



**Rep. Ron Stephens**  
**R-164**

Biography

State Representative Ron Stephens (R-Savannah) represents the 164th District in the Georgia House of Representatives. Rep. Stephens is the Chairman of the House Economic Development & Tourism Committee. Rep. Stephens has been a member of the House for eighteen years. Rep. Stephens is also a member of the Appropriations, Rules, and Ways and Means Committees. May 24, 2013 Governor Nathan Deal appointed Rep. Stephens to the Georgia Tourism Foundation.

Representative Stephens is a graduate from Armstrong State & Mercer University with a degree in Pharmacy. He and his wife, Janice, have two daughters, Karen and Ashlin, two grandsons, Walker Reese and James "Beau" William Dukes, IV and one granddaughter, Ivey Carolina. The Stephens' are members of Richmond Hill Baptist Church. Representative Stephens has spent thirty-seven years as a pharmacist. Before being elected to the House, Rep. Stephens earned a seat as a City Councilman in Garden City. Proven a consensus builder and a member who can reach across party lines, Rep. Stephens was selected as the Vice-Chair of the Appropriations Health subcommittee and as a member of the Economic Development subcommittee, under a democratic majority and leadership.

Rep. Stephens was selected as the Chair of the Economic Development & Tourism Committee because of his experience of seventeen years in the General Assembly. Representative Stephens is passionate about protecting and strengthening Georgia's tourism business. He has served on the Appropriations Committee for seventeen years. Representative Stephens is the co-author of the first floating homestead exemption in Georgia now applying in more than 50 taxing districts in the state which effectively freezes property taxes for the homeowner. It is known as the STEPHENS-DAY Bill HB 350. He also served and was pioneer on the original tourism study committee that led to the formation of the current Economic Development and Tourism Committee, which earned him the Leadership Award for efforts to bring non-traditional tourism industries over to the tourism side.

- 2016 Distinguished Alumni, Armstrong State University
- 2016 J.C. Lewis Outstanding Republican of the Year
- 2015 Bowl of Hygeia Award for Outstanding Practicing Pharmacist
- 2015 Georgia Hospitality Champion
- 2015 GWC Clean Water Champion
- 2015 Georgia Arts Network Advocate Award
- 2013 Legislator of the Year from the Georgia Rural Health Association
- 2012 The Charitable Care Network Chairman's Award
- 2012 The Shooting Star Award, from Georgia Production Partnership
- 2008 Legislator of the Year by the Governor's Tourism Conference
- 2008 Star of Life Legislative Award Georgia Emergency Medical Services
- 2007 Legislator of the Year Award GHPA ( Public Health Departments)
- 2006 Herb & Franklin Traub Visionary Award, Savannah Area Tourism Leadership Council

- 2006 Representative of the Year Award from the Georgia Retail Association
- 2005 Hospital Association Legislator of the Year
- 2004 Champion of Georgia Cities Award by Georgia Municipal Association
- 2004 Legislator of the Year Award Georgia Pharmacy Association
- 2003 State Tourism Champion of the Year Tourism Development Alliance of Georgia
- 2002 Champion of Georgia Cities Award by Georgia Municipal Association
- 2002 Legislator of the Year Award Association County Commissioners of Georgia
- 1999 Senior Citizen's Inc. Legislator of the Year Award
- Carl Henderson Award from Mercer University