

Joe Cunningham

U.S. Representative for South Carolina's 1st Congressional District, 2018-2020

Healing the Partisan Divide: Having served as a Democrat in a heavily Republican district, Joe learned quickly to reach across the aisle and became one of America's most independent members of Congress. As part of a bipartisan group, the Problem Solvers Caucus, Joe was able to forge valuable relationships that allowed his goals to be advanced even in a divided government. The only Democrat in South Carolina's recent history to have been endorsed by Republican mayors, Joe is aware of what it takes to bridge the partisan divide and heal the political wounds in this country.

Environment: As a former ocean engineer, Joe has a deep appreciation for our natural resources and fought to protect them. He led the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, which has been called the most significant piece of environmental legislation in our lifetime. Joe's success rested in being able to talk about progressive ideas in a more conservative way that gained bipartisan support in addition to employing creative methods to make his point, like blowing an air horn in a committee hearing to emphasize the dangers of seismic air gun blasting.

Long Shot Victories: Joe was able to win a seat in the deep south that no Democrat had won in his lifetime. On election eve, Joe was given a 9% chance of winning by the political pundits. And he was successful in doing so by changing the tone of politics, meeting people where they were and highlighting their common goals as opposed to their differences.