



Edolphus "Ed" Towns

US House of Representatives
10th Congressional District of New York

Edolphus "Ed" Towns is currently serving his 12th term in the US House of Representatives. He represents the Brooklyn's 10th Congressional District encompassing the neighborhoods of East New York, Canarsie, Brownsville, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Cypress Hills, Clinton Hill, Mill Basin, Midwood, downtown Brooklyn, Boreum Hill, as well as parts of Fort Greene and Williamsburg.

Rep. Towns is a member of the exclusive Energy and Commerce Committee where he is on the Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection Subcommittee, the Health Subcommittee, and the Telecommunications and the Internet Subcommittee. Through his committee appointments, Rep. Towns has worked to enhance consumers' privacy protections on the Internet, develop innovative initiatives to reduce asthma, and bridge the digital divide. Congressman Towns also serves on the Government Reform Committee where he is the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Management, Organization and Procurement.

Throughout his tenure in Congress, Rep. Towns' legislative work in education, telecommunications, healthcare, financial services and the environment has earned him numerous awards. Some of his legislative successes include: the "Student Right to Know Act," a law to mandate the reporting of student athletes graduation rates; new bilingual education programs for the gifted and talented, teacher training and special education; enhanced Medicare reimbursement rates for mid-level practitioners; establishing a Federal-funding base for poison control centers; initiating new standards for the inclusion of children in clinical trials; creating the Telecommunications Development Fund to provide capital for small and minority telecommunications businesses.

In the environmental area, Rep. Towns continues to be committed to protecting our national parks and creating open space throughout Brooklyn, including the Brooklyn Bridge Park project of which he was an original incorporator. He has also worked to preserve and restore ecologically sensitive estuaries and coastal areas. In addition, the National Audubon Society recognized the Congressman for his leadership in securing federal funds for restoration activities in Prospect Park. Rep. Towns has brought important economic development projects to the 10th Congressional District as well. Most recently, Congress.org named Rep. Towns as the 2nd most influential Representative in the New York delegation for the 110th Congress.

Rep. Towns had the distinction of being the first African American to serve as Deputy Brooklyn Borough President. Additionally, he and his son, NYS Assemblyman Darryl Towns, became the first African American father/son tandem to serve simultaneously in public office in New York State. Rep. Towns' varied professional background includes assignments as an administrator at Beth Israel Medical Center, a professor at New York's Medgar Evers College and Fordham University and a teacher in the New York City Public School System. He is also a veteran of the United States Army and an ordained Baptist minister.

The Congressman has a Master's Degree in Social Work from Adelphi University and a Bachelor's Degree from North Carolina A & T State University. Congressman Towns was born in Chadbourn, North Carolina. He is married to the Gwendolyn (Forbes). They currently reside in the Cypress Hills section of Brooklyn. They have two children, Darryl and Deidra, and five grandchildren, Kiara, Jasmine, Kristian, Dale and Trinity. The Congressman also serves as a surrogate father to his nephews Jason and Jereme Towns.