

# Mark Strama

2504A Whitis Ave., R2000  
Austin, Texas 78712

(512) 471-7254  
strama@austin.utexas.edu

---

## **Google Fiber, General Manager, Expansion Markets**

**2013 - Present**

I have held a variety of positions at Google Fiber, starting as City Manager when we launched the Austin market, later as General Manager overseeing all operations in Huntsville, Nashville, and Atlanta. Google Fiber recently announced a [new round of expansion markets](#), and I oversee the team [negotiating our agreements with cities](#) and standing up our operational capacity in those markets.

## **Texas House of Representatives (D - Austin)**

**2005 - 2013**

I served five terms in the Texas House in a highly-competitive swing district. Received Honorable Mentions on Texas Monthly's *Best and Worst Legislators* list in three of my five legislative sessions; was named one of the [Top 10 Rising Stars in the Democratic Party](#) at the 2008 Democratic National Convention; and one of the [Top 10 Good Men in Politics](#) by The Good Men Project. Focused legislative efforts on public education, renewable energy, and political reform.

## **Sylvan Learning Centers of Austin, Franchisee**

**2007 - 2016**

My wife and I owned and operated six retail Sylvan Learning Centers in the Austin/Round Rock area, providing tutoring services to students grades K-12 in reading, writing, math, and study skills. Managed a staff of over 200 with annual revenues exceeding \$5 million. Sold to Houston-based investment group in 2016.

## **Accenture eDemocracy Services, Consultant**

**2003 - 2004**

Accenture eDemocracy Services was created when [Accenture acquired Election.com, Inc.](#) It was the first company in the voter registration technology space with the backing of a global systems integration firm. I led business development for the company.

## **Election.com, Senior Vice President for Public Elections**

**2000 - 2003**

Election.com, Inc. was a New York-based company that acquired NewVoter.com. In May of 2000 Election.com was named to *Red Herring's* list of the [Top 50 privately held companies](#) in the world.

## **NewVoter.com, Founder and CEO**

**1999 - 2000**

NewVoter.com was [the first company](#) in the nation to enable websites to offer their users the ability to fill out a voter registration form online. Over 700,000 Americans used our technology to register to vote in the 2000 election cycle.

## **CharityGift.com, Co-Founder**

**1998 - 1999**

CharityGift was an Internet start-up that enabled users to make a donation to charity as an alternative to traditional gift-giving. Charitygift was eventually acquired by Kintera.

## **Rock the Vote, Director of Programs**

**1995 - 1997**

Rock The Vote is a non-profit, non-partisan organization founded by the music industry and dedicated to the political empowerment of young Americans. I managed national programs and served as spokesperson for the organization.

## **Texas State Senator Rodney Ellis, Chief of Staff**

**1991 - 1995**

Senator Ellis (D-Houston) represented inner-city Houston in the Texas Senate for over 20 years. I led all legislative initiatives for the Senator and managed a staff of 17 administrative and legislative aides.

## **Ann Richards for Governor, Researcher and Writer**

**1990 - 1991**

I wrote position papers, responded to surveys and questionnaires, and answered correspondence for the campaign, then worked on the staff of the Inaugural Committee.

## **EDUCATION**

### **B.A., Brown University, 1990**

Concentrations: Philosophy and Political Science

## CIVIC ACTIVITIES

**Board Chair**, United Way for Greater Austin

**Advisory Board member**, TexProtects - the Texas Association for the Protection of Children

**Coach, Model United Nations**, Girls School of Austin

## AWARDS

**Community Empowerment Award**, Texas Civil Rights Project, 2017

**Honorable Mention**, *Ten Best and Worst Legislators*, Texas Monthly Magazine, 2013, 2009, 2007

**Distinguished Service Award**, Girl Scouts of Central Texas, 2013

**Walt and Elizabeth Rostow Leadership Award**, The Austin Project, 2012

**Legislative Hero**, Texas Freedom Network, 2013

**Advocate of the Year**, Texas Association for the Education of Young Children, 2011

**Community Leadership Award**, Texas Business Symposium and Gala, Austin Asian American Cultural Center, 2011

**Top 10 Good Men in American Politics**, The Good Men Project, 2010

**Texas Technology Champion**, TechAmerica, 2009

**Top 10 Rising Stars**, Democratic National Convention, 2008

**Wind Champion**, Texas Wind Coalition, 2008

**Distinguished Statesman**, Texas Renewable Energy Industries Association, 2007

## ARTICLES

M. Strama, "Op-Ed: Strama's Plans for Future, Reflections on Service," *Austin American Statesman*, July 10, 2013.

M. Strama, "Don't Lower Texas Educational Standards," *Austin American Statesman*, April 21, 2013.

M. Strama, "Two Key Reasons I Voted Against HB 5," *Dallas Morning News*, March 31, 2013.

M. Strama, "STAAR Tests Still Need Improvement," *Austin American Statesman*, Sept. 1, 2012.

M. Strama and M.E. Webber, "Praying for Rain Is Not a Water Plan," *Austin American Statesman*, May 20, 2012.

B. Auguste and M. Strama, "The Biggest Tax is Debt," *Boston Globe*, Nov. 3, 2003

M. Strama, "Overcoming Cynicism: Youth Participation and Electoral Politics," *National Civic Review*, July 2003.

M. Strama and I. Frishberg, "Canary in a Coal Mine: Youth Activism and American Democracy," *Tikkun*, July/August 1998.