Speakers of South Carolina
1776–2026

(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 Faucherand 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.)