

SOUTH CAROLINA

Voters in South Carolina will elect a Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General this cycle. All 124 House seats will also be on the ballot. Republicans are expected to maintain control of the Governor's Office, Office of the Attorney General, and the legislature.

Governor

Democratic Nominee

[Former Congressman Joe Cunningham \(D\)](#)

Former Congressman Joe Cunningham (D) is looking to unseat Governor Henry McMaster (R) this November. The deep-red state hasn't elected a Democratic governor in close to 25 years, although Cunningham has a track record of upending the political order. He turned the state's 1st Congressional District from red to blue in 2018, however, his tenure lasted just one term when Republican Nancy Mace defeated him in the next cycle.

Cunningham says if elected, he would veto any abortion ban passed by lawmakers. He also hopes to expand Medicaid in the state and raise the starting pay for teachers to \$50,000 by the end of his administration. He has [proposed](#) one of the ways to fund this: by collecting tax from legalizing marijuana and sports betting.

Another popular talking point for his campaign has been South Carolina's rising crime rates. He proposed his [Gun Violence Prevention Plan](#), which includes policies like universal background checks and working to close the Charleston gun loopholes.

He touts his standing as a bipartisan office member and candidate, often having used the slogan "low country over party" during his time as a congressman. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce ranked him the [4th most bipartisan member of Congress](#) and The Lugar Center ranked him as the most bipartisan freshman in the House in 2019.

Cunningham won the nomination after a crowded Democratic primary, going up against South Carolina's first Black woman in the state's history to run for Governor. Ultimately, Cunningham enjoyed a financial advantage, running campaign ads the final three weeks during the primary election season with no other Democratic candidate doing so.

As of May of 2022, it was reported that Cunningham \$322,000 in the bank after having spent a high portion of money during a competitive primary.

Trivia: He has a son named Boone, who can often be found on the campaign trail with his dad.