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Voter Protection Chair

The Greenville County Democratic Party Management Team meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm at Headquarters. Anyone may attend.

## A message from our Chair

*July 17, 2016*

Last week in Dallas, President Obama spoke following yet another week of tragedy. In his comments, he reiterated, with a new set of words in yet another memorial service, “I see what’s possible when we recognize that we are one American family, all deserving of equal treatment.” I know that many of us are asking when will those words no longer be an aspiration, but finally reflect the everyday standard of American life?

Are the recent deaths of Alton Sterling, Philando Castile, and Dallas Police Officers Brent Thompson, Patrick Zamarippa, Michael Krol, Lorne Ahrens, and Michael Smith the long awaited tipping point? Will Americans finally commit to addressing the systemic racism that endures throughout our culture and all levels of society? Will there also be the long overdue movement to reform access to guns, the violence and vitriol directed at so many throughout the country, the unequal treatment that pervades our criminal justice, educational, and economic systems . . . and the many other critical issues facing us?

As Democrats, our focus is on achieving progress through the political system that directs the governing system on which our country was founded. As we know, the upcoming election will take place that will help determine at national, state, and local levels whether the questions we are asking will even be actively addressed. As we prepare for November 8, we should learn as much as possible about these issues so that we can ask challenging questions of the

candidates, cast an informed vote, and seek candidates for future elections who will

work for necessary reforms. We will have two knowledgeable and connected speakers at the party breakfast on July 23: Mr. John Mauldin, Chief Public Defender of the 13th Judicial Court, and Mr. Jalen Elrod, Greenville County community organizer. They will share their perspectives on recent events and their respective visions of systems for ensuring fair and equal justice. In this issue of the Bray, we are including links to some resources in the event that you’d like more background information before the meeting. We hope you’ll join us for what promises to be a stimulating discussion.

Also, we are planning a purely social event on Thursday, July 28 – a convention watch party on the last night of the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. Hillary Clinton will make history when she officially becomes the Democratic Party candidate for President and who better to celebrate with than your fellow Greenville Democrats. We will cheer on our convention delegates, The Honorable Dick Riley and Candy Fletcher, as they cast votes on our behalf and eat, drink, and be merry together - look for details in this issue and please mark your calendars!



**Kate Franch, GCDP Chair**

# Summary Injustice: A Look at Constitutional Deficiencies in South Carolina's Summary Courts

When a person is accused of a crime and faces loss of life or liberty as punishment, the U.S. Constitution guarantees that person the right to a lawyer even if he or she cannot afford one. The U.S. Supreme Court affirmed this basic principle more than a half century ago in *Gideon v. Wainwright*, and in subsequent cases that expanded the right to misdemeanor prosecutions. Yet it is violated routinely every day in South Carolina courts, where scores of people are convicted, sentenced, and sometimes incarcerated, without having been represented by counsel. This paper documents the constitutional violations observed by attorneys with the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in 27 different courts throughout the state during several weeks between December 2014 and July 2015.

In South Carolina, the bulk of criminal cases are low-level offenses heard in municipal and magistrate courts, collectively referred to as summary courts. Towns are not required to have municipal courts; each town chooses whether to establish such a court. Because these courts are money makers, through the generation of fines and fees from defendants, many towns have created them. Across the state, there are more than 400 magistrate and municipal courts. In 2013, South Carolina municipalities netted over \$20 million in assessed fines from municipal courts.

- In many of these courts, not a single lawyer is involved in the entire criminal proceeding. Municipal and magistrate judges are not required to be lawyers, the police frequently function as the prosecutor, and defense attorneys are scarce. Despite the absence of lawyers — and the constitutional requirement that defendants be provided a lawyer — individuals in these courts face criminal charges that carry serious consequences, including jail time.
- Lack of counsel is also prevalent prior to trial in South Carolina, at the stage where defendants are legally presumed to be innocent. Accused individuals are not provided counsel during bond hearings, when the judge determines whether someone will be held in jail following arrest. Poor people who cannot afford to pay even a modest bond amount end up imprisoned in jail until their cases are adjudicated. As a result, many people often serve the maximum possible sentence prior to being found guilty or, as in some cases, not guilty.

- The accused in these South Carolina courts are rarely represented by lawyers. Many times they are not even told of their right to have a lawyer, much less at the state's expense. In the few courts observed where the accused were informed of their rights to a lawyer and a trial, that advisement was often conducted in a group or by video, with no individual inquiry into a particular defendant's understanding of these rights and what it meant to waive them.
- Poor people accused of low-level offenses in these courts suffer disproportionately throughout the process. Many judges offer a "choice" to defendants: pay a fine or spend time in jail. If the accused cannot afford the fine, or the judge simply suspects the accused will not be able to pay the fine, that person will be sentenced to jail merely because she is poor.

In short, this report demonstrates that summary courts in South Carolina often fail to inform defendants of the right to counsel, refuse to provide counsel to the poor at all stages of the criminal process, and force defendants who cannot afford to pay fines to instead serve time in essentially a debtor's prison. These are unconscionable and unacceptable practices that cause significant harm and must be remedied. These abuses masquerading as "justice" are a corruption of the legal process and an embarrassment to the people of South Carolina. Unfortunately, the many constitutional violations documented in this paper may be merely the tip of the iceberg of injustices being committed against people in South Carolina.

The denial of fundamental constitutional rights in South Carolina's summary courts urgently calls for comprehensive study and real solutions. Accordingly, additional investigation is underway to systematically gather data from magistrate and municipal courts in several counties across the state. The study will examine the procedures used in municipal and magistrate courts to understand the degree to which the court procedures comply with constitutional requirements. A second report detailing the findings of that research is forthcoming later in 2016.

2016 – A report from the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the ACLU, and the ACLU of South Carolina

See *Citizens Review of Police Review: Approaches & Implementation* on pages 4, 5 & 7

## Upcoming Meetings & Events

**July 23, 2016 (Saturday) 8:30am**

GCDP Breakfast Meeting  
Pleasant Valley Connections  
510 Old Augusta Road  
Greenville, SC 29605 (*Details below*)

**July 28, 2016 (Thursday) 7:00pm until**

Convention Watch Party  
Pleasant Valley Connections  
510 Old Augusta Road  
Greenville, SC 29605  
Cost = \$10 at the door

Food, drink, and TVs provided  
Confirmed for Thursday's DNCC  
2016 schedule:  
Theme: Stronger Together (*More details below*)

**August 08, 2016 (Monday) 12:15pm**

Dem. Women Monthly Meeting  
Southern Fried Green Tomatoes  
1175 Woods Crossing Road  
Greenville, SC 29615 (*Details below*)

**August 13, 2016 (Saturday) 8:30 - 10:30am**

NAACP Greenville Branch Life  
Membership Prayer Breakfast  
Fuller Normal Industrial Institute

901 Anderson Road  
Greenville 29601  
(*Details below*)

**September 30, 2016 (Friday)**

2016 SCDP Jefferson Jackson Dinner  
*and*

**October 1, 2016 (Saturday)**

John Spratt Issues Conference  
Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

The SCDP is reserving a block of approximately 75 hotel rooms in the vicinity of the Convention Center. Watch the website [scdp.org](http://scdp.org) for information.

## GCDP July Breakfast Meeting

Join us for an insightful look at the problems of and reforms needed in the criminal justice system from the perspective of two Greenvillians on the front lines:

- John Mauldin, Chief Public Defender, 13th Judicial Circuit
- Jalen Elrod, Greenville County Community Organizer

As always, biscuits, doughnuts, fruit, coffee, and juice will be served; donations welcome!

## Convention Watch Party

Join your fellow Greenville Democrats in celebrating the making of history. . .the nomination of and acceptance by Hillary Clinton as the first female candidate for President!

Headliners: Hillary Clinton & Chelsea Clinton  
RSVP (so that we'll have plenty of food!) by Tuesday, July 26: | [headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com](mailto:headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com) OR 864-232-5531

## GCDW August Meeting

Former governor of South Carolina, Richard (Dick) Riley will be the guest speaker for the August 8 meeting of Democratic Women of Greenville. Governor Riley is a delegate to the National Democratic Convention.

A buffet dinner is available for \$15.00. Reservations are strongly encouraged and can be made by calling 232-5531 or [headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com](mailto:headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com)

## NAACP Prayer Breakfast

The NAACP Greenville Branch Life Membership Prayer Breakfast is on Saturday, August 13, from 8:30 - 10:30am at the Fuller Normal Industrial Institute, 901 Anderson Road, Greenville 29601.

This annual fundraiser recognizes and honors the steadfast commitment of Life members of the Branch. Tickets for the breakfast are \$15 - contact Kate Franch at 919-417-6406 if you'd like to attend.

**FEDALEI and FRIENDS  
COMMUNITY COOKOUT  
COME MEET YOUR NEXT  
CONGRESSMAN**

**Chris Fedalei**

**FREE FOOD AND DRINK**

**July 30th  
5:00pm to 8:00pm**

**CLEVELAND PARK  
Shelter #5  
Lakehurst St  
Greenville SC**

JUL 30 Fedalei and Friends: Cleveland Park Community BBQ



# Citizen Review of Police Review: Approaches & Implementation

The publication *Citizen Review of Police: Approaches & Implementation* (by Peter Finn, National Institute of Justice, US Department of Justice, March 2001) describes citizen oversight procedures in nine US cities with the goal of enabling audiences to benefit from the experiences of communities that have already established oversight procedures:

“The demand for citizen oversight first occurred in the 1950s and 1960s as a result of the civil rights movement and the perception in many quarters that law enforcement responded to racial unrest with excessive force. Many of these early review procedures were short lived.

Citizen review revived in the early 1970s as urban African-Americans gained more political power and as more white political leaders came to see the need for improved police accountability. Most oversight procedures have come into existence after a high-profile case of alleged police misconduct (usually a shooting or other physical force incident), often involving white officers and minority suspects. Racial or ethnic allegations of discrimination are often at the heart of movements to introduce citizen oversight.

By 2000, citizen review has become more widespread than ever before in the United States. As of early 1998, there were more than 90 citizen review procedures. Almost 80 percent of the largest cities had some form of citizen review. However, only a small fraction of law enforcement agencies in the country had citizen oversight.”

Following are some of the findings:

## **OVERVIEW OF CITIZEN OVERSIGHT**

- While there is no single model of citizen oversight, most systems fall into one of four types:
  - Type 1: Citizens investigate allegations of police misconduct and recommend findings to the chief or sheriff.
  - Type 2: Police officers investigate allegations and develop findings; citizens review and recommend

that the chief or sheriff approve or reject the findings.

— Type 3: Complainants may appeal findings established by the police department to citizens, who review them and then recommend their own findings to the chief or sheriff.

— Type 4: An auditor investigates the process by which the police or sheriff’s department accepts and investigates complaints and reports on the process’ thoroughness and fairness.

- Oversight bodies can also:

- Recommend changes in department policies and procedures and suggest improvements in training.

- Arrange for mediation.

- Assist the police or sheriff’s department to develop or operate an early warning system for identifying problem officers.

- If they wish to implement citizen review, to make an informed decision about which type of oversight

procedure to adopt

jurisdictions need to examine trade-offs inherent in choosing a model: Most features of every model have drawbacks as well as benefits.

- Citizen oversight has the potential to benefit many groups.
- Complainants have reported feeling:
  - “Validated” when their allegations are sustained—or merely appreciated having an opportunity to be heard by an independent third party.
  - Gratified they are able to address an officer directly.
  - Satisfied the process appears to help hold police and sheriff’s departments accountable.
- Police administrators have said that oversight can:
  - Improve their relationship and image with the community.
  - Increase public understanding of the nature of police work.
  - Promote the goals of community policing.
  - Improve the quality of the department’s internal investigations.



*Continued on Page 5*

# Citizen Review of Police Review: *Approaches & Implementation - continued*

- Reassure a skeptical public that the department already investigates citizen complaints thoroughly and fairly.
- Help subject officers feel vindicated.
- Help discourage misconduct.
- Improve the department's policies and procedures.
- Elected and appointed officials have indicated that oversight:
  - Demonstrates their concern for police conduct to constituents.
  - Can reduce the number, success rates, and award amounts of civil suits against the city or county.
- Members of the community at large have suggested that oversight has helped to:
  - Reassure the community that appropriate discipline is being handed out for misconduct.
  - Discourage police misconduct.
  - Increase their understanding of police behavior.
- There are serious limitations to what citizen review can accomplish. To be most effective, citizen oversight must complement other internal and external mechanisms for police accountability.

## LIMITATIONS TO CITIZEN OVERSIGHT

1. Citizen oversight cannot by itself ensure police accountability. Jurisdictions need to implement other internal and external mechanisms to achieve this goal.
2. The effectiveness of citizen oversight depends enormously on the talent, fairness, and personalities of the principal individuals involved.
3. Oversight bodies have limited authority; they do not impose discipline or dictate department policies or procedures.
4. The findings some oversight bodies make, or the investigations they conduct, have no influence on some police managers.
5. Oversight bodies typically fail to hold department supervisors responsible for line officers' behavior.
6. Some complainants who lose their cases express disappointment with the oversight process.
7. When long delays occur between filing a complaint and its resolution, complainants become frustrated and disillusioned—even when they win the case.
8. Some complainants and a small minority of other individuals will not be satisfied with the actions of police officers and deputy sheriffs no matter what the oversight body does.
9. Oversight procedures in some jurisdictions have exacerbated tensions among local officials, police

and sheriff's departments and unions, and citizen groups and activists.

## OTHER OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Citizen oversight bodies can undertake three other important responsibilities in addition to investigating, reviewing, or auditing complaints.
- Oversight bodies can recommend policy and procedure changes as well as training improvements.
  - Many experts regard this policy review function as the most important responsibility citizen oversight bodies can undertake because it can improve services throughout an entire department, not just among selected officers.
  - Many police administrators report that oversight bodies have made valuable policy and training recommendations that they have implemented.
- Oversight bodies can make mediation available to selected complainants. Minneapolis and Rochester make extensive use of formal mediation using trained mediators to conduct the sessions. Mediation can potentially benefit:
  - Complainants, many of whom are only interested in being able to express their concerns to the officer.
  - Subject officers, who can learn how their behavior can affect the public and can avoid having the complaint included in their files.
  - The community at large, as citizens improve their understanding of police operations.
  - Oversight bodies, which are spared the need to investigate and conduct hearings for these complaints.

Mediation can have disadvantages and has limitations. For example, use-of-force cases are not suitable for mediation.

- Some oversight bodies assist police and sheriff's departments to set up or maintain an early warning system to keep track of complaints against officers who may need supervisory counseling or retraining.

## POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF MEDIATION TO CITIZENS AND POLICE

Citizens may:

1. Be encouraged to file complaints.
2. Gain the satisfaction of talking directly with the officer.
3. Gain a better understanding of police work and why the officer acted in a specific manner.
4. Learn why some officers are not always courteous.
5. Feel more satisfaction than if a hearing results in an exonerated, unfounded, or not sustained finding.

*Continued on Page 7*

## Meet Sharon Thomas



Sharon Thomas is the new volunteer coordinator for the party. She will connect anyone wanting to volunteer (e.g., assist at the office or with a campaign, register voters, help with GCDP events, work at the polls or as a poll watcher or election day volunteer at the office, etc.) with the right contact. She can be reached by calling or emailing Headquarters or calling her directly at (757) 620-6068.

and

## Nadia Land-Greene



Nadia Land-Greene is our Political Action Coordinator. She will help coordinate campaign canvas, phone bank, and related election events, voter registration drives, and community events for the GCDP.

## GCDP Volunteer Needs

- Back-up office volunteer
- Preparation of office mailings
- Voter registration drives
- Campaign volunteers
- Poll workers (November)
- Poll watchers (November)
- Spanish speakers for voter registration, campaign, and election needs

Training will be provided for all roles.

Please contact the GCDP office:

(headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com or 864-232-5531) or Sharon Thomas, Volunteer Coordinator, (757-620-6068) if you are interested.

## The Greenville County Democratic Party Headquarters

1300-J E. Washington Street,  
Greenville 29607  
864-232-5531

headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com

Open 9 am to 3 pm Monday through Friday

Office Volunteers (be sure to thank them for making this all possible):

Sharon Cherry	Karen Hahn
Ann Funderburk	Scarlett Jones
Stephanie King	Jessie Wofford
Stan Crowe	Felicia Pepper
Saleem Shabazz	

### Services:

- The Fedalei Campaign will run its Greenville County operations for the office for the November 2016 election cycle from the GCDP office.
- Campaign materials - Christale Spain, Executive Director of the South Carolina Democratic Party, announced at the Democratic Women luncheon that there will be a Coordinated Campaign working with/for candidates this election cycle. This will hopefully ensure a steady supply of bumper stickers, yard signs, and other GOTV materials. We are attempting to get Hillary for America items now.
- Democratic Women of Greenville County Lending Library: An extensive library of books covering political history, campaigns, analysis, biography, etc. is available for loan at no charge. Drop by to find something interesting and provocative to read. Be sure to sign out your selection(s) in the library notebook and make note when you return the book(s).
- Copies of past newsletters and local, state, and national Democratic Party news and information, as well as GCDP and DWGC records.

## Thanks to Our Contributors!

The Greenville County Democratic Party wishes to express its gratitude to its recent donors. These include *Yellow Dog* pledges.

Albert L. Blackwell	Bill and Linda Hardman
Charles and Sharon Cherry	Carla B. Rood

Mary Louise King-Taylor



## Citizen Review of Police Review: *Approaches & Implementation - continued*

Police officers may:

1. Learn how their words, behaviors, and attitudes can unwittingly affect the public.
2. Avoid having a complaint included in their files if mediation is successful.
3. Reduce the negative image some citizens have about officers.
4. Gain an understanding of why the complainant acted the way he or she did.

### STAFFING

- Citizen oversight bodies most commonly need three types of staff: volunteer board members, professional investigators, and an executive director.
- Talented and fair staff are essential for any oversight procedure to be effective.
- Because they may have no formal credentials, selecting board members is especially tricky.
  - Before recruiting board members, jurisdictions should establish the specific responsibilities they expect the board to assume. Then jurisdictions need to decide how large their board will be, members' terms of office, and their honoraria, if any.
  - A common selection criterion is to include diver-

- sity. Permitting current or former police officers or sheriff's deputies to serve is controversial.
  - The process of selecting board members can involve public hearings, private interviews, and word of mouth.
  - Training for board members can include lectures, materials review (e.g., department policies and procedures), attending a citizens' academy, ride-alongs, and training as mediators.
- Some oversight systems involve the use of paid investigators.
  - Investigators need to be able to handle the potential stress of interviewing sometimes angry complainants and hostile officers.
  - Many jurisdictions try to hire investigators with a law enforcement background.
  - Senior staff train new investigators. Novices also learn on the job.
- Along with the police chief or sheriff, the executive director or auditor will have the greatest influence on whether the oversight system achieves its objectives. Most jurisdictions make considerable use of word of mouth to find the most qualified individual.

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## Books We Love *A Fighting Chance* by Elizabeth Warren

By Roxanne Cordonier

Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren and former Senator Hillary Clinton recently appeared on the stump together and the world dared to dream that two dynamic women would run for President and Vice President of the United States. I'm a long time admirer of Senator Warren. I recall seeing her on television as an expert in personal bankruptcy law when she was a professor at Harvard Law. She was articulate, sincere and the essence of authenticity. All of these qualities shine through in her book "A Fighting Chance."

The autobiography details Elizabeth's early life growing up poor with crooked teeth and glasses in Oklahoma City. Warren's father

had a heart attack and was disabled for the rest of his life. Her family lost their home and their car but stayed afloat thanks to her mother's job answering the phone at Sears. All of these hard times left their mark on Senator Warren and when she talks about sticking up for the little guy and Main Street she means her people. She writes of her decision to run for the Senate and her turbulent 2012 race against incumbent Massachusetts Senator Scott Brown. Warren ran a brilliant focused campaign and she held her ground

against a barrage of dirty tricks and media storms.

The epilogue of the book neatly sums it up, "No one is asking for a handout. All we want is a country where everyone pays a fair share, a country where we build opportunities for all of us; a country where everyone plays by the same rules and everyone is held accountable. And we have begun to fight for it. I believe in us. I believe in what we can do together, in what we will do together. All we need is a fighting chance."



# 2016 Election - November 8 Ballot Greenville County (anticipated)

## U.S. Senate District 2:

- o Thomas Dixon (D)
- o Sen. Tim Scott (R)
- o Bill Bledsoe (L) & (C)
- o Jim Hinkle (A)
- o Rebel Michael Scarborough (A)

## U.S. House of Representatives

- o Congressional District 3:
  - Hosea Cleveland (D)
  - Rep. Jeff Duncan (R)
- o Congressional District 4:
  - Chris Felalei (D)
  - Rep. Trey Gowdy (R)
  - Michael Chandler (C)

## South Carolina Senate

- o District 05: Sen. Tom Corbin
- o District 06:
  - William Timmons (R)
  - Roy Magnuson (C)
- o District 07:
  - Sen. Karl Allen (D)
  - Glen Robinson (R)
- o District 08: Sen. Ross Turner
- o District 09: Sen. Danny Verdin (R)
- o District 12: Scott Talley (R)
- o District 13: Sen. Shane Martin (R)

## South Carolina House of Representatives

- o District 10:
  - Anna Brown (D)
  - Rep. Joshua Putnam (R)
- o District 16:
  - Brandon Greene (D)
  - Mark Willis (R)
- o District 17: Rep. Mike Burns (R)
- o District 18: Rep. Tommy Stringer (R)
- o District 19: Rep. Dwight Loftis (R)
- o District 20: Rep. Dan Hamilton (R)
- o District 21: Rep. Phyllis Henderson (R)
- o District 22: Jason Elliott (R)
- o District 23: Rep. Chandra Dillard (D)

- o District 24: Rep. Bruce Bannister (R)
- o District 25:
  - Rep. Leola Robinson-Simpson (D)
  - Tony Boyce (I)
- o District 27: Rep. Garry Smith (R)
- o District 28: Rep. Eric Bedingfield (R)
- o District 35: Rep. Bill Chumley (R)
- o District 36: Rep. Rita Allison (R)

## Greenville County

- o Clerk of Court: Paul Wickensimer (R)
- o Coroner: B. Parks Evans, Jr.
- o Register of Deeds: Tim Nanney (R)
- o Sheriff: William (Will) Lewis (R)
- o County Council
  - District 18: Mike Barnes (R)
  - District 20: Councilor Sid Cates (R)
  - District 21:
    - Rick Roberts (R)
    - Bill Michaud (L)
  - District 22: Councilor Bob Taylor (R)
  - District 24:
    - Councilor Liz Seman (R)
    - John Langville (C)
  - District 25: Ennis Fant (D)
  - District 27: Councilor Butch Kirven (R)

Greenville County Schools Board of Trustees: Not yet filed, but these seats will be on the ballot:

- o Trustee Joy Grayson, Dist 17
- o Trustee Debi Bush, Dist 19
- o Trustee Danna Rohleder, Dist 21
- o Trustee Glenda Morrison-Fair, Dist 23
- o Trustee Kenneth Baxter, Dist 25
- o Trustee Crystal Ball-O'Connor, Dist 27

(D) = Democratic Party

(R) = Republican Party

(A) = American Party

(C) = Constitution Party

(I) = Independence Party

(L) = Libertarian Party



## SCDP Chair statement on Republican support of Donald Trump

Columbia, SC – South Carolina Democratic Party Chair Jaime Harrison held a press conference today calling on Republican elected officials to withdraw their support for Donald Trump's candidacy. Below are his opening remarks, as prepared for delivery:

Thank you all for coming today. A little more than a month from now, the Republican Party will officially nominate Donald Trump as their candidate for President of the United States.

It has been obvious since very early in this presidential campaign that Donald Trump is a racist, bigot, xenophobe, and misogynist who plays footsie with the world's worst regimes and advocates committing war crimes. Here is a small sample of his Trump's greatest hits right here—it was hard to narrow it down to a list of six.

I don't care if you are a Democrat, Republican or whatever—to say these types of remarks and then constantly defend them is disqualifying for a presidential candidate. Period. If Donald Trump were to become President, our country as we know it would be in peril, and global stability would be at risk.

Many South Carolina Republicans agree with me, and several have voiced their concerns publicly. Yet with the exception of Senator Lindsey Graham, they are supporting this hate-mongering huckster to be the leader of the free world.

Last week, Governor Nikki Haley correctly warned that Donald Trump's rhetoric could lead to violent tragedy, which we sadly know too well in South Carolina. But yet somehow she still thinks Trump should be President of the United States.



Jaime Harrison, SCDP Chair at press conference on June 8.

Senator Tim Scott—a historic figure, being the first African American U.S. Senator from the South since Reconstruction—correctly called Trump's recent bigoted comments on federal Judge Gonzalo Curiel's integrity "racially toxic." But apparently, you can say racially toxic things and still have Tim Scott's support for President, because Trump still does.

Congressman Mark Sanford correctly said this week that Donald Trump has "said some crazy stuff" and that his bigoted comments on Judge Curiel are "contrary to 200 years of tradition in the United States" and "the opposite of what the American experiment is all about." But Congressman Sanford apparently thinks un-American rhetoric is acceptable for an American President, because he is still supporting Trump. Congressman Joe Wilson is supporting Trump, and just last month he said that Trump's faction would help the Republicans grow as a party.

Congressman Mick Mulvaney doesn't seem to be bothered by Trump's recent bigoted attack on our federal judiciary. He dismissively told a reporter that he hadn't gotten any calls about it.

*Continued on Page 10, See **TRUMP***

Congressman Trey Gowdy defended his support for Trump by comparing the Republican primary electorate to a jury whose verdict he was bound by. But nothing could be further from the truth: Congressman Gowdy is an American voter who has a responsibility to his country, not his party. He cannot shirk this responsibility by hiding behind his party.

The comments in support of Trump by Congressman Jeff Duncan, I think, were the most illuminating. He said, "I don't want to serve in Congress under another Democratic president."

Look, I get where Congressman Duncan is coming from: I have honest, deeply-held policy disagreements with my Republican friends. And normally I would support a Democrat, even an imperfect Democrat, over a Republican for President because a Democrat in office would be more likely to advance the policies I favor. But this election isn't about Republican policies versus Democratic policies. The danger of Donald Trump goes way beyond policy. He is a threat to what America stands for to our own citizens and to our allies throughout the world. We are one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Trump is a threat to that. And that is more important and more fundamental than any disagreements we have as Democrats and Republicans. It is even more important than winning or losing one presidential election.

I welcome our state's Republican leaders in engaging Democrats in a vigorous, issues-based debate on all of the down-ballot races. But for the health of our republic

and the future of all our children, Republican leaders must withdraw their support for Donald Trump for President. We must send a message, in blue states and red states alike, that Donald Trump is not what America is about and that he will not get anywhere near the White House.

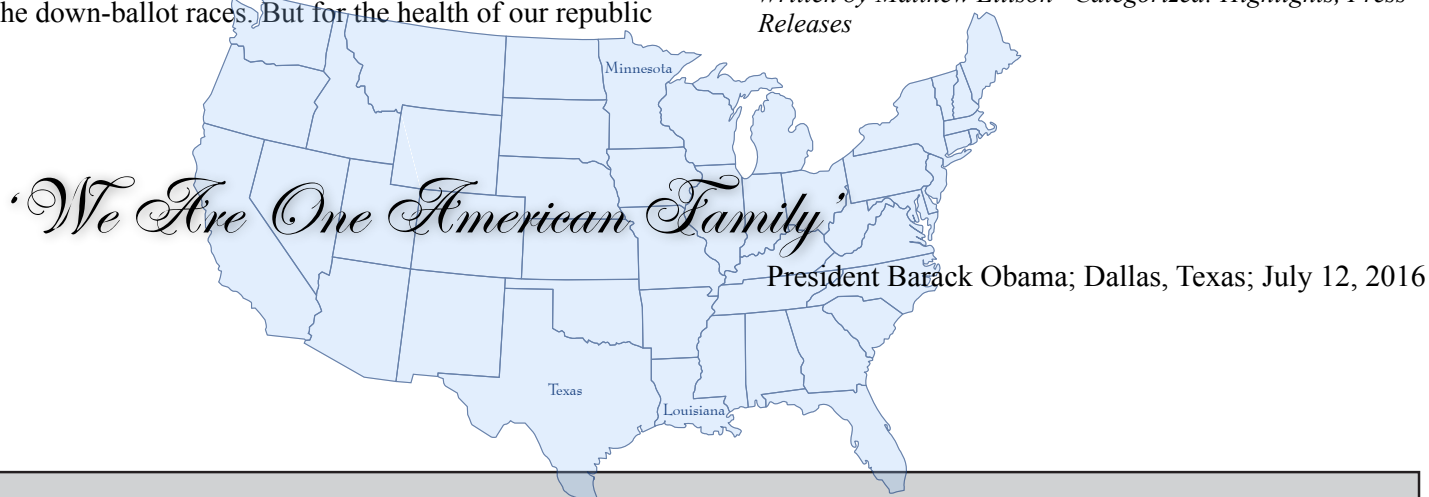
I close with this poem, a famous one written by a German pastor Martin Niemöller during World War II. The recent attacks on the diverse populations in this nation forced this powerful poem back to my mind. "First they came for the Socialists, I did not speak out— Because I was not a socialist. Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Trade Unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out— Because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me."

The questions I have for all of our leaders, Democrats and Republicans, are: What do we stand for? Who will we stand with? What will we fight for? But most importantly, when will we speak out?

Our greatest strength as a nation is our diversity. We have seen the evil of racism and bigotry here in South Carolina, and we have the scars to prove it. Democrats and Republicans in this state have an obligation to shed the party labels and do what is in the best interest of this nation.

I am happy to take whatever questions you may have.

*Written by Matthew Ellison · Categorized: Highlights, Press Releases*



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