

## T.W. Shannon

### Biography

T.W. Shannon is an accomplished leader with diverse experience in business, public service and community engagement. Today he leads one of the most unique banks in the country. As the CEO of Chickasaw Community Bank based in Oklahoma City, he leads a remarkably successful enterprise that is wholly owned by the Chickasaw Nation. Under his leadership, Chickasaw Community Bank has grown its total assets to over \$215 million.

Prior to pursuing a career in business, where he uses his financial and legal knowledge, T.W. enjoyed an impressive tenure in public service capped off by his fellow lawmakers choosing him to lead the Oklahoma House of Representatives - the ultimate vote of confidence.

T.W. Shannon made history in January of 2013 when, at 34 years of age, he rose to become the youngest Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and the youngest in the country. Additionally, he was the first Chickasaw and first African American to rise to the coveted and powerful position of Speaker. In addition to breaking barriers in the reddest state in the union, T.W.'s election as Speaker was also a nationally recognized and celebrated historic achievement as he was the first African American Republican since reconstruction in the country to head a legislative body.

Even before his ascension as the leader of the Oklahoma House, T.W. had a record of success as a history-maker becoming the first Republican elected to the House District 64 seat.

Heralded as a "Rising Star" by the Republican National Committee, Speaker Shannon utilized his platform to champion common sense solutions that aimed to advance minority communities across Oklahoma. T.W. was a champion for infrastructure in Oklahoma. His leadership produced a significant overhaul of the State's welfare system by mandating a twenty-hour work week for able-bodied adult recipients. Additionally, T.W. passed legislation that made Oklahoma the first state in the nation to provide a \$5,000 tax deduction for parents of foster children. He exhibited a responsive leadership style built on compromise without sacrificing principles. T.W. authored Oklahoma's historic legislation that overhauled the state's workers' compensation system, creating an administrative agency.

Before serving in the legislature, T.W. worked as one of five C-level officers in the role of Chief Administrative Officer at the Chickasaw Nation, which generated annual revenues of over \$1 billion, and employed over 7,500 employees at the time. In his role with the Chickasaw Nation, he also led the support functions for the most financially successful tribe in the country and worked on governmental affairs on both a state and national level.

Additionally, T.W. was an entrepreneur in his own public relations consulting operation for over a decade and led the Investment Banking Division of Premier Consulting in Tulsa, Oklahoma. As Managing Director, T.W. worked with community banks across the country in developing a capital strategy and providing investment capital.

Shortly after the 2016 presidential election, T.W. was invited to meet with President-elect Donald Trump to discuss issues surrounding poverty. Furthermore, T.W. serves as a board member of CURE, the Center for Urban Renewal and Education. Cure is the Washington-based think tank dedicated to culture, race and poverty. As a board member for CURE, T.W. provides strategic guidance to the CURE staff and CEO, Starr Parker, a nationally syndicated media contributor. In this role, he engages a national network of conservative black pastors to advocate for policy solutions.

In addition to his position with CURE, T.W. is a member of the board of trustees for Oklahoma City University; a commissioner of the State of Oklahoma Transportation Commission; and a board member for the Civic Center Foundation, Leadership Oklahoma, Oklahoma Bankers Association, and Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

T.W. has a Juris Doctor degree from Oklahoma City University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from Cameron University. He is a Harvard University IOP Fellow and an Aspen Institute Rodel Fellow. T.W. has been married to his college sweetheart Devon (a college professor) for 18 years and they are the proud parents of Audrey Grace, and Tahrohon Wayne, II. He considers his family his greatest accomplishment and nothing is more important to him than his wife and children.