



Joan Huffman

Senator ★ District 17

Senator Joan Huffman started her career as a public servant in 1981. Upon earning her undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University, she became a secretary for the Harris County District Attorney's office. It was there that she became inspired by the work of prosecutors and decided to attend law school. She took night classes at South Texas College of Law while working full time.

Upon earning her law degree, Joan was hired as a prosecutor and advanced from misdemeanor court to Chief Felony Prosecutor, Special Crimes Gang Prosecutor, and Legal Counsel to the Organized Crime Narcotics Task Force. She served as lead prosecutor in over 100 jury trials, including murders, sexual assaults, aggravated robberies, and sexual assaults of children. Huffman earned a reputation as a fair and tough enforcer of the law both as a prosecutor and a twice elected Judge to the 183rd Criminal District Court.

Senator Huffman was first elected to the Texas Senate in 2008 after winning a special election to fill the vacated office of Senate District 17 and has been twice re-elected. Her background and knowledge on various topics has allowed for her to serve on several key committees which impact the overall operation and efficiency of state government. She currently serves as Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on State Affairs, Vice Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Criminal Justice, and is a member of the Senate Committee on Finance and Legislative Budget Board.

Senator Huffman's common sense approach to solving issues has allowed for her to build strong relationships with members of both parties, which enables her to represent the needs of her district and her constituents efficiently and effectively. Her leadership has been acknowledged by numerous advocacy groups. She was named a "Champion for Free Enterprise" by the Texas Association of Business, a "Taxpayer Champion" by Texans for Fiscal Responsibility and a "Big Voice for Little Texans" by Court Appointed Special Advocates for her work to protect children. She was also named a "Patient Care Champion" by the Harris County Medical Society and is the only repeat recipient of the Texas District and County Attorneys Association's "Law and Order Award" since its inception, for her efforts to improve victims' protections and the criminal justice system.

Senator Huffman lives with her family in Houston and proudly represents a diverse district which includes portions of Brazoria, Fort Bend and Harris counties.