

**SPEAKERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
1776–2023**

**(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—(Elected Speaker April 28, 2022, assuming office May 12, 2022.)