richard served as:

- Interim City Manager for the Columbus Consolidated Government: December 15th, 1989 until March 1990;
- Columbus City Councilor: 1999 to 2002. At-large post, serving one year as budget chair;
- Chattahoochee Valley Community Foundation, founding board member;
- Chattahoochee Valley Fair and Exposition, president;
- Columbus Downtown Rotary Club, member;
- First Baptist Church of Columbus, member.

Richard was first elected to the Georgia House of Representatives on November 2, 2004, and sworn in on January 10, 2005. Richard is currently serving his 8th term in the Georgia House of Representatives, where he represents portions of Muscogee and Harris counties. Rep. Smith previously served as the chairman of the House Insurance Committee from 2011 to 2020. In 2020, he was appointed as the chairman of the House Rules Committee. His other House committee assignments include:

- Insurance Committee, Member;
- Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care, member;

- Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education, member ;
- Natural Resources and Environment Committee, member;
- Legislative & Congressional Reapportionment Committee, member.

Richard is on the Executive Committee of the National Council of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL) serving faithfully.

Richard offers a unique combination of skills and abilities: knowledge of subject matter, industry knows and respects, having a genuine desire to serve the state and is well respected by members of the Georgia General Assembly.