

Jim Cooper

Congressman for Tennessee's
5th District

(Davidson, Wilson and Cheatham Counties)

From the 2007-2008 Tennessee Blue Book

Representing Tennessee's Fifth Congressional District, Jim Cooper was born June 19, 1954, in Nashville, Tennessee. He earned a B.A. in history and economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1975 as a Morehead Scholar and serving as coeditor of the Daily Tar Heel; a B.A./M.A. in politics and economics as a Rhodes Scholar from Oxford University in 1977; and a J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1980. He is married and has three children. From 1980-82, he was an attorney with Waller, Lansden, Dortch, & Davis in Nashville, Tennessee, until he was elected congressman for the Fourth Congressional District, serving from 1983-95. During that time, he served on the Energy & Commerce and Budget Committees and the Small Business Subcommittee. His special legislative focus was on health care, literacy and other rural concerns, and he played leadership roles in major telecommunications, environmental and consumer legislation. From 1995-1999, he was managing director at Equitable Securities, a Nashville-based investment bank. From 1999-2002, he was founder and partner of Brentwood Capital Advisors LLC, where he sourced and raised funds for growing regional companies and businesses. Cooper was elected to his second stint in Congress in 2002, serving a more urban and suburban constituency in Nashville, Mt. Juliet, Lebanon, Ashland City, Pleasant View, and Pegram. As Fifth District Congressman, he serves on the Armed Services, Budget, and Oversight and Government Reform Committees. In 2007 he was named chairman of the Armed Services Committee's Roles and Missions Panel. Cooper continues to teach as an adjunct professor at the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University, where he has taught a course on health care policy for ten years.

CQ's Politics in America 2008

Download Cooper one-pager

Bio in Brief

Sworn in January 2003 to U.S. Congress, First Term serving 5th District of Tennessee; re-elected November 2004 and November 2006.

- Armed Services Committee (Air and Land Forces, Oversight and Investigations, and Terrorism and Unconventional Threats and Capabilities Subcommittees; Chairman of Roles and Missions panel) - the only Tennessee Representative on the Committee, oversees a \$400 billion military budget

- Oversight and Government Reform Committee - oversees every federal agency with investigatory powers

Founder, Brentwood Capital Advisors, 1999-2002

- Raised private capital for Tennessee companies

Managing Director, Equitable Securities, 1995-1999

- Private capital and public offerings for high-growth regional firms

- Sold to SunTrust Bank in 1998

Adjunct Professor, Owen School of Management at Vanderbilt University, 1995-2002

- Taught health care policy to MBA and Executive MBA students

U.S. Congressman, 4th Congressional District of Tennessee, 1982-1994

- Energy and Commerce
Committee and Budget Committee

- According to CQ Politics in America 1994,
"Cooper developed a reputation as

an accomplished dealmaker and a political moderate during his first tour in the House" and described him as "a key player on a range of issues from telecommunications to clean air. He was a major figure in the Clinton-era debate on universal health care coverage."

- Youngest
congressman in America
at the time of first election at age 28

Attorney, Waller Lansden Dortch and Davis, Nashville, 1980-1982

Education

- J.D. Degree, Harvard Law School,
1980

- B.A./M.A. Degree, Oxford University, 1977 (Rhodes Scholar)

- B.A. Degree, University of North
Carolina, Chapel Hill
(Morehead Scholar)

Personal Information

Cooper was born in Nashville and raised in Shelbyville, Tennessee. He is the son of the late Tennessee Governor Prentice Cooper (who served three two-year terms from 1939-1945) and Hortense Cooper.

Cooper has been married to the former Martha Hays of Gulfport, Mississippi, since 1985. They have three children: Mary, Jamie, and Hayes.

