

Sylvester Turner



As a kid growing up with limited means in the 1960s, Sylvester Turner walked downtown looking up at the tall buildings and dreaming of success. He knows Houston is a place where if you can dream it, you can do it.

Sylvester Turner's grew up in the Acres Homes community in northwest Houston where he was born and raised as one of nine children in a modest two-bedroom home. Sylvester's mother worked as a maid in the old Rice Hotel in Houston. His father worked as a painter and on the weekends, cut yards with his sons to make extra money. Sylvester lost his father to cancer when he was 13 years old.

With the help of his family, pastors and teachers, Sylvester went on to attend the University of Houston and Harvard Law School before joining the law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski. He founded the Houston law firm of Barnes & Turner in 1983. In 1988, Sylvester was elected to the Texas House of Representatives to serve the people of House District 139 in Harris County. In 2015, Sylvester Turner was elected as Mayor of Houston. Mayor Turner works to lift every voice in Houston to do great things for the city. Mayor Turner believes it doesn't matter if we are a Democrat or a Republican, or black, brown, white or Asian; whether we're rich or poor or in between; whether we're educated or uneducated, he says what matters to him is that we are all Houstonians.