

U.S. Representative Scott Franklin



Clifford Scott Franklin (born August 23, 1964)^{[1][2]} is an American politician and businessman who has served in the [United States House of Representatives](#) since 2021. He represented [Florida's 15th congressional district](#) from 2021 to 2023, and has represented [Florida's 18th district](#) since 2023. He is a member of the [Republican Party](#).

Early life and career

Born in [Thomaston, Georgia](#), Franklin was raised in [Lakeland, Florida](#). He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the [United States Naval Academy](#) in 1986 and served in the [United States Navy](#) as a [Naval Aviator](#) flying the [S-3 Viking](#) off of multiple aircraft carriers and routinely deploying overseas.^{[3][4][5]} Franklin later earned a [Master of Business Administration](#) from [Embry–Riddle Aeronautical University](#) and is a graduate of the [Armed Forces Staff College](#).

Franklin spent 26 years in the Navy, 14 on active duty and 12 in the Naval Reserve, including being mobilized/recalled to active duty with [U.S. Central Command](#) after the [September 11 attacks](#). He retired with the rank of [Commander](#).^{[7][3]}

In 2000, Franklin joined Lanier Upshaw, an insurance agency, and became its [chief executive officer](#).^[8] In 2017, he was elected as a [city commissioner](#) for the Southeast district of Lakeland, Florida, succeeding longtime incumbent Edie Yates.^[9] Because of his run for Congress, Franklin was required to resign his seat on the city commission; he chose to make his resignation effective on January 3, 2021, the day he was sworn into Congress.^[10] Franklin was succeeded on the city commission by Don Selvage, a former commissioner who held the seat as an interim appointee from January 4 until the April 6 special election to fill the vacancy