

Rep. Sam Johnson (R–Texas)

3rd District, Most of Collin County -- Plano, part of Frisco, McKinney



Residence: Plano

Born: Oct. 11, 1930; San Antonio, Texas

Religion: Methodist

Family: Wife, Shirley Johnson; three children (one deceased)

Education: Southern Methodist U., B.B.A. 1951; George Washington U., M.S.I.A. 1974 (international affairs)

Military Service: Air Force 1951-1979

Career: Home builder; Top Gun flight school director; Air Force pilot

First Elected: 1991 (11th full term)

Latest Election: 2012 General (100%)

Political Highlights: Texas House, 1985-91

Committees:

- Ways & Means (Health; Social Security - chairman)
- Joint Taxation

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3rd District, Most of Collin County -- Plano, part of Frisco, McKinney

CQ Politics in America Profile

(Updated: May 8, 2013)

In his ninth decade, Johnson still flashes the vigor that established him as a leader among conservatives in the 1990s. Now a senior member of the Ways and Means Committee, he rallies Republicans around plans to reshape the tax code and entitlement programs.

Johnson was in his third full term when the Republican Study Committee, a group of House conservatives, dissolved following the 1994 Republican Revolution. Shortly after, he and three other lawmakers founded the Conservative Action Team, which was later rebranded into the current, far more influential version of the RSC — and grew to include most House Republicans.

With the departure of Indiana’s Dan Burton at the end of the 112th Congress (2011-12), Johnson is the RSC’s last remaining founder in Congress. National Journal deemed him the most conservative member of the House in 2010, a designation he termed a “badge of honor.” He still hawks common conservative themes, such as shrinking the Education and Agriculture departments and eliminating executive branch “czars.”

Younger lawmakers run the RSC these days, but Johnson is still an active member, making animated critiques of Democrats on the House floor. When President Barack Obama issued a 2012 policy directive to stop the deportation of some illegal immigrants, Johnson described

Obama's "reprehensible steps that weaken our border security and undermine the rule of law in America." The presiding officer warned him not to engage in "personalities toward the president."

That incident aside, Johnson hasn't alienated himself from colleagues. He is quick to laugh and counts prominent members of both parties as friends — he has worked with Minority Whip Steny H. Hoyer of Maryland on immigration and Social Security issues and calls him "a good congressman." He has been part of a bipartisan House working group discussing immigration policy changes in the 113th Congress (2013-14). He also has earned unimpeachable respect as a former resident of the "Hanoi Hilton," the North Vietnamese prison that also held Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain.

In a nearly three-decade career in the Air Force, Johnson directed the Top Gun flight school. His military bearing still comes through at times. He declined a run at his party's top slot on Ways and Means in 2009 because he was the panel's No. 3 Republican. "I believe in seniority," he said.

Johnson, who is now the panel's No. 2 Republican, stands by the plans of Chairman Dave Camp of Michigan to attempt an overhaul of the tax code. In addition to lower corporate and individual tax rates, Johnson stresses simplification of the code by eliminating the carve-outs and deductions that have multiplied over the years.

"We need to start from scratch and eliminate them all," he said in 2012. "It's gonna be a fight regardless of what way we go ... [but] if we can just simplify the tax code, we'll be money ahead."

Johnson, who also sits on the Joint Taxation Committee, has not been timid in navigating the complexities of the current code. In the 112th Congress, he proposed granting recipients of the Korea Defense Service Medal preferential treatment for charitable donations; extending the reach of bonus depreciation savings for long-term contracts; delaying deadlines for the repayment of loans taken out against qualified retirement accounts; and making permanent a 2001 exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance.

Johnson wants to stop the refundable child tax credit — which provides cash payments to low-income parents who pay no federal income tax — from going to illegal immigrants. "I don't know how we can keep giving money away like that," he said. Keeping undocumented workers out of federal benefit programs has been one of his longtime goals.

Similarly, as the chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee, he tries to spotlight the flow of disability benefits to those who could be scamming the system. He says that people should not be allowed to simultaneously collect disability benefits and unemployment benefits.

Johnson is careful to emphasize that current retirees should not have their Social Security benefits reduced, but he also supported President George W. Bush's ill-fated proposal to allow personal accounts within the system. In 2005, he even suggested allowing workers to divert their

entire Social Security payroll tax into a private account. He is open to using a “chained CPI” to calculate benefit increases, which would result in smaller annual bumps.

He is a member of the Health Subcommittee, and like most Republicans, he considers dismantling the 2010 health care law to be a top priority.

Johnson remains incredibly protective of military personnel and their benefits. In the 112th, he signed on to a number of bipartisan initiatives regaling “wounded warriors” with all types of honors. Parochially, he’d like to see a new Veterans Affairs Department health care facility in North Texas. Johnson has had surgeries for several joint problems over the years, which he traces in part to being held in leg chains for two years in Vietnam. His imprisonment lasted almost seven years and included solitary confinement.

He strongly supported the military effort in Iraq and has not been pleased with the Obama administration’s focus on the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan. Defense budget cuts put in place by a 2011 deficit reduction law “just stink,” he said.

Johnson did not plan on a military career — participation in the ROTC was mandatory when he went to high school. He was aiming for a career in business and law when the Korean War intervened and his entire ROTC class at Southern Methodist University was called to duty. Accepted into flight training school, he fell in love with flying and was sold on an Air Force career. He flew combat missions over Korea and Vietnam and was a member of the Thunderbirds precision flying team for two years.

Johnson wrote a book about his POW experience, “Captive Warriors.” He had three surgeries on his right hand after his 1973 release and resumed flying.

After retiring from the Air Force in 1979 as a colonel, Johnson went into the homebuilding business in Dallas. He got into local Republican Party affairs and won a seat in the Texas House in 1984. When GOP Rep. Steve Bartlett resigned in March 1991 to run for mayor of Dallas, Johnson won the special election to replace him. He has had no trouble since then in the solidly Republican district, and he ran unopposed in the 2012 general election.

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CQ Politics in America: District Description

(Updated: May 7, 2013)

The 3rd, with the highest household median income in the state, takes the largest share of fast-growing Collin County, which is split between three districts. It stretches roughly from Frisco to Lavon Lake from east to west, and includes established Plano and McKinney. With a flood of Dallas County commuters, a massive \$630-million transportation upgrade was completed in 2012 on Sam Rayburn Tollway, in the heart of the district.

Plano’s office parks began attracting corporate headquarters, including J.C. Penney and Electronic Data Systems, in the 1980s. Both these firms have recently announced restructuring plans that include job cuts in the city. Other Fortune 500 firms based here include Dr Pepper Snapple Group, Rent-a-Center and Cinemark. Plano also has a large telecommunications and technology sector and major health care providers.

Frisco has developed into a recreation center for upper-middle income Metroplex suburbanites. Revenue generated from sales taxes on 8 million square feet of retail and dining space enabled the city to buy out a polluting battery plant. The city also hosts soccer’s FC Dallas Stadium.

Despite rapid growth, McKinney has maintained enough ponds, parks, hiking trails and green spaces to earn national media attention as one of the best small cities to call home. Developers have experimented with environmentally friendly design in residential and commercial projects.

The University of Texas at Dallas campus in Richardson (shared with the 32nd) has been undergoing “green” construction and expansion. But the 3rd isn’t immune to Texas’ budget shortfalls, and public schools in the 3rd have had to cut programs and lay off staff and teachers.

Some communities have attracted an influx of Chinese-Americans, and combined with Hispanics, minorities account for about 30 percent of the population in the majority-white, solidly Republican district.

Major Industry

Telecommunications, professional services, health care, retail, tourism

Cities

Plano (pt.), Frisco (pt.), McKinney

Notable

Parker’s Southfork Ranch, which was the home of the fictional Ewing family of television’s “Dallas,” now offers tours and a glimpse of the gun that shot J.R. Ewing.

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Largest Companies

(Updated: January 2014)

Company	Parent Company	Industry	Annual Income	Total Employees in the District
1 Pizza Hut, Inc.	Yum Brands, Inc.	eating place	\$16,493,800,000	600

	Company	Parent Company	Industry	Annual Income	Total Employees in the District
2	J. C. Penney Company, Inc.		ret department store chain and catalog	\$12,985,000,000	5000
3	HP Enterprise Services, LLC	Hewlett-Packard Company	data processing/prep computer programming svc	\$12,656,300,000	11118
4	Samsung Telecommunications America, L.L.C.	Samsung Electronics America, Inc.	whol electronic parts/equipment	\$9,071,483,000	120
5	Frito-Lay, Inc.	Frito-Lay North America, Inc.	mfg potato chips/snacks mfg cookies/crackers	\$6,706,500,000	3000
6	Dr Pepper Snapple Group, Inc.		mfg non alcoholic beverage	\$5,995,000,000	100
7	Frito-Lay North America, Inc.	Pepsico, Inc.	mfg potato chips/snacks mfg cookies/crackers	\$5,011,700,000	3000
8	Ericsson Inc.	Ericsson Holding II Inc.	communication services	\$4,000,000,000	4000
9	Alliance Data Systems Corporation		provides transaction credit & marketing services	\$3,641,390,000	200
10	Torchmark Corporation		life and supplemental health insurance company	\$3,589,516,000	0

Notes:

- Only primary industries are listed for any company, although a company may be active in others.
- Annual figures for privately-held companies (including privately-held subsidiaries) are estimated.

Source: Dun & Bradstreet (D&B)

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Contact Information, Staff and Social Media

(Updated: February 2014)

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Committees, Leadership Positions and Caucus Memberships

(Updated: February 2014)

Committee and Subcommittee Assignments

- Ways & Means (2nd of 23 Republicans)
 - Health
 - Social Security (chairman)
- Joint Taxation (4th of 5 Republicans)

Leadership Positions and Party Committee Assignments

- No reported leadership or party committee positions.

Selected Caucus and Special Organization Memberships

- Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus
 - Republican Study Committee (formerly Conservative Action Team) (founder)
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Elections & Vote for President

(Updated: May 2013)

Election	Candidate	Votes	Percent
2012 General	Sam Johnson (R)	187,180	100.0%
2012 Primary	Sam Johnson (R)	33,592	83.1%

	Harry Pierce (R)	4,848	12.0%
	Josh Caesar (R)	2,002	5.0%
2010 General	Sam Johnson (R)	101,180	66.3%
	John Lingenfelder (D)	47,848	31.3%
	Christopher J. Claytor (LIBERT)	3,602	2.4%
	Harry Pierce -- write-in (WRI)	22	.0%
2010 Primary	Sam Johnson (R)	40,661	100.0%
2008 General	Sam Johnson (R)	170,742	59.7%
	Tom Daley (D)	108,693	38.0%
	Christopher J. Claytor (LIBERT)	6,348	2.2%
2008 Primary	Sam Johnson (R)	36,050	86.9%
	Harry Pierce (R)	3,466	8.4%
	Wayne Avellanet (R)	1,952	4.7%
2006 General	Sam Johnson (R)	88,690	62.5%
	Dan Dodd (D)	49,529	34.9%
	Christopher J. Claytor (LIBERT)	3,662	2.6%
2006 Primary	Sam Johnson (R)	13,348	85.3%
	Bob Johnson (R)	2,292	14.6%
2004 General	Sam Johnson (R)	180,099	85.6%
	Paul Jenkins (I)	16,966	8.1%
	James Vessels (LIBERT)	13,287	6.3%
2004 Primary	Sam Johnson (R)	12,429	84.1%
	Brian Rubarts (R)	2,357	15.9%
2002 General	Sam Johnson (R)	113,974	74.0%
	Manny Molera (D)	37,503	24.3%
	John Davis (LIBERT)	2,656	1.7%
2002 Primary	Sam Johnson (R)	17,153	84.3%
	Thomas Caiazzo (R)	3,184	15.7%
2000 General	Sam Johnson (R)	187,486	71.6%
	Billy Wayne Zachary (D)	67,233	25.7%

	Lance Flores (LIBERT)	7,178	2.7%
2000 Primary	Sam Johnson (R)	40,802	93.5%
	J.A. Gonnell (R)	2,843	6.5%
1998 General	Sam Johnson (R)	106,690	91.2%
	Ken Ashby (LIBERT)	10,288	8.8%
1998 Primary	Sam Johnson (R)	14,621	100.0%
1996 General	Sam Johnson (R)	142,325	73.0%
	Lee Cole (D)	47,654	24.4%
	John Davis (L)	5,045	2.6%
	write-ins	2	.0%
1994 General	Sam Johnson (R)	157,011	91.0%
	Tom Donahue (LIBERT)	15,611	9.0%
1994 Primary	Sam Johnson (R)	29,546	88.8%
	David Corley (R)	2,063	6.2%
	Dave Schum (R)	1,680	5.0%
1992 General	Sam Johnson (R)	201,569	86.1%
	Noel Kopala (LIBERT)	32,570	13.9%
1992 Primary	Sam Johnson (R)	44,920	83.1%
	David Corley (R)	9,107	16.9%
1991 Special runoff	Sam Johnson (R)	24,004	52.6%
	Tom Pauken (R)	21,647	47.4%
1991 Special	Tom Pauken (R)	15,018	27.5%
	Sam Johnson (R)	10,855	19.9%
	Bill Hammond (R)	6,756	12.4%
	Paul Zane Pilzer (R)	5,909	10.8%
	Dan Branch (R)	5,484	10.0%
	Pete Sessions (R)	5,156	9.4%
	Wayne E. Putnam (D)	2,324	4.2%
	Farrell Ray (R)	1,139	2.1%
	Robert E. Lyle (R)	806	1.5%
	Mel Richardson (I)	802	1.5%

Rufus T. Higginbotham (I)	238	.4%
David Corley (R)	168	.3%

[Political Party Abbreviations](#) | [Explanation of Primary Elections](#)

Vote for President

Note: AP recalculated the 2008 district vote for president to reflect new, post-redistricting boundaries.

Year	Republican		Democratic		Independent	
2012	175,383	64%	93,290	34%	--	--
2008	165,158	62%	100,440	38%	--	--

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Interest Group Ratings

(Updated: May 2013)

Year	AFL-CIO	ADA	CCUS	ACU
2012	10%	0%	92%	96%
2011	0%	5%	100%	87%
2010	0%	0%	100%	100%
2009	5%	0%	79%	100%
2008	0%	0%	83%	96%
2007	5%	0%	79%	100%
2006	17%	5%	91%	90%
2005	8%	0%	88%	96%
2004	0%	0%	100%	100%
2003	0%	5%	100%	88%
2002	13%	0%	90%	100%
2001	0%	0%	91%	100%
2000	0%	0%	85%	100%
1999	0%	0%	88%	96%
1998	0%	0%	88%	100%
1997	0%	10%	100%	96%
1996	9%	5%	94%	100%

1995	0%	0%	100%	96%
1994	11%	0%	83%	100%
1993	0%	0%	100%	96%
1992	25%	10%	88%	100%
1991	0%	0%	100%	100%

Source: Compiled by Congressional Quarterly based on information provided by each participating group.
[Interest Group Descriptions](#)
