

SPEAKERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1776–2025

**(Original information compiled from official records
by Inez Watson, Clerk of the House, and
maintained by each Clerk thereafter.)**

Second Provincial Congress established an independent government for South Carolina with Unicameral Legislature, Mar. 26, 1776.

James Parsons, Mar. 26, 1776–Oct. 1776

John Matthews, Dec. 1776–Spring of 1777—(Resigned.)

Thomas Bee, Summer of 1777–Nov. 1778

Constitution of 1778—provided that legislative authority be vested in a General Assembly consisting of two bodies, a Senate and House of Representatives.

John Matthews, St. George Parish, 1779–end of session—
(Resigned.)

Thomas Farr, Jr., St. Paul's Parish, 1779–1782

Hugh Rutledge, Charleston, 1782–1785

John Faucher and Grimke, Charleston, 1785–1787

John Julius Pringle, Charleston, 1787–1789

Jacob Read, Charleston, 1789–1795

Robert Barnwell, Beaufort, 1795–1798

William Johnson, Jr., Charleston, 1798–1800

Theodore Gaillard, St. Stephen's Parish, 1800–1802

Robert Stork, Richland, 1802–1804

William Cotesworth Pinckney, Charleston, 1804–1805—
(Resigned.)

Joseph Alston, All Saints Parish, 1805–1810

John Geddes, Charleston, 1810–1814

Thomas Bennett, Charleston, 1814–1818

Patrick Noble, Abbeville, 1818–1824

John Belton O'Neal, Newberry, 1824–1828

Benjamin Fanuel Dunkin, Charleston, 1828–1830

Henry Laurens Pinckney, Charleston, 1830–1833—(Resigned.)

Patrick Noble, Abbeville, 1833–1836

David Lewis Wardlaw, Abbeville, 1836–1842

William F. Colcock, Prince William's Parish, 1842–1848

John Izard Middleton, All Saint's Parish, 1848–1850

James Simons, Sr., Charleston, 1850–1862

Alfred P. Aldrich, Barnwell, 1862–1864

- R. B. Boyleston, Fairfield, 1864–1865
Chas. H. Simonton, Charleston, 1865–1868
Franklin J. Moses, 1868–1872
Samuel J. Lee, Aiken, 1872–1874
R. B. Elliott, Aiken, 1874–1876
Gen. William H. Wallace, Union, 1876–1877
John C. Sheppard, Edgefield, 1877–1882
James Simons, Jr., Charleston, 1882–1890
John L. M. Irby, Laurens, 1890–1891—(Resigned.)
Ira B. Jones, Lancaster, 1891–1896
Frank B. Gary, Abbeville, 1896–1901
William F. Stevenson, Chesterfield, 1901–1903
Mendel L. Smith, Kershaw, 1903–1907
Richard S. Whaley, Charleston, 1907–1911
Mendel L. Smith, Kershaw, 1911–1915
James A. Hoyt, Richland, 1915–1918—(Resigned.)
Thomas P. Cothran, Greenville, 1918–1921—(Resigned.)
J. B. Atkinson, Spartanburg, 1921–1923
Thos. S. McMillan, Charleston, 1923–1925
Edgar A. Brown, Barnwell, 1925–1926
John K. Hamblin, Union, 1927–1933
James B. Gibson, Dillon, 1933–1934—(Died 1934.)
Claude A. Taylor, Spartanburg, 1935–1936—(Died 1-21-66.)
Solomon Blatt, Barnwell, 1937–1946—(Died 5-14-86.)
Bruce Littlejohn, Spartanburg, 1947–1949—(Resigned 5-12-49.)
Thomas H. Pope, Newberry, May 12, 1949–1950—(Died 8-23-99.)
Solomon Blatt, Barnwell, 1951–August 1, 1973—(Died 5-14-86.)
Rex L. Carter, Greenville, August 1, 1973–1980—(Died 6-9-14.)
Ramon Schwartz, Jr., Sumter, 1981–1986—(Resigned 10-1-86.)
Robert J. Sheheen, Kershaw—(Elected Speaker 10-1-86.)
Robert J. Sheheen, Kershaw, 1987–1994
David H. Wilkins, Greenville, 1995–2005—(Elected Speaker 12-6-94, resigned as Speaker effective 6-21-05.) Robert W. Harrell, Jr., Charleston—(Elected Speaker 6-2-05, effective 6-21-05.)
Robert W. Harrell, Jr., Charleston, 2005–2014—(Resigned 10-23-14.)
James H. Lucas, Darlington, 2015–2022—(Resigned 5-12-22.)
G. Murrell Smith, Jr., Sumter, 2022—(Elected Speaker April 28, 2022, assuming office May 12, 2022.)