

A Message from Our Chair

T: "just set up monthly donations to: planned parenthood, earth justice, TN (Tennessee) center for immigrant and refugee rights, aclu, and the belcourt (Nashville's nonprofit film center)

Just so you know. We should budget for that."

K: "Love you two!"

S: "Proud to be married to you! . . ."

T: "might add the human rights campaign.

I'm actually being quite 'conservative' – screw the government. Since we don't have income tax, my 'taxes' will go to actions that I actually believe in."

S: "Maybe add the NAACP too?"

T: "or southern poverty law center"



Kate Franch, GCDP Chair

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You've just read an excerpt from a group text that included my oldest son - Scott, daughter-in-law of six weeks - Tess, and me starting Wednesday morning, November 9. I'm sharing this because, more than anything else, this conversation helped me to begin the climb out of the hole of sadness and fear I've been in since late Tuesday night when the returns in the presidential race became so menacingly tight.

Like you, I am fearful of what's to come, and tired of having to fight so hard to gain inches of ground, only to then spend years fighting to not lose too much so that the net is still some measure of evolvment. Why must there be an inevitable backlash to social justice and progress?

When I find myself slipping into this despairing quandary, I remember the stubborn hope exemplified by Tess and Scott. Analyses of the election are showing that their "millennial" generation voted overwhelmingly, in almost all areas of the country, in line with the values of the Democratic Party. We

are seeing that here in Greenville as well. This outcome represents opportunity for the future; as do the many transplants arriving in Greenville daily and our diverse communities of color, national origin, religion, sexual identity who are reeling from the rhetoric of division and hate that found a new mouth-piece this year. The GCDP must be a home for them.

Their stubborn hope also reminds me to not give up. With the impetuses of anger and sensibility compelling me, I have recommitted to these three strategies as channels of reprisal and recovery:

- Share my resources - money and volunteer time - to causes in which I believe. They will need my support and advocacy during the next four years.
- Be as informed as possible about issues important to me and communicate my positions to my elected representatives on a regular basis to ensure that they know where their constituents

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stand and to hold them accountable to representing all of us.

- Stay fully involved in the local and state party. The GCDP leadership is developing a strategic plan that will focus on expanding opportunities for participation, improving community education and relations, and developing successful advocacy training, candidate recruitment, and campaign protocols. Candidates for local and state office will need full-on campaign support in order to win – and locally is where we can make significant change that will, in turn, grow up-ballot.

You are undoubtedly forming your own strategies,

which I selfishly hope include the GCDP. WE will need you. We have received a number of emails and phone calls at the office during the past week from folks needing to vent and wanting to be actively engaged, which is uplifting and invigorating. Let's make the 2016 election the turning point for Greenville County and South Carolina.

We can start by coming together at Saturday's breakfast meeting to talk about not only where we think mistakes were made, but also about ideas for the vision and course of the future. Please plan to attend (8:30am, Pleasant Valley Connection, 510 Old August Road) – with you in our circle, we can truly move Forward Together.

Hello Fellow Democrats,

The Greenville Young Democrats are continuing to involve our chapter in the community in ways that go beyond the political. In that spirit, I am happy to announce we will be helping St. Anthony's Catholic Church with their holiday food drive.

St. Anthony's Catholic Church truly is a beacon of hope in the West Greenville community. They feed nearly a thousand impoverished people a month through donations to their food bank. According to Father Patrick Tuttle, they use the holiday season to stock the food they need to feed poor families throughout the coming year. Now is the time their cupboards are going bare. We want to help them continue their good work in the community.

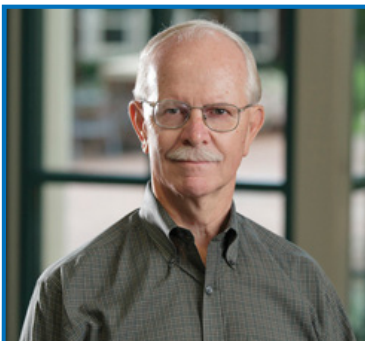
I know for many of you, this past election darkened your outlook. For a moment, the election of Donald Trump caused me to question everything I believed about this country. Then I realized that what makes this nation great isn't one man. It is the

goodness and hope brought about by the American people. In Trump's America, bringing just a little bit of hope to those who are disenfranchised and struggling will do more than we could ever imagine. Your involvement and desire to better our nation and the world is needed now more than ever.

We will present St. Anthony's Catholic Church with all of the food we collect on December 17. Please drop off non-perishable food you are willing to donate to Greenville Democratic Party HQ located at 1300-J East Washington Street, Greenville, SC 29607.

Thank you so much for what you do. God Bless

Jalen Elrod
President, GCYD



Guest Speaker, James L. Guth
Political Science Professor, Furman University

Upcoming Meetings & Events

November 19 (Saturday) 8:30am
GCDP Monthly Breakfast Meeting
Pleasant Valley Connection
510 Old Augusta Road
Greenville, SC 29605
Breakfast is of no charge; Donations are welcome.

December 11 (Sunday) 3:00 - 5:00pm
Democratic Women of Greenville County
Holiday Drop-In
Fulton and Barr Law Office
2152 West Stone Avenue
Greenville SC 29609

The GOP's Attack on Voting Rights Was the Most Under-Covered Story of 2016

By Ari Berman

This was the first presidential election in 50 years without the full protections of the Voting Rights Act.

There were 25 debates during the presidential primaries and general election and not a single question about the attack on voting rights, even though this was the first presidential election in 50 years without the full protections of the Voting Rights Act. Fourteen states had new voting restrictions in place for the first time in 2016—including crucial swing states like Wisconsin and Virginia—yet we heard nary a peep about it on Election Day except from outlets like The Nation. This was the biggest under-covered scandal of the 2016 campaign.

We'll likely never know how many people were kept from the polls by restrictions like voter-ID laws, cuts to early voting, and barriers to voter registration. But at the very least this should have been a question that many more people were looking into. For example, 27,000 votes currently separate Trump and Clinton in Wisconsin, where 300,000 registered voters, according to a federal court, lacked strict forms of voter ID. Voter turnout in Wisconsin was at its lowest levels in 20 years and decreased 13 percent in Milwaukee, where 70 percent of the state's African-American population lives, according to Daniel Nishanian of the University of Chicago. I documented stories of voters in Wisconsin—including a 99-year-old man—who made two trips to the polls and one to the DMV on Election Day just to be able to vote, while others decided not to vote at all because they were denied IDs. When Margie Mueller, an 85-year-old woman from Plymouth, Wisconsin, wasn't allowed to vote with her expired driver's license, her husband, Alvin, decided not to vote either. They were both Democrats. "The damn Republicans," he said,

"don't want Latinos and old people to vote."

Andrew Voegelé, a schoolteacher, recently moved from Minnesota to Wisconsin and was forced to cast a provisional ballot yesterday that will not be counted unless he surrenders his Minnesota license and spends \$34 for a Wisconsin driver's license by Friday. The ACLU filed a court order last night to have his vote count. Over 200 people in Wisconsin petitioned the DMV on Election Day to get a voter ID. How many people were turned away from the polls? How many others didn't bother to show up in the first place? These are questions we need to take far more seriously.

In 2014, a study by Rice University and the University of Houston of Texas's 23rd Congressional District found that 12.8 percent of registered voters who didn't vote in the election cited lack of required photo ID as a reason they didn't cast a ballot, even though only 2.7 percent of registered voters actually lacked an acceptable ID. Texas's strict voter-ID law blocked some voters from the polls while having an ever larger deterrent effect on others. Eighty percent of these voters were Latino and strongly preferred Democratic candidates. On Election Day, there were 868 fewer polling places in states with a long history of voting discrimination, like Arizona, Texas, and North Carolina. These changes impacted hundreds of thousands of voters, yet received almost no coverage. In North Carolina, as my colleague Joan Walsh reported, black

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Voters cast their ballots in the 2016 presidential election in Jackson, Mississippi. (AP Photo / Rogelio V. Solis)

turnout decreased 16 percent during the first week of early voting because “in 40 heavily black counties, there were 158 fewer early polling places.” Even if these restrictions had no outcome on the election, it’s fundamentally immoral to keep people from voting in a democracy. The media devoted hours and hours to Trump’s absurd claim that the election was rigged against him, while spending precious little time on the real threat that voters faced. I want to salute the people that did cover voting rights doggedly, including Rick Hasen of the Election Law Blog; Michael Wines of *The New York Times*; Sari Horwitz of *The Washington Post*; Alice Ollstein, Kira Lerner, and Ian Millhiser of Think Progress; Tierney Sneed of Talking Points Memo; Zack Roth, Joy

Reid, Chris Hayes, Rachel Maddow and Al Sharpton of MSNBC; Mark Joseph-Stern and Jamelle Bouie of Slate; David Graham of The Atlantic; Brad Friedman of The Brad Blog, in addition to great local reporters like Bryan Lowry of the *Wichita Eagle*; Patrick Marley of the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*; and Colin Campbell of the *Raleigh News & Observer*. ProPublica organized an essential Electionland project with reporters across the country.

But when it really mattered, too many in the media treated the right to vote as a fringe issue instead of the most fundamental issue in the election.

Source:

<https://www.thenation.com/article/the-gops-attack-on-voting--rights-was-the-most-under-covered-story-of-2016/>

Thank You Chris *A campaign we’re proud of*

We are extremely proud of Chris Fedalei and his team. They embody the very best ideals of the Democratic Party. They represent the future of the Democratic Party in South Carolina.

Chris ran an honorable and professional campaign that effectively challenged Trey Gowdy on his lack of representation of and focus on the constituents of the 4th Congressional District. Chris showed that, when you really listen to people and then bring solutions that address their everyday concerns, they respond in turn with

support and trust.

The GCDP applauds the Fedalei campaign for bringing a fresh energy and true voice that invigorated Democrats in Greenville and Spartanburg counties. We know that our vision of a community that unifies and ensures opportunity for everyone has a future. The tide is turning. . . a blue South Carolina is on the way.



Chris Fedalei

Thanks to Our Contributors!

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

Laura W. Coleman
Ann Edwards
Megan Halperin

Sonya Harth
Melinda LaFoy
Floyd McGurk
Linda McKay

Xanthene Norris
Dvora Perahia
Starla Taylor

*The Greenville County Democratic Party sends a sincere
Thank You to all of our candidates who ran for office*

Pastor Thomas Dixon (ran for US Senate)

Hosea Cleveland (ran for US Congressional District 3)

Anna Brown (ran for SC House District 10)

Brandon Greene (ran for SC House District 16)

&

*wholehearted Congratulations
to those who will be serving their constituents*

Senator Karl Allen, SC Senate District 7

Representative Chandra Dillard, SC House District 23

Representative Leola Robinson-Simpson, SC House District 25

Councilor Ennis Fant, Greenville County Council District 25

WOMEN'S MARCH ON WASHINGTON

OFFICIAL STATEMENT, National Organizers



On January 21, 2017 we will unite in Washington, DC for the Women's March on Washington. We stand together in solidarity with our partners and children for the protection of our rights, our safety, our health, and our families -- recognizing that our vibrant and diverse communities are the strength of our country.

The rhetoric of the past election cycle has insulted, demonized, and threatened many of us--women, immigrants of all statuses, those with diverse religious faiths particularly Muslim, people who identify as LGBTQIA, Native and Indigenous people, Black and Brown people, people with disabilities, the economically impoverished and survivors of sexual assault. We are confronted with the question of how to move forward in the face of national and international concern and fear.

In the spirit of democracy and honoring the champions of human rights, dignity, and justice who have come before us, we join in diversity to show our presence in numbers too great to ignore. The Women's March on Washington will send a bold message to our new administration on their first day in office, and to the world that women's rights are human rights. We stand together, recognizing

that defending the most marginalized among us is defending all of us.

We support the advocacy and resistance movements that reflect our multiple and intersecting identities. We call on all defenders of human rights to join us. This march is the first step towards unifying our communities, grounded in new relationships, to create change from the grassroots level up. We will not rest until women have parity and equity at all levels of leadership in society. We work peacefully while recognizing there is no true peace without justice and equity for all. HEAR OUR VOICE.

This is an INCLUSIVE march, and EVERYONE who supports women's rights are welcome.

Source:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2169332969958991/>

Kaye Martell is spearheading the arrangements and logistics for Greenville County. More information will be communicated by Constant Contact email. If interested, you may contact Kaye at: k.martell@charter.net

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