

# THE BRAY

*The latest news and updates from the Greenville County Democratic Party*



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## GCDP Statement Regarding White Supremacy & Neo-Nazi Gatherings in Charlottesville, VA

BY KATE FRANCH

GREENVILLE, S.C. --

The GCDP commends the citizens of the City of Charlottesville for courageously and intentionally examining its role in the story of slavery and racism in this country and then taking steps toward public acknowledgement and reconciliation. Often lost in the reporting of this weekend's events was the underlying impetus that led to the targeting of Charlottesville for what has been called "the largest hate-gathering of its kind in decades in the United States."

(continued on page 2)

## GCDP Statement Regarding White Supremacy & Neo-Nazi Gatherings in Charlottesville, VA

(continued from page 1)

The people of Charlottesville have been exhibiting true moral leadership coming to terms with a history that is painful for all Americans and especially to those of us with deep southern roots. They are, in fact, role models setting an example that all communities can and should follow, and we thank them.

In that same vein, the GCDP applauds our close to 300 Greenville County neighbors who, on very short notice, peacefully stood in unity yesterday against the threats, hatred, and bigotry spewed by individuals who identify with white supremacist and Neo-Nazi groups. They exemplify just the tip of the iceberg within our community committed to standing arm in arm in solidarity with our fellow citizens who are the targets of hate-filled vitriol and attacks.

### Stall Campaign to Host Canvass Kick Off



Russell Stall for Greenville City Council Canvass Kick-off and Yard Sign Distribution on Saturday, September 9th from 10-3 at Greenville Democratic Headquarters, 1300 E Washington St. #J (bottom of building, across from Cleveland Park softball field). Plan on spending a few hours knocking on doors of voters, helping put signs up in yards of supporters, and spending time with other TeamStall friends.

Please RSVP by email at [russell@russellstall.com](mailto:russell@russellstall.com)

## Calendar of Events

### August

22

Greenville Transit Authority Open House - 100 W. McBee Ave  
4pm to 7pm

24

"The Rise of Fake News"  
Furman University - 6:30 pm

26

GCDP Monthly Breakfast Meeting  
Upstate Circle of Friends- 8:30 am

31

Eat, Drink & Meet Mary  
115 Krim Rd, Piedmont, SC- 5:30 pm

31

"Alternative Facts and Partisan Media"- Furman University- 6:30pm



To receive The Bray in your inbox visit [greenvilledemocrats.com/the-bray](http://greenvilledemocrats.com/the-bray)

### GCDP Monthly Meeting- August 26th

Join us for our next monthly meeting and breakfast on Saturday, August 26 at 8:30 at Upstate Circle of Friends (29 Ridgeway Drive, Greenville 29605). Our speakers for the day are Greenville City Councilors Jil Littlejohn and Gaye Sprague.

Please note some changes to our regular Democratic Party meeting schedule.

The September and October meetings will be held on the 4th Saturday of the month. In November we will meet on Saturday the 18th and in observance of the holidays, we will NOT meet in December.





## Calendar of Events

### September

02

Young Democrats Summit for Change- 404 Vardry St- 1pm

07

"Wining the Information War"  
Furman University- 6:30 pm

22

Fall Equinox

23

GCDP Monthly Breakfast Meeting  
Upstate Circle of Friends- 8:30 am

### Weekly Events

- Drinking Liberally meets every **Thursday** at The Velo Fellow- 1 Augusta St #126, Greenville, SC 29601 - 6 pm.
- Tell Them Tuesdays are held each **Tuesday** at **Noon** in front of Sen. Lindsay Graham's office- 130 S. Main St, Greenville, SC.

## Hispanic Alliance Helps Workers

The Hispanic Alliance responded recently to a labor trafficking situation, 140 Puerto Rican workers were fired from their jobs at Country Fresh by Joint Alliance Staffing and evicted from their housing in a local hotel. They were forced to take refuge at the Jesus El Rey Assembly of God Church in the heart of Greenville. These workers came to South Carolina on the promise of good pay and safe housing from Joint Alliance Staffing Company, and instead were stranded without the resources to live or return to Puerto Rico. The Greenville community mobilized quickly, with numerous offers of assistance and funds coming into our office from Jesus El Rey and Nicholtown Missionary Baptist Church. Contact has been made with the appropriate authorities to investigate this crime, and the American Red Cross and United Way were mobilized to assist with immediate needs including money for food and meals, work opportunities, and basic shelter at local churches for those remaining. From the 140 workers affected by this crisis, half of them decided to return, have made it back home safely to Puerto Rico with the generous support of the Nicholtown Missionary Baptist Church, which donated the cost of travel. For those who chose to make a new life in our community, advocates have mobilized to connect them with job opportunities. Approximately 38 of them are on their way to North Carolina, and the rest are staying at Jesus El Rey. The need for food, appropriate bedding and personal care items has been fulfilled. However, the Hispanic Alliance has set up a secure donation link for those wishing to provide funds for the worker's long-term care: <http://bit.ly/prcrisisfund>



September 14th | 6pm | 1 N Main St | Greenville, SC 29601

On September 14th, the Hispanic Alliance will kick-off National Hispanic Heritage Month 2017 with an event featuring a keynote and panel discussion featuring visionary leaders who will discuss the central role of Hispanic youth in the global competitiveness of the Upstate. To register: <http://bit.ly/2wdEcBp>.

## Dexter L. Reaves Announces His Candidacy for Greer City Council District 6

**Dexter L. Reaves** has announced his candidacy for Greer City Council District 6. His campaign slogan, "Visibility and Awareness," expresses Reaves's goal to be a visible and connected council member who will keep his constituents informed of all issues and concerns. For the past two years, Reaves has served as Executive Director for Pleasant Valley Connection, Incorporated, a childcare and community center in Greenville, SC. Prior to this position, Reaves was an Intervention Specialist in the Greenville County School District for over 10 years. He is a former Greenville County Sheriff's Deputy and a Police Officer and Boot Camp Director for the Police Department. Reaves serves on the Greenville County Human Relations Commission and is the 1st Vice Chair for the Greenville County Democratic Party. Reaves is a member of Tuscan Masonic Lodge #21 and Phi Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated, located in Greer, SC where he serves as President.

Dexter states, "I am ready for the challenge that I am embarking upon. Greer is a wonderful and progressive city in which to live and serve. I will provide enthusiastic and servant leadership, continue to engage the city's constituents, and help propel Greer as a premier city in South Carolina and our nation! I am committed to the citizens of Greer, and as your councilman, I will be visible and keep you aware of what is impacting our great city!"

For more information please contact Dexter L. Reaves at: 864-505-0291 | [dexterlreaves@gmail.com](mailto:dexterlreaves@gmail.com).



## SC Board of Education Approves Uniform Health Education in Schools

On August 8, the SC Board of Education voted unanimously to ensure that all students in South Carolina schools receive health education programs that are up to date, comprehensive, and evidence-based. Advocates from across the state voiced their support by sending 4,208 emails to State Board of Education members in a little over a 24-hour period.

These updates to current health education in South Carolina public schools have been supported and advocated for by Women's Rights and Empowerment Network (WREN). WREN believes that students in South Carolina deserve health education programs that have been rigorously evaluated, supported by credible scientific studies, and proven to be effective at reducing risky behaviors. The advocacy of WREN and its supporters across our state helped make fact based sex education in all South Carolina schools possible.

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## Report from SCDP Executive Council and Executive Committee Meetings

The South Carolina Democratic Party Executive Council met on August 5, 2017, followed by a meeting of the Executive Committee.

Party officers gave individual reports. First Vice Chair Lessie Price described her continuing efforts to publicize party activities. She is encouraging Democrats to get out and vote, even in races where no Democrats are on the ballot. Second Vice Chair Anthony Thompson, Jr. has reached out to county chairs about their websites and social media presence. The possibility of a senior citizens caucus has been discussed. Third Vice Chair Scott Thorpe reported on his efforts to reach and train young Democrats, which included a community organizing event in Greenville County. Young Democrats organizations are forming in Aiken, Kershaw, and Chester Counties.

Trav Robertson gave the Chair's Report. While Democrats have won only one of four special elections in 2017, Trav was encouraged by the results in each contest. Wendy Brawley, the lone Democrat to win, will represent a house district that covers part of Richland and Sumter Counties, a seat previously held by the late Joe Neal. Jennifer Lariscey, running for a state house seat from Aiken County, lost by only 523 votes. Bebs Chorak lost to a popular sheriff in a state house race in York County. In the race for Congressional District 5, Trav noted that Democratic candidate Archie Parnell lost by only 2,000 votes. The State Party tried to convince the DNC that this seat, like the one sought by Jon Ossoff in Georgia, could be competitive.

A 40-member Candidate Recruitment Committee has been formed and will be announced soon. The Council reviewed the budget, which has set a year-end deadline to pay off party debt. The budget anticipates an increase in staff devoted to the Clyburn Fellows program and increased expenditures for party outreach.

Philip Chambers, chair of the Transition Committee, gave a brief overview of the committee's report, which was distributed to Council members. Following a thorough assessment of the state of the party, the committee made a number of recommendations.

Among the recommendations that affect county party activities, the committee recommended:

- Training for county party officers to provide concrete skills
- Consistent communication between county party leadership and the state party
- Partnership of an improved state party website with county party websites
- Having each county identify a representative for each party caucus

The committee also suggested that the state party employ a recognizable and consistent brand. The committee wants the party to create an organizational chart and set job descriptions. More support for caucuses is needed.

The committee suggested reducing the number of Clyburn Fellows to make the program more manageable with a skills-driven curriculum. The party should recognize that it has the responsibility to provide candidate support, including engaging base voters and ensuring that they turn out to vote. Usage of volunteers will be critical. The focus of the party on each of these initiatives should be guided by the question:

**How does this help our candidates win elections?**

Executive Director Christale Spain reported on her activities during 2017. Bretticca Moody, who, along with Will Alexander, serves as a South Carolina Resistance Summer Organizer, reported on Resistance Summer. She and Will conducted training in Greenville on August 3.

The "Knock Your Block" Issue Day Canvass is set for Saturday, August 19. Persons interested in participating can email Brtticca or Will: bretticca@scdp.org or will@scdp.org

Following this meeting, the members of the Executive Council were joined by additional members of the Executive Committee. Information that had been provided to the Executive Council was reviewed with the Committee. Committee members then rotated among three breakout meetings- one with Party Officers, one with Party Staff, and one with Transition Committee representatives. These groups afforded Committee members the chance to express concerns and ideas in a less structured forum. Ideas included the need to engage party members throughout the year, not just during campaign seasons, the need to identify issues for Democrats to embrace, and the party's responsibility to provide information on progressive-related goals in general, not just those related to party activities.

The committee reconvened for one final session to fill vacant slots in two positions. Melissa Watson of Berkeley County was elected Secretary and Kathy Hensley of Lexington County was elected treasurer.

Trav reminded the group that Executive meetings are open to the public (in contrast, meetings of the smaller Executive Council are closed). The next meeting of the Executive committee had been scheduled for Saturday, September 30, at 11:30 am, but will be rescheduled due to a conflict with Yom Kippur. For this fall, meetings are being held at the William L. Yates Conference Center, 1000 Center Point Road, Columbia. Future Executive Committee meetings are Saturday, November 4, 2017, and Saturday, December 2, 2017, at 11:30 am.



## Young Democrats to Host Summit for Change

The Greenville County Young Democrats are hosting the Summit for Change on Saturday, September 2 at the West End Community Center at 1 pm. The purpose of this Summit is to bring organizations together and collaborate to make an impact. The best way to do that here in Greenville is to help elect progressive candidates to champion progressive causes. That begins with the upcoming November elections.

**Lillian Brock Flemming- District 2, Greenville City Council**  
**Russell Stall- At Large seat, Greenville City Council**  
**Dexter Reaves- District 6, Greer City Council**

Each candidate has agreed to address the Summit about their candidacy.

The following organizations have agreed to attend the Summit:

Upstate 100  
Greenville Black Lives Matter  
From The Ground Up  
Cannabis Forward  
Upstate Coalition for Equality  
Greenville County Democratic Women  
Moms Demand Action  
Our Revolution



The  
Greenwood County Democratic Party  
Presents:

**The 10th Annual  
Carnell-Drummond Dinner**

At  
The Inn on the Square  
104 Court Ave, Greenwood SC 29646

September 26, 2017

Meet & Greet our Elected Officials and Candidates starting at 6:00 pm

Dinner served at 7:30 pm

Cash Bar Available

Keynote Speaker

Trav Robertson, Chairman, South Carolina Democratic Party

*Tickets are \$30.00 per person  
\$200.00 for a table of 8*

*Tickets will be available at our, Saturday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> monthly breakfast meeting  
9:00 am at the Inn on the Square*

*Or you can order them by mailing your check to:  
Greenwood County Democratic Party  
PO Box 73  
Greenwood, SC 29648*

*For more information about obtaining tickets, please contact our Secretary,  
Cathie Swindell @ (864) 992-2182 or email her at [gwdcountydems@gmail.com](mailto:gwdcountydems@gmail.com)*

## Flemming to Support Urban League Back to School Event

On Tuesday, August 22 the Urban League of the Upstate will host a welcome back event for the students of Tanglewood Middle School. The event aims to encourage students as the school year begins. According to *The Greenville News*, Tanglewood's new slogan is, "It takes a village." Flemming joins a diverse group of Greenville residents to give high-fives and words of encouragement.

To learn more about the Flemming for City Council campaign, visit [voteforlillian.com](http://voteforlillian.com).



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# Voter Integrity Commission Report

BY JAKE ERWIN

On May 11, President Trump signed an executive order establishing the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity. The mission of this group, chaired by Vice President Mike Pence, is ostensibly to study registration and voting processes used in Federal elections.

It aims to identify practices that either undermine confidence in elections or present vulnerabilities that would increase the likelihood of fraudulent voting. Taken out of context, this Commission could seem like a benign, perhaps even noble, attempt to analyze and improve the processes that enable the defining act of our democratic form of government. However statements made by President Trump and at least one prominent member of the Commission have given many folks reason to doubt the Commission's request for sensitive voter data. The Commission has also sparked some local news, as the South Carolina Republican Party has taken a controversial position in response to the Commission's actions.

At the Commission's first meeting in July, Vice President Pence explained that the Commission "has no preconceived notions or preordained results...We are fact-finders." President Trump's multiple statements undercut this declaration: he alleges that as many as three million votes were cast by non-citizens, and that all of those votes were for his opponent, Hillary Clinton. Conveniently, this number of hypothetical illegal votes would mean that Secretary Clinton's margin of victory in the popular vote (2.8 million votes) would be erased. Kris Kobach, the Secretary of State of Kansas and the vice-chair of the Commission, was asked in an interview on MSNBC on July 19 whether he thought that Hillary Clinton won the popular vote. His shocking response was: "We will probably never know the answer to that question."

Throughout his career, Kobach has been on the hunt for voter fraud carried out by illegal immigrants. He has appeared on Fox News on several occasions to argue that this is a significant problem.

The fact of the matter is that there is no evidence of widespread voter fraud. Dubious stories published by the right-wing media outlet Infowars inspired Trump and Kobach's claims and have easily been debunked and roundly dismissed. Critics of the Commission fear that the real motive behind all of this is to push for new restrictions on voting, like the Voter ID laws implemented in Kobach's home state of Kansas and here in South Carolina. Studies have shown that these laws disproportionately affect young voters and black voters, both groups that historically are likely to vote for Democrats.

On June 28, Kobach sent a letter to all 50 states requesting voter data. Specifically, the Commission requested, "the full first and last names of all registrants, middle names or initials if available, addresses, dates of birth, political party (if recorded in your state), last four digits of social security number if available, voter history (elections voted in) from 2006 onward, active/inactive status, cancelled status, information regarding any felony convictions, information regarding voter registration in another state, information regarding military status, and overseas citizen information." Immediately, citizens expressed concern that this sensitive information would be shared with the Commission, with little information about what steps, if any, the Commission had taken to safeguard the data's security. Centralizing this information would make any easy target for hackers and this administration has not had a stellar record so far when it comes to protecting sensitive information. As of today, no states have complied completely with the request, and many, including South Carolina, have outright refused to provide any voter data to the Commission.

South Carolina briefly took center-stage in this drama in early July, when, after the South Carolina Election Commission denied Kobach's request, Drew McKissick, the chairman of the South Carolina Republican Party, declared that he would buy the requested voter data and personally provide it to the Commission. Any citizen of South Carolina can purchase this voter information as long as it is not used for commercial purposes. Political campaigns traditionally use this information in order to target their messaging and advertising appropriately.

Trav Robertson, our newly elected State Party Chair, responded to McKissick by saying, "The possession of such sensitive information by this disgraceful group endangers our civil liberties, threatens our voting rights, and undermines confidence in our elections." It is unclear whether the information has been bought and provided to the Commission. While voters in South Carolina have reason to be concerned, they should take comfort in knowing that much of the information requested by the Election Integrity Commission is not collected at all by the South Carolina Election Commission. For example, South Carolina does not collect military or criminal records for voters, nor does it retain voter's social security numbers. Furthermore, in South Carolina we do not register by political party, so that information is not available whether the Commission wants it or not.

As Democrats, we should all be outraged at these events.

The Greenville County Democratic Party joins Mr. Robertson in condemning both the Voter Integrity Commission and Mr. McKissick's actions in response to the request for voter data. We will double-down on our efforts to increase voter registration in Greenville County and take all legal and practical steps to combat this Commission and the Republican attempts to restrict access to the polls.

## PARTY LEADERSHIP

### KATE FRANCH

Greenville County Chair

### DEXTER L. REAVES

1st Vice Chair

### GRADY PATTERSON

2nd Vice Chair

### WHITNEY WRIGHT

3rd Vice Chair

### GAYBRIEL GIBSON

Secretary

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State Executive

Committee Delegate

### INGRID ERWIN

State Executive

Committee Delegate

### ROXANNE CORDONIER

State Executive

Committee Alternate

### MICHAEL MCCORD

State Executive

Committee Alternate

### JAKE ERWIN

Voter Protection Chair

### JARROD WIGGINS

Communications Chair



Protestors gather at August 13th rally.

**The work of the Greenville County Democratic Party is made possible by the contributions of donors like:**

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JAMIE ROBINSON

MIKE AND VERA STANG

JOHANNA STOSIER

MARCIA SUVAL

PERRY AND REGINA WALDREP

**Thank you.**

## Connect with us

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