

COUNCIL PRESIDENT HERB J. WESSON, JR.

Herb J. Wesson, Jr. grew up in Cleveland, Ohio leaving the mid-west for Los Angeles, California in his 20's on the advice of his ailing father. After volunteering on local campaigns and eventually rising to the position of Chief of Staff to then-Los Angeles County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, Wesson decided to run for office himself.

He was elected to the California State Assembly in 1998 and elected by his peers in 2002 as the Speaker of the California State Assembly, only the second African American to hold the prestigious post. Among his accomplishments Wesson authored legislation to regulate vehicle tailpipe emissions aimed at curbing global warming. Wesson a Democrat, was hailed as a bi-partisan leader who was able to work with then-Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to balance the state's budget and place two long-term budget-balancing initiatives on the ballot.

Herb J. Wesson, Jr. served as President of the Los Angeles City Council from November 2011 through 2019 and has represented Council District 10 since 2005. Wesson is the first African American to hold the position of Council President in the city's history and has been re-elected three times to lead the city's legislative body. During his tenure as Council President, Wesson presided over monumental policy initiatives making Los Angeles a better place to live, work and raise a family. Not only have local policy initiatives—which include raising the minimum wage, divesting from Wall Street and consolidating city elections to increase voter turnout—positively affected local residents, but in many cases the city's actions have spurred state and national response and served as a model for similar policies.

Wesson has been happily married to Fabian Wesson for more than 35 years and is the proud father of four sons and four grandchildren. He is a graduate of Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.