

Biography of
THE HONORABLE BLAKE JOHNSON
ARKANSAS STATE SENATOR



**CHAIR TRANSPORTATION,
TECHNOLOGY & LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS**
SENATE DISTRICT 20

Senator Blake Johnson of Corning represents District 20, which includes Clay County and parts of Craighead, Greene, Lawrence and Randolph Counties. He was elected to the Arkansas Senate in 2014 and took the oath of office on the first day of the 2015 legislative session.

Senator Johnson is chair of the Senate Committee on Transportation, Technology and Legislative Affairs. He is a member of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Joint Performance Review and Joint Energy. Senator Johnson is also a member on Joint Budget Committee and Arkansas Legislative Council and serves on several subcommittees.

In past sessions, Senator Johnson has served as chair on Legislative Joint Auditing – State Agencies and Education Institutions Subcommittees. He served as vice chair for Joint Public Retirement and Social Security Programs during the 91st General Assembly.

Senator Johnson sponsored legislation setting up a pilot program under which welfare recipients undergo testing for illegal drugs, in order to qualify for benefits. He sponsored a change in how the wealth index is calculated for school facilities funding. He was the Senate sponsor of legislation creating the Arkansas Future Grant Program.

Senator Johnson has sponsored “revolving door” legislation that requires legislators to wait at least two years after their retirement from the General Assembly before registering as a lobbyist. It also prohibits former legislators from working at an educational cooperative or local area agency on aging, until two years after they leave the legislature. He has co-sponsored major tax relief legislation, pro-life laws and legislation that reduces the fees for concealed carry permits.

Throughout Senator Johnson time in the Senate he has sponsored several bills that effected public schools. The legislation added options for issuing a standard teaching license for nontraditional licensure programs, to change the number of professional development days required for teachers and to strengthen the law concerning background checks for public school teachers and employees.

Senator Johnson is a farmer. Before his election to the Senate, he had served as an alderman in Corning. He was born in Poplar Bluff, Missouri and graduated from Arkansas State University. He and his wife, Tricia, have a son and a daughter. Senator Johnson and his wife are members of the First Baptist Church of Corning.