

**Senator Robert W. Hayes, Jr. (Wes Hayes)**, current chair of the Senate Ethics Committee, has served in the South Carolina General Assembly for twenty-six years. He began his service in the House of Representatives in 1985 and was elected to the Senate in 1991, where he continues to serve.

Currently he serves as a member of the following Senate Committees: Banking and Insurance, Education, Finance, Medical Affairs, and General. He currently chairs the subcommittees dealing with public education in both the Finance and Education Committees, and in such capacity has been an advocate for fair and equitable funding for public schools and has worked to increase availability of early childhood education.

Senator Hayes has received numerous awards, including the 2006 South Carolina Public Servant of the Year given by the South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, the 1990 Outstanding Young American Award given by the South Carolina Jaycees, and in 1996 the Compleat Lawyer Award given by the USC Law School Alumni Association. He currently serves on the board of the following organizations: South Carolina Bank and Trust (regional), Guardian Fidelity Mortgage Corporation, Westminster Towers, York County, Red Cross, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (state). He is past chair of the York County Red Cross, the York District of the Boy Scouts and the Rock Hill United Way Campaign, and he currently serves as President of the Palmetto Council of the Boy Scouts and Chair of the State Government United Way Campaign.

He is a 1975 graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, where he was president of his class and a battalion commander. Following his graduation, he served five years on active duty in the US Army as a part of the 82d Airborne Division, earning the Master Parachutist Award and the Ranger Tab. He graduated law school at the USC School of Law, where he was president of the Student Bar and member of the Law Review and Order of the Coif. He currently has his own law firm, Robert W. Hayes, Jr. LLC. He served in the South Carolina Army National Guard for twenty-five years, earning the rank of colonel and the Legion of Merit Award. Senator Hayes resides in Rock Hill with his wife Sarah Mellon Hayes (Sally). The couple has three children, Robert Wesley III, James Creighton, and Margaret Mellon.