

ED OAKLEY

Biography

Ed Oakley has served as a Dallas City Councilmember since 2001. Ed Oakley served as councilperson for district 6 from 2001 through 2003 and was re-elected in June 2003 as the councilperson for district 3 (as a result of redistricting). Currently, he serves as the chair of the Trinity River Committee, and is also on the following council committees: Finance and Audit, Transportation and Telecommunications, and Governmental and Minority Affairs. In addition, the mayor has appointed him to the Downtown Improvement District and the Trinity River Executive Committees.

For more than a decade, Ed Oakley has worked to improve the lives of the citizens of Dallas.

Whether fighting to protect neighborhood homes as a member of the City Plan Commission or working to improve local schools as a member of the Facilities Taskforce, Ed Oakley has effectively represented Dallas residents.

While working for Dallas, Ed Oakley has earned the respect and support of a broad coalition of the city's neighborhoods, businesses and volunteer communities. His ability to represent diverse interests, issues, and groups has helped Ed Oakley to reach consensus through leadership in the most effective manner. Ed Oakley represents the best qualities in a candidate, those of experience integrity.

In 1991, Ed Oakley was first introduced to the complexities of city zoning laws pertaining to businesses and residential property in the Oak Lawn Special Purpose District. In the following year's effort to amend the ordinances, Ed gained the extensive knowledge and experience necessary to understand the Dallas zoning process and the inner-workings of city hall.

Following the success of his first prolonged interaction with city hall, Ed Oakley decided to put his newfound knowledge and experience to work by running for City Council in 1993. Despite running a well-organized and professional campaign, Ed was not successful in his first bid for City Council.

Over the next eight years Ed Oakley became more involved in many civic and neighborhood issues, while maintaining a successful construction contracting business. Throughout those many years, the list of Ed Oakley's involvement and accomplishments grew tremendously, including his appointment to serve District 6 on the City Plan Commission in 1995.

The position on the City Plan Commission was tailor-made for Ed Oakley. During his tenure on the commission, Ed excelled. Whether helping his Oak Cliff neighbors through the zoning process at city hall or helping neighborhoods understand zoning, Ed Oakley worked diligently for the citizens of Dallas. Since being appointed to the commission, Ed Oakley has helped people with numerous zoning cases ranging from the construction of daycare centers to senior living facilities to helping congregations through the planned development process for church campuses.

Ed Oakley feels his most fulfilling accomplishment has been helping Arlington Park, the Bottoms Neighborhood, The Tenth Street Historic District, and other predominantly African-American neighborhoods protect their homes. Over the city's history, these neighborhoods had been zoned for commercial use making their homes nonconforming. Many of these homes had been in families for years. This flaw in the zoning structure meant these tax-paying residents could not acquire home-equity loans or remodel their homes. It also meant new homes could not be built in these neighborhoods. Ed Oakley's ability to help these citizens rezone these neighborhoods into Planned Development Districts allowed them to control their own destiny and provided the same protections enjoyed in residential neighborhoods throughout the city.

Ed Oakley has continued to work on these neighborhoods as the Councilmember for District 6. Arlington Park has a new Multi-Family Project for 100 new families, which has been a huge success. The Bottoms and Tenth Street Historic District was the first neighborhood cleanup. Ed Oakley sent the Code Compliance NAT Team into. With Preservation Dallas and private donation Ed Oakley is focusing on development in the Tenth Street Historic District.

As Plan Commissioner, Ed Oakley served on the Design District Land Use Committee, which is now a Planned Development District (PDD). The PDD is a mixed used development, which will allow redevelopment of the old industrial area. He also worked for the Dallas Housing Authority, Green Leaf Village, Goodwill, and many others are now being built as Plan Commissioner.

Ed Oakley has not only worked for particular neighborhoods but also for the entire population of Dallas because the proposed Trinity River Corridor Project will impact all of our citizens. Ed attended the Trinity River Conferences and numerous meetings to understand the ramifications of this project on Dallas citizens, neighborhoods and businesses.

Throughout this complicated process, Ed Oakley has been helping neighborhoods such as West Dallas and The Bottoms. The Old Trinity Business District and the Design District Business District stay informed as the project develops.