

Biography Of Congresswoman Corrine Brown 3rd Congressional District Of Florida

Corrine Brown was elected to Congress in 1992, as a public servant committed to providing quality constituent services and this has remained her priority for the past ten years. As a result, there are more police officers on the streets in the district, federal government has invested more in Florida's transportation and infrastructure needs, and local, state and federal officials have created an unshakable partnership. By bringing Washington to the Third District, Congresswoman Brown has provided constituents with increased access to their government.

When Congresswoman Brown was elected, it was the first time since Reconstruction that Florida sent an African American to Congress. The Third District was created in 1992 to empower minorities but the Federal Court struck it down in April of 1996. A new district was redrawn and it now includes the cities of Jacksonville, Orlando and parts of several counties: Clay, Duval, Lake, Putnam, Orange, Seminole and Volusia.

In the U.S. House of Representatives, Congresswoman Brown has demonstrated a commitment to fiscal responsibility while advocating social responsibility. She has been the voice for the poor and working people of America, and the senior citizens and the children. She has fought for programs like Head Start and school lunches, while supporting the Earned Income Tax Credit for low-income families. She voted for the Family and Medical Leave Act, which provide workers with unpaid leave to care for newborn or ill children. She was an ardent supporter of the President's crime bill and as a result, more than 200 new police officers are walking the beat in communities in the Third District. Congresswoman Brown believes in investments that protect and promote our children, education, the environment and our communities. She is the second vice-chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, and she is an active member of the Women's Caucus, the Human Rights Caucus and the Progressive Caucus.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

As one of five women currently serving on the Veterans Affairs Committee, Congresswoman Brown has been a crucial advocate for women veterans -- the fastest growing group of veterans in the country. She is also on the Subcommittees on Health and Benefits. During the 106th Congress, Congresswoman Brown introduced legislation that calls for better burial facilities for veterans in Florida. Florida is home to our nation's oldest veterans, and many veterans are unable to receive burial in a veteran's cemetery because the cemeteries are simply too far from the homes of their families. In the 104th Congress, Congresswoman Brown introduced legislation to improve the health care services available to women veterans. Provisions of her bills were included in a veteran's package that was signed into law by President Clinton in October 1996. Brown's provisions will guarantee quality mammography standards and patient privacy for women veterans when they visit a VA hospital. Her legislation will also begin an ongoing assessment of women's health care services, so that targeted improvements can be made in the future. Congresswoman Brown has also introduced legislation that would better compensate disabled veterans who have left the military.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

As one of Florida's three members on the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Congresswoman Brown has fought rigorously to get Florida its share of transportation money. For years, Florida has been a donor state to the Highway Trust Fund and the Airport Improvement Program. Congresswoman Brown was a leader in the fight to change transportation funding through an initiative called "Tea-21," which returns more transportation money to populous states like Florida and Texas. As a result, Florida will receive \$1.2 billion per year in transportation funds, which is a 57% increase over the last six years. As the third-ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on Aviation, Congresswoman Brown successfully lobbied to change the language in the Airport Improvement Program so that Florida's airports receive more funding from the FAA.

Congresswoman Brown also serves on the Subcommittee for Coast Guard and Maritime and is the Ranking Member on the Railroad Subcommittee. She believes that the key to the future is in developing cutting edge public transportation. Congresswoman Brown has fought diligently to secure funding for the transportation needs of the Third District, and she has been a leading advocate of the light rail project for Central Florida. Economic development is the key to growth in any community, and Congresswoman Brown believes that investing in infrastructure is pivotal to this process. That is why she fought to get funding for new courthouses in Orlando and Jacksonville, a Fuller Warren Bridge in Jacksonville and water and sewage treatment plants in Hawthorne and Macclenny.

A native of Jacksonville, Florida, Congresswoman Brown served in the Florida House of Representatives for ten years before coming to Washington. Congresswoman Brown attended Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree. She also received a Master's Degree and an Education Specialist Degree from the University of Florida, and she received an Honorary Doctor of Law Degree from Edward Waters College. She has been a faculty member at Florida Community College of Jacksonville, the University of Florida, and Edward Waters College. Her daughter, Shantrel Brown, is an attorney in Washington.