

Senator Edna Brown Bio

Edna Brown (D-Toledo) was first elected to serve Ohio's 11th Senate district in November 2010. Senator Brown was re-elected to the Senate in 2014 and currently serves as the Democratic Whip. Prior to joining the Senate, her dedication to public service led to a 32-year career as an employee with the city of Toledo, followed by an eight-year tenure as a member of Toledo City Council. She was appointed to the Statehouse in January 2002 to fill a vacated seat in the Ohio House of Representatives, where she served for eight years.

Senator Brown is First Vice President of the Ohio Legislative Black Caucus, and serves on the Executive Committee of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators. Senator Brown is a state director for Women In Government Foundation, a non-partisan national organization for women legislators. She was a founding member of the Greater Toledo Urban League. Senator Brown is a past chair of the Administration Board for Braden United Methodist Church and a charter member of the Executive Women's Golf Association.

Senator Brown's idea to bring "no excuse" absentee voting to Ohio was incorporated into a bill that became state law in January 2006. For her efforts, the Ohio Association of Election Officials and the Ohio Secretary of State honored her with the Jack Wolfe Memorial Award as "Legislator of the Year." In 2007, Senator Brown introduced a bill addressing violence in teen dating relationships. The teen dating violence bill (HB 10) became law in June 2010.

Senator Brown's efforts have garnered numerous awards, including an inaugural "ROSA" Award from the Toledo Board of Community Relations. The Toledo YWCA honored Senator Brown as a 2007 Milestone Award recipient and WILL/WAND recognized her with a Pacesetter Award the same year. In 2009, Senator Brown received the Legislative Children's Champion Award from the Children's Defense Fund of Ohio. Action Ohio presented Senator Brown with their Legislative Leadership Award in 2011. The African American Legacy Project bestowed Senator Brown with the Kente Stole in October, 2012. In 2015, Voices for Ohio's Children recognized Sen. Brown as a "Legislative Champion for Ohio's Children."

Senator Brown is the widow of Willie Brown. She has three daughters, seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren.