

THE BRAY

GCDP

the voice of the
GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

The latest news and updates from the Greenville County Democratic Party



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GCDP Issues Call to Action

BY KATE FRANCH



My Fellow Democrats,

With the June 26 runoff behind us, we have completed the nomination process for our November 2018 Democratic slate! Join me in thanking each of the candidates and their teams who have devoted themselves fully to participating in one of the foundational elements of our democracy: qualified citizens running for elected office.

A hearty congratulations to the nominees selected in the June primary and runoff elections: Rep. James Smith and Rep. Mandy Powers Norrell, Mary Geren, Brandon Brown, Rep. Leola Robinson-Simpson, and Carrie Counton; our heartfelt appreciation to their worthy fellow candidates: Phil Noble, Marguerite Willis, Hosea Cleveland, JT Davis, Eric Graben, Will Morin, Lee Turner, Jack Logan, Bruce Wilson, and Hao Wu.

Chair's message (continued)

They have epitomized the spirit and vigor that underlie the Blue Wave and inspired us, along with the rest of the slate: Constance Anastopoulo, Rosalyn Glenn, Israel Romero, Melvin Whittenburg, Rep. Chandra Dillard, Bruce Brown, Judi Buckley, Lucy Hoffman, Helen Pendarvis, Councilor Xanthene Norris, Jeverus Howard, and Judge Debora Faulkner, to strengthen our resolve to create a nation, state, and community that work for all.

Now, onto phase two where we stand united in our determination to elect more Democrats in Greenville County and South Carolina in November and beyond.

We can, and we will, IF every one of us contributes money and time to the cause. Putting our wallet, our hands, and our feet behind our shared longing for liberal voices in our legislative bodies and halls of government is essential to achieving those goals. I'm aware that many of the post-mortems of the primary have included criticisms of the GCDP's perceived role or lack thereof in the outcomes. My response is that the party's vitality and influence are directly correlated with the strength and breadth of support provided by our local Democratic community.

Your party leadership is committed to doing as much as resources allow. For instance, although it is not the norm for political parties to be involved during the primary season, we supported the campaigns by opening the office for meetings, phone banks, canvassing staging, and other activities. We'll do the same for the general election. The GCDP also distributed just short of 8,000 sample ballot postcards in the lead-up to June 12 to inform voters and encourage turnout (7,300 were mailed to targeted households throughout Greenville County) at a cost of \$3,600. If we were to raise double that amount (\$7,500) during the next couple of months, then we could send a GOTV postcard in October to the 20,000 Democratic voters from the primary; seven times that amount (approx. \$25,000) would allow us to mail a postcard to half of the registered voters in Greenville County.

Think about the possibilities – the phone banks and canvasses, the signs and literature, the radio and social media ads – the GCDP could underwrite with your financial support. Think about how many more voters we could engage in the electoral process, AND the changes that would result! And then think about how much you are willing to contribute to make this happen – because that's what it will take.

Based on our current budget, our goal is to raise \$20,000 by September 15 to fund midterm get-out-the-vote activities. This month, we are launching a general fundraising campaign with a fundraising letter and will follow up by reaching out by phone, at events, and through various fundraisers like house parties or our Circle Dinners program.

The future we all want is within reach . . . call, email, go online (greenvilledemocrats.com) and let us know what you will do to make it reality.

In solidarity,

Kate

Get it on the calendar

If you are a candidate, a campaign organizer, a grassroots organization, a community or civic organization, you know how hard it is to get people to events.

The GCDP wants to help with that. We encourage you to submit your community events, candidate fundraisers, canvassing, phone banking, voter registration locations, etc., to our community calendar.

To submit an event, complete the submission form at: <https://greenvilledemocrats.com/events/submit/>

Your event will usually go live within 24 hours.

Calendar of Events

July

- 26** Drinking Liberally
Velo Fellow
6 PM
- 26** Tour of Faiths: Islamic Society of Gvl
96 Meridian Ave, Taylors 29687
7-9 PM
- 28** GCDP Monthly Meeting
Upstate Circle of Friends
29 Ridgeway Drive, Greenville 29605
8:30-10 AM
- 31** Tell Trump Tuesday
130 S. Main St., Greenville
12-1 PM

August

- 13** Democratic Women Meeting
West End Community Center
5:30 PM
RSVP 232-5531
- 25** GCDP Monthly Meeting
Upstate Circle of Friends
8:30-10 AM .

Save the date

October 6:
SCDP Issues Conference
Details TBA

Expungement of criminal records bill

BY ROXANNE CORDONIER

Carlos Phillips, president and CEO of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce, was the guest speaker at the June meeting of the Greenville County Democratic Party. Among the topics Phillips covered in his remarks was the involvement of the Chamber in the passage of House Bill H.3209 (<http://bit.ly/2ulWZjl>)

The chamber worked with business organizations across South Carolina over the past two years to advance this bill in an effort to expand the workforce and fill critical labor shortages. House Bill 3209 provides for the expungement of a crime no longer on the books, protects employers that hire workers with expungements from frivolous lawsuits, and protects workers who have received an expungement from being forced to disclose the offense.

Kudos to our Democratic legislators in the state house for this accomplishment. **Senator Karl Allen** worked on the issue for years and played a key role in the compromise legislation that passed. **Reps. Chandra Dillard** and **Leola Robinson-Simpson** were co-sponsors of the bill in the House.

H.3209 had a rough road to passage. The bill was passed by the General Assembly in early May and vetoed by Gov. Henry McMaster. His veto was subsequently overridden by the legislature and became law.

The expungement bill removes workforce barriers for thousands of able bodied workers, expands the available workforce and should improve per-capita income in South Carolina.

Families belong together

BY LAURA HAIGHT

Greenvillians are getting really good at slogans. "ICE belongs in sweet tea", "Make America moral again," and the straightforward "Families Belong Together" hefted by a junior Ruth Bader Ginsberg were just a few of the signs brandished by more than 250 people protesting the Trump border policy.



The Graham Plaza at the Peace Center was filled with protestors on June 30, although they crowded under trees seeking relief from punishing heat. But still they came, lining up in rotation to create a silent wall of protest along Main Street.

Speakers including Brandon Brown, Democratic candidate for Congress (CD-4), Carrie Counton, Democratic Candidate for State House District 19, joined Sarai Bautista, who represented Upstate Dreamers, as well as speakers from Muslim Sisters Upstate, the Hispanic Alliance, and many other organizations, to demand an end to administration policies separating families, violating the rule of law by denying amnesty, and now being unable to reunite parents with their children.

The event included several informational stations including a paralegal with a local immigration law firm who provided answers to a slew of legal questions.

Melinda Menzer, a Furman University English professor, inspired the crowd with a speech that reminded us of many of the darker periods in U.S. history that are sources of embarrassment and regret today.

"I don't know how many times I've heard a speaker ask an American audience, 'Would you have helped Anne Frank?' Everyone always says, 'Yes, yes, of course.' But we didn't help her. She wasn't Anne Frank then. She was just a Jew, a criminal, a foreign child."

**But, my friends, here's the good news.
This is your opportunity to help Anne Frank. She's out there. She's in Syria, in Yemen. She's in Honduras, in Guatemala. She's behind a chain-link fence, separated from her parents, somewhere on the border.**

-Melinda Menzer
(Read more on page 5)

(Read a transcript of her address on our blog:
<http://bit.ly/2ujHmco>)



Brandon Brown, Democratic candidate for the 4th Congressional District addresses the crowd.

Contribute to statue honoring S.C. Dems favorite son

Former governor and U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley will have his lifetime of achievement memorialized with a statue to be erected in Falls Park.



The statue's design has been approved by the City's Arts in Public Places Commission, and local artist Zan Wells, who created the bronze statues of diplomat Joel Poinsett and Noble Prize winning physicist Charles Townes, has been commissioned to create the work.

A committee chaired by Frank Holleman, Riley's former deputy at the education department, and Erwin Maddrey has been formed to raise funds for the project.

There are two ways to participate if you'd like to contribute to this project. Donations can be sent to the Community Foundation of Greenville, Riley Sculpture Fund, at 630 East Washington Street, Greenville or made online at <https://www.cfgreenville.org/donate.php>. Make sure you choose Riley Statue Fund from the dropdown menu.

Read more in the Greenville News: <https://grnol.co/2NbIS7w>

Democrats at large

Social media campaign builds community of Dems

BY LAURA HAIGHT

Blue dots in a red state.

That's how it feels to be a Democrat in South Carolina. But is my blue dot all alone in a sea of red or is there another blue dot within arms reach? You bet there is.

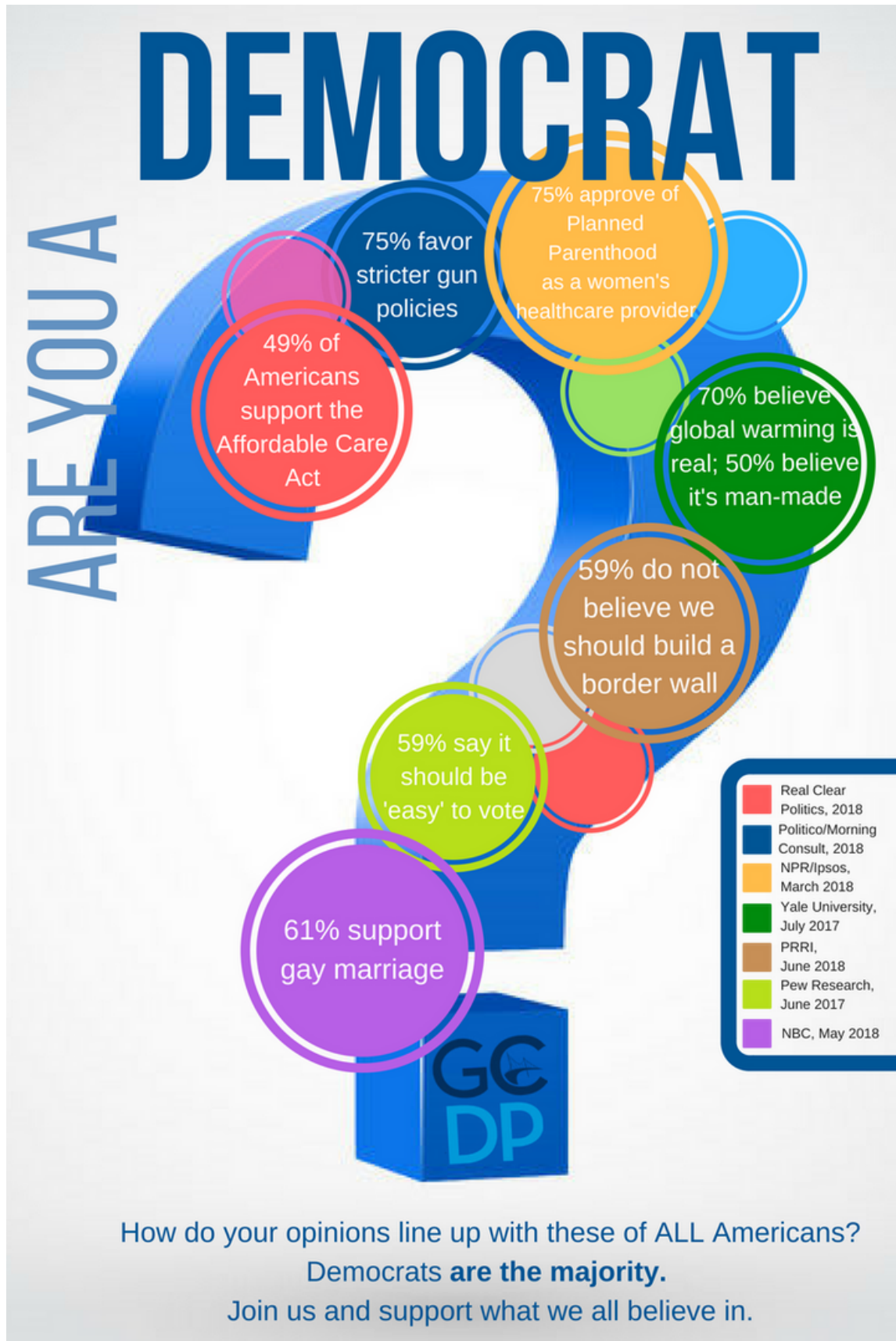
Greenville County, the Upstate, and South Carolina are becoming more politically diverse. But many people are afraid that they must keep their affiliations secret. We've heard stories of people who were uncomfortable voting in the primary when they were asked to declare which party's ballot they wanted. We all know Democrats who are uncomfortable wearing a button or attending a rally.

The GCDP has launched a campaign to help undercover Dems see that there is a big community of like-minded people out there.

We're asking each Dem to make a video selfie announcing your political affiliation. You can say whatever you choose. We ask you to give your name and proudly end with "I am a Democrat." Post your selfie on any social media platform with the #IAmADemocrat. Then encourage five of your like-minded friends to do the same. (See a sample: <http://bit.ly/2zCaoZN>)

Let's bring the strength and vibrancy of our Democratic community out into the light. We need everyone in November.

Learn more about the program on our website: <http://bit.ly/2uowqu0>



Democrats Care seeking input on projects

BY LAURA HAIGHT



Democrats care about health care, about affordable housing, about effective transportation, about safe communities. Democrats care about the things most Americans care about – the things that make our communities strong and safe.

The GCDP Huddle is taking the lead on mobilizing the Democrats Care program here. Led by GCDP 2nd Vice Chair Whitney Wright, the group is looking for new members and suggestions on local projects.

"Many of us are familiar with the objectives of Democrats Care, from either at the State level or from years past in Greenville County. The Greenville County chapter of Democrats Care has not been active as of late. With all of the negativity, and all of the needs we see around us each day, it's time to change that. It's time for Democrats to mobilize again, to lend a helping hand, to assist neighbors and friends in-need, and to become their brothers' keepers," says Whitney. The reinvigorated effort, she notes will, "visibly-improve the quality of life for local residents who may be less fortunate right here in Greenville County."

This is a group that, by definition, will be more active. They are looking for hands-on projects and individuals who can bring their time, energy, and money to help make the ideas a reality in the Upstate.

You are invited to suggest ideas for short-term activities and long-term projects at this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YGN98ZV>

If you are interested in committing to help bring those projects to completion, contact Whitney at whitney.wrightsc@gmail.com.

Karen Hahn farewell

BY KATE FRANCH

The GCDP extends its deepest gratitude to Karen Hahn who stepped down from the headquarters office coordinator role at the end of June. Karen has devoted the past two years to helping to organize the files and stores, daily volunteers, and administrative processes that keep our physical center functioning. She infused everything she touched with her special sensibility, from decoratively sprucing up headquarters to upgrading the monthly meeting buffet with tempting and tasty homemade breakfast goodies. Karen is also taking a break from serving as our Friday afternoon office volunteer so that she can focus full-time on her final year of work on a bachelor's degree in political science at USC Upstate. She has left her mark and will be greatly missed, but we wish Karen much success and fun as she accomplishes her goal!



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June Contributors

Thanks to our generous donors for their recent contributions: Chandra Dillard, Dorothy Dowe, Mary Margaret Dragoun, Joyce McKenzie, Conyers Norwood (in memory of Ducky Gower) and James and Joyce Patterson.

You can support the Greenville County Democratic Party with a simple click on this link!

<https://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](https://greenvilledemocrats.com/contribute/).

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