

*Biography of*  
**THE HONORABLE JOHNNY KEY**  
**ARKANSAS STATE SENATOR**



**CHAIRMAN - JOINT RETIRMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY**  
**SENATE DISTRICT 1**

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Senator Johnny Key of Mountain Home represents Senate District 1, which includes all of Baxter and Marion counties and the eastern half of Boone County. Senator Key has been in public service since 1997, when he was a justice of the peace on the Baxter County Quorum Court. In 2003 he began a six-year term in the Arkansas House of Representatives and began serving in the Arkansas Senate in 2009.

During the 88th General Assembly, Senator Key serves as chairman of Joint Retirement and Social Security and the following additional legislative committees: Joint Budget Committee, Arkansas Legislative Council, Senate Education, Senate State Agencies and Governmental Agencies and Senate Efficiency.

During the 87th General Assembly, Senator Key served as chairman of the Academic Facilities Oversight Committee and vice chairman of the Joint Committee on Public Retirement and Social Security Programs. He was a member of several committees and subcommittees including Senate Education Committee; Senate Committee on City, County and Local Affairs; Joint Budget Committee; Legislative Joint Auditing; Arkansas Lottery Commission Legislative Oversight Committee; and Joint Adequacy Evaluation Oversight Committee. Regionally, he serves on the Fiscal Affairs and Government Operations Committee of the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) and the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB).

Senator Key has a conservative political philosophy and his legislative priorities are a reflection of his beliefs. He has sponsored legislation to reduce taxes on families and businesses. He was a sponsor of the bill cutting the sales tax on groceries in half and also sponsored legislation to exempt retirement and pension income. He sponsored legislation to authorize Eden Alternative and Green House projects, which are long-term care facilities that emphasize quality of life.

A supporter of higher education, Senator Key has allocated a significant share of General Improvement Funds to Arkansas State University at Mountain Home and North Arkansas College in Harrison to pay for capital projects. Additionally, he sponsored legislation to make it easier for families to save for college tuition through tax-deferred savings allowed under Section 529 of the IRS code. He has consistently supported expanded job training and technical education for students who do not go to college and need job skills. Key has also worked with Mothers Against Drunk Driving to curb drinking by teenagers and successfully supported legislation to create drug courts, expand criminal drug task forces and give law enforcement the tools needed to control the growing abuse of methamphetamine.

Civically, Senator Key serves on the ASU Mountain Home Advisory Board and is Vice President for Government for the Economic Arkansas Executive Board. In April 2010, Senator Key was named Person of the Year by Arkansas Phi Beta Lambda for his support of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and Phi Beta Lambda. In June 2011, he received the 2011 Guy Newcomb Award for his legislative influence and leadership from the Arkansas Pharmacists Association during its 129<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention.

Senator Key is a graduate of Gurdon High School, Class of 1986, and in 1991 he received a Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering at the University of Arkansas. Key and wife Shannon own two childcare centers in Mountain Home. They have one son and one daughter, and are members of First Assembly of God Church in Mountain Home.