

John D. Cherry Jr.

The legislative career of John D. Cherry Jr. spans more than 20 years before his election to the post of lieutenant governor in 2002. He has served as Senate Democratic leader since 1995. Prior to that, he served as Senate Democratic floor leader from 1990 to 1995. He was first elected to the Michigan Senate in 1986, after serving two terms in the Michigan House of Representatives.

Cherry's interest in politics began as a teenager. At the age of 18, he formed a political group for young people, sparked by the national turmoil of the Vietnam War and the civil rights movement. His political activism carried over into his work life, as he took a job as administrative assistant to former State Senator Gary Corbin. He later served as the Michigan political director for the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, until his election to the Michigan House.

As a legislator, Cherry has focused on such issues as families, quality of life in Michigan, and the environment. He has authored and co-sponsored several Michigan laws dealing with workers' rights, environmental protection, and conservation. He has received many awards and honors during his career, including recognition from *The Detroit News* as one of Michigan's Most Effective Legislators.

Cherry holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in public administration, both from the University of Michigan.