

The entryway at Davis' home features one of her favorite pieces of art, a painting by German artist Alexandra Huber purchased on a trip to Boston. We found it to be the perfect inspiration for this ensemble. Twinkle pleated silk blouse can be worn tucked in or loose, \$220, A. Hooper. Whish chambray pencil skirt, \$80, Dolce Vita, would also pair well with a simple white T-shirt. Davis' own Prada pumps.

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Style Maker Law Maker

Wendy Davis

The freshman senator from Fort Worth sticks to her mission and her love of high heels while completing her first term in Austin

By Tiffany Figueiredo Photos by Ralph Lauer

Discovering that her new office in the state Capitol would be as far from the Senate floor as physically possible might have given high-heels-loving Wendy Davis pause, but the freshman senator from Fort Worth took it all in stride, learning to make the long trek in her Manolos and adjusting to this new development in her life, just as she has everything else during her first term in Austin.

"It's gone surprisingly well," she says of her transition from a Fort Worth City Council member to a state senator, serving on the education, international relations and trade, transportation and homeland security and veteran affairs committees.

"The other senators, especially the other women senators, have given me a very warm reception," she says. "Joan Huffman, although we vote differently, is a very open, caring person, while Florence Shapiro is all business. She and I have found a lot of common ground in our views on education. Of course, my Democratic counterparts have been wonderful. Leticia Van de Putte and I share the same passion for children, and she's a big hugger with a beautiful smile. Judith Zaffirini is like the den mother for all of us. She knows all the floor procedures and walks us through everything."

Although she is one of only six women in the Senate, Davis waves off media reports that liken her to a babe in woods full of good-old-boy politicians. She has held her own, going so far as to don a TCU football helmet to bring a little levity to a debate over her first bill, which dealt with improvements to urban redevelopment zones and which was handily passed with nary a negative vote. "I'm really just trying to focus on what I came to Austin to do, which is to be a voice for the people of Fort Worth and the rest of the state," she says. "I can't get caught up in that."

Davis also is sticking to her guns (and we're not talking about

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Dressing the senator

While we understand Wendy Davis' affection for suits, we also are somewhat disappointed every time we see her in bankers gray or blue. We want to see her in color. Thankfully, she was game for our style choices.

We think she should consider making warm colors part of her wardrobe. Davis entertains on her Mediterranean-style patio as often as she can. The space features several seating areas, an outdoor fireplace and a variety of blooming plants.

On the cover A

Nicole Miller patio dress would be perfect for a warm summer night. Chiffon print with knit bodice, \$340, and Echo bamboo beach wrap, \$78, both at Dolce Vita. Anna Balkan earrings, \$88, The Artful Hand. Shot on location at state Sen. Wendy Davis' SoSeven town home

Hair and makeup Lydia Duron of the Kim Dawson Agency
Styling Meda Kessler



Style Maker Law Maker

her muscles, although the woman is a model of fitness) when it comes to her sense of style, refusing to change her look or apologize for her femininity.

"I love fashion, and I like to feel good about how I look at work," she says. "Although I love dresses, I've found myself wearing more suits, but I think it's because it's so cold on the floor. [Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst] keeps the room at about 65 degrees at all times, so the first thing I think about when I get dressed in the morning is whether I'll be warm enough."

Davis favors contemporary lines such as Theory, Cynthia Steffe, Tahari and, occasionally, Dolce & Gabbana for professional clothing and says that other women at the Capitol have complimented her on her wardrobe. And despite long days that can last from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. followed by dinner obligations (not to mention that long walk from her office to the Senate floor), she refuses to wear sensible shoes, instead filling her closet with heels from Manolo Blahnik, Christian Louboutin and Prada. "I don't care how much my feet hurt," she says. "I'm not going to give up my heels."

Although Davis says she hasn't had much

time for shopping lately, she tries to support local businesses when she's home and frequents Dolce Vita, A. Hooper and Jean Guru, among other Fort Worth boutiques, often buying her favorite items in pairs so that she can keep one in Fort Worth and one at her apartment in Austin. She also stocks doubles of her favorite Bobbi Brown cosmetics at each of her homes. A self-proclaimed jeans fanatic, Davis says she has just about every kind made but especially likes those by David Kahn and 7 For All Mankind, which she pairs with an old pair of suede Lucchese boots on weekends. "I had a beautiful pair of boots custom-made at Leddy's once, but I can't seem to give up my old Luccheses, even though I've almost worn them out. They're so comfortable."

This relaxed sense of elegance extends to her Mediterranean-style town home in SoSeven near Fort Worth's Cultural District as well. Davis, who received her law degree from Harvard after graduating from TCU, used a design team from Boston but says she was involved in every detail of the decorating, from choosing the window-treatment fabrics to hunting down furniture pieces at antiques stores in Connecticut. The result



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is a comfortable yet sophisticated space with a soothing color palette and unique touches throughout. The pretty patio is the site of frequent impromptu pizza parties, thanks to a custom-built pizza oven in the kitchen and fresh dough picked up from Taverna in downtown Fort Worth.

"I love being home," says Davis. "I really miss it when I'm away and just miss Fort Worth in general. I'm so excited about all the growth that's taking place, the new restaurants and what's happening at Museum Place. I'm thankful that much of it got under way when it did."

When Davis is able to sneak away from Austin, she enjoys spending time with her two daughters, Amber, who works for a Smart car dealership in Dallas and Dru, who is a college sophomore in Colorado. She also tries to catch up with friends and spend time with her Labrador retriever, Moots, whom Davis, an avid cyclist, named for the bicycle maker.

When Davis is in Austin, Moots stays with a pet sitter near Lake Worth, where she gets free rein in a big yard. "She's like having a little kid," says Davis. "She's sad to see me go but loves her sitter and has a great time running around out there."

Barring any special sessions, which Davis feels are highly likely this term, she will be home in June for an extended break and is ready to get back into a routine. "Austin is a great city, but I haven't had the opportunity to really get to know it," she says. "It's almost like being in Vegas, in the sense that I go to work so early and leave so late that I lose all sense of time and place. I'm ready to be outside again, to run and ride my bike [along] the Trinity River. Fort Worth is such a vibrant, alive city. Fort Worth is home."

Color and a little bit of sparkle make this sundress (it's reversible with one side featuring a more demure square neckline) a great day-to-evening transition piece. The sheer cardigan provides a light coverup. A Common Thread ethnic-print embroidered dress, \$438, A. Hooper. Petit Pois sheer cardigan, \$74, Dolce Vita.





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