



J.C. Watts, Jr.

Founder and Chairman

J.C. Watts is the chairman of the J.C. Watts Companies.

As chairman, J.C. provides strategic focus and program leadership to the company's business partnerships, joint ventures, engagements, alliances and initiatives. He works with partners, customers, and clients to execute market development, communications and public affairs strategies.

J.C. advises or serves as a corporate director for several major companies, including John Deere, Wells Fargo, NASCAR, Burlington Northern Santa Fe, Clear Channel Communications, Dillard's Department Stores, and Terex Corporation. He is a regular analyst on CNN and a frequent guest on national radio shows. He has been widely quoted in major newspaper articles, both in the United States and around the world. He also writes a twice monthly column for more than a dozen newspapers.

J.C. has led a U.S. delegation to Vienna, Austria, at the request of President Bush and Secretary of State Powell, to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Conference on Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia. He joined President Bush on his historic trip to Africa. He co-founded the Coalition for AIDS Relief in Africa and serves on the board of Africare. He serves on the boards of the Boy Scouts of America and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He has also created the J.C. and Frankie Watts Foundation to focus on urban renewal and other charitable initiatives.

J.C. was elected to the U.S. Congress from the fourth district of Oklahoma in 1994. In 1998, he was elected by his peers to serve as chairman of the Republican Conference, the fourth-ranking leadership position in the majority party in the U.S. House of Representatives, and a position once held by Dick Cheney, Jack Kemp and Gerald Ford. In this capacity, J.C. provided daily counsel to the Speaker of the House, and participated in bi-weekly meetings with the President of the United States.

As a Member of Congress representing the fourth district of Oklahoma, J.C. served for eight years on the House Armed Services Committee. He authored legislation to create, and then he later served on, the House Select Committee on Homeland Security. He also served on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, as well as the House Banking Committee. He led two congressional trade missions to Africa. He co-authored the American Community Renewal and New Markets Act, which President Clinton signed into law in 2000. He was the author of President Bush's faith based initiative, the Community Solutions Act of 2001. He also developed legislation with Congressman John Lewis to establish a Smithsonian museum of African American history.

J.C. was born on November 18, 1957 in Eufaula, Oklahoma. He graduated from Eufaula High School in 1976 and attended the University of Oklahoma until his graduation in 1981 with a B.A. in journalism. While at the University of Oklahoma, Watts was quarterback for the Sooners, leading them to two consecutive Big Eight Championships and Orange Bowl victories. He was voted the Most Valuable Player in the 1980 and 1981 Orange Bowls. From 1981 to 1986, he started for Ottawa and Toronto in the Canadian Football

League and was voted the Most Valuable Player of the Grey Cup, the CFL's Super Bowl, his rookie season.

After returning to Oklahoma, Watts served as a youth minister at Sunnyside Baptist Church in Del City, Oklahoma from January 1987 until December 1994, when he then became associate pastor. In 1990 he was elected to the Oklahoma State Corporation Commission and became chairman before running for Congress in 1994.