



Rep. John Adler (NJ-03)

Congressman John Adler was sworn into office on January 6, 2009 and is serving his first term as U.S. Representative for New Jersey's Third Congressional District. The Third District spans the state, and includes portions of Burlington, Camden, and Ocean counties. The district is home to the McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst mega base, as well as forty miles of New Jersey's treasured shoreline.

A native New Jerseyan, John grew up in the Borough of Haddonfield with his mother, Mary Louise and his father, John. His family owned and operated a local dry cleaning store for more than fifteen years, but after his father experienced a series of heart attacks that led to crippling medical expenses, they lost their small business. This experience left an indelible mark on John, and he remains particularly sensitive to the concerns of small business owners and their ability to afford health care coverage.

Before his election to Congress, John served for seventeen years in the New Jersey State Senate. In addition to his role as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, John emerged as a leader on environmental and health related issues, homeland security, ethics reform, and reducing taxes on small business, middle class families and seniors. John wrote New Jersey's Smoke-Free Air Act, which became the state's premier public health law in January 2006. The bill prohibits smoking in indoor public places and has already spared thousands of people from the dangers of second-hand smoke.

John's fight for ethics reform began early in his career. He was elected to the Cherry Hill Town Council in 1987 and wrote the town's ethics ordinance. As a State Senator, he went on to write New Jersey's law requiring pension forfeiture and mandatory prison terms for corrupt officials.

John serves on the House Veterans Affairs Committee and is the only New Jersey Democrat to serve on the powerful Financial Service Committee. John's first bill in Congress was to provide tax relief for seniors and disabled veterans in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. When John reviewed the first draft of the economic recovery package, he realized that seniors and veterans were excluded from receiving a tax rebate. He worked quickly to fix the oversight, introducing the Safeguarding America's Seniors and Veterans Act, which was subsequently signed into law. His legislation was endorsed by the VFW, Disabled American Veterans and the AARP.

As part of his efforts to meet with South Jersey and Coastal area residents, John created Congress on your Corner. On most weekends, John meets with local residents at a diner, grocery store or community meeting room and hears directly from his constituents about their issues, concerns, and ideas.

John is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School. He and his wife, Shelley, live in Cherry Hill, where they are raising their four sons Jeffrey, Alex, Andrew, and Oliver.