

Arkansas CD-04

Tom Cotton (R)

BIOGRAPHY



Biography: As a boy, Tom Cotton had dreams of becoming a teacher. That changed in the early 1990s when he watched fellow Arkansan Bill Clinton's political coming out party and got hooked on politics. Like Clinton, Cotton is an Ivy-League-educated rising star in his party. Unlike Clinton, his school of choice was Harvard, and his party of choice is the Republicans. Cotton grew up on his family's cattle farm in rural Dardanelle. Although his family wasn't politically active,

they were staunchly conservative, and Cotton absorbed their values. After finishing undergrad work and law school at Harvard, he clerked for the U.S. Court of Appeals and then went into private practice. Moved by the events of September 11, 2001, Cotton joined the U.S. Army in 2004. Rather than serve as a JAG as was expected of him, he volunteered for the infantry. In Baghdad, he led daily combat patrols for his 41-member air-assault infantry platoon. When he returned home, he was assigned to the Arlington National Cemetery, where he conducted honors for military funerals. He was back on the frontlines again in 2008, this time in Afghanistan, where he planned operations for an even larger counterinsurgency team. During his two tours of duty, he amassed some impressive hardware, including the Bronze Star Medal and the Iraq Campaign Medal. Once his service ended, Cotton headed to Washington, D.C., where he worked as a management consultant, advising clients on business strategy, marketing, finance and operations. Cotton considered running for a seat in the U.S. Senate in 2010, but deferred until 2012, when he took a run at the newly-redrawn 4th Congressional District and made short work of his Democrat rival. Citing his impressive background and his vocal, informed condemnation of the sequester, *Politico* recently named him "Most Likely To Succeed" among the freshman class of the 113th Congress.

Fast Facts

Born: May 13, 1977, Dardanelle, AR

Residence: Dardanelle

Religion: Methodist

Family: Single

Education: Harvard Univ., B.A., 1999; J.D., 2002

Career: Management consultant, McKinsey & Co., 2010-11; Army, 2004-09; practicing lawyer, 2003-04

Previous Office: None

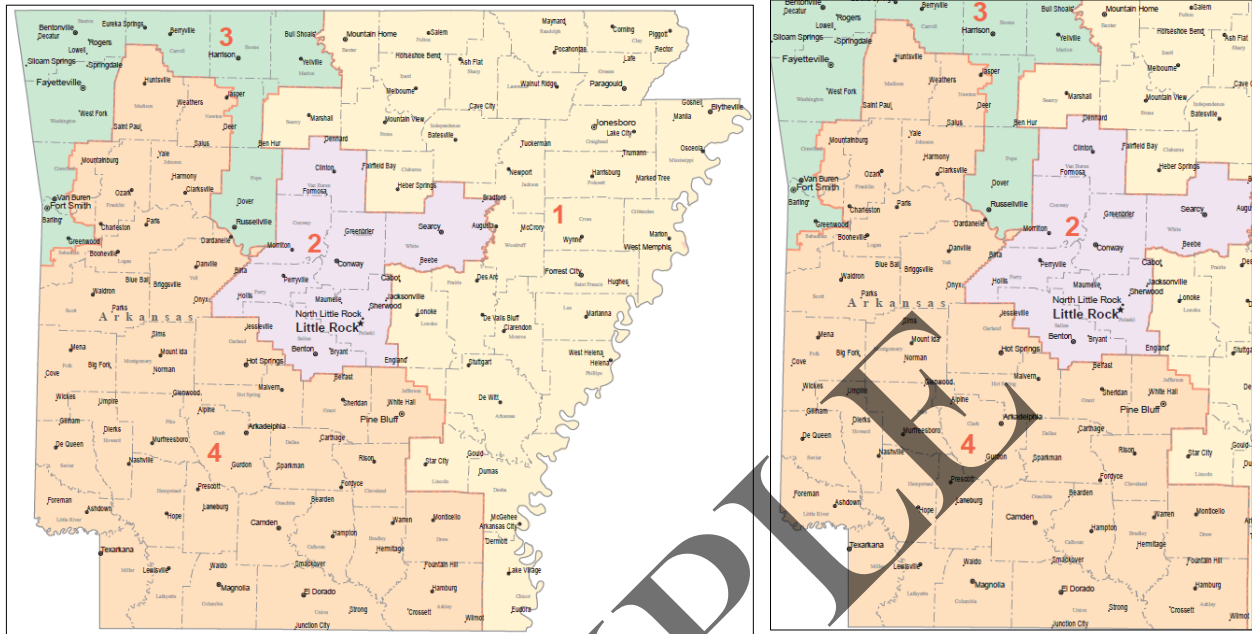
LOCAL COVERAGE

From *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*: "The last time he was in the U.S. House chamber, Tom Cotton was a 16-year-old high school student watching the action from a balcony with his family. But this week, after carrying Arkansas' 4th Congressional District, he walked onto the main floor as a congressman-elect and the youngest member of the state's congressional delegation. ... Cotton said his experience as a U.S. Army infantry platoon leader in the Iraq War would help him gather a team and serve effectively. 'It's not my first rodeo, so to speak,' he said. Cotton said the problems facing the country – rising debt, joblessness and increased government spending – will not be completely solved overnight, or next year. But Cotton, a Harvard Law School graduate, sounded confident progress could be made." (Alex Daniels,

"Cotton Gets Crash Course In Navigating Capitol Hill," *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, 11/16/12)

Political Information

STATE AND DISTRICT MAP



Counties Represented: Ashley, Bradley, Calhoun, Clark, Cleveland, Columbia, Crawford (part), Dallas, Drew, Franklin, Garland, Grant, Hempstead, Hot Spring, Howard, Jefferson (part), Johnson, Lafayette, Lincoln (part), Little River, Logan, Madison (part), Miller, Montgomery, Nevada, Newton (part), Ouachita, Pike, Polk, Scott, Sebastian (part), Sevier, Union, Yell (part)

CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE AND STAFF

Address: 415 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515-0504

Telephone / Fax: 202.225.3772 / 202.225.1314

Website: cotton.house.gov

Facebook / Twitter: www.facebook.com/TomCottonAR / twitter.com/tomcottonAR

Committees Assigned: Financial Services; Foreign Affairs

Chief of Staff: Doug Coutts

District Director: Lesley Nelms

Legislative Director: Jonathan Hiler

ELECTION RESULTS

Election	Party	Candidate	Percent	Votes
2012 General Election	Rep	Tom Cotton	59%	153,104
	Dem	Gene Jeffress	37%	94,506

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Candidate	Party	Receipts (\$)	Indiv. Cont. (\$)	PAC Cont. (\$)	Cand. Cont. (\$)	Spent (\$)	Debt (\$)
Jeffress, Gene	Dem	99,830	30,830	23,500	12,000	97,534	-
Cotton, Tom	Rep	2,202,993	1,738,552	464,243	-	1,981,464	-

TOP DONORS BY INDUSTRY

Rank	Industry	Total
1	Republican/Conservative	\$274,033
2	Securities & Investment	\$133,750
3	Lawyers/Law Firms	\$121,340
4	Health Professionals	\$95,242
5	Oil & Gas	\$92,100
6	Retired	\$81,050
7	Leadership PACs	\$60,500
8	Commercial Banks	\$60,250
9	General Contractors	\$56,375
10	Business Services	\$49,500
11	Lobbyists	\$27,847
12	Crop Production & Basic Processing	\$23,964
13	Retail Sales	\$23,555
14	Telephone Utilities	\$22,500
15	Education	\$21,123

(Center For Responsive Politics, www.opensecrets.org, Accessed 12/19/12)

TOP DONORS BY BUSINESS / GROUP

Rank	Business / Group	Total
1	Club for Growth	\$245,783
2	Stephens Group	\$46,100
3	McKinsey & Co	\$39,500
4	Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher	\$27,500
5	Elliott Management	\$22,500
6	Arkwest Communications	\$20,000
7	Cooper & Kirk	\$18,350
8	Murphy Oil	\$17,000
9	Crossland Construction	\$16,375
10	Westrock Capital Partners	\$15,000
11	Bank of the Ozarks	\$11,250
12	Nephropathology Assoc	\$10,800
13	Lieblong & Assoc	\$10,500
14	Arkansas Best Corp	\$10,250
15	Devon Energy	\$10,250

(Center For Responsive Politics, www.opensecrets.org, Accessed 12/23/12)

Policy Information

PHILOSOPHY OF GOVERNMENT

Cotton Promises To Let The Constitution Guide His Decisions. "I believe the constitutional structure is an essential safeguard of liberty. I will keep faith with my oath to defend the Constitution by reviewing proposed laws for constitutional defects. I will never pass the buck to the courts by voting for a law that I believe is unconstitutional—if a proposed law is unconstitutional in my judgment, then I will vote against it." ("Defend The Constitution," www.cottonforcongress.com, Accessed 12/13/12)

Cotton Recognizes There Is A Large Partisan Divide House, But Thinks His Experience In The Military Will Assist Him To Build Policy Consensus. "[I]f his service helped lead him to Congress, Cotton says it will help him alter the partisan divides in the House, too. 'I think I can help build consensus,' Cotton said. 'That spirit of teamwork and discipline and dealing with imperfect information, having to make choices between not good and bad but better and worse.' In particular, he points to what he learned about counter insurgency in Afghanistan as a way he can help with bipartisanship. 'You are working very closely with people from a different culture, different language, different part of the world but you build

common bonds around shared priorities,' Cotton said." (Dan Merica, "Freshman's House Office Search Foreshadows The Legislator He Might Be," *CNN Wire*, 12/3/12)

ON BANKING & BAILOUTS

Cotton: "I Will Oppose President Obama's Statist Policies And Work To Repeal Job-Killing Laws Like ... The Dodd-Frank Financial-Regulatory Bill." ("Promote Job Creation," www.cottonforcongress.com, Accessed 12/13/12)

ON DEFENSE SPENDING

Cotton Believes President Obama Has Instituted "Severe Cuts" To Defense Programs – The New Member Promises To Reverse This Trend. "We cannot gut the military to pay for failed stimulus plans, Obamacare, or other liberal programs. In fact, the military has already cut nearly \$400 billion under President Obama, including the cancellation of major weapon systems and a dangerous reduction in the number of Marines and Soldiers. These severe cuts have occurred without similar reductions at domestic agencies. I will work to reverse this trend and to ensure that our troops have the equipment and weapons they need to win our wars—or deter them from starting in the first place." ("Protect National Security," www.cottonforcongress.com, Accessed 12/13/12)

ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Cotton Calls For Additional Oil Production On Federal Lands And The Outer Continental Shelf. "We must open federal lands and the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) to more exploration and production. The oil-and-gas reserves in the Gulf of Mexico, the Arctic Ocean, and federal public lands in the West and Alaska are a tremendous untapped source of economic growth. Greater exploration and production will increase the reliability of our supplies and reduce prices, create high-paying jobs that can't be sent overseas, and reduce the deficit through higher lease and royalty payments." ("Secure Energy Independence," www.cottonforcongress.com, Accessed 12/13/12)

An Opponent Of Any "Cap And Trade" Plan, Cotton Thinks Those Schemes Are Simply Large Taxes On Americans, Which Will Make The Country Less Competitive Economically. "I strongly oppose all forms of a 'cap and trade' schemes, which are nothing more than a massive new tax on energy. Cap and trade would handcuff our economy and make America less competitive in the world, because emerging markets like China and India will never adopt such a destructive tax. Manufacturers will move to those countries, which will also cost American jobs. I will fight tirelessly against cap and trade, both in Congress and against the EPA's abusive use of the Clean Air Act to implement cap and trade unilaterally." ("Secure Energy Independence," www.cottonforcongress.com, Accessed 12/13/12)

Cotton Opposes Federal Attempts to Regulate Hydraulic Fracking, Which Is Especially Important To Arkansas With Its Large Shale Gas Reserves. "The federal government should not regulate hydraulic fracturing, which has opened vast new reserves of shale gas here in Arkansas and across the country. Shale formations have unique characteristics and states should set local policy for their own formations." ("Secure Energy Independence," www.cottonforcongress.com, Accessed 12/13/12)

While Cotton Supports Alternative Energy Sources, He Opposes Any Government Subsidy To Those Industries, Arguing If Those Sources Are Economically Viable They Will Attract Private Investment. "I support alternative energy sources like solar and wind—but only if they can compete and succeed in the market on their own merits. Just like we don't need the federal government telling us what light bulbs we can use, we don't need it picking winners and losers in the energy sector. If alternative energy sources are economically viable, they will attract the private investments needed to succeed. The government shouldn't subsidize them, nor should it artificially increase the cost of oil and gas by singling the industry out for tax hikes and regulatory burdens." ("Secure Energy Independence," www.cottonforcongress.com, Accessed 12/13/12)

ON HEALTH CARE

Calling The Health Care Reform Law "Offensive To A Free Society," Cotton Argues The Law Must Be Repealed And Replaced By Market-Based Reforms. "'The first step is to repeal that law, which is offensive to a free society and a free people,' Cotton said. After the law is repealed, he said, the goal would be to 'implement new patient-centered, market-based reforms that are going to help people get access to quality care at affordable prices.'" ("4th District Candidates Cotton, Jeffress Split On Health Care Law," *The Associated Press*, 9/26/12)

- **"Cotton ... Ran Partly On A Pledge To Push For A Repeal Of The Federal Health Care Law And Said He Wanted To Replace It With New Reforms."** (Jeannie Nuss, "Cotton Defeats Jeffress To Win Ark. US House Seat," *The Associated Press*, 11/7/12)

Cotton: "People Need To Be Able To Buy Health Insurance Across State Lines, Health Care Providers Should Post Prices So Consumers Can Be Aware, And There Needs To Be Malpractice Reform So Doctors Aren't Practicing Defensive Medicine." (Jeff Arnold, "4th District Q&A," *Southwest Times Record*, 10/28/12)

- **Cotton: "I Oppose The Destruction Of Human Embryos To Conduct Stem-Cell Research And All Forms Of Human Cloning."** ("Defend Traditional Values," www.cottonforcongress.com, Accessed 12/13/12)

ON IMMIGRATION

Cotton Opposes Any Form Of Amnesty For Illegal Aliens, Stating It Would Cost Billions Of Dollars And Inevitably Attract Millions Of New Aliens. "We cannot afford to grant illegal aliens amnesty or a so-called 'earned path to citizenship.' Amnesty would cost billions of dollars that our government cannot afford. Also, amnesty would attract millions of new illegal aliens, just as the 1986 amnesty did, by advertising to the world that America lacks the political will to enforce its borders." ("Secure The Border And Enforce Immigration Laws," www.cottonforcongress.com, Accessed 12/13/12)

- **Cotton: "[A]mnesty Is Unjust And Immoral Because It Favors Those Who Broke Our Laws Over Those Standing In Line At Embassies Hoping To Immigrate Legally—Exactly The Kind Of Immigrants We Should Want."** ("Secure The Border And Enforce Immigration Laws," www.cottonforcongress.com, Accessed 12/13/12)

Cotton Calls For Completing The Border Fence, Arguing They Worked In San Diego And In Israel. “[W]e must complete the border fence. Fences work—they worked in San Diego and Israel, and they will work on our border. In addition, I will work to provide more border agents and needed resources for Customs and Border Protection. We need boots on the ground and advanced technologies to help reinforce the border fence.” (“Secure The Border And Enforce Immigration Laws,” www.cottonforcongress.com, Accessed 12/13/12)

ON JOBS & ECONOMY

Cotton: “What Government Can And Should Do Is Ensure A Free-Market, Job-Friendly Environment Where Businesses And Entrepreneurs Have The Certainty And Incentives To Invest, Innovate, Grow, And Hire.”

(“Promote Job Creation,” www.cottonforcongress.com, Accessed 12/13/12)

Acknowledging The Nation’s Complicated Tax System Favors The Richest Individuals And Businesses, Cotton Calls For Eliminating Loopholes And Lowering Tax Rates To Spark Economic Growth. “One reason our tax rates are so high is the countless special-interest carve-outs and loopholes that reduce the overall tax base, which are offset by higher rates. These complicated deductions primarily benefit the richest individuals and businesses, which have the ability to take advantage of them. By eliminating these loopholes, we can lower tax rates, reduce tax-compliance costs, make the tax code fairer and more competitive, and ignite economic growth and job creation. A growing economy will produce more tax revenue under the lower rates than our current complicated system, just as happened after President Reagan signed the Tax Reform Act of 1986.” (“Reduce And Symplify Taxes,” www.cottonforcongress.com, Accessed 12/13/12)

ON TAXES & BUDGET

Cotton: “All Around Arkansas We See Conservatives Winning Up And Down The Ballot And It Just Goes To Show That Arkansas Is At Root A Conservative State That Wants Less Government And Lower Taxes And More Liberty.” (Jeannie Nuss, “Cotton Defeats Jeffress To Win Ark. US House Seat,” *The Associated Press*, 11/7/12)

“[Cotton] Has Said He Would Have Voted Against The Deal To Raise The Nation’s Borrowing Limit Last Year.” (Jeannie Nuss, “Cotton Defeats Jeffress To Win Ark. US House Seat,” *The Associated Press*, 11/7/12)

Cotton: “The Bush Tax Cuts Are Set To Expire After 2012, But I Will Vote To Extend These Tax Cuts Permanently.” (“Reduce And Symplify Taxes,” www.cottonforcongress.com, Accessed 12/13/12)

Cotton Calls For Reforming The Corporate And Individual Tax Codes, So Funds Will Move From Tax Shelters To More Productive Economic Uses. Cotton: “[W]e need to reform out corporate and individual tax codes are incredibly cumbersome and costly. The codes divert money from productive economic uses to tax shelters which people use to reduce taxable income.” (Jeff Arnold, “4th District Q&A,” *Southwest Times Record*, 10/28/12)

Cotton Supports A Federal Balanced Budget Amendment To The Constitution, So Congress Will Have To Balance The Books Just Like Legislators In Arkansas. “Washington politicians need a mandatory requirement to balance our budget, just like we do in Arkansas each year. I will vote for the Balanced

Budget Amendment in Congress and I will do my part to persuade 38 states to ratify the amendment."
("Stop The Spending And Cut The Debt," www.cottonforcongress.com, Accessed 12/13/12)

Cotton Supports Paul Ryan's Budget And Calls For "Real, Immediate Cut" To Domestic Discretionary Spending. "We must also take action now to stop spending and borrowing—that's why I support plans like Paul Ryan's *Path to Prosperity* budget and the Republican Study Committee's *Honest Solutions* budget. We must make real, immediate cuts—not merely reductions to rates of growth or future, imaginary cuts—to domestic discretionary spending, which has exploded under President Obama. America must honor its obligations, but we must also confront our debt crisis." ("Stop The Spending And Cut The Debt," www.cottonforcongress.com, Accessed 12/13/12)

SAMPLE