

Bernice Mathews

Senator Bernice Mathews

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Representing Senate District 1 in Washoe County, Senator Bernice Mathews is a nurse and health sciences professional. She first got elected to the Nevada State Senate in 1994 and served as the Assistant Minority Leader in 2007. In the 2009 session, Senator Mathews served as the Co-Chair of the Committee on Finance.

Senator Mathews was born in Jackson, Mississippi in 1933. She graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno with a B.S.N. and M.Ed. in Administration of Higher Education. Since her time at UNR, Senator Mathews has remained a devoted and active citizen in the Reno area. She even served as City Councilwoman for the City of Reno and is a Past Chair of the Reno Civil Service Commission. Besides being a State Senator, she is also the Director of Health Science-Nursing (Emeritus).

It is not difficult to see that Senator Mathews has a sincere passion for nursing and health care. She was a member of the Washoe County Mental Health Advisory Board and was part of the Governor's Commission on Nursing and Nursing Education. Senator Mathews is the Past President of the State Board of Nursing and a member of the American Nurses' Association. For all of her achievements, the UNR School of Nursing granted her the Outstanding Alumni Award. She was also the recipient of the President's Medal in Recognition of Outstanding Contribution to Higher Education in Nevada.

Senator Mathews has seven children: Arnold II, Anthony, Aileen, Barbara, Ruben, Clive, and Allen (deceased).