BIOGRAPHY

THE HONORABLE
YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE

Supervisor, Second District County of Los Angeles

CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (2003-2004)
LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR SECOND DISTRICT (1992- PRESENT)
CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (1997-1998, AND 1993-1994)
LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT (1979-1980)
U.S. CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE, 28th DISTRICT (1972-1978)
CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLYWOMAN (1966-1972)

Yvonne Brathwaite Burke is Chair of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. She was re-elected unopposed to her third four-year term as Los Angeles County Supervisor for the Second District. She brings to the Board of Supervisors more than 30 years of experience in a distinguished public service career at the national and state as well as local government levels.

As a member of the Board of Supervisors, she has focused on the needs and education of children, especially those who must be cared for in the County's foster child programs. Most recently she has been a prime mover in bringing about the Department of Children and Family Services new Family to Family program, promoting the placement of foster children in homes near their original neighborhoods. She has also established numerous child care centers that in addition to supervision also provide learning enrichment programs and nutritious meals.

She has actively advanced economic development in the Second District by promoting the establishment of businesses in areas that have been underserved, and by providing services to small businesses. The new Athens-Westmont business incubator is a state-of-the-art small business center. Supervisor Burke has also been in the forefront of establishing the County website that lists County contracts available for small businesses. She also actively promotes computer ownership and the availability of cyber technology to underserved communities in her district, by encouraging private businesses and organizations to make computer laboratories available in areas such as public housing, and by encouraging her constituents to make use of computer research facilities in the County library system.

The La Brea Green Belt has beautified a major transportation artery in the Second District, as well as providing fire, flood and landslide abatement. Other major parkland developments include the expansion of Kenneth Hahn Recreation Area to include Little League baseball, golf and other amenities, with large roadside tracts of La Cienega Boulevard slated for development once oil drilling ceases. A major concern of Supervisor Burke's is the establishment of a multi-modal public transportation system for the Los Angeles area. As a member of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Board of Directors, she continues to push for development of the Crenshaw Corridor, and for a light and heavy rail system in addition to buses, believing that in the long run the bus service alone cannot hope to provide the public transportation services so desperately needed in Southern California.

As Board of Supervisors Chair, Supervisor Burke is taking a special interest in the budgetary process for 2003-2004. She has asked all the Supervisors to chair Board meeting discussions of County departments for which they have been assigned responsibility. Supervisor Burke's departmental assignments are for the following: Department of Affirmative Action Compliance, Community Development Commission, Department of Human Resources, Museum of Natural History, Department of Parks and Recreation, the County Public Library and the Department of Public Social Services. She has also taken the lead in moving to establish a County Archives system.

Supervisor Burke is former Chair of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Board of Directors and a member of the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority. She's also a member of the L.A. Coliseum Commission and of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). In addition, she's a fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration.

In the course of her long public service career, Supervisor Burke has amassed numerous "firsts" and innumerable awards and honors. She became the first African American woman elected to the U.S. Congress from California in 1972, and the first to serve as Chair of the L.A. County Board of Supervisors in 1993. She served as Vice Chair of the 1972 Democratic National Convention. She is also a past Chair of the L.A. Federal Reserve Bank, was Vice Chairman of the 1984 U.S. Olympics Organizing Committee, and has sat on boards of numerous prestigious organizations and corporations, including Nestle. Time Magazine named her one of "America's 200 Future Leaders", and she was selected as "Woman of the Year" by the Los Angeles Times and Alumni of the Year by UCLA in 1996. Having run for office unopposed in 2000, Supervisor Burke has used campaign funds to establish the Second District Education and Policy Foundation, which has already provided $180,000 in scholarships to students in the Second District.

Supervisor Burke is married to William A. Burke, a Los Angeles businessman, and has a daughter, Autumn, and a step-daughter, Christine Burke.