

THE BRAY

the voice of the

GCDP

GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

The latest news and updates from the Greenville County Democratic Party



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YOU will make the Blue Wave happen!

BY KATE FRANCH



Fellow Democrats,
Filing for the 2018 ballot is complete – we have a slate of candidates. In Greenville County, we'll have Democratic primary contests to determine the sole nominee for five offices: the Third and Fourth Congressional Districts, governor, and SC State House Districts 19 and 25. With congressional and statewide offices on the ballot, all county residents should mark their calendar to vote on Tuesday, June 12 (the runoff election, if needed, is Tuesday, June 26).

Chair's message (continued)

Filings for office (primary contests are bolded):

- **Governor/Lt Governor: Phil Noble, James Smith, Marguerite Willis/John Scott**
- Secretary of State- Melvin T. Whittenburg
- State Treasurer - Rosalyn L. Glenn
- Attorney General - Constance Anastopoulou
- State Superintendent of Education - Israel Romero
- **US House District 3 - Hosea Cleveland, Mary Geren**
- **US House District 4 - Brandon P. Brown, JT Davis, Eric Graben, Will Morin, Doris Lee Turner**
- SC House District 10 (Anderson, Pickens, Greenville) - Lucy Hoffman
- SC House District 17 - Judi Buckley
- **SC House District 19 - Carrie Counton, Hao Wu**
- SC House District 22 - BK (Bruce) Brown
- SC House District 23 - Chandra Dillard (incumbent -2008)
- **SC House District 25 - Leola Robinson-Simpson (incumbent-2012), Jack Logan, Bruce Wilson**
- SC House District 35 (Spartanburg, Greenville) - Helen Pendarvis
- Greenville Probate Judge - Debora A. Faulkner (incumbent)
- Greenville County Council District 19 - Jevarus Howard
- Greenville County Council District 23 - Xanthene S. Norris (incumbent)

The Blue Wave will happen only if each of us is engaged. You can get to know the primary candidates so that your vote is an informed one by attending (or organizing) meet and greets, debates, and forums and tracking candidates through [scvotes.org](https://greenvilledemocrats.com/links-and-resources/democratic-candidates-for-2018/). The GCDP has set up a candidate profile page on our website with contact information and links to resources (<https://greenvilledemocrats.com/links-and-resources/democratic-candidates-for-2018/>). Be sure to remind family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers of the importance of voting in primary elections as the first step to electing Democrats to office in 2018.

You should also consider volunteering for and making contributions to primary and general election candidates' campaigns. Running for office is not a solitary effort - success depends on the combined efforts of committed supporters.

In addition, it's time to begin making plans for how you'll assist with the June 12 Primary election. As in the past, we'll need volunteers to help drive voters to the polls, including during the absentee voting period, and to work at Headquarters on Election Day priorities. If you're already in our volunteer database, thank you. If you aren't and are willing to help, please sign up online, email or call to let us know.

In solidarity,

Kate

With this month's effort, we inaugurate a new program: publishing the Chair's Message in both English and Spanish. Thank you to HS Dem leader Henry Lear for the translation, and Kinard Johnson for editing. The Spanish version is available on our website and we'll be distributing it online through social media channels. If you would like a PDF of the message in Spanish to distribute in your community, you can [download it here](#).

Calendar of Events

April

28 GCDP Breakfast Meeting
Speaker: Doug Dent
Greenville Revitalization Corporation
29 Ridgeway Drive, Greenville, SC. 8:30 AM

30 NAACP- \$1.5 Billion Af. Amer. Community
Empowerment Plan, Mountainview Baptist
6 PM- 7:30 PM

May

02 Young Democrats May Meeting
GCDP HQ, 1300 J Washington St, Greenville
6 PM

03 NAACP Rally for Public Transportation
300 University Ridge, Greenville 29601
6 PM

May

04 We Walk at Night- A walk for public
transportation- 7:30 PM
whitehorseroadnightwalk@gmail.com

14 Democratic Women Luncheon
Topic: Mental Health & Gun Control
West End Community Center- 12:15 PM

19 GCDP Breakfast Meeting
Speaker: Gary Shepard, Exec. Dir. Greenlink
29 Ridgeway Drive, Greenville, SC. 8:30 AM

June

12 SC Democratic Primary Elections
Find your polling place at
<https://www.scvotes.org/>

Willis tells Dem Women: I'm ready for a fight

BY LAURA HAIGHT

Marguerite Willis, native Greenvillian, successful attorney, and gubernatorial candidate addressed the May meeting of Democratic Women armed with humor, history, passion, and a cartoon.

Robert Ariail, editorial cartoonist from The State newspaper, drew the candidate as Wonder Woman, armed with sword and shield. Willis proudly held up the poster-sized drawing as she recounted a story about an interview with The Greenville News and her comments about Donald Trump in response to a question. Her answers have gotten considerable publicity. But Willis doesn't shy away from them. "I'm ready to rock and roll," she told the full house of more than 70 members and guests.



Read coverage of her talk here: <https://greenvilledemocrats.com/willis-tells-dem-women-im-r/>

Previously, the organization has heard from the two other candidates: Phil Noble (<https://greenvilledemocrats.com/phil-noble-brings-big-bold-change-campaign-greenville/>) and James Smith (<https://greenvilledemocrats.com/gubernatorial-candidate-talks-education-diversity-ethics/>).

Update from GCDP management team

BY WHITNEY WRIGHT

The first GCDP fundraiser of 2018 – Tastings on the Town, held at the Artisan Traders venue in the Village of West Greenville – generated \$10,000. Treasurer Anita Lebold announced the results at the March meeting of the GCDP Management Team.

In other reports:

- Linda Hardman, chair of the Democratic Women of Greenville County, announced that the organization would have had talks from all of the SC Democratic gubernatorial candidates at their meetings by the end of April.
- Young Democrats of Greenville County President Jalen Elrod, and newly installed First Vice Chair, reported on donations for the group's MLK Weekend Youth STEAM events, and the upcoming Voter Registration drive events that are being planned.
- Karen Hahn, GCDP Office Manager, informed us of progress on workspace renovations planning, and encouraged us to recruit skilled volunteers who are willing and able to assist with the upcoming changes.
- Laura Haight, new communications coordinator, shared social media algorithms and trend data on hashtags and audience reach, that will assist the party in spreading its message, and expanding its audience.
- Alternate State Committeeman Cass Tyson, who is co-leading the Precinct Activation program, gave an update on Precinct President training happy hours and lunches that have begun.
- Information was also shared about events scheduled for the state convention in Columbia, the weekend of April 21.

Meet Tina Belge

Tina Belge is the third vice chair of the Greenville County Democratic Party. This is the first in a series of articles to get to know more about the party leaders and key volunteers.

Tina is 27 years old and this is her first foray into elected office. She was born in Augusta, GA, and now lives in Travelers Rest with her husband and two dogs. The couple is expecting their first child. Professionally, Tina is a long-range planner with Greenville County and executive director of Keep Greenville County Beautiful.

How/why did you get involved in politics?

I was raised very politically active, watching news nightly with my father and volunteering with my mother on the weekends. As I got older, my ideology did not conform with my parents and my upbringing, and I sought out ways to get involved with what I cared about.

First, through volunteer service aimed at serving low-income persons and then through congressional, local, and presidential campaigns. I also spent time working for a congressman in Washington D.C. After moving to Greenville, I joined the Democratic Women of Greenville County then Young Democrats a year after it was formed. Serving as secretary there, I campaigned through canvassing and phone banking and putting out signs for both Lillian (Brock-Flemming) and Russell's (Stall) campaigns.



Tina Belge on vacation in Iceland in January.

Meet Tina (continued)

As a young woman, your active engagement politically is somewhat unusual. Why do you think others in your age group are not more engaged?

I believe, understandably, there's a lot of apathy out there among my generation. Regardless of party, they see corruption and have a blanket view. However, with the recent election, people are starting to understand that there is a stark difference between the two parties and that it does make a difference to get involved and to vote.

What, in your opinion, will be the driver that gets those still on the sidelines off the bench?

Unfortunately it's whatever hits home to them. Whether that was their grad school waivers being counted as income (as we almost saw happen), or DACA, or even a local issue they care about. It won't happen until people see how they fit in and where they can make a difference and how that is going to affect them directly.

What made you decide to run for county party leadership?

Precisely because of this problem. In order for people to get involved we need folks to step up and spearhead these efforts to engage them, bring them on board, and give them a meaningful role. As someone very involved in Greenville and its communities as well as a young professional and philanthropist who networks with many other young people, I can help bring them to the table.

Do you have bigger political ambitions? Do you see yourself running for office at any point?

I've always dreamed of running for office, since I was a little girl. It's still something I aspire to do. I plan to run for local office within the next few years.

What do you want Greenville Democrats to know that we didn't ask you?

I want them to know that we all have a part to play. We can all pitch on a campaign, host a fundraiser here, run a voter registration drive there. There is not one person who needs sit idly by. It's when we take action that we do make a difference and I ask of you to make that change. Step up and doing something meaningful for yourself, your community, and the party.

Want to get involved? Start by volunteering at www.greenvilledemocrats.com/volunteer or making a much-needed donation at www.greenvilledemocrats.com/contribute.

Kinard honored for service with Airport Commission

Retired Family Court Judge Kinard Johnson is one of the faithful volunteers who helps keep our Democratic Headquarters running smoothly. Kinard was recently honored for his six years of service on the Greenville Airport Commission. He was presented with an award by Greenville Downtown Airport director Joe Frasher. Kinard was appointed by Greenville City Council and served as vice chairman from 2016–2018.



Address confidentiality bill introduced in Statehouse



By Leola Robinson-Simpson

In this age of the internet, nothing is private. An address can easily be found on the web with the stroke of a few computer keys. What can be more frightening for a woman or a man, in some cases, who has been the victim of stalking, domestic violence, human trafficking or a sexual offense, than to be constantly tracked down and victimized?

Months ago, I was approached by a well-educated victim of such, who asked me if I could file a bill to protect South Carolina victims from having their addresses repeatedly accessed, as has been done in other states. Their request was then formally e-mailed to me, and I had the bill researched and filed with the SC House of Representatives. The Attorney General's Office later approached me about the AG working with the House Judiciary Committee on this life-saving bill. With the end of this Legislative session ending in May, the bill is not expected to be heard in committee until next year's session.

H 5019 General Bill, By Robinson-Simpson

Summary: Attorney General confidentiality

A bill to amend the code of laws of South Carolina, 1976, by adding Article 11 to Chapter 7, Title 1, so as to define necessary terms, to create the Address Confidentiality Program in the office of the Attorney General, to provide procedures for the protection of public records in terms of addresses and telephone numbers of victims of domestic violence, sexual offenses, stalking, or human trafficking, to provide a penalty when a person violates that confidentiality under certain circumstances, and to allow the Attorney General to promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with the provisions of this article, among other things.

WREN Summit recap

BY MEGAN PLASSMEYER AND COURTNEY THOMAS

On April 9th-10th, 2018, the Women's Rights and Empowerment Network (WREN) hosted its annual summit in Columbia. Registrants had the opportunity to engage in conversation with diverse business owners, community leaders, students, and advocates, while taking part in hands-on skill building activities designed to address and increase women's economic empowerment in South Carolina. Topics included: Salary negotiation training, speaking your own greatness, innovative strategies for working mothers, and advocating and organizing for women's rights.

The summit culminated on April 10th, Equal Pay Day. The final event was a Gubernatorial forum featuring Lt. Gov. Kevin Bryant (R), Rep. James Smith (D), Catherine Templeton (R), and Marguerite Willis (D). Candidates were asked questions focusing on the economic well-being of women, healthcare access and leadership.

(Continued on next page)



WREN (continued)

"The Gubernatorial Forum elevated the attention to issues affecting women and families in our state and gave candidates a chance to talk about how they see the issues. It also gave voters a chance to hear and consider the differences in the candidates' approaches to improving women's health, education, safety, workforce participation, and more," said WREN CEO, Ann Warner. "On Equal Pay Day, it's so important to acknowledge the progress we have made as well as the distance we will have to go to reach equality."

WREN is planning another educational event to be hosted in Greenville in Fall 2018. Information will be released in the months to come.

Remembering Dr. King

In commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr's assassination in Memphis, TN, on April 4th, a series of tributes were published. Most notably was The Atlantic's special issue: "KING".

<https://www.theatlantic.com/projects/king/>.



The April 2nd edition of the Greenville Journal included some reflections on King's legacy written by Jalen Elrod, first vice chair of the party. <https://greenvillejournal.com/2018/04/02/op-ed-50-years-after-his-death-dr-kings-dream-remains-elusive-for-many/>

Martin Luther King Jr. during the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, during which he delivered his historic "I Have a Dream" speech.

Looking for a good read?

Several years ago Democratic supporter Edwina Snyder suggested that the Greenville County Democratic Party set up a lending library at its headquarters. Edwina was a voracious reader so she began the library with donations from her own vast collection of books. In the collection, you'll find everything from current political commentary to historical biography. There's a sign out sheet to take out the books for as long as you like. The GCDP welcomes donations of books that may be of interest to our members. Email us for additional information or to make a donation: headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com

Candidates web page

Welcome to the 2018 election cycle. Thirty-six Democrats will be vying for the support of Greenville County voters this cycle. They are running for seats from governor to probate judge. Some face primaries, some don't. But they all have a lot of work to do.



“The only place where success comes before work is in the dictionary.”
Joe Lombardi

We believe that South Carolina will be part of a Blue Wave that sweeps through councils, state legislatures and the US Congress in November. But there is a lot of hard work that has to come first. At this stage, the party's job is to help voters become educated and informed about candidates facing primaries as we continue to support the party's goals within our communities.

You can check out all the candidates here: <https://greenvilledemocrats.com/links-and-resources/democratic-candidates-for-2018/>. We've gathered their websites and social media links, as well as email addresses and phone numbers for voters who want more information or are moved to volunteer.

Full house of candidates and volunteers attend training

One tangible sign that the blue wave is coming to Greenville County is the uptick in interest among Democrats running for public office, which was evident at the GCDP candidate and campaign training session held at the Berea Public Library on April 7.

"We had a full house which was very exciting," said event organizer Michelle Macrina. Attendees included both those running for office in Greenville County and campaign volunteers who wanted to learn more about how to run successful campaigns.

Training was divided into morning and afternoon sessions and lunch was provided. Topics covered included how to run a social media campaign, how to raise money for your campaign, and two panel discussions moderated by local elected officials Chandra Dillard and Russell Stall.

"I found training very informative. It will help me do a better job for my candidate," said Josephine McMullen who is coordinating communications for Lucy Hoffman, a candidate for SC House District 10. "It was also inspiring to see so many other volunteers and candidates running in what has traditionally been such a red county. Change is coming."

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MARCH CONTRIBUTORS

Randall and Susan Clark, Edith Chou (Bronze Yellow Dog Club - in memory of Beth Evans Jones), Glenn Dorsey, Jeannette and Jeff Jacobs, Lawson Wetli (Silver-Yellow Dog Club), Andrew and Merry Kuharsky, Anne Parrott.

It's not too late to become a 2018 Yellow Dog Club member! Contact treasurer Anita LeBold at treasurer@greenvilledemocrats.com to inquire about how to make monthly or quarterly donations. All donations can be made online via the GCDP website: www.greenvilledemocrats.com/contribute.

Thank you.

YOU CAN MAKE MUCH-NEEDED DONATIONS IN PERSON, BY VISITING THE OFFICE, MAILING A CHECK, OR DONATING ONLINE 24X7 AT GREENVILLEDEMOCRATS.COM/CONTRIBUTE.

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