


GROOMS, Lawrence Kelly “Larry”

[R]—(Dist. No. 37, *Berkeley-Charleston Cos.*)—Businessman; *g.* Clemson Univ., B.S., 1987; *m.* Carol Anderson, 3 children; Christian, Saved by Grace, April 1987; Outstanding Dedication Award, Timberland High School, 1996–97; Bd. of Visitors, Charleston Southern Univ., 1996–; Appreciation Award, St. Stephen Elementary School;

S.C. Assn. of Tourism Regions Leadership Recognition; Bd. mem., United Methodist Relief Center, 2003–08; Exec. Comm., Berkeley Co. Rep. Party, 1996–08; life mem.: Natl. Rifle Assn.; Natl. Assn. of Texaco and Shell Marketers; Significant Contribution Award for Safe and Sober Roadways in S.C., MADD, 1998; U.S. Postal Serv. recognition, Huger, S.C., 2000; Legis. Achievement Award, ‘No Port on Daniel Island’, Charleston More Than a Port, 2002; Commendation for Serv. to and Support of Farmers, Agric. Comm. of S.C., 2002; Legis. Serv. Award, Agric. Comm. of S.C., 2002; Raising the Standard Award, Heritage Comm. Servs., 2003; Natl. Legis. Impact Award, Natl. Abstinence Clearinghouse, 2004; Outstanding Serv. Award, Amer. Legion of S.C., 2004; Legislator of the Year, Carolina’s Independent Automobile Dealers Assn., 2004, 2024; Legislator of the Year, S.C. Public Charter School Assn., 2004; Friend to the Taxpayer Award, S.C. Assn. of Taxpayers, 2004; Legislator of the Year, S.C. Farm Bureau, 2005; Legislator of the Year, S.C. Poultry Fed., 2006; Humane State Legislator Award, Humane Soc. of U.S., 2006; Bd. mem., Southern Methodist Coll., 2006–; U.S. Postal Serv.’s ‘Harleys to Harleyville’ recognition, 2006; Exceptional Public Serv. Award, Berkeley Co. Rep. Women, 2006; Adv. Bd. mem., Natl. Council on Bible Curriculum, 2007–; Legis. Serv. Award, Sweetgrass Market Place Coalition, 2007; Palmetto Leadership Award, S.C. Policy Council, 2007, 2008; Sen. Legis. Champion Award (for outstanding leadership in the defense of faith, family, and freedom), Palmetto Family Council, 2007–08; Legislator of the Year, Construction Network of the Carolinas, 2008; The Westendorff Award for Serv. to Those in Need, United Methodist Relief Center, 2008; Leadership Award, S.C. Dept. of Natural Resources, 2008; Legislator of the Year, Maritime Assn. of S.C., 2008, 2009, 2018; Friend of Transit Award, Transportation

Assn. of S.C., 2009; Legislator of the Year, S.C. Fraternal Order of Police, 2009; Legislator of the Year, Palmetto Charter Network for support of Charter Schools in S.C., 2009; Bus. Advocate Award, S.C. Chamber of Commerce, 2010, 2012, 2020; Peas and Carrots Award for improving environmental and econ. quality of life, Citizens for Sound Conservation, 2010; Legis. Leader Award, ABATE of S.C., 2010; Legis. Serv. Recognition, Boeing, 2010; Panama Canal Authority recognition, Canal de Panamá, 2010; Boeing Leadership Award, Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, 2010; 100% Bus. Advocate Award, S.C. Chamber of Commerce, 2010, 2012; Future of Educ.'s Golden Apple Award, S.C. Chap., Natl. Coalition for Public School Options, 2011; Political Courage Award, Berkeley Co. Rep. Party, 2011; Support of Liberty Award, ABATE of S.C., 2012; Sword & Mace Award (for score of 100 for promotion and protection of the free, private, and competitive enterprise system), S.C. BIPEC, 2012; Pro-Life Legislator of the Year, S.C. Citizens for Life, 2012, 2016; Legis. Appreciation Award, S.C. Assn. of Conservation Dists., 2013; Public Servant Award, S.C. Baptist Convention, 2013; hon. Lt. Col., S.C. DNR, 2014; Trident Tech, Champion for Econ. Dev. Award, 2015, 2016; Barrett Lawrimore Leadership Award, Charleston Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, 2015; S.C. Champion of School Choice Award for support of Public School Options, 2015; Educational Credits for Exceptional Needs Children, Leadership Recognition, 2015, 2016; Founder & Chm., S.C. Legis. Prayer Caucus, 2016–; Glenn McConnell Elected Leader Award, Charleston Metro Chamber, 2016; Palmetto Family Award (100% score for the Defense of Faith, Family, and Freedom), 2013, 2017; Legis. Champion (for leadership and persistence to ensure passage of the S.C. Infrastructure & Econ. Dev. Reform Act), S.C. Alliance to Fix Our Roads, 2017; Bus. Champion Award, S.C. Chamber of Commerce, 2017; Motorcycle Comm. Leader, ABATE of S.C., 2017; Champion of Bus. Award, Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, 2018 and 2022; S.C. Aeronautical Training Center Leadership Recognition, 2018; Legis. Achievement Award, Center for Legis. Accountability (CPAC), 2021; Legislator of the Year, Charleston Beach Foundation, 2021; Legis. Champion, S.C. Sheriff's Assn., 2022; Legislator of the Year, S.C. Councils of Govts., 2023; Senator of the Year, Natl. Guard Assn. of S.C., 2025; past

Chm., Deacon Bd., First Baptist Church, St. Stephen; mem., Pointe North Community Church, Moncks Corner; prev. serv. in Sen. Nov. 4, 1997–25.



HEMBREE, Greg [R]—(Dist. No. 28, *Horry Co.*)—Atty.; *b.* Aug. 21, 1960, in Ft. Leonardwood, Mo.; *s.* John H. and Mary E. Hembree; *g.* Univ. of Memphis, B.B.A. in Economics, 1982; Univ. of S.C., J.D., 1985; Dec. 7, 1985, *m.* Renee Robertson, 3 children, Nora Taylor, Ellen Hall, and John Isaac; N. Myrtle Beach City Atty., 1995–99; 15th Circuit Solicitor (Horry & Georgetown Cos.), 1999–12; Waccamaw Amer. Leadership Forum Charter mem.; Col. Lemuel Benton Chap. of Sons of the Amer. Revolution Pres., 2006–07; N. Myrtle Beach Rotary Club mem.; Grand Strand Running Club Charter mem.; Ocean Drive Presbyterian Church Elder; prev. serv. in Sen. 2013–25.



HUTTO, Brad [D]—(Dist. No. 40, Aiken-Allendale-Bamberg-Barnwell-Colleton-Orangeburg Cos.)—Trial Lawyer; *b.* Aug. 6, 1957, in Orangeburg; *s.* the late Charles L. and Harriet L. Hutto; *g.* Honors Prog. at Univ. of S.C., B.A., 1978; Georgetown Univ. Law Center, J.D., 1981; July 20, 1985, *m.* Tracy D. Macpherson, 1 child, Skyler B.; Chm., Orangeburg Co. Dem. Party, 1988–94; Eagle Scout, Vigil Honor, Order of the Arrow; Silver Antelope Award; Sen. Minority Leader, 2021–; prev. serv. in Sen. Apr. 30, 1996–25.



JACKSON, Darrell, Sr. [D]—(Dist. No. 21, *Richland Co.*)—Senior Pastor, Bible Way Church of Atlas Rd.; *b.* Feb. 1, 1957, in Columbia; *s.* the late Bishop Andrew C. and Janie (Lumpkin) Jackson; *g.* Benedict Coll., B.A. (Pres. of the Student Govt. Assn.); Cola. Intl. Univ., M.A.; *m.* Willie Mae Rooks, 2 adult children, Darrell, Jr. and Antoine Joseph, 4 grandchildren; SisterCare Inc.; former Bd. of Trustees & mem., Benedict Coll.; Benedict Coll. Most Distinguished Student Award, 1979; Phi Beta Sigma

Comm. Serv. Award, 1995; Omega Psi Phi Frat. Citizen of the Year Award, 1999; Richland School Dist. One Outstanding Legislator of the Year Award, 1999; Modjeska Monteith Simkins Political Courage Award, 2000; Outstanding Legis. Initiative, S.C. Victims Assistance Network, 2000; hon. Doctorate Degrees: Benedict Coll., 2002, Richard Stockton Coll., Ponomo, N.J., 2002; Carolina Scholarship Inc. Lifetime Achievement Award, 2003; Webster Univ. Lifetime Achievement Award, 2004; Allen Univ. Richard Allen Award, 2008; S.C. Law Enforcement Assn. Humanitarian of the Year, 2008; Phi Beta Sigma African Amer. Male Image Award, 2008; S.C. Primary Health Care Assn. Comm. Health Center Champion Award, 2009; Young Stroke Inc. Champion Award, 2010; Amer. Heart Assn. Legislator of the Year Award, 2011; S.C. State Univ. Distinguished Comm. Serv. Award, 2012; S.C. Employees Assn. Distinguished Serv. Award, 2013; S.C. Chamber of Commerce Bus. Advocate Award, 2014; The Cola. Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Advocate for Bus. Award, 2015; Pawmetto Lifeline Comm. Champion & Animal Advocate Award, 2016; hon. Doctorate Degree, Columbia Intl. Univ., 2016; S.C. Chaps. of Alpha Phi Alpha Frat. Inc., Emmanuel 9 Award, 2022; Lower Richland Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award, 2023; prev. serv. in Sen. 1993–25.

JOHNSON, Robert Michael [R]—(Dist. No. 16, Lancaster-York Cos.)—Atty.; b. Nov. 22, 1970, in Ft. Walton Beach, Fla.; s. Mike and Sandy Johnson; g. Auburn Univ., B.A., 1993; Univ. of S.C. School of Law, J.D., 1996; June 18 *m.* Amy E. Johnson, 2 children, Cole and Grace; Ft. Mill School Bd., 2005–12; Leadership York Co., 2008; Ft. Mill Rotary Club, Pres., 2011–12; York Co. Council, 2013–20; Upper Palmetto YMCA Exec. Bd., 2018–22; Leadership S.C., 2024; Rock Hill-Fort Mill Area Transportation Study Com., 2023–; CERRA Bd. of Dirs., 2023–; Patriot Award, Convention of States, 2024; S.C. Assn. of Realtors Legislator of the Year, 2024; Champion of Term Limits Award, 2025; S.C. Poultry Fed. Legislator of the Year, 2025; Catawba Indian Nation Legislator of the Year, 2025; Conservation Voters of S.C. Green Tie Award, 2025; prev. serv. in Sen. 2021–25.





KENNEDY, Carlisle E. [R]—(Dist. No. 23, *Lexington Co.*)—Atty.; *b.* Sept. 6 in Lexington Co.; *s.* Ralph and Lisa Kennedy; *g.* Clemson Univ., B.S. & M.B.A.; Univ. of S.C., J.D., 2019; 2018 *m.* Brooke, 1 child; Clemson Univ. Student Body Pres., 2011–12; Comr., S.C. Comm. on Consumer Affairs, 2014–20; Asst. Solicitor, 11th Judicial Circuit, 2019–22; Kennedy Law Firm,

2022–; prev. serv. in Sen. 2025.



KIMBRELL, Joshua Brett “Josh” [R]—(Dist. No. 11, *Spartanburg Co.*)—Commercial Real Estate Sales & Leasing; *b.* Dec. 18, 1984, in Spartanburg; *s.* Brett and Cindy Kimbrell; *g.* N. Greenville Univ., B.A., 2007; Gardner Webb School of Bus.; Juris Masters, Liberty Univ., 2022; Dec. 19, 2017, *m.* Liliya Kimbrell, 2 children, Tristan and Lucian; Chm., Spartanburg Co. Rep.

Party, 2017–18; VC, Honor Flight Upstate, 2019–; Bd. mem., A Hero’s 5K, 2017–; prev. serv. in Sen. 2021–25.



LEBER, Matthew W. “Matt” [R]—(Dist. No. 41, *Charleston-Colleton-Dorchester Cos.*)—Retired; *b.* Apr. 5, 1973, in Washington, N.C.; *s.* James and Susan; *g.* Mitchell Comm. Coll., A.S., 2003; attended Univ. of Maryland; Sept. 23, 2010, *m.* S. Michele, 3 children, Savannah, Lucas, and Kensington; GS-11 Employee, Top Secret Clearance Fed. Govt., 2003–12; mem.: Veteran of

Foreign Wars, 2013–; Charleston Rifle Club, 2021; Amer. Legion, Hollywood, S.C., Post 145, 2022–; Red Truck Men’s Prayer Group, 2022; past Chm., Select Com. Greater Low-country Rep. Club, 2022; Chm., Freshman Caucus, 2022–; mil. serv.: USA, 1991–98; USA Parachutist School, 1991; Deployed to Bosnia IFOR, 1996; attends Adam’s Run Baptist Church; House of Reps. 2023–24; prev. serv. in Sen. 2025.

MARTIN, Shane R. [R]—(Dist. No. 13, Greenville-Spartanburg-Union Cos.)—Engineer & Bus. Owner; *b.* 1971 in Spartanburg; Clemson Univ., B.S., 1994, M.S., 1999; 1997 *m.* Amy, 2 children; mem., Amer. Soc. of Mechanical Engineers, 1994–; hon. mem., Pacolet Lions Club; Friend of the Taxpayer, S.C. Assn. of Taxpayers; Chm., Sen. Corrections and Penology Com.; mem.: Sen. Fin. Com.; Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice Subcom. Chm.; Sen. Med. Affairs Com.; Sen. Rules Com.; prev. serv. in Sen. 2009–25.



MASSEY, A. Shane [R]—(Dist. No. 25, Aiken-Edgefield-Lexington-McCormick-Saluda Cos.)—Atty.; *b.* June 28, 1975, in Greeneville, Tenn.; *s.* Gary M. and Linda S. Massey; *g.* Clemson Univ., B.A., 1997; Univ. of S.C., J.D., 2000; Jan. 31, 2004, *m.* Blair Leigh Ballard; 11th Judicial Circuit Juvenile Arbitration Prog., Volunteer Arbitrator; Strom Thurmond High School Mock Trial Team, Atty.-coach; Johnston Dev. Bd.; Aiken Rep. Club, Bd. of Dirs., 2006, Pres., 2007; Edgefield Co. First Steps, Bd. of Dirs., 2006–08; Johnston and Edgefield Lions Clubs; Edgefield Co. United Way, Bd. of Dirs.; Aiken Sertoma Club; Providence Baptist Church, Deacon and Sunday School Teacher; prev. serv. in Sen. Nov. 6, 2007–25.



MATTHEWS, Margie Bright [D]—(Dist. No. 45, Beaufort-Charleston-Colleton-Hampton-Jasper Cos.)—Atty. and owner of Bright Matthews Law Firm, LLC since 1992; *b.* in Walterboro; *d.* Herbert and Jessie Rine Bright; *g.* Univ. of S.C., B.S., Univ. of S.C. School of Law, J.D.; married with 4 daughters, 4 grandchildren; S.C. Bar Assn.; S.C. Assn. for Justice; Amer. Assn. for Justice; Natl. Assn. of Criminal Attys.; ABOTA–Amer. Bd. of Trial Advocates; S.C. Workers Compensation Advocates; S.C. Bar Women’s Assn.; Colleton Co.



Bar; Charleston Co. Bar; Beaufort Co. Bar; 2023 John F. Kennedy Profiles in Courage Award; mem., New Life Methodist Church; prev. serv. in Sen. Oct. 20, 2015–25.



OTT, Russell L. [D]—(Dist. No. 26, *Calhoun-Lexington-Richland Cos.*)—Businessman; *b.* Mar. 26; *s.* Harry L., Jr. and Linda Fleming Ott; *g.* Clemson Univ., B.A., 2000; Univ. of S.C., M.P.A., 2003; 2 children, Lawson Legare and Bryce Jameson; former Town Admin. for towns of Elloree, North, and Neeses; S.C. Farm Bureau, 2004–13; Med., Mil., Public & Municipal

Affairs Com., 2014–24; mem., Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church; House of Reps. Oct. 29, 2013–24; prev. serv. in Sen. 2025.



PEELER, Harvey Smith, Jr. [R]—(Dist. No. 14, *Cherokee-Spartanburg-Union-York Cos.*)—Dairyman & Businessman; *b.* Sept. 8, 1948, in Gaffney; *s.* the late H. Smith, Sr. and the late Sally (Bratton) Peeler; *g.* Clemson Univ., B.S., 1970; Aug. 8, 1969, *m.* Ila LaDonna Caudill, 3 children, Brantlee Rene, Harvey Smith III, and Boone Solomon; mem.: Gaffney First Baptist Church; Mason; Shriner; Amer. Jersey Cattle Assn.; Amer. Legion; Cherokee Co. Council, 1977–80; Sen. Majority Leader, 2005–16; Pres. of the Sen. Jan. 8, 2019–Dec. 6, 2021; Chm., Sen. Fin. Com., 2021–; mil. serv.: Lt., USA, 1970–72; prev. serv. in Sen. 1981–25.



RANKIN, Luke A. [R]—(Dist. No. 33, *Horry Co.*)—Atty.; *b.* Apr. 9, 1962, in Horry Co.; *s.* O. A. and Dorothy S. Rankin; *g.* Univ. of S.C., B.A., 1984, J.D., 1987; 2 children, Luke, Jr. and Hollings; May 28, 2011, *m.* Lindsey Bonds; prev. serv. in Sen. 1993–25.