



Rep. Calvin Smyre
District 135

Biography

State Representative Calvin Smyre, business executive, state legislator, community and national leader, earned his B.S. degree from Fort Valley State University, majoring in Business Administration, with a minor in accounting.

His career path has taken him from being a community organizer and director of the “War on Poverty” program in Columbus, Georgia, to his current positions as executive vice president of Corporate External Affairs at Synovus and president of the Synovus Foundation. He also serves on the company’s eight-member Corporate Executive Group. Synovus (NYSE: “SNV”) is a diversified financial services holding company with over \$32 billion in assets based in Columbus, Georgia. Synovus provides integrated financial services including banking, financial management, insurance, mortgage and leasing services through 39 banks and other Synovus offices in Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, Florida and Tennessee; and electronic payment processing through an 81 percent stake in TSYS (NYSE: “TSS”), the world’s largest third-party processor of international payments. Synovus has been named one of “The 100 Best Companies To Work For” in America by FORTUNE magazine and has been recognized in its Hall of Fame for consecutive appearances on the list since its inception in 1998. In 2004, Synovus was also named as one of “America’s Most Admired Companies.” See Synovus on the Web at www.synovus.com.

He was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 1974 as its youngest member at 26 years of age. As a 44-year legislative veteran and one of the “Deans of the House,” he serves on the most important committees of the House. In the state’s budgetary process, he serves on the Appropriations Committee, which is responsible for dividing up the \$26 billion state budget. He is also a member of the powerful calendar-setting Rules Committee, as well as chairman of the House Minority Caucus. Rep. Smyre has previously served as chairman of the House Rules Committee and University System of Georgia Committee, which has oversight responsibility for the state’s 34 public colleges and universities, from 1993-1999, and he served as chairman of the House Industrial Relations Committee from 1991 to July 1993.

Rep. Smyre has a distinguished legislative record, which includes authoring the legislation making Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr’s birthday a state holiday and legislation creating the historic Georgia Dome, home of the Atlanta Falcons. He was also instrumental and co-sponsor of the historic legislation (House Bill 16) creating a new Georgia State Flag.

In 1979, he was elected by his peers as chairman of the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus and, in 1982, was elected president of the Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials. In 1983, he was appointed assistant administrative floor leader by Governor Joe Frank Harris, and in 1986, in

an historic move, Governor Harris appointed him administrative floor leader, thus becoming the first African-American in history to hold this position. In 1985, he was elected to the Democratic National Committee, also becoming the first African-American elected official from Georgia to serve in this post.

Nationally, he is president of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, a member of the Assembly on State Issues of the National Conference of State Legislators, and he also serves as a Synovus representation on the Financial Services Roundtable; all three headquartered in Washington, D.C. Rep. Smyre has lectured at a number of colleges and universities and has received over 200 local, state and national honors and awards. In 1980, he was selected by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution as one of the "Ten Best Legislators" in the state and in 1985 and 2005, he was selected by his peers as the "National Legislator of the Year". He has been honored twice as "Citizen of the Year" in his hometown of Columbus.

Rep. Smyre was instrumental in the construction of the \$62M Columbus RiverCenter and served as chairman of the six-member Project Development Team from July 1994 to April 2001 to build the facility. He also served as RiverCenter board chairman from September 2002 until May 2004. He served as president of the Liberty Theatre Cultural Center, Inc. from 1994 until December 2003. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of: the Morehouse School of Medicine; the Medical College of Georgia Foundation; Columbus State University Foundation; the Columbus Museum; and the Fort Valley State University Foundation, where he serves as chairman. He is also a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; SO-C-837 Club; Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity; the Boy Scouts of America; and a life member of the NAACP and SCLC. Rep. Smyre is a former member of the Board of Trustees of the Columbus Medical Center, the University of Georgia Foundation, the Jack D. Hughston Hospital Medicine Foundation and the House of Representatives Health Committee, where he served for 12 years. He is also former chairman of the Columbus Metro Urban League and former national president of the Fort Valley State University National Alumni Association.

In 1976, Representative Smyre served as a southern advisor to the Carter/Mondale campaign and in 1980 served as deputy campaign director for Carter/Mondale in Kentucky. He served as a senior advisor in the campaigns of Governor Joe Frank Harris (1982 and 1986) and Governor Zell Miller (1990 and 1994). In 1988 and 1990, he served as campaign director of the Georgia Democratic Party Unified Campaign Committee; and in 1992 and 1996, he chaired the Georgia Democratic Party Coordinated Campaign. In 1992 and 1996, Rep. Smyre served as a co-chairman of the Clinton/Gore Campaign in Georgia. In 1998, he served on the Finance Committee of the Barnes for Governor Campaign and also served as vice chairman of the Democratic Party Coordinated Campaign. In 2000, Rep. Smyre served again as chairman of the Georgia Democratic Party Coordinated Campaign, vice chair of the Gore 2000 Campaign Georgia Committee and as an advisor to the vice president's unsuccessful campaign. In a historic move, Governor Roy Barnes named Rep. Smyre as the chairman of the Democratic Party of Georgia in September, 2001, thus becoming the first African-American to chair the State Party. Rep. Smyre has been selected as a delegate to attend seven Democratic National Conventions.

Born in Columbus, Georgia, Rep. Smyre is a life-long member of Ward Chapel A.M.E. Church in Columbus and serves as a member of the Board of Trustees.

CALVIN SMYRE
PROFESSIONAL AND POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS

Professional

- Executive Vice President, Synovus
- Chairman and CEO, Synovus Foundation

Political

- Chair, 2006 Georgia Democratic State Convention
- Chairman, Democratic Party of Georgia (September 2001-March 2003)
- Member, Democratic Party of Georgia Executive Committee (1999-Present)
- Member, Democratic Party of Georgia State Committee (1975-Present)
- Member, Democratic National Committee, Washington, DC (1985-March 2003)
- Member, Muscogee County Young Democrats (1973-1976) – Columbus, Georgia
- Member, Muscogee County Democratic Executive Committee (1975-Present)
- Chairman, Democratic Party of Georgia Affirmative Action Committee (1979-1983)
- Vice Chairman, 1982 Georgia Democratic State Convention
- Chairman, Resolutions Committee, 1994 and 1998 Georgia Democratic State Conventions
- Chairman, Credentials Committee, 1990 Georgia Democratic State Convention
- Member, 1986 Democratic Policy Commission Roundtable, appointed by Gov. Joe Frank Harris
- Deputy State Campaign Director-Kentucky 1980 Carter/Mondale Presidential Campaign
- Chairman, 1992 Georgia Democratic Party Coordinated Campaign
- Campaign Director, 1988 and 1990 Georgia Democratic Party Unified Campaign Committee
- Co-Chair, Clinton/Gore Campaign – Georgia Committee (1992 & 1996)

Delegate

- 2004 DNC, Boston, MA, Georgia Delegation Chair
- 2000 Democratic National Convention, Los Angeles, CA
- 1996 Democratic National Convention, Chicago, IL
- 1992 Democratic National Convention, New York, NY, Member, Rules Comm.
- 1988 Democratic National Convention, Atlanta, GA, Member, Credentials Comm.
- 1984 Democratic National Convention, San Francisco, CA
- 1980 Democratic National Convention, New York, NY
- 1978 Mini Democratic Conference, Memphis, TN

Georgia Presidential Elector

- 2004 Electoral College, 2000 Electoral College, 1996 Electoral College,
- 1992 Electoral College and 1980 Electoral College

State Representative, Georgia House of Representatives (1975-Present)

- Chairman, House of Representatives Majority Caucus (January 1999-January 2003)
- Chairman, House of Representatives Minority Caucus (January 2003-Present)
- Member, Rules Committee (1986-Present)
- Member, Appropriations Committee (1981-Present)

- Member, House Budget Subcommittee (1993-January 2003)
- Member, Budget Responsibility Oversight Committee (1993-January 2003)
- Member, Fiscal Affairs Subcommittee, (1983-1999) (2001-January 2003)
- Former: Chairman, Rules Committee (January 1999-January 2003)
- Chairman, University System of Georgia Committee (July, 1993-January, 1999)
- Chairman, Industrial Relations Committee (1990-1993)
- Administration Floor Leader for Gov. Joe Frank Harris (November 1986-1989)
- Assistant Administration Floor Leader for Gov. Joe Frank Harris (1983-1986)
- National Secretary, National Black Caucus of State Legislators, (1980-1990)(NBCSL)
- Executive Committee, NBCSL (1980-Present)
- Executive Committee, Nat'l Conference of State Legislatures, Wash., DC (1986-1989)
- Chairman, Martin Luther King, Jr. Georgia State Holiday Commission (1991-1999)
- Chairman, Fiscal Affairs & Oversight Comm., Assembly on Legislature, NCSL (1993-1994)
- Co-Chair, Workers' Compensation TASK Force, NCSL (1991-1993)
- Chairman, Georgia Legislative Black Caucus (1979-1981)
- President, Georgia Association of Black Elected Officials (G.A.B.E.O.) (1982-1987)