

Woodrow Wilson

August 28, 1915—December 25, 1999

Elected 1980

Woodrow Wilson served a partial term on the Clark County Commission before he resigned after being convicted in the FBI bribery sting, Operation Yobo. He spent much of his life managing the Westside Credit Union and was active in the Boy Scouts of America.

Wilson was born in Mississippi in 1915. He put himself through junior college by playing amateur baseball. In 1942, he moved to Las Vegas and took a job at Kerr McGee as a foreman.

Following his arrival in Las Vegas, Wilson became active in the community in historically black area of the city, West Las Vegas. In 1951, he started a credit union to serve members of the NAACP. He was the first African-American scoutmaster in Nevada. Wilson was elected to the Nevada State Assembly in 1966 and was the first African-American to serve in that body. He was reelected in 1968 and 1970. During his time in the Assembly, he helped pass Nevada's first fair housing law and fair employment law. In 1979, Wilson was appointed to Nevada's Equal Rights Commission.

In 1980, Wilson defeated Sam Bowler to become a member of the County Commission. He resigned in 1984 after he was convicted of accepting a bribe meant to change his vote in zoning matters.

Following his retirement, Wilson continued to manage the Westside Credit Union. He remained active in civic affairs, including the Clark County Economic Opportunity Board and the Kiwanis. He was honored in 1971 by UNLV and named a Distinguished Nevadan. He died in 1999 from complications from diabetes.

