

Biography of
THE HONORABLE DAVID JOHNSON
ARKANSAS STATE SENATOR



**CHAIRMAN – JOINT PUBLIC RETIREMENT & SOCIAL
SECURITY PROGRAMS
SENATE DISTRICT 32**

Senator David Johnson serves District 32, which comprises of part of Pulaski County. He is serving his second term. He is chairman of Joint Public Retirement & Social Security Programs and the Code Revision Commission. He is co-chairman of Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC)-Litigation Reports Oversight Subcommittee and vice chairman of both ALC-Claims Review and Joint Budget Committee (JBC)-Claims. In the current 90th General Assembly, his committee memberships include: Senate Judiciary; Senate State Agencies & Governmental Affairs; Joint Budget; Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC); Senate Rules, Resolutions & Memorials; ALC-Charitable, Penal and Correctional Institutions; ALC-Administrative Rules & Regulations; Joint Committee on Constitutional Amendments; State Agencies & Governmental Affairs – Senate Constitutional Issues Subcommittee and Boys State.

During the 89th General Assembly he was chairman of the Arkansas Code Revision Commission and the Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC) Litigation Reports Oversight Subcommittee. He was vice chairman of the Arkansas Legislative Council and the Executive Subcommittee of the Council. His membership included: Senate State Agencies and Governmental Affairs; Senate Rules, Resolutions and Memorials; Senate Revenue and Tax; Joint Budget Committee (JBC); ALC-Personnel; and JBC - Special Language. Senator Johnson is an ex officio member of nine other committees.

Senator Johnson is an outspoken advocate of measures that promote energy efficiency and create new green jobs. During the 2013 Regular Session of the 89th General Assembly, he sponsored Acts 554 and 1074, both of which promoted Arkansas's growing green economy. Act 554 reformed the state agencies' authority to enter performance-based contracts. Under the new legislation, a contractor building or retrofitting buildings for state agencies are subject to energy savings benchmarks. If a contractor's work fails to meet predetermined benchmarks at a cost to the taxpayers, the contractor must make good on the contractor's guarantee. Act 1074 enacted Arkansas PACE program, which is similar to programs in approximately twenty-five other states. Under the program, a city or county may form an energy efficiency district, and business owners and home owners in the district may take advantage of new, affordable financing options for energy efficiency improvements to their homes and buildings.

During the 88th General Assembly Senator Johnson served as the chairman of Joint Budget Committee - Peer Review Subcommittee and was a member of the following legislative committees: Senate Judiciary; Joint Budget; Arkansas Legislative Council; Senate State Agencies and Governmental Affairs; Senate Rules, Resolutions and Memorials; and the Arkansas Lottery Commission Legislative Oversight Committee. Additionally, he served on the Arkansas Code Revision Commission. Senator Johnson worked during the 87th General Assembly to establish parameters of public disclosure of information on fatalities and near fatalities in child maltreatment matters (Act 675 of 2009), the creation of a task force on autism (Act 1272 of 2009), and an act for enrollment consistency for entry to public schools (Act 426 of 2009). Johnson is a former member of the House of Representatives and served two terms, in 2005 and 2007, representing House District 38.

Senator Johnson has also been involved with legislation concerning unlawful consumer loans, the use of high-efficiency lighting by state agencies, the expansion of drug court programs, Medicaid waivers for the treatment of pervasive developmental disorders, and the Arkansas safety net benefit fund, a health insurance benefit.

Nationally, Senator Johnson works with legislators across the country as a member of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), where he serves on the Law & Criminal Justice & Public Policy Standing Committee. He is also a member of the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC), where he serves on the Fiscal Affairs & Government Operations Committee.

Senator Johnson is an alumnus of Georgetown University. Following his undergraduate degree he served as a staff assistant for the United States Senate Committee on Small Business chaired by United States Senator Dale Bumpers. He obtained a Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas School of Law. He served as the Pulaski County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney from 1998-2004 and was in private practice at Wright, Lindsey & Jennings, LLP, where he was engaged in commercial and general business law practice. Currently he serves as vice president of community investment for the Arkansas Community Foundation, which makes grants to improve the quality of life in our state and build local communities through philanthropy.

On June 19, 2013, the Arkansas Municipal League honored Johnson with the Distinguished Legislator Award for his exemplary service benefiting cities and towns of Arkansas. In 2009, he was the recipient of several awards, including The People's Hero Award from the Equal Rights Amendment Coalition, The First Branch Award from the Arkansas Judicial Council, and a Distinguished Service Award from the Arkansas Municipal League, which he also received in 2005 and 2007. In 2007, he was named the Legislator of the Year by the American Association of Retired People, Arkansas Chapter; received the Outstanding Legislator Award from the Arkansas Circuit Clerks Association; and was named the Outstanding Environmental Legislator by the Sierra Club (2005, 2007). In 2005, he was recognized as an Advocate of Justice by the Arkansas Prosecuting Attorneys Association.

Civically, he has served as chairman of the Board of Stewards for First United Methodist Church and on the board of directors of Youth Home. Senator Johnson is a faithful volunteer at the Stew Pot, a lunch ministry in downtown Little Rock. He and his wife, Amy, have three daughters.