

Biography of
THE HONORABLE MARK JOHNSON
ARKANSAS STATE SENATOR



VICE CHAIR JOINT ENERGY
SENATE DISTRICT 15

Senator Mark Johnson was elected in 2018 and was sworn in on the first day of session in January 2019. He represents District 15, which includes Conway County and parts of Faulkner, Perry, Pulaski and Van Buren Counties.

Senator Johnson is vice chair of the Joint Energy Committee. He is also the vice chair of the Charitable, Penal and Correctional Institutions Subcommittee of the Legislative Council and vice chair of the Claims Subcommittee of the Joint Budget Committee.

Senator Johnson is on the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee, the Senate City, County and Local Affairs Committee, the Joint Budget Committee and the Arkansas Legislative Council.

During the 2021 regular session Senator Johnson sponsored legislation to allow beer wholesalers to distribute ready-to-drink products and to establish the electric vehicle infrastructure fund.

Senator Johnson was the lead sponsor on the Arkansas State Capitol and Historical Monument Protection Act, which prohibits state agencies and local governments from removing monuments without approval from the Arkansas History Commission.

He co-sponsored bills reforming election and campaign fund laws, such as legislation that clarifies the duties of county employees who work on elections and legislation governing candidates and elected when they file campaign finance reports.

He also sponsored Act 898 of 2021 that allows current or past mayors that served at least five years to perform marriage ceremonies.

In 2019 he sponsored legislation to protect the freedom of expression of college students who contribute to school-sponsored journals and periodicals. He also sponsored legislation to expand charter schools and enhance school choice. In 2019 Senator Johnson mentored during Boys State.

A native of Crossett, he graduated from Conway High School and Hendrix College. Senator Johnson started his public career right after college by joining former Congressman Wilbur Mills staff in Washington, D.C.

He worked for the Small Business Administration and the City of North Little Rock. Senator Johnson served in the cabinet of former Governor Frank White, then moved into the private sector to be an advisor to businesses, cities and organizations on fundraising.

Senator Johnson is a member of the Little Rock Rotary Club. He has served as chair of the Pulaski County Republican Committee and is currently the President of the Arkansas Republican County Chairmen's Association. Senator Johnson and his wife, Catherine, have been married for over 44 years and they have two grown daughters.