

# THE BRAY GCDP

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



A panel discussion on April 19, sponsored by Working Hero Action, brought together national figures - Bernie Sanders, Danny Glover, and Dr. Cornell West - with local community leaders and activists - Jerry Blassingame of Soteria CDC, Traci Fant of Freedom Fighters Upstate SC and Rev. Stacey Mills of the Urban League of the Upstate. Although not an overtly political event, it marked the fifth time in April a presidential candidate visited Greenville. [See who else was here: https://greenvilledemocrats.com/presidential-candidates/](https://greenvilledemocrats.com/presidential-candidates/)

## IN THIS ISSUE

<b>Calendar</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Delegate Selection</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Municipal Elections</b>	<b>7-8</b>

## It's happening, people!

BY KATE FRANCH

CHAIR, GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY



"Democrats have had some massive overperformances, such as in South Carolina Senate District 6, where their candidate lost by only 11 points in an R+37 district." Yes, that's Tina's senate race highlighted in an April 15 article posted on FiveThirtyEight.com (read it [here](#) and [see the graphic on page 2](#)).

"It's not enough to look only at which party won these special elections — it's also important to account for how red or blue a district normally is to understand whether a swing is happening. To do this, we compared the vote share margin in each special election with the district's FiveThirtyEight partisan lean," (continued pg 2)

## Chair's message: It's happening, people! (continued)

DATE	SEAT	PARTISAN LEAN	SPECIAL MARGIN	MARGIN SWING
April 2	Pennsylvania SD-37	R+11	D+4	D+15
April 2	Maine HD-52	D+25	D+33	D+8
March 30	Louisiana HD-18	R+14	D+37	D+51
March 26	South Carolina SD-06	R+37	R+11	D+25
March 26	California SD-33*	D+58	D+57	R+1
March 26	California SD-01*	R+21	R+39	R+18
March 19	Minnesota HD-11B	R+23	R+37	R+14
March 19	Iowa SD-30	D+3	D+15	D+12
March 12	Texas HD-125	D+19	D+17	R+3
March 12	Tennessee SD-32	R+45	R+68	R+23
March 12	Pennsylvania HD-114	R+2	D+25	D+27
March 12	Maine HD-124	D+17	D+30	D+13
March 5	Kentucky SD-31	R+53	R+5	D+47
Feb. 26	Connecticut HD-99	R+5	R+8	R+3
Feb. 26	Connecticut SD-06	D+22	R+6	R+29
Feb. 26	Connecticut SD-05	D+25	D+29	D+4
Feb. 26	Connecticut SD-03	D+19	D+18	R+2

"The difference, or 'margin swing,' tells us how much more Democratic or Republican the district was in the special election than it 'should' have been in a neutral political environment."

How did we do this? Our candidate and you.

Tina and her team ran an inspiring, strategically focused campaign. They lifted our hopes, energized our support . . . and did not fail. While the best candidate for the seat, by far, didn't prevail this year, Tina's 44% of the vote showed that our messages and quality candidates resonate with voters. Mobilizing behind Tina gave notice, once again, that Democrats in Greenville County are growing in number and influence and galvanizing for change at all levels.

Do not underestimate that we grow closer to making change a reality with every election – the Republicans do not.

The SC House District 19 seat is our next opportunity. The special election will take place on August 20. Filing ends at noon, Saturday, April 27 with the primary date, if needed, on Tuesday, June 18. We've set our sights again for a win on election day.

The 2019 Greenville City Council races are also in place. Matt Johnson is running for the District 1 seat and has opposition; Ken Gibson is unopposed in District 3. Dorothy Dowe and Lindsey Jacobs are vying to be the At-Large nominee to face incumbent George Fletcher in the November 5 election. That primary election will be held on Tuesday, June 11.

The work to be done to create the state and communities we envision needs more Democratic voices in elected office. Winning those seats will take every one of us contributing in whatever way we can. Please commit to answering the call.

Precinct engagement is one of those calls. Our most sustainable road to success comes from engaging voters in the neighborhood and community where they live. We want to personally know everyone who shares our Democratic values so that they feel connected to the Party and can access the information they need to be active and knowledgeable. Join us in knocking doors or step up to being a precinct leader (aka the friendly local Democrat) as we reach out to "our people" to grow the base. (to sign up, email to [volunteer@greenvilledemocrats.com](mailto:volunteer@greenvilledemocrats.com))

Another exciting outcome of the political shift taking place here is having presidential candidates come our way. We'll continue to keep you abreast of visits to our area just as soon as we have confirmed details. If you'd like to see all of them in one arena, make plans to attend the South Carolina Democratic Party 2019 Dem Weekend in Columbia on June 21 and 22 (see the calendar on pg 3). There are some very interesting events in negotiation/development that will make for a once-in-a-South-Carolina-lifetime experience – watch for details to be shared soon. You won't want to miss this.

2019 will be busy. You are needed. The momentum you have created is palpable and contagious . . . together, let's feed it and fan it and grow it to ballot box success for Democrats in 2019 and 2020!

In solidarity,  
*Kate*

## Calendar of Events

### April

- 27** Greenville County Democratic Party monthly breakfast meeting, 8:30 AM, Upstate Circle of Friends, 29 Ridgeway Dr, Greenville 29605.
- 28** GCDP Huddle, planning meeting. 1:30 PM, GCDP Headquarters, 1300-J East Washington St., Greenville 29607.

### May

- 02** District 25 precinct engagement recruiting phonebank, 6 PM-7 PM, GCDP Headquarters, 1300-J East Washington St., Greenville 29607.
- 13** Democratic Women of Greenville County monthly meeting, 12:15-1:30 PM, West End Community Center, 404 Vardry Street, Greenville 29601.
- 03** Deadline to comment on the SC Delegate Selection Plan. See Page 3 for more information.
- 16** Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense (Taylors), 1:30 PM, Taylors Library, 316 West Main St., Taylors, 29687.
- 04** Democratic Women's Coffee (Simpsonville), 9-10:30 AM, Panera Bread, 708 Fairview Road.
- 18** **A WEEK EARLY!** GCDP monthly breakfast meeting, 8:30-10 AM Upstate Circle of Friends, 29 Ridgeway Drive, Greenville 29605.
- 09** District 25 precinct engagement recruiting phonebank, 6 PM-7 PM, GCDP Headquarters, 1300-J East Washington St., Greenville 29607.
- 21** Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense, (Augusta Road), 7 PM, Augusta Road Library, 100 Lydia St., Greenville, SC 29605.
- 11** Democratic Women's Coffee (Greenville), 9-10:30 AM, West End Coffee, 1021 S. Main Street, Greenville.
- 11** Democratic Women's Coffee (Eastside), 2 PM, Junto Coffee at Taylors Mill, 232 Mill St., Taylors, SC 29687.

**Interested in getting involved in your local precinct?** Start with lunch. [See when your precincts are getting together:](#)

## SAVE THE DATE

### June 21-22 **SCDP State Convention- Columbia, SC**

Columbia, SC-- Open to the public / state delegates and alternates serve two-year terms, so those elected in 2018 will be called to the 2019 state convention.

<https://www.apnews.com/879cb0e085d942da867a7fd24c90c725>

The Blue Palmetto Dinner will be the evening of June 21st, and the convention will be held on June 22nd. Here's a list of nearby hotels. The SCDP encourages bookings as soon as possible!

Hampton Inn- 822 Gervais St, Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 231-2000  
 Sheraton Hotel- 1400 Main St, Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 988-1400  
 Marriott Hotel- 1200 Hampton St, Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 771-7000  
 Springhill Suites- 511 Lady St, Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 978-2333  
 Aloft Hotel- 823 Lady St, Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 445-1900  
 Hotel Trundle- 1224 Taylor St, Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 722-5000  
 Staybridge Suites- 1913 Huger St, Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 451-5900  
 Holiday Inn Express- 501 Taylor St, Columbia, SC 29201 (803) 744-4000



## Saving public media

The Fiscal Year 2020 budget proposed by the president recommends eliminating public media funding. Recent reports indicate that Congress could take up the bill that funds public media as early as next month.

Nearly 1,500 local public radio and television stations across the country depend to some degree on federal funding. It's elimination can severely impact independent voices and programming.

An organization called Protect My Public Media has kicked off a campaign to raise funds and lobby legislators to save public funding.

[Click here to add your voice.](#)

---

## Share your thoughts on choosing delegates for national convention

**BY TRAV ROBERTSON**

CHAIR, SOUTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY



2020 will be an exciting year for Democrats across the country.

This time next year, we will be gearing up for the 2020 Democratic National Convention to select our Democratic candidate for President of the United States.

The SC Delegate Selection Plan draft has been adopted by the State Executive Committee, and it is now available for South Carolina Democrats to make comments. There is a 30-day period to review the plan and submit comments. We have posted the full plan to our website and you can also access the plan online. Comments must be submitted in writing or emailed to [delegateselectionplan@scdp.org](mailto:delegateselectionplan@scdp.org)

The deadline to submit comments is 5:00 PM on Friday, May 3, 2019. The Delegate Selection Plan will be voted on at the SCDP Executive Committee meeting on May 11, 2019.

We are looking forward to starting the process to select our Democratic candidate for President in 2020! If you have questions about this process, please email Carol Fowler, Chair of the Delegate Selection Plan at [cfowler@fowlercommunications.com](mailto:cfowler@fowlercommunications.com).

The delegate plan can be downloaded here: <https://greenvilledemocrats.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/2020-SC-Delegate-Selection-Plan-1.pdf>

---

## Spartanburg LWV plans program on getting involved

The Spartanburg chapter of the League of Women Voters has scheduled a workshop to help anyone interested in elected or appointed office understand the process. "Ready, Set, Run!" will be Saturday, May 11, from 8:30 am to noon at the downtown Spartanburg Community College Campus (220 Kennedy Street).

The league is nonpartisan and this event will be nonpartisan, free, and open to the public, although [registration is requested](#).

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/readysetrun-appointments-campaigns-elections-workshop-tickets-58753317755>

---

# A look inside Tastings on the Town



Photos courtesy of Ruth Todd



## A successful Tastings on the Town



Kate Franch congratulates fundraising committee chair Coreen Urbina on a successful event

### BY ROXANNE CORDONIER

The second Tastings on the Town was held on Thursday, March 21, at Endeavor, in downtown Greenville. About 140 guests enjoyed the international flavors of food and wine, while they mingled with fellow Dems, and raised money for the GCDP.

The event raised \$16,760, a better than 20 percent increase over last year. If you attended, thank you for joining us. If you didn't, we sure hope to see you next year.

Fundraising committee chair Coreen Urbina also notes that "the GCDP fundraising committee is developing exciting plans to enhance its fundraising and event planning capabilities and seeks individuals to join our dynamic group." If you're interested in being part of this important effort, please contact Corey Urbina, [c\\_urbina@charter.net](mailto:c_urbina@charter.net), 202-236-7939 for details.

Politics runs on funding to grow stronger precincts, to train volunteers and advocates, to raise awareness of the party's values and policies, and to support Democratic candidates.

## Tastings on the Town Hosts

### Gold - \$1000

Tina Belge for State Senate 6  
Ron Cowen  
Erik K Graben  
Councilwoman Xanthene Norris  
Ricardo and Corey Urbina

### Silver - \$500

Paula Catterall  
Harry and Alvena Chapman  
Dale Farran  
Kate Franch  
Ann Funderburk  
Jeannette Jacobs  
Shalin Patel

### Bronze - \$250

Nancy Bender  
Robby Brady  
Jonathan DeBusk  
Maurice and Sharon Cherry  
Jill and Fred Erickson  
Steve and Jan Evered  
Linda Hines  
Philip Hodge  
Susan Ziegler  
Frank and Anne Holleman  
Diane Smock  
Joel and Gaye Sprague  
Steve Price and Scott Turner

We thank all of our hosts and guests for their support of a strong Democratic Party in Greenville and South Carolina.

## Municipal elections

There are many ways to serve your community with many municipal seats across the Upstate up for election this year:

- **City of Greenville** (partisan races): Mayor, District 1 (seat currently held by Amy Ryberg Doyle), District 3 (held by Jil Littlejohn), At-large District (held by George Fletcher); also one Commissioner of Public Works. [More information.](#)
- **City of Fountain Inn:** Wards 2, 4, and 6 [More information.](#)
- **City of Greer:** Mayor, Districts 1, 3, and 5; one Commissioner of Public Works. [More information.](#)
- **City of Mauldin:** Mayor, Council seats 2, 4, & 6 [More Information.](#)
- **City of Simpsonville:** Mayor, Wards 1, 3, and 5. [More information.](#)
- **City of Travelers Rest:** Four council seats. [More information.](#)

## New municipal candidate announcements

### Ken Gibson



Ken Gibson, a West Point graduate, Army war veteran, son of two civil rights activists, and attorney, has announced his candidacy for the Greenville City Council District 3 seat currently held by Councilwoman Jil Littlejohn.

Gibson was born and raised in Greenville. His father was Dr. W.F. Gibson – civil rights activist, former chairman of the National Board of Directors for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and former president of the Greenville and South Carolina Branches of the NAACP. Gibson's mother was Lottie Gibson – noted civil rights activist in her own right and former longtime member of the Greenville County Council.

Gibson cites affordable housing, economic development and smart initiatives to improve the quality of life as key issues.

Gibson is extremely proud of the success of revitalization efforts, such as Falls Park, but also strongly believes that more is left to be done to revitalize and promote

quality of life improvement for all of the community. Gibson believes that this can be done through smart economic development initiatives that attract new and innovative businesses.

A graduate of Georgetown University Law School, his current practice focuses on representing those in the community least able to get the legal services they need.

Gibson has served on the Public Safety Citizen Review Board, on the county Board of Zoning Appeals and as a member of the board of Faces and Voices of Recovery (FAVOR) – Greenville. Gibson and his wife, Kimberly Michelle Gibson, have three children.

More information: <https://www.facebook.com/Ken-Gibson-for-Greenville-City-Council-District-3-853675094965280/>

See Lindsey Jacobs and Matt Johnson announcements on Page 8

## Lindsey Jacobs



Lindsey Jacobs, the director of policy and advocacy at Public Education Partners, has launched her campaign for the Greenville City Council at-large seat currently held by George Fletcher.

Jacobs, 34, lives in Nicholtown, with her husband, Brennan, a development planner. Her position with PEP puts her on the front line of local and state education policy. She has an extensive portfolio of civic activities including serving on the GVL2040 Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, Greenville County Board of Zoning Appeals, and the South Carolina Food Policy Council. She also founded the Greenville Food and Farm Coalition and co-founded the Greenville Civic Project to carry out teach-ins and grow Greenville's civic understanding.

She oversees the Nicholtown Community Garden, participated in the inaugural Greenlink Citizens Transit Academy, and has advocated for Greenville's most vulnerable residents at all levels of government.

Jacob's issues include protecting the most vulnerable neighborhoods, fully funding Greenlink, affordable housing, and opportunity equality.

"Neighborhoods like mine deserve equal representation on City Council, especially in this moment of tremendous, sometimes painful, change. In order for this community to grow together, we need visionary, inclusive leadership. This is more than a campaign, it's a movement, and I look forward to bringing it to City Hall," says Jacobs. She and fellow Democrat Dorothy Dowe are the two candidates currently filed. They will vie for the nomination in the Democratic primary on June 11, 2019.

More information: <https://lindseyforgreenville.com/>

## Matt Johnson



Matt Johnson, a Greenville native and shareholder in the Greenville office of Ogletree Deakins, has filed to run for the District One seat on Greenville City Council.

Johnson has served two terms on the city's Planning Commission, including as chair. He's also served on the city's residential infill task force, which analyzed and made recommendations to the council on infill projects and their impact.

"I am excited to engage with the District One community to improve our neighborhoods, enhance our parks and natural resources, and support our community centers to provide thoughtful, strong representation, and leadership at City Hall to ensure that our neighborhoods are heard and that the City's ordinances foster appropriate growth and urban planning, while ensuring affordable housing options for all income levels. Greenville is my home, and I want to ensure that it will remain a place where our children can afford to live and be proud to call home," says Johnson.

He's extensively supported nonprofits in the City and Upstate, including 12 years as volunteer with the United Way, member of the Greenville Chamber's Leadership Greenville program, and his current involvement as member of the steering committee of the Greenville Homeless Alliance.

Johnson is also committed to focusing on the redistricting process in 2021 based on the 2020 census and the GVL2040 comprehensive plan to ensure it is forward thinking and ambitious to match prior successes like the revitalization of Main Street, Falls Park, etc.

Johnson is married and has two children. His wife, GraceAnna, is graduating Clemson in May with an MS in Nursing. He has coached youth sports teams and both he and his wife have served as youth group leaders at the Fourth Presbyterian Church in downtown Greenville, where they are members.



# SHOPPING FOR THE CAUSE

Want to shop for a cause? Of course, all things being equal you'd probably rather patronize a business run by a fellow Democrat. We're here to help connect you. Businesses can purchase inexpensive ads on our Democratic Marketplace and we'll help them reach our constituents. We've got a new ad this month from Daniel Lopez, owner of Time To Taste Catering. Let's help Dems do business! Check out the marketplace and, if you're in business, consider placing an ad for a three-month, six-month or one-year term.



Time to Taste Catering | No event is the same, no menu should be either! Let our custom menus and no-hassle process give you and your guests an unforgettable experience.

**Contact Daniel ([daniel@timetotastecatering.com](mailto:daniel@timetotastecatering.com)).**

**WANT TO  
SEE YOUR  
AD HERE?**

AND HELP THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY AT THE SAME TIME?

Submit your logo and 25-word ad copy at:  
[www.greenvilledemocrats.com/marketplace-order](http://www.greenvilledemocrats.com/marketplace-order)

Questions? Email  
[brayads@greenvilledemocrats.com](mailto:brayads@greenvilledemocrats.com)

## PARTY LEADERSHIP

### KATE FRANCH

Greenville County Chair

### JALEN ELROD

1st Vice Chair

### WHITNEY WRIGHT

2nd Vice Chair

### TINA BELGE

3rd Vice Chair

### GAYBRIEL GIBSON

Secretary

### ANITA LEBOLD

Treasurer

### KATY LENTZ

State Executive Com. Delegate

### CHRISTOPHER SHIPMAN

State Executive Com. Delegate

### ROXANNE CORDONIER

State Executive Com. Alternate

### CASS TYSON

State Executive Com. Alternate

### JAKE ERWIN

Voter Protection Chair

### LAURA HAIGHT

Communications Coordinator

## March Contributors

**Our thanks to the March contributors to the Greenville County Democratic Party:**

Ron Barbare, Ron Cowen, Glenn Dorsey, Kinard Johnson, Leslie Johnson, Anita LeBold, Ashley Newton, Star Taylor, Judith Zink.

You can help us meet the challenges Democrats face in Greenville County by becoming a 2019 Gold Yellow Dog member (\$1000 pledged in 2019), Silver Yellow Dog member (\$500 pledged in 2019), Bronze Yellow Dog Member (\$250 pledged in 2019) or Yellow Dog member (\$120 pledged in 2019).

Some of our donors choose to make their gifts recurring. Maximize your donation by making it recurring. Go to

**<https://greenvilledemocrats.com/contribute/>**. For more information, contact Anita LeBold, treasurer at 864.325.8540 or [treasurer@greenvilledemocrats.com](mailto:treasurer@greenvilledemocrats.com).

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/)**.

**Thank you.**

### GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

1300 E. WASHINGTON ST. #J

(864) 232-5531

[HTTPS://GREENVILLEDEMOCRATS.COM/](https://greenvilledemocrats.com/)



The Bray is published by the Greenville County Democratic Party, 1300-J E. Washington Street, Greenville, SC 29607, phone 252-5531, Kate Franch, chair; Roxanne Cordonier, editor; Courtney Thomas, production and layout; Ann Funderburk distribution.

Know someone who would like to receive The Bray? Call HQ or contact [headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com](mailto:headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com). Please mail contributions to party headquarters. If your financial contribution to the GCDP is over \$100, please indicate profession or retired (required by SC Ethics Commission). Thank you.