

Tom Cole became the Representative for Oklahoma's Fourth Congressional District in January 2003. Since that time, he has been an advocate for a strong national defense, a defender of the interests of small business and taxpayers, a proponent of education at all levels and a leader on issues dealing with Native Americans and tribal governments. In addition, Cole has been dubbed "one of the sharpest minds in the House" by *Time Magazine*.

Since 2009, Cole has served on the powerful House Appropriations Committee and has been assigned to the Subcommittees on Defense, Foreign Operations, and Interior. At the beginning of the 112th Congress, he was appointed to the House Budget Committee.

A former college instructor in history and politics, Cole holds a B.A. from Grinnell College, an M.A. from Yale University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma. Cole has been a Thomas Watson Fellow and a Fulbright Fellow at the University of London.

Cole is a founding partner and past president of CHS & Associates, a nationally recognized political consulting and survey research firm based in Oklahoma City.

Tom Cole is a fifth generation Oklahoman and an enrolled member of the Chickasaw Nation. Before serving in the U.S. Congress, he served Oklahoma as a State Senator and Secretary of State. He and his wife, Ellen, have one son and reside in Moore, Oklahoma.