

Biography of
THE HONORABLE JOHN COOPER
ARKANSAS STATE SENATOR



VICE CHAIRMAN – ALC-HIGHER EDUCATION
SUBCOMMITTEE
SENATE DISTRICT 21

Senator John Cooper represents Senate District 21, which comprises portions of Craighead County. Elected by special election in 2014, he is serving his first term in the Arkansas Senate. He is vice chairman of the Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC) Higher Education Subcommittee. In the current 90th General Assembly, his committee memberships include:

- Senate Agriculture, Forestry and Economic Development
- Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor
- Arkansas Legislative Council (ALC)
- Joint Budget Committee (JBC)
- Joint Energy
- Joint Performance Review (JPR)
- ALC-Review
- JBC-Personnel
- ALC-Claims Review
- Arkansas Lottery Commission Legislative Oversight Committee
- ALC-Litigation Reports Oversight Subcommittee
- Health Reform Legislative Task Force
- Legislative Task Force to Study the Realignment of Higher Education
- Boys State

During the 89th General Assembly, he served on Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor; Senate Insurance and Commerce; Joint Energy and Senate Efficiency.

Regional and nationally, Senator Cooper is active with several key organizations. He serves on the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee of the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC); the Health and Human Services Task Force of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) and the Labor and Economic Development Standing Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Born in Heber Springs, Senator Cooper enlisted in the United States Army in 1966. He was assigned to Germany, where he received extensive military training in electronics and communications. He is a Vietnam War veteran.

Senator Cooper has been an ordained Baptist minister since 1989, frequently travels and speaks within the ministry, and has pastored several churches. Civically, he is a member of the Farm Bureau and the National Rifle Association.

Senator Cooper retired from AT&T with 35 years of service. During his years with the company, he held a first class FCC license and assisted with transitioning the network from the mechanical age to electronic switching, digital carriers and fiber optic facilities. Senator Cooper and his wife of over 40 years, Betty Sue, have one daughter and one son. The Coopers also have four grandchildren.