

Biography of
THE HONORABLE BLAKE JOHNSON
ARKANSAS STATE SENATOR



SENATE MAJORITY LEADER
SENATE DISTRICT 21

Senator Blake Johnson of Corning represents District 21, which includes all of Clay, Greene and Randolph Counties and the northeast part of Lawrence County. He was elected to the Arkansas Senate in 2014 and took the oath of office on the first day of the 2015 legislative session.

Senate Johnson is chair of the Senate Insurance and Commerce Committee. He is a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Joint Energy Committee, the Senate Efficiency Committee, the Joint Budget Committee and the Arkansas Legislative Council. He is serving his second term as the Senate Majority Leader .

In 2025 Senator Johnson sponsored legislation to prohibit moratoriums on the issuance of permits in watersheds. He also sponsored an income tax exemption for certain payments made by the USDA and to create the criminal charge of damaging an ATM. It is now a Class D felony.

In 2023 he was the Senate sponsor of Act 41, which extended from 30 to 60 days the period that new car buyers have to register a motor vehicle.

During the 2021 regular session Senator Johnson sponsored legislation to mandate inspections of abortion facilities, to create an Independent Tax Appeals Commission and to limit drag racing on a public highway. He was the Senate sponsor of legislation to cut in half the annual registration fee on hybrid vehicles.

In past sessions, Senator Johnson sponsored legislation which requires welfare recipients to 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. The law 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.

Senator Johnson has sponsored bills to create options for issuing a standard teaching license for nontraditional licensure programs, to limit the number of professional development days required for teachers and to strengthen 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.