

Background Information on Eric Johnson

Candidate for Dallas Mayor

Professional Experience

Texas House of Representatives, Austin, TX

State Representative, April 2010 to Present

- Founder and Former Chairman of the Young Texans Legislative Caucus
- Vice Chairman of the Innovation and Technology Caucus
- Chairman of the Dallas Area Legislative Delegation
- House Committees (since 2010): Appropriations, Ways and Means, Higher Education, Calendars, Natural Resources (Vice Chair), General Investigating and Ethics (Vice Chair), Economic and Small Business Development (Vice Chair), Redistricting (Vice Chair), Investments and Financial Services, Homeland Security and Public Safety, Elections, Corrections, Criminal Jurisprudence, Higher Education Governance, Excellence and Transparency, State and Federal Power and Responsibility (Select), Transparency in State Agency Operations, and Manufacturing (Interim)

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, Dallas, TX

Of Counsel, Public Finance, February 2018 to Present

- #1 rated municipal bond law firm in the United States
- Acquired Andrews Kurth Kenyon's public finance law practice in February 2018 (see below)

Andrews Kurth Kenyon LLP, Dallas, TX

Of Counsel, Public Finance, September 2013 to February 2018

- Municipal bond attorney representing major issuers of municipal securities as well as national and regional investment banking firms that underwrite municipal securities

Education

Harvard Kennedy School Senior Executives in State & Local Government, Cambridge, MA

Executive Education Certificate, July 2018

- Awarded Cahn Public Service Fellowship (full tuition scholarship; awarded to only four state and local government elected officials from around the country per cohort)

University of Pennsylvania Law School, Philadelphia, PA

Juris Doctor, June 2003

- Associate Editor, Journal of International Law
- Awarded Public Service Scholarship (2/3 tuition scholarship; only four recipients per entering class) based on public service record

Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton, NJ

Master of Public Affairs, June 2003

- Field of Concentration: International Relations
- Public Policy and International Affairs Scholar (full tuition scholarship)

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Bachelor of Arts, History, cum laude, June 1998

- Director, Cambridge Youth Enrichment Program
- John Lord O'Brian Public Service Scholarship
- Stride Rite Public Service Scholarship

Greenhill School, Dallas, TX

Diploma, June 1994

Current Memberships and Affiliations

- Council on Foreign Relations, *Member*
- Southwestern Medical Foundation, *Member, Board of Trustees*
- The Dallas Assembly, *Member*
- Southern Methodist University, Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development, *Member, Executive Board*
- Democratic National Committee, *Member*
- Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee, *Chairman of Finance Council & Member, Board of Directors*
- Let America Vote, *Member, Board of Advisors*
- Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, *Life Member*
- Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, *Grand Public Policy Committee Member*
- National Black Caucus of State Legislators, *Member, Executive Committee & Co-Chair of International Relations Committee*
- Princeton University, Princeton Prize in Race Relations, *Chairman, Dallas Region*
- National Association of Corporate Directors, *Member, North Texas Chapter*

Former Memberships and Affiliations

- Southern Legislative Conference, *Chairman of Fiscal Affairs and Governmental Operations Committee*
- Dallas Arboretum, *Member, Board of Directors*
- Voice of Hope Ministries, *Member, Board of Directors*
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Dallas, Inc., *Member, Board of Directors*
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, *Member, Board of Directors*
- Educational Opportunities, Inc., *Member, Board of Directors*
- West Dallas Chamber of Commerce, *Member, Board of Directors*
- Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance, *Member, Board of Directors*
- The Arts Community Alliance, *Member, Board of Directors*
- Dallas County Historical Commission, *Member & Chairman of African American Historical Marker Committee*
- Dallas Afterschool Network, *Member, Advisory Council*

Awards and Honors

- Cleophas R. Steele Social Justice Award (2018)
- National Association of Social Workers – Dallas “Public Elected Official of the Year” Award (2018)
- Dallas County Democratic Party’s “Elected Official of the Year” Award (2018)
- Marshall Memorial Fellowship Recipient, German Marshall Fund of the United States (2016)
- Governing Magazine “Ideas Challenge” Winner (2015)
- North Texas Crime Commission "Crime Fighter of the Year" (2014)
- Dallas Business Journal “40 Under 40” Award (2014)
- Selected to participate in the Southern Legislative Conference's Center for Advancement of Leadership Skills Program (2014)
- Rodel Fellowship in Public Leadership Recipient, The Aspen Institute (2013)
- American Council of Young Political Leaders Fellowship Recipient (2012)
- Keynote Speaker for the City of Dallas’ 30th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Banquet in Dallas (2012)
- Emerging Leaders Program Fellowship Recipient, State Legislative Leaders Foundation (2011)
- Dallas Regional Chamber “Courage in Public Service” Award (2011)
- Texas Junior Chamber of Commerce “Five Outstanding Young Texans” Award (2011)
- Public Policy and International Affairs Fellowship Program Achievement Award (2011)
- Dallas Junior Chamber of Commerce “Five Outstanding Young Dallasites” Award (2007)
- Leadership Dallas (2006)

International Experience

- Republic of China (Taiwan), as part of State of Texas delegation
- Israel, as part of American Council of Young Political Leaders delegation
- Palestinian Territories, as part of American Council of Young Political Leaders delegation
- People’s Republic of China (PRC), as part of China-U.S. Exchange Foundation delegation of state and local government “Rising Stars”
- Mexico, as part of State of Texas delegation
- Belgium, as part of Marshall Memorial Fellowship delegation
- Germany, as part of Marshall Memorial Fellowship delegation
- Spain, as part of Marshall Memorial Fellowship delegation
- Bosnia and Herzegovina, as part of Marshall Memorial Fellowship delegation

Personal and Family

- Married to wife, Nikki, for eleven years
- Two sons, William (age 4) and George (age 1)
- Member, Skillman Church of Christ in Dallas, Texas

Published Opinion Pieces

- [Eric Johnson: How to make Fair Park a partner in the neighborhood](#), Dallas Morning News, February 2012
- [Eric Johnson: Would mandatory national service benefit our youth?](#), Dallas Morning News, June 2012
- [Eric Johnson: Water main breaks remind us what's at stake](#), Dallas Morning News, July 2013
- [Enrichment outside school is vital for less affluent kids](#), Dallas Morning News, October 2013
- [Do white voters fit into strategy to color Texas blue?](#), Dallas Morning News, June 2014
- [The path forward for pre-K](#), Texas Tribune, March 2015
- [Eric Johnson: Include neighborhood residents in plans, governance of Fair Park](#), Dallas Morning News, July 2016
- [A Texan View on Secessionist Movements in Belgium and Spain](#), German Marshall Fund, November 2016
- [How to make gentrification good for low-income neighbors](#), Dallas Morning News, March 2017
- [Texas lawmakers shouldn't contribute to a delay of justice](#), Texas Tribune, April 2017
- [The Legislature has failed our youngest students](#), Texas Tribune, June 2017
- [Texas Republicans' voter fraud solutions are not to be trusted](#), Fort Worth Star-Telegram, July 2017
- [Texans can help defeat predatory lenders by voting for Proposition 7](#), Dallas Morning News, October 2017
- [Counterfactual Textbooks Hurt Our Kids](#), San Antonio Observer, May 2018
- [Special session on guns would be a waste of time](#), Houston Chronicle, June 2018

Legislative Highlights

- Has been a champion for early childhood education in the Texas Legislature and the leading voice advocating for high quality, full-day, formula funded pre-kindergarten since he was elected
 - [The Legislative Fight Over Pre-K: Eric Johnson went to Austin to push for improved education. Greg Abbott offered \\$118 million. He said it wasn't enough.](#), D Magazine
 - [Dallas Rep. Eric Johnson releases bipartisan reform plan for Pre-K](#), Dallas Morning News
 - Chaired Pre-K Business Roundtable hosted by the Southern Methodist University Simmons School of Education and Human Development in 2018
- Joint authored and passed major legislation to fund water infrastructure and conservation projects throughout the State of Texas in 2013
- Authored and passed legislation that allows the Dallas Independent School District to invest funds saved by graduating students early to be used to fund full-day pre-k in 2013
- Authored and passed legislation to create Banking Development Districts to expand access to mainstream banking services in 2015

- Authored and passed legislation that eliminated barriers to crowdfunding for small businesses in 2015
- Authored and passed legislation to allow city, county, and district attorneys to prosecute a particular type of real estate fraud first highlighted by the Dallas Morning News in 2015
 - [Tod Robberson: Legislator's bill would fight contagion of adverse possession](#), Dallas Morning News
- Authored and passed legislation to prohibit the elimination of in-person visitation in county jails across Texas in 2015
 - [House Gives Tentative OK to Visitation Rights for Inmates](#), Texas Tribune
- Authored and passed legislation to allow city and district attorneys to prosecute a certain type of fraud in which certain Notaries Public exploit Spanish speakers who conflate the Spanish word for Notary Public ("notario") with attorney in 2015
- Sponsored and passed legislation that established statewide standards for the use of body cameras by police and helped law enforcement agencies throughout the state procure and operate body cameras using grants distributed by the state in 2015
- Authored and passed legislation to prohibit the suspension of students in pre-kindergarten through second grade in 2017
 - [Texas Governor Signs Bill to Help Shut Off School-to-Prison Pipeline](#), The Root
- Successfully amended the Texas Constitution to allow financial institutions to incentivize personal savings by offering innovative financial products in 2017
 - [Talk about an incentive: Banks want to pay you to save more money](#), Dallas Morning News
- Was the leading voice to speak out against mail-in ballot voter fraud in Dallas
 - [Reports of voter fraud in West Dallas have 'deeply troubled' Mike Rawlings, Rep. Eric Johnson](#), Dallas Morning News, April 2017
- Authored legislation to address the potential negative impacts of gentrification by providing additional tools for the City of Dallas to use to increase the availability of affordable housing and protect longtime residents from involuntary displacement in 2017
 - [This State Lawmaker Is Trying To Save The Place Where He Grew Up: West Dallas](#), KERA
 - [Thwarted in Austin, Rep. Eric Johnson asks Dallas mayor to soften blow of gentrification](#), Dallas Morning News
- Authored the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) in the Texas Legislature, a bill that would prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. In 2017, Johnson passed the ENDA out of the House Committee on Business

and Industry, the farthest the bill has ever advanced in Texas legislative history, with bipartisan support after Johnson convinced colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote for the measure.

- [LGBT anti-discrimination bills overcome first hurdle in unprecedented committee vote](#), Dallas Morning News
- Authored and passed legislation, working with the Dallas Police Department, the Texas Attorney General, and statewide law enforcement, that created a statewide reporting system for officer-involved shootings in 2015 and added an enforcement mechanism to the law in 2017
 - [Texas debuts public database of police shootings](#), Houston Chronicle
 - [Texas Gov. Abbott signs bill to enforce reporting of police shootings](#), Texas Tribune
 - [Texas Governor Signs Bill Into Law Enforcing the Reporting of Police Shootings](#), The Root
- Was the only Democrat to run for Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives in 2018
 - [Dallas Democrat Eric Johnson running for speaker of Texas House](#), Dallas Morning News
- Led a successful effort to remove a Confederate plaque from the Texas Capitol that denied slavery was an underlying cause of the Civil War in 2019
 - [Confederate plaque denying slavery's role in U.S. Civil War no longer adorns Texas Capitol](#), New York Daily News
 - [Confederate plaque at Texas Capitol removed over the weekend](#), Dallas Morning News
 - [Abbott, Patrick, Bonnen Quietly Vote to Remove Slavery-Denying Plaque from Texas Capitol](#), Texas Observer

Electoral History

- Texas House of Representatives
District 100
 - 2018 General Election
 - Eric Johnson (100%)
 - 2018 Democratic Primary
 - Eric Johnson (71%)
 - 2016 General Election
 - Eric Johnson (87%)
 - 2014 General Election
 - Eric Johnson (90%)
 - 2012 General Election
 - Eric Johnson (100%)
 - 2010 General Election
 - Eric Johnson (100%)
 - 2010 Democratic Primary
 - Eric Johnson (75%) ***defeated a 14-year incumbent***