

## Commissioner Elba Garcia Biography

Dr. Elba Garcia embodies a new breed of professional woman in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. She is not only a community leader, but is also a mother and homemaker, a dentist with her own private practice, and a role model for Hispanic women from all walks of life.

Born and educated in Mexico City, Dr. Garcia earned her Doctorate in Odontology from Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana in 1984. She later immigrated to the United States, where she continued her education at Baylor College of Dentistry, earning her Doctorate in Dental Surgery (DDS) in 1990. She is a small business owner having run her own private practice since 1998. She is married to former state representative Domingo Garcia. They are the proud parents of two sons.

Dr. Garcia has always dedicated herself to community service, but began her service in public office in 2001 when she was elected to the Dallas City Council to represent the citizens of District 1. Besides representing her own District, she served on numerous committees and task forces, including Chair of the City of Dallas Domestic Violence Task Force and the Chair of Public Safety, where she spearheaded efforts that led to the a record reduction in crime rates for the City of Dallas. She was also chosen unanimously by her colleagues to serve as Mayor Pro Tem and Deputy Mayor Pro Tem.

While serving on the Dallas City Council, Dr. Garcia was instrumental in steering a number of important public projects to completion, including securing critical funds for the Latino Cultural Center and spearheading the development of a new Animal Shelter and the Oak Cliff Cultural Center. Additionally, she worked with the Environmental Committee to bring about the LEED standards for City of Dallas buildings.

In addition to her service to her constituents in Commissioner District 4, Dr. Garcia bears a myriad of other public service responsibilities. She is a current or past member of the Duncanville Chamber of Commerce, the Cedar Hill Chamber of Commerce, the Grand Prairie Rotary Club, Irving Women's Network, Irving Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Dallas Summit, Hispanic 100, Dallas Assembly, Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce, Oak Cliff Lions Club, and St. Cecilia's Catholic Women. She is also a previous board member of Children's Medical Center of Dallas and the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Garcia also served as an assistant professor at the Baylor College of Dentistry.

She was elected to serve as Dallas County Commissioner by the citizens of District 4 in November 2010, becoming the first Latina ever to serve on the Dallas County Commissioner's Court.

Dr. Garcia has been the recipient of many awards for her community service. Some of these include:

- 2010 Stonewall Democrats Democrat of the Year
- 2009 Woman of the Year by the Women's Council of Dallas County
- 2009 Citizens Public Safety Award by the Rotary Club of Dallas & Safer Dallas/Better Dallas
- 2009 Dallas Fire and Rescue Recognition Award
- 2008 Best Oak Cliff Public Servant Award- Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce
- 2008 Presidential Citation by the Texas Animal Control Association
- 2008 Institute of Mexicans Abroad (IME) OHTLI Award
- 2008 Women of Spirit Award by the American Jewish Congress

2008 AAUW 100 Women of Distinction Award (AAUW - American Assoc. of Univ. Women)  
2008 Chairman's Award by the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
2007 Selected for the Aspen Rodel Fellowship in Public Leadership Program  
2006 Government Official of the Year by the Northeast Texas Library System  
2006 Dallas Film Commission Advocacy in Film Award  
2006 Texas Can Motherhood Lifetime Achievement Award  
2006 GCHCC Chairman's Leadership Award  
2005-2006 Oak Cliff Tribune Citizen of the Year Award  
2005 Chairman's Award by the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
2005 Outstanding Alumnus award by El Centro College  
2005 Dallas Observer Best Dallas City Councilmember  
2005 McDonald's® Salute to Local Leaders Hispanic Faces of Leadership  
2004 Chairman's Award by the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
2003 Dallas Can Academy Most Outstanding Community Leader  
2002 Dallas Observer Best Dallas City Council Member  
2000 YWCA Women of Oak Cliff Achievement Award