

Joe P. Tolson was appointed to the North Carolina House of Representatives in 1997. He has served five terms representing Edgecombe and Wilson counties. Tolson attended the Edgecombe County public school system and has a degree in biology from Atlantic Christian College. He taught school at Great Bridge High School for seven years before returning to college to earn a Master's degree in education administration. Tolson then served as an occupation extension associate and vice president of extension programs for Edgecombe Community College.

In 1990, Tolson became the manager of the Rocky Mount Center of the Edgecombe Community College. He remained in this position until 1996. Tolson serves on the following House committees: Agriculture, Appropriations, Appropriations subcommittee on Education, Education, Education subcommittee on Community Colleges, Health, Pensions and Retirement, and Science and Technology.