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Greenville County Democratic Party Endorses Brad Hutto as U.S. Senate Candidate to Run Against Lindsey Graham

The Executive Committee of the Greenville County Democratic Party proudly announces that it has formally endorsed South Carolina State Senator Brad Hutto as the Democratic Party candidate for U.S. Senate to run against Lindsey Graham.

Sen. Hutto represents District 40 in the South Carolina State Senate, which is comprised of all or portions of Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, Hampton and Orangeburg counties. He was first elected to the South Carolina State Senate in 1996. He is a 1978 graduate of the Honors College of the University of South Carolina and a 1981 graduate of the Georgetown University Law Center and is a practicing attorney in Orangeburg, South Carolina. He was an Eagle Scout and has served for decades as an active adult volunteer with the Indian Waters Council of the Boy Scouts of America, where he served as Council President from 2009 to 2011 and where he has been awarded the Vigil Honor. He has a long history of Democratic leadership in South Carolina and will represent all South Carolinians well as their U.S. Senator.

Sen. Hutto will face Jeremy “Jay”

Stamper in the June 10 Democratic primary. The decision to formally endorse a candidate in a contested primary is an extraordinary step for the GCDP, which generally does not endorse candidates in contested primaries. The GCDP executive committee made the decision at an executive committee meeting held on May 14 by the unanimous vote of the members present. The GCDP chose to endorse a candidate because of Jay Stamper’s criminal history, which the committee members unanimously felt made him unfit to serve as a candidate of the Democratic Party.

Stamper pled guilty to violations of the Nevada securities laws in 2008, paid \$3.5 million in restitution, was given a suspended sentence and placed on probation for three years. He was also permanently barred from selling securities in the State of Illinois in 2007, and he entered into a consent order with the State of Washington in 2007 in which he agreed to cease and desist from selling securities in violation of the registration requirements of Securities Act of Washington, from acting as an unregistered securities broker-dealer or

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Why I Am a Democrat

Peggy Baxter, secretary, GCDP

“I am a Democrat because, for me, it’s the party that strives to be humanitarian and to deal with issues and concerns of real people.”

Endorsement, Continued from page 1

sales person in violation of the Securities Act of Washington and from violating the anti-fraud section of the Securities Act of Washington.

Neither the GCDP nor the South Carolina Democratic Party can remove a federal candidate from the ballot, and neither the GCDP nor the SCDP can require party

members to vote for or against any candidate, so all voters in the June 10, 2014 Democratic primary will still be able to vote for either candidate of their choosing. Note: On May 28, the SC State Democratic Party Executive Committee voted unanimously to endorse Brad Hutto in the primary race against Jay Stamper for the Senate seat currently held by Lindsey Graham.

Primary Election Candidates Speak

The GCDP offered Democratic candidates in the June 10 primary races an opportunity to make a brief statement for *The Bray*. We received the following three responses.

Joyce Dickerson, candidate in primary to run against U.S. Senator Tim Scott

Ms. Dickerson is currently serving her third term on Richland County Council and is vice chair of the council. She is a retired auditor.

She lists her issues as support of initiatives to protect the health, wealth and wellness of women and girls; protection for seniors-- Medicare, Social Security, and hard-earned retirement funds; support for veterans and their families and for education. She also believes in investing in small business to provide jobs that boost our economy and in investment in infrastructure to expand broadband and other technology opportunities.

She is open to members of Congress to help find bi-partisan solutions to advance our communities, state, and nation. See www.joycedickerson.com.

Sidney Moore, candidate in primary to run against U.S. Senator Tim Scott

Sidney Moore of Rock Hill was a member of the York County Council from 1977 - 80. Now retired, he spent the bulk of his career as a customer service representative in the telecommunications industry.

Mr. Moore says he is running in order to give back to his community and state. "Because the party nomination will not be decided until June 10, I am not emphasizing specific issues or a platform separate from party literature. However, in statements and discussions with potential primary voters, I have listed an interest in health care, environment, energy, election law reform, protecting gains made by women and minorities, and promoting bi-partisanship. "

See <http://moore4ussenate.org>.

Rep. Jerry N. Govan, candidate in primary to run for State Superintendent of Education

Mr. Govan has represented District 93 in the SC House of Representative for 21 years. He is Senior Member of the House Education & Public Works Committee. He holds a Master of Arts in Teaching from SC State. He has been a program administrator at the school district level.

Rep. Govan's top goal is to fully fund the basic cost of education. "We cannot underfund our students and expect teachers, administrators, support staff and parents to work miracles when it comes to educating our children." He stresses that education funding must be residual and consistent. He says his legislative experience differentiates him from the other candidates. "I will be the Advocate in Chief between [education stakeholders], the Rutledge Building and the State Legislature."

See www.1vision1carolina.com.



Greenville Democratic Women surround gubernatorial candidate Vincent Sheheen at 2014 Day in Blue rally at the SC Statehouse in March. L-R, Jamie Robinson; Vincent Sheheen; Sadie Carter; Scarlett Jones; Roxanne Cordonier; Anita Dutrow; Ingrid Erwin; Kaye Martell.

Dem Candidates Debate Difficult Education Issues

Three of the four Democrats competing for the nomination for SC Superintendent of Education appeared in Greenville at a spirited debate on Thursday evening, May 29 at the Upcountry History Museum. Those appearing were Dr. Montrio Belton, Sheila Gallagher, and Rep. Jerry Govan. Dr. Tom Thompson was unable to attend; a surrogate spoke briefly on his behalf. The event was sponsored by the SC Democratic Party Education Caucus and the GCDP.

The Democratic candidates for state superintendent are:

- **Dr. Montrio Belton**, a former teacher, coach, middle school principal, high school assistant principal and Director of School Transformation at the State Department of Education.
- **Sheila Gallagher**, a Florence County teacher with 30 years of classroom experience and past president of the South Carolina Education Association. She holds a masters degree in teaching.
- **Rep. Jerry Govan**, D-Orangeburg, a member of the SC House of Representatives since 1993, who serves on its Education and Public Works Committee and who holds a masters degree in teaching.
- **Dr. Tom Thompson**, the former dean of Graduate Studies and chairman of the Department of Educational Leadership at SC State University. He is also a former professor

and chair of the Educational Leadership Department at the University of South Carolina and a former high school principal and math teacher.

The three participants responded to questions from moderator Eric Graben and to questions from the floor. Discussion centered on funding, the role of charter schools, and how to provide “choice” within the public school arena. All three candidates indicated they are against any kind of voucher system that sends state monies to private schools. Major influences on the success of education for individual children were identified as economic level of the family, parents’ level of education, and geographic location (zip code).

Montrio Belton stressed his desire to give parents “an immediate public option” to a quality education. He also said he would simplify the state’s complex school funding system.

Sheila Gallagher hardly mentioned her proposal to legalize and tax marijuana sales in South Carolina. Instead, she stressed the instability of education funding resulting from the loss of video poker funds and the creation of Act 388, which links school funding to sales receipts.

Rep. Jerry Govan cited the struggle to get the legislature to fully fund education. He said lack of funds caused numerous good programs to be dismantled in recent years; the state has not been “persistent and consistent” in its efforts. He said his legislative experience would be a plus.

The Coordinated Campaign Needs YOU!

Need a good reason to get involved in local political efforts? Read this statement from Trevor Rodgers, Upstate Coordinator for the SC Democratic Party 2014 Coordinated Campaign. Trevor has been in Greenville for about a year. To date, his responsibilities have leaned toward volunteer recruitment but they now shift to voter registration and get out the vote for the primary and then for the general election in November.

Using lessons learned in 2012 in the successful Virginia election, the SC Coordinated Campaign is doing just

what its name implies—looking at all statewide and national races and efficiently working on them in a –yes-coordinated way, making a unified effort to increase our Democratic vote in November. It makes sense and it works and it requires us to participate.

Trevor says, “The 2014 South Carolina Democratic Coordinated Campaign is dedicated to helping win races up and down the ballot this November. We are going to be hitting the streets (and the phones!) to ensure our Democratic voters know to vote in the Primary, and

make sure they have everything they need to vote in November. Getting involved now with the Coordinated Campaign will help us toward our goals of expanding access to Medicaid, voting rights, and bringing back accountability and leadership to Columbia. We are counting on you, the Democrats of Greenville County, to help us win in November, and we need all the help we can get to make that happen.”

See this month’s calendar for specific ways you can participate.

Thanks to Our Contributors!

Recent financial contributors to the GCDP are: Hugh O'Neill, Floyd McGurk, and Dr. and Mrs. Edward Jones (fulfillment of Gold Yellow Dog Pledge). Thank you to these supporters. We urge you to send YOUR check to Greenville County Democratic Party, 1300-J E. Washington Street, Greenville, SC 29607.

Short but Sweet... And Important

Jonathon Sweeney has assumed the mantle as president of the recently-created Appalachian Region of the SC Young Democrats. This five-county region includes Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties. Sweeney said the group welcomes any young person, age 18-35, to join. Their goal is to assist each county with its efforts to build a stronger Democratic party and elect more

Democrats in the region and across the state.

Please contact Jonathon Sweeney and the Appalachian Young Democrats on social media or via email. FaceBook: Appalachian Young Democrats; Twitter: @AppYoungDems; email: AppYoungDems@gmail.com.

(Jonathon is the son of GCDP first vice chair Shirley Scott, which proves that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.... and we are glad of it!)

Update from our Hispanic Community

Ilia Rivera announces the following names of members of the Hispanic Caucus: Berenice Ortega, Ciqui Vindel, Japhet Rodriguez, Catherine Ospina, Perla Cortes, Leonel Gutierrez, Maria Guadalupe, Sandra Jogan, Gregory Torrales, Olga Aravelo, Gustavo Chavez, Gloria Bonet. We appreciate the efforts of these individuals to expand the reach of our party.

Ilia Rivera and Laura Cahue, Columbia, SC Community Advocate are shown with Vice-President Joe Biden and Dr. Jill Biden at a recent Hispanic Recognition Conference in Washington, DC.



June 2014 Calendar

**Every Tuesday and Wednesday in June
Greenville Democrats Phone Bank, 5-9 pm, GCDP
Headquarters, 1300 E. Washington Street, Suite J.
Contact: Lauren Nastoff, 864-201-2475.**

**Saturday and Sunday June 7 and 8 (Weekend of
Action)**
Greenville Democrats GOTV Voter Registration/Phone
Bank and Canvass; shifts at 10 am (Saturday only), 12
pm, 2 pm, 4 pm, GCDP Headquarters, 1300 E. Wash-
ington Street, Suite J. Contact: Lauren Nastoff, 864-
201-2475 or sign up at <http://www.scdp.org/action/>.

Monday, June 9
Greenville Democrats Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Phone
Bank, 10 am - 9 pm, GCDP Headquarters, 1300 E.
Washington Street, Suite J.

Monday, June 9
Democratic Women of Greenville County, luncheon
meeting, Fried Green Tomatoes, 1175 Woods Crossing
Road, 12:15 pm. Buffet lunch, \$15.00. Reservations:
232-5531 or headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com.
Speaker: Environmental attorney and former U.S.

Deputy Secretary of Education Frank Holleman. Now
senior attorney in the Chapel Hill, NC office of the
Southern Environmental Law Center, he heads
litigation against Duke Energy in connection with a
major spill of coal ash near Charlotte, NC.

Note: August meeting: book discussion, *A Call to
Action: Women, Religion, Violence and Power* by
former president Jimmy Carter.

Tuesday June 10
Greenville Democrats Get Out the Vote Canvass, 9 am
– 7 pm, 1300 E. Washington Street, Suite J. Contact:
Lauren Nastoff, 864-201-2475.

Tuesday, June 10
SC Primary Election Day. Statewide and local races.
See information in Greenville News or on website of
SC Democratic Party, www.scdp.org.

Tuesday, June 17
Greenville County Council, District 26 Election.
Windell Rodgers is the Democratic candidate.

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