

ARKANSAS BLACK HISTORY



Image courtesy of Division of Arkansas Heritage

Irma Jean Hunter Brown (1939 -) was born in Little Rock (Pulaski County) and became the first Black woman to serve in the Arkansas House of Representatives and the Arkansas Senate. In 1981, she founded the Arkansas Legislative Black Caucus. With a commitment to inclusion and education, Brown worked tirelessly to advance political opportunities for minority groups and serve on boards that would provide resources for Arkansas students. Brown continued her legacy of service as president of Shorter College before running for the Arkansas Senate and winning her race, becoming the first Black woman to serve in the Arkansas Senate. Irma Jean Hunter Brown's life of service was honored in 2019 when she was inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame.

