

BIOGRAPHY
Senate President Stephen R. Morris
39th District, State of Kansas

Elected to the Kansas Senate in 1992, Steve Morris is in his fifth four-year term. He was further honored in 2004 and again in 2008 to be elected by his Senate Republican colleagues to serve as President of the Senate. In this position, Sen. Morris assumes even greater responsibility.

The President appoints qualified legislators and private individuals to serve on a wide variety of statutory boards and commissions. He presides over the Senate during the legislative session and has the authority to assign legislation to a specific committee for consideration. When the legislature is not in session, the Senate President directs a full time, year around staff to handle Senate business. He alternately serves as chairman or vice-chairman of the Legislative Coordinating Council, and is a member of the State Finance Council and Capitol Restoration Committee.

As part of his presidential duties, Sen. Morris is chairman of the Organization, Calendar and Rules Committee which determines the number, scope, leadership and membership of Senate committees. He is also chairman of the Interstate Cooperation Committee, and a member of the Federal and State Affairs Committee and Agriculture Committee. He previously served on the Senate Ways and Means Committee and served as chairman for four years. He is a member of the Joint Committee on Pensions, Investments and Benefits.

Sen. Morris is an active member of a number of boards, committees and commissions at the local, state and national levels. He serves on the Executive Committee of The Energy Council (a consortium of energy producing states and Canadian provinces, and the country of Venezuela). He is on the Executive Committee for both the Council of State Governments (CSG) and CSG Midwest. He is currently chairman of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Agriculture and Energy Committee and is a past chairman of the Council of State Governments (CSG) Agriculture Task Force. In the past, he has been chairman of the CSG Health Capacity Task Force and served on the NCSL Rural Policy Task Force Steering Committee.

Senator Morris has also been instrumental in bringing Kansas to the forefront in the areas of bioscience and alternative energies. He passionately believes the state can and should play a major role in helping the nation become energy independent.

Steve Morris has been an ardent advocate for education in Kansas. As an alum and avid fan of Kansas State University, Sen. Morris has served that institution in a number of roles, including as president of the Kansas State University Alumni Association board of Directors. He was on the KSU Essential Edge National Steering Committee and National Policy Committee. In 1987, he served on the Agriculture 2000 Committee as Chairman of the Crops, Horticulture & Forestry Subcommittee which made recommendations to KSU regarding Ag Research and Extension. Sen. Morris was chairman of the College of Agriculture Legislative Support Group for four years. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the Kansas State University College of Agriculture.

He served fifteen years on the USD 210 Board of Education, including two stints as vice-president and one four-year term as president. He was on the Interstate Migrant Education Council for seven years and on the Legislative Committee for the Kansas Association of School Boards for twelve years.

Senator Morris was awarded the 2007 Charles Dick Medal of Merit by the National Guard Association of the United States. The National Guard Association of Kansas bestowed its Legislative Support Award for 2005-2006 to Sen. Morris. He was named "Outstanding Elected Official" by the Kansas Emergency Medical Technicians Association in April 2005; and received the Stevens County Soil Conservation "Public Achievement Award" in February 2005. He was named the 2002 Outstanding Public Official of the Year by the Community Mental Health Association of Kansas and was given the Rocky Mountain Council on Mental Health Centers Award in 2004.

Senator Morris graduated from Hugoton High School and from Kansas State University, with a degree in Agriculture Economics. As part of his military training, Morris graduated from the Air Force Undergraduate Pilot Training. He saw active duty as an Air Force pilot in Viet Nam, earning US Air Force Air Medals for combat missions flown in 1971 and 1973. An Air Force Reservist (Retired), Morris also was Liaison Officer for the Air Force Academy.

He holds many civic and professional memberships, including the Kansas Farm Bureau, the Hugoton Chamber of Commerce, Gamma Sigma Delta Agriculture Honorary Fraternity, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion.

Active in Stevens County and Kansas Republican activities, Morris was Republican County Chairman from 1982-1992, served as County Chairman for Nancy Landon Kassebaum Baker, Bush-Quayle, and Bush-Cheney, and has also been a delegate or alternate to state and district conventions.

Senator Morris and his wife, Barb, have three daughters and eight grandchildren. They have a farming operation – wheat and grain sorghum – at Hugoton.