

# THE BRAY

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



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## There's never been a better time to throw your hat in the ring

BY KATE FRANCH



My fellow Democrats!

We all recognize that there seems to be no bottom to the callousness, ignorance, ineptitude, vulgarity, and hate that emanate from the White House under the aegis of the current administration. Even though we must, and will, continue to push back against the depravity, I choose to keep my eye on the opportunity and promise of 2018. It's the only way I can stay sane. Electing Democrats to office wherever possible will be the counterweight to that depravity and put us in place to "right the ship" by regaining the presidency in 2020.

## Throw your hat in the ring (continued)

So, let's do that. Let's elect a Democratic governor and constitutional officers in South Carolina, shift the political balance in the SC State House, and elect Democratic representatives to Congress from across the state. While we're at it, let's change County Council as well.

Accomplishing all of this will require concentrated effort, but if everyone contributes in some way, we'll win!

### Where to start?

- Get connected with fellow Democrats by participating in your precinct. During the recent reorganization, we increased the number of precincts with leadership from 77 in 2016 to 92, thank you! Most of the precincts do have an open officer role or two, though, and 59 are still without any leadership - this is where a few hours of work each month can pay dividends in voter turnout in November.
- Look at the list of offices on the November 2018 ballot ([goo.gl/D6sSQK](http://goo.gl/D6sSQK)) and get in touch with me if you want to throw your hat in the ring. As they say, there's no time like the present and momentum is definitely on your side to assume a front row seat in determining the direction of our community and state. GCDP candidate training is taking place on March 3.
- Contribute financially to the GCDP to help us implement the strategic plan ([greenvilledemocrats.com/contribute](http://greenvilledemocrats.com/contribute)) - every donation enables us to become a more effective, more resilient, more wide-reaching influence throughout Greenville County.

I'm excited! Join!

We ARE STRONGER. . .and BLUER. . .together!

## Calendar of Events

### February

17

Precinct Activation Project Precinct Officer Training- 10 am-11:30 am  
501 Howell Road, Greenville, SC 29615

12

Democratic Women Monthly Meeting  
West End Community Center- 12:15 PM  
A Way Forward for the Party/ A Valentine's Celebration

19

YDGC Black Panther/STEM Event  
Speaker from Planned Parenthood

22

Tastings on the Town  
Artisan Traders  
1274 Pendleton Street  
5:30 pm-7:30 pm

24

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

27

Moms Demand Action Advocacy Day  
SC Statehouse- Blatt Building 108  
9am-1pm

### March

01

GCDP 2018 County Convention  
6 pm  
901 Anderson Rd, Greenville 29601

03

Candidate Training 10am-2pm  
Augusta Road Library  
100 Lydia St, Greenville 29605

08

GCYD- CD3/CD4 Candidate Forum  
Long Branch Baptist Church - 6pm  
28 Bolt St, Greenville 29605

12

DWGC March Meeting- 12:15pm  
West End Community Development Center- 404 Vardry St. Greenville 29601  
Speaker- Phil Nobel, Gubernatorial Candidate

24

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

## Rally for sensible gun laws on Advocacy Day

You can make a difference and make South Carolina safer by rallying for common sense gun laws. Join Moms Demand Action for Advocacy Day at the Statehouse on Tuesday, Feb. 27 at 9:00 AM. Remember, you don't have to be a mom to participate. The group will meet with legislators to ask them to support common sense gun laws that help end everyday gun violence. Registration required: <https://goo.gl/NbFXDQ>

For more information about the organization or to organize carpool for Advocacy Day contact Jean Fontaine [upstatescmoms@gmail.com](mailto:upstatescmoms@gmail.com). More information on the organization's activities can be found on Facebook at Moms Demand Action - Upstate SC (<https://goo.gl/nbPSj6>).

Moms Demand Action Advocacy Day  
Tuesday, February 27  
9:00am-1:00pm  
SC Statehouse Room--Blatt Building Room 108  
1105 Pendleton St., Columbia, SC 29201

**MOMS**   
**DEMAND**  
**ACTION**  
**FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA**

## GCDP Huddle

The Greenville County Democratic Party Huddle is a local political action group that is openly seeking new members to help brainstorm ideas and plan community efforts. Current plans for 2018 include non-partisan voter registration and facilitating monthly Party Breakfasts. Looking for a way to get active? Meet with Whitney Wright, coordinator, and other Huddle members, immediately after the 8:30 a.m. monthly breakfast on Saturday, Feb. 24 at Upstate Circle of Friends, 29 Ridgeway Dr., 29605."



**GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY**  
**CANDIDATE & CAMPAIGN TRAINING**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2018**  
**10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

AUGUSTA RD. BRANCH LIBRARY  
100 LYDIA ST.  
GREENVILLE, SC 29605

SIGN UP AT <https://goo.gl/WZG5RY>

OR CONTACT:  
MICHELLE MACRINA at 864-346-0096

**\$25**  
**(INCLUDES LUNCH)**



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[greenvilledemocrats.com/the-bray](http://greenvilledemocrats.com/the-bray)



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# Democrats tackle South Carolina's pay inequality

BY LAURA HAIGHT

South Carolina is one of just a handful of states that currently have none or very limited legal wage protections for employees. It is one of only five (Utah, Texas, North Carolina and Georgia) that exempt small business (that's businesses with under 500 employees) from enforcing any equal pay protections that might exist.

Nationally, women in general earn 74 cents on the dollar for doing the same work as a man. But African-American women get only 64 cents, and Hispanic women, a paltry 54 cents. In South Carolina, the average for women is 80 cents on the dollar (in 2014) a drop from 2012's high of 83 cents.

According to an analysis by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the American Association of University Women, and NBC News (<https://goo.gl/YY9BYb>) 2016 kicked off a significant increase in legislation proposed to address this inequity.

Since 2016, state lawmakers have introduced at least 180 bills across the country aimed at shrinking the pay gap. Seven were enacted, dozens are pending and nearly 50 either failed or were vetoed. A year prior, 76 equal pay-related bills were introduced in 33 states.

Into this environment, Democrats in the State House have introduced the Paycheck Fairness Act ([goo.gl/gp4ZfR](https://goo.gl/gp4ZfR)) that would provide legal protections for employees discussing their salary, require employers provide minimum pay information in job announcements, and prohibit employers from asking for a job applicant's salary history.

“You can't fight pay discrimination if you have no idea whether you are making less than the man across the hall. Employees need robust legal protections so they can talk about how much they make without fear of retaliation from their employer.”  
**Sen. Mia McLeod, D-Columbia**

“The Paycheck Fairness Act levels the playing field for women by requiring salary ranges be included in job postings,” said Rep. Mandy Powers Norrell, D-Lancaster. “Transparency around pay ranges helps employees root out unlawful pay disparities and enables better negotiating for compensation and benefits.”

Gubernatorial candidate and one of several sponsors of the legislation, Rep. James Smith, D-Columbia, along with others, called for the bill to receive a committee hearing as soon as possible.

“Pay transparency legislation will ultimately protect women, minorities and people re-entering the job market, including members of the military re-entering the civilian workforce,” Smith said. “Potential employees should be paid based on their skills and experience, not how much they made in their previous positions.”

The legislation is one of a handful of new bills proposed to address equal pay in our state. Other bills include Senate bill 0257, <https://goo.gl/N1mkuW>, the SC Equal Pay for Equal Work Act. The bill proposed in January would make it unlawful to discriminate in wages on the basis of gender, race or ethnicity. A companion bill was introduced in the Assembly (<https://goo.gl/HnG32q>).

At last year's WREN summit (<https://goo.gl/156933>), the results of research on South Carolina's workforce gender gaps, undertaken at the Moore School of Business, were released (View the presentation: [youtu.be/pgnwRAcpPaY](https://youtu.be/pgnwRAcpPaY); Read the report: <https://goo.gl/8WVwnS>).

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## Pay inequality (continued)

Among the findings:

- Women are more likely to be out of the labor force than men, regardless of age. Employment levels peak for both genders between the ages of 35 and 44 while the smallest difference in employment levels between genders occurs between ages 45 and 54. Gender differences in labor force participation among younger workers may partially explain why the gender wage gap gets progressively larger as workers age. The effect of differences in experience is cumulative over time.
- South Carolina women who work full-time are estimated to have earned approximately \$15,861 per year less than South Carolina men who worked full-time in 2015 after controlling for differences in race, occupation, nativity, moving status, and age.
- South Carolina is anticipating a significant workforce shortage in the coming decade. Due in large part to the rapid growth of the advanced manufacturing sector, the state's economy has experienced consistent employment growth above the national average that has helped reduce the unemployment rate to 4.4 percent as of January 2017. Although positive for the state's existing workforce, this low unemployment rate has also begun to make it more difficult for employers to find new qualified workers. South Carolina is estimated to face a shortage of 26,140 workers per year over the next decade.
- This anticipated shortage represents an opportunity for women to increase their presence in the state's labor force while simultaneously generating a net economic gain for the state. If women were to help meet the workforce shortage in South Carolina across the occupation spectrum and increase their overall presence in the state's workforce from the current level of 48.3 percent to 54.0 percent by 2025, this could generate up to \$5.2 billion in new annual statewide economic activity and reduce the pay gap between men and women from 27 percent to 19 percent

With two-thirds of families in South Carolina having a woman as the primary or co-breadwinner, it's crucial that we take part in solution-oriented conversations, and continue to stand together in support of wage equity across our state.

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## Unity prayer walk & breakfast

The Sterling Neighborhood Association and Sterling Pride Farms are working together to strengthen the neighborhood and build our farm in Sterling. We want you to join us as we encourage others to see our vision and work toward goals with triumphant expectations. On Saturday, March 17, 2018, we invite you to our Unity in the Community Prayer Walk & Breakfast. The walk begins at 7:30 a.m. at the Sterling Community Center, 113 Minus Street. The prayer breakfast follows at 8 a.m. The price is \$10.00 per person, we have eight and 10 seat tables. (\$80.00 / \$100.00 per table). Please join us for this exciting event. Make your 501(c)(3) donation payable to: Sterling Neighborhood Association, C/O Tammy J. Bailey, 802 Jenkins Street Greenville SC 29601.

For more information and/or to RSVP, contact Dot Russell at 864-918-1571  
da3russell@yahoo.com

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## Greenville NAACP updates

Grammy winner and Kennedy Center honoree **Mavis Staples**, a member of The Staple Singers, will perform February 21 at the Peace Center. Buy tickets online ([goo.gl/zmpLvc](http://goo.gl/zmpLvc)) and use code NAACP at checkout for discounted pricing.

The Greenville NAACP is also seeking high school students to participate in ACT-SO talent competition. All students with talent are eligible. Winners will compete in the National Olympic competition in San Antonio, TX in July. For more information, contact Truman Humbert at 864- 346-3563 or [thumbert11348@aol.com](mailto:thumbert11348@aol.com).

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## One dream among many



Sarai Bautista was 11 when she was brought to the US by her mom, who was worried about her safety. Since then, she has tried to build a life, get an education and be part of her community; despite being undocumented. "I am a South Carolinian," she says. She registered for DACA and is now one of just a handful of the 6500 Upstate Dreamers willing to speak up. Hear her tell her story.

<https://greenvilledemocrats.com/one-dream-many/>  
(goo.gl/wF24LS)

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## South Carolina Democratic Party Caucuses

If you've had any involvement in politics or just watch a lot of political commentary on TV, you've heard the word caucus, but may not have understood what the word means. Basically a caucus is a meeting of individuals with a common interest. They come together to develop and or promote policy that will further their cause or endorse candidates who will support their policies.

South Carolina Democratic Party 2nd Vice Chair Anthony B. Thompson, Jr. is in charge of overseeing all the caucuses in the state. He believes the caucuses could have a significant impact on the goals, platforms and policies implemented by the SCDP. "Simply because they address the issues and concerns that involve our community, the people we live next to, the people we work with, and the people we enjoy life with," he explains. "For SCDP, our caucuses are bodies of supporters in the party that have come together based on a specific area of interest and concern in the community that they feel the need to address through community engagement, education and awareness, outreach, collaborative political initiatives and strategies, and other grassroots efforts that may lead to social change and leading support for candidates running for office. Basically, it's a support mechanism for the party that extends its hands and legs into the community."

One of these caucuses may cover an issue important to you.

### Black Women's Caucus (New)

**Objective:** Address issues related to African-American women and of descent in varying degrees of the community and seek ways for resolve and improvement.

**Chair:** Christale Spain

**Contact:** christalespain@gmail.com

### Senior Citizen Caucus (New)

**Objective:** Address issues and concerns related to senior citizens (age range to be determined) and seek ways for resolve and improvement.

**Chair:** Jerome Brown

**Contact:** jeromebrown181@gmail.com

### Business Caucus

**Objective:** Address issues and concerns with the business community/capital & labor and seek ways for resolve and improvement.

**Chairs:** Carlton Dallas and Eric Graben

**Contact:** bd2810@aol.com and egrabenewyche.com

### Environmental Caucus

**Objective:** Address issues and concerns related to the environment/ecosystem and seek ways for resolve and improvement.

**Chair:** Stewart Weinberg

**Contact:** stewartweinberg@me.com

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## Caucuses (continued)

### Faith Caucus

**Objective:** Address issues and ideas related to the faith communities and seek ways for resolve and improvement.

**Chair:** John Wright

**Contact:** jrwrightjh@outlook.com

### Hispanic Caucus

**Objective:** Address issues and concerns with the Hispanic community and seek ways for resolve and improvement.

**Chair:** Evelyn Lugo

**Contact:** elugo@schcc.org

### Disability Caucus

**Objective:** Address issues and concerns related to individuals with disabilities and seek ways for resolve and improvement.

**Chair:** Anthony Thompson, Jr.

**Contact:** theabilitycaucus.sc@gmail.com

### Education Caucus

**Objective:** Address issues and concerns related to matters in education and seek ways for resolve and improvement.

**Chairs:** Sandra Raye and Melissa Watson

**Contact:** crostch22@aol.com and educateyoungpeople@yahoo.com

### LGBTQ Caucus

**Objective:** Address issues and concerns with the LGBTQ community and seek ways for resolve and areas of improvement.

**Chair:** Jim Thompson and Ann Willbrand

**Contact:** jamesdthompson@live.com and annw@gforceable.com

### Rural Caucus

**Objective:** Address issues and concerns related to the rural economy and seek ways for resolve and improvement.

**Chair:** Tangee Jacobs

**Contact:** talktotangee@gmail.com

### Labor/Progressive Caucus

**Objective:** Address issues and concerns associated with the labor economy and progressive issues in the economy while seeking ways for resolve and improvement.

**Chair:** Michele Horne

**Contact:** michelehorne87@gmail.com

### Veterans Caucus

**Objective:** Address issues and concerns with veterans and seek ways for resolve and improvement.

**Chair:** William Lawrence

**Contact:** mr.william.lawrence@gmail.com

**For more information about South Carolina's Democratic Party caucuses, please contact Anthony Thompson.**

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## Friends of Chandra Dillard to host fundraiser

Friends of Chandra Dillard will be hosting a re-election fundraiser for Rep. Chandra Dillard, Thursday, March 22, 2018, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Cherrydale Alumni House on the campus of Furman University. For details about hosting opportunities, please contact Michelle Macrina at 346-0096.

Congratulations to Rep. Chandra Dillard for being recognized as the 2018 legislator of the year by the SC Green Industry Association. She was honored on January 31 at an evening reception during their state conference in Columbia SC. The organization thanked her for her steadfast support of their issues and for her ability to move important bills out of the Environmental Affairs subcommittee, which she chairs.



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## Democrat announces bid for S.C. Secretary of State

### News Briefs

Melvin Whittenburg, retired Army major and former Exxon Mobile executive, has announced his candidacy for state Secretary of State. Whittenburg is the only Democrat who has announced. He will challenge incumbent Mark Hammond, who has held the post since 2002.



Whittenburg was born in Columbia, SC., was graduated from C.A. Johnson High School. He received a B.S. from East Carolina University before joining the Army as a second lieutenant. He went on to earn an MBA from the University of Phoenix, and an M.A. from Georgetown University. After retiring from the Army with the rank of Major, he joined Exxon Mobile, retiring in 2017. (<http://melvinwhittenburg.org>)

Also, for context, the Republican incumbent struggles to do his job: Decade of South Carolina Bills Missing Required Stamp (<https://goo.gl/PpJ69z>)

### Marguerite Willis to Announce for Governor

Florence attorney Marguerite Willis has announced she is running for governor, joining Representative James Smith and businessman Phil Noble in the Democratic primary. Here's a quick peek at what the Post & Courier is saying about ([goo.gl/hSujPL](http://goo.gl/hSujPL)) Willis:

This is Willis' first run for office, though her husband, Frank, was mayor of Florence for 14 years and ran unsuccessfully for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination in 2006.

She said she would bring her work ethic and critical thinking developed as an attorney at Nexsen Pruet to the Governor's Mansion. Her motto is: "If it's easy, you don't need me."



“I am a proactive problem solver. I'm not a politician. I've just got a different perspective. We have to deal with wolves at the door.”  
**Marguerite Willis**



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## News briefs (continued)

### **Democratic Congressional Candidates Post Strong Fundraising Numbers**

In the 5th Congressional District, Archie Parnell out-raised his Republican opponent by more than \$235,000 in the fourth quarter of 2017, while Joe Cunningham in the 1st posted the most donors of any Congressional candidate in the state for the same quarter. ([goo.gl/x3xbxY](http://goo.gl/x3xbxY))

Fundraising is never easy, but it is crucially important for our candidates to be competitive in November. If they are the nominees in the fall, both are making sure they're ready to take the fight to the incumbent Republicans in their districts. The blue wave is coming in 2018 and it's going to take candidates like Parnell and Cunningham across the state to keep South Carolina from being left behind.

### **House Democrats Introduce High-Quality Education Amendment**

State Rep. Jerry Govan, D-Orangeburg, introduced a resolution in the House late last month ([goo.gl/DTpYMq](http://goo.gl/DTpYMq)) began the process of changing the state constitution to turn "minimally adequate" education to "high-quality" education. Govan introduced a resolution to put the change before voters in a statewide referendum. The change is more than words, it would require the state to provide better quality to all public school students.

For many communities around the state, and particularly in many rural districts, this simple amendment would be a game-changer. We're proud of Rep. Govan and all of the Democrats who are taking the lead on this pressing issue. There is nothing more important than our children.

### **State rep calls for new revenue: "South Carolina is broke"**

Rep. Todd Rutherford, D-Columbia, has called for the state's leaders to look for new sources of revenue.

"The fact is, South Carolina is broke. The state is running out of money. We need to look for new revenue sources, or we're simply not going to be able to pay for education, infrastructure, and all the services that South Carolinians expect from their state government," Rutherford said. "We can talk about the pension, or cutting waste, but that's just moving the deck chairs on the Titanic. We cannot cut our way out of this mess." Rep. Todd Rutherford, D-Columbia, has called for the state's leaders to look for new sources of revenue.

At a breakfast hosted by the Municipal Association of South Carolina in early February, Rutherford pointed to two potential sources of new revenue – gambling and medical marijuana.

"We can bring in new tax revenue and we can do it without raising taxes on a single working family. We need to consider gaming, we need to consider medical marijuana, we need look at the things the people have said they are demanding, in order to fund government the way it needs to be funded."

## PARTY LEADERSHIP

### **KATE FRANCH**

Greenville County Chair

### **DEXTER L. REAVES**

1st Vice Chair

### **GRADY PATTERSON**

2nd Vice Chair

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3rd Vice Chair

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### **CHRISTOPHER SHIPMAN**

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Committee Delegate

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State Executive  
Committee Delegate

### **ROXANNE CORDONIER**

State Executive  
Committee Alternate

### **MICHAEL MCCORD**

State Executive  
Committee Alternate

### **JAKE ERWIN**

Voter Protection Chair

### **LAURA HAIGHT**

Communications Chair

## Welcome to the 2018 Yellow Dog Club Members

### GOLD-\$1,000

ANN FUNDERBURK, FRANK AND ANNE HOLLEMAN

### SILVER-\$500

PAULA CATTERALL, HARRY CHAPMAN

### BRONZE-\$250

ROXANNE AND ALAN CORDONIER, CHANDRA DILLARD,  
ALLAN JENKINS, COREY URBINA

## January Contributors

MARY BIEBEL, NANCY DAVIS, DOROTHY DOWE, KATE FRANCH, NADIA LAND-GREENE, KAREN HAHN, GAYLE HEWITT, KINNARD JOHNSON, CECILY MANGO, FLOYD MCGURK, HILDA MCMAHAND, DELIA "BETSY" MOSELEY, SUSAN BRANNON SMITH, CARLYLE AND JENNIFER STEELE, JOHN CHARLES AND SUSAN A STEWART, REGINA WALDREP

## Thank you.

### From Anita LeBold, GCDP treasurer:

ON BEHALF OF THE GCDP LEADERSHIP TEAM, PLEASE ACCEPT OUR THANKS FOR YOUR DONATIONS AT THE RECENT PRECINCT MEETINGS. THE ATTENDEES DONATED \$1800, WHICH WILL PAY THE HEADQUARTERS RENT FOR MARCH AND APRIL. AS YOUR TREASURER, I AM BEYOND THRILLED. THANKS AGAIN!

YOU CAN MAKE MUCH-NEEDED DONATIONS IN PERSON, BY VISITING THE OFFICE OR MAILING IN A CHECK (1300-J WASHINGTON AVE., GREENVILLE) OR DONATING ONLINE 24X7 AT [WWW.GREENVILLEDEMOCRATS.COM/CONTRIBUTE](http://WWW.GREENVILLEDEMOCRATS.COM/CONTRIBUTE).

## Connect with us

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