

THE BRAY

the voice of the
GCDP
GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

The latest news and updates from the Greenville County Democratic Party



Beto O'Rourke held a town hall at Upstate Circle of Friends in Greenville on Fathers' Day. Are you following presidential candidate visits in the Upstate? **Keep track of them in the GCDP calendar as they schedule.**

Photo Courtesy: Beto O'Rourke campaign

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Emerging spirit of activism shone as volunteers manned the primary

BY KATE FRANCH

CHAIR, GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY



This is what democracy also looks like . . . last Tuesday, approximately 130 volunteer GCDP poll workers, ad-hoc election commissioners, and logistics team members and Greenville County Elections Office staff and poll clerks worked together – many over a 14+ hour day – to put on a primary election in the city of Greenville. We made it possible for City residents to exercise their sacrosanct right of the franchise and to express a voice in their representation.

Emerging spirit (continued)

No one here could remember the last time the GCDP had to undertake this responsibility, although putting on primaries used to be solely a local political party activity. Simply coordinating that many participants as well as the various steps involved was a major logistical enterprise that we successfully executed. Conway Belangia and his Elections Office staff and poll clerks were invaluable partners in the process and provided essential guidance and support on Election Day and during the weeks leading up to it. And, much appreciation goes to the candidates, Dorothy Dowe and Lindsey Jacobs, and their campaign staffs for their valiant efforts to engage and activate voters throughout the primary cycle.

The true stars of the day, however, are the GCDP volunteers who manned the polls, oversaw the election process, and provided background support from Headquarters. The majority are not City of Greenville residents, yet they excitedly attended training and unselfishly gave their time and full attention to ensuring that a fair and proper election took place. They are a testament to the spirit of activism and commitment to our Democratic Party ideals that have found renewed vitality in Greenville County. They, as much as anything else that has happened since November 2016, inspire me to believe that we can achieve the outcomes we seek sooner now rather than much later as we have anticipated.

As our volunteers last Tuesday modeled for us, if Democrats will join with each other to work collectively, then we can achieve our mutual goal of government at every level that reflects its citizens and strives to create an equal, just, and equitable guarantee that anyone, from any walk of life, can have a fair shot at the American Dream. During a presser after his town hall today, former Congressman Beto O'Rourke answered a question about the kind of candidate who can win the 2020 presidential election by saying that it's not important where someone falls on the progressive spectrum; what is important is who is included in the conversation and affirmed in platform agendas. Those words apply here on the local level as well as on the national campaign stage.

Every one of us must get behind Carrie Counton in the August 20 special election for SC House District 19, and every one of us must get behind our three Democratic candidates for Greenville City Council. Democrats in elected office will make a difference for our communities. We cannot afford to let personal judgement about whether a nominee meets or fails to meet a typically ego-centric standard of "Democratic appropriateness" to keep Democrats from winning seats. We must bring our energy and our voice to their campaigns - help to shape them from within while advancing the ground game - thereby engendering the change we seek.

Henry A. Wallace who served as 33rd US Vice President under FDR said, "If we put our trust in the common sense of common men and 'with malice toward none and charity for all' go forward on the great adventure of making political, economic and social democracy a practical reality, we shall not fail." That reality, that success, is ours to make.

Let's do it . . . together.

In solidarity,
Kate

My overflowing grateful hat is tipped to these volunteer poll workers and support teams.

Terri Anderson	Lydia Freund	Matt Johnson	Eva Mady	Susan Provenzano	Mary Tierney
Adrienne Atkinson	Caroline Fritz	Scarlett Jones	Virginia May	Yvonne Reeder	Rich Tierney
Nena Backer	Ann Funderburk	Allan Kagler	Tish McCutchen	Jeanne Reinman	Lee Turner
Peggy Baker	Cicsley Galloway	Pam Kazer	Luke Meade	Danna Rohleder	Cass Tyson
Carol Beard	Gaybriel Gibson	Joseph Kern	Paul Merlo	Peggy Schotsch	Yvonne Vance
Tina Belge	Brian Grothaus	Karen Krulac	Rebecca Merlo	Amanda	Jim Wakely
Tonya Bethea	Carol Grothaus	Silica Larkin	Diana Miel	McDougald Scott	Eden Wallace
Kira Botha	Laura Haight	Bill Lawrence	Jenn Moore	Melinda Scott	Emily Webb
Edith Chou	Charles Harris	Leigh Learing	Katherine Muller	Jessica Smith	Sheri Whitmire
Henry Collins	Cindy Henry	Anita LeBold	Kim Nelson	Shantell Smith	Kendra Williams
Linda Derector	Tim Henry	Janet Lomicka	Evelyn Nocella	Lauren Strange	Jessie Wofford
Deb Drucker	Jeanette Jacobs	Joe Lowery	Sara Ostendorff	Amy Sutherland	
Steve Evered	Pat James	Ann MacMillan	Edward Pickering	Jeanmarie	
Will Freeman	Leslie Johnson	Glen MacMillan	Erica Pickering	Tankersley	

Calendar of Events

June

Democratic Presidential Debates Watch Parties

26

27

2020 Democratic candidates square off in two debates. Debates start at 9 PM each night and air on NBC, MSNBC, Telemundo, and other affiliates. The GCDP is hosting watch parties both nights. Join us at Connolly's Irish Pub, 24 E. Court St., Greenville. Doors open 8 PM. Complimentary appetizers and desserts. Don't watch alone!

29

GCDP monthly breakfast meeting, 8:30-10 AM, Upstate Circle of Friends, 29 Ridgeway Drive, Greenville, 29605.

July

05

First Friday (Eastside) precinct officers lunch, 12-1:30 PM, Chicora Alley Firehouse, 117 N. Poinsett Highway, Travelers Rest 29690. Anyone can attend.

06

Democratic Women's Coffee Meet Up (Simpsonville), 9-10:30 AM, Panera Bread, 708 Fairview Rd, Publix Shopping Center.

08

Democratic Women of Greenville County monthly meeting, 6-7:15 PM, West End Community Development Center, 404 Vardry St., Greenville, 29601.

12

Second Friday (South Greenville) Precinct Officer's Lunch, 12 PM-1:30 PM, Anita's, 101 Alice Ave., Simpsonville, SC 29681. Anyone can attend.

13

Democratic Women's Coffee Meet Up (Greenville), 9-10:30 AM, West End Coffee, 1021 S. Main Street, Greenville, 29601.

16

Moms Demand Action (Augusta Road) monthly meeting, 7 PM-8 PM, Augusta Road Library, 100 Lydia St., Greenville, 29605.

18

Moms Demand Action (Taylors) monthly meeting, 7 PM-8 PM, Taylors Library, 316 West Main St., Taylors, 29687.

19

Third Friday (West and Central Greenville) Precinct Officer's Lunch, 12 PM-1:30 PM, Swamp Rabbit Cafe and Grocery, 205 Cedar Lane Rd., Greenville. Anyone can attend.

20

Democratic Women's Coffee Meet Up (Greer/Eastside), 9-10:30 AM, The Stomping Grounds, 208 Trade St, Greer, SC 29651.

22

Moms Demand Action (Golden Strip) monthly meeting, 7 PM-8 PM, Simpsonville Hendricks Branch Library, 626 NE Main St., Simpsonville, 2968.

27

GCDP monthly breakfast meeting, 8:30-10 AM, Upstate Circle of Friends, 29 Ridgeway Drive, Greenville, 29605.

Dorothy Dowe wins Greenville City Council primary

Dorothy Dowe and Lindsey Jacobs squared off in a primary contest to be the Democratic Party nominee for the at-large City Council seat in November.



Results by the numbers

Dowe: 1207 votes – 55%

Jacobs: 975 votes – 45%

Turnout: 5 percent

General election opponent: George Fletcher (R), seeking 2nd term

Election Day: Nov. 5, 2019

To learn more about Dorothy or to get involved with her campaign, here are some resources:

Website: <http://www.dorothydowe.com/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/dorothydowe>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/dowedorothy>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DoweDorothy>

Voters are invited to contact Dorothy at dorothy@dorothydowe.com

Emerge South Carolina graduates 2019 class, including 4 county Democratic women

BY LAURA HAIGHT

The Emerge class of 2019 graduated 14 future elected leaders in June, including four from Greenville County.

The class went through a six-month, 70-hour program geared to help Democratic women who want to run for public office. The program inspires, educates, and supports its graduates. And with each class it is expanding its nationwide network of alumnae, board members, and advisory council participants.



We are really excited to toss our caps in the air for Greenville County grads Adriene Atkinson, Tina Belge, Thomasina Gary, and Kim Nelson; and the rest of the South Carolina class of 2019 Heather Bauer, Jessica Bright, Nicole Dietrich, Mimi Draft, Jonnieka Farr, Jillian Hollingsworth, Elizabeth Jordan, LaShonda NeSmith-Jackson, Ashley Peele, and Hannah Reynolds.

Two local Emerge graduates are already making political waves. Dorothy Dowe (2018) won the primary in June for the Greenville City Council at-large seat. She will face off against George Fletcher in November. Newly graduated Tina Belge, of course, ran against Dwight Loftis in the special election for state Senate District 6.

If this piques your interest, Emerge is currently accepting applications for the Class of 2020. [You can find out more and apply online.](#)

Deadline for applications is August 16.

Ready to run?

Candidates are all different, but some general traits are key to success

The Democratic Party is gaining ground in Greenville County. So you might be thinking about running for public office at the local and state level. But would you be a good candidate? Are you built for politics? What attributes do good candidates need to have? To help aspiring, potential candidates, we asked our one of our candidate development committee co-coordinators for help. Here's what she came up with.

BY AMANDA MCDUGALD-SCOTT
GCDP CANDIDATE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Policy, personality, and temperament are important elements in both public perception and the ability to rally campaign support and volunteers.

Policy positions aside, being able to create relationships, listen to people, and engage effectively are a part of what can make the difference between a donation or a vote for one candidate or another. I know some people who have voted for a candidate they did not particularly like because another candidate they did like would not make the effort to respond or engage.

Sometimes "liking" someone personally does not translate into political support, especially when supporters feel that candidates may be trading on their relationships, rather than developing meaningful policy and messaging.



Amanda McDougald Scott, right, served as moderator of a town hall with Sen. Kamala Harris in Greenville last month.

Here are some points to consider if you're thinking about being a candidate:

Know your why: If you do not have a reason to run other than prestige, power, or needing a job, you might as well look for something else to do.

Harness your passion/why: There is a gender divide in being able to articulate an earnest "why." Dig down deep, and think about your real, core reason for running. That thing that seems "mushy" and makes your eyes misty might just be your "why." Harness that. If you can feel it, others will be able to as well.

Have a "slogan": Can you crystalize your "why" into a short slogan that can be repeated by anyone who is pulling for you? You need it.

Have relevant experience: If you want a leadership position but have never been in charge of any type of project whatsoever, consider running after you demonstrate success on something. If you cannot point to a single leadership accomplishment, no matter how small, you are not ready to run.

Have ideas: Beyond knowing why you are running, do you have some ideas or solutions to fix perceived problems that are directly aligned with the office you are seeking? Not everyone will be interested in the nitty-gritty of your plan, but some will—and you should be prepared with solutions for the things about which you are most passionate.

Be ready to listen: No one wants someone to talk at them. If you are going to be an effective leader, and be able to represent your constituents well, you need to be able to listen just as much as you speak, if not more.

Have an open attitude: Don't just have plans, be open – to new ideas, to new people, experiences, and concepts. Know that you don't know everything. Be ready and willing to learn. Think outside the box for new solutions and pushing boundaries with new ideas. (Continued on next page)

Ready to run? (continued)

Have the courage to follow your values: Listen to others, yes, but do not compromise your core values. Have the courage to embody your values and let them be a guide when faced with requests or ideas that may lead you astray.

Be responsible on social media: Once you are a candidate, everything you have ever said or done on social media or any other public source becomes subject to in-depth and further scrutiny. Not only that, but you and all the things you do become a target. People will write horrible things on your campaign sites, and you have to rise above it. Every time you name-call, or blast others on your social media, it results in a poor reflection on you. Consistent negativity breeds a hostile environment, which is not conducive to problem-solving.

Dress the part: Have you ever heard the saying about dressing for the position you want not the one you have? Apply that here. It's idealistic to believe that people will take you as you are and will know your heart. How you present yourself is your brand, and people are more superficial than you would like to think they are!

Be approachable: Have you ever really wanted to meet someone and get to know them, or show interest in hearing about something that really matters to them, only to feel like that person did not want to talk to you? We all have our "off" moments, but if you do not want to talk to people and show interest most of the time, perhaps running for office is not for you.

Be positive and hope for the future: It is possible to be unhappy with the current state of things and still positive about the future. Share your ideas about what could be, and how you can help be a part of the change you wish to see.

Show your ability to work with others: If you are not able to work well with others, perhaps running for office is not for you. The best candidates are ready, willing, and able to work with others who are not like them—a quality crucial to uniting our citizens at this time.

Pick your campaign staff wisely: Your staff is a reflection of you. Vet and choose them wisely. Also, remember that sometimes your best-intentioned friends and family will not make the best staff or volunteers for your campaign. Be ready for this! Expecting too much from family and friends who volunteer on the campaign can be quite disappointing when they do not meet expectations. Setting reasonable expectations from the get-go can help alleviate this.

Focus on issues you can impact: You may be tempted to draw people to you by throwing out "red meat" to the base on issues they are passionate about; but focusing on national issues when you are running a state or local race does not help people understand your policies or why you are running.

Think you're ready? Then we are here to help you by finding resources, connecting you with training programs like Emerge, and more. Contact me via [email \(amandamcdougald@me.com\)](mailto:amandamcdougald@me.com) if you want to talk about seeking public office!

Candidates' field operatives need housing. Can you help?

As the First in the South (and fourth in the nation) primary, we are going to be awash with candidates and their armies of workers.

We've received requests from two campaigns to publicize the need for supporter housing. Housing does not mean that you are providing anything other than a safe place to sleep at night and somewhere to stow their clothes and personal belongings. Both short- and long-term arrangements will be needed so be sure to let the campaigns know what availability you have.

Here's contact information for the campaigns that reached out. Please respond if you can assist.

Cory Booker: Contact Mary Geren, state regional organizing director, at marygeren@corybooker.com or call 864.933.1255.

Kamala Harris: Please add your information to a form the campaign has set up here:
<https://action.kamalaharris.org/signup/kdh-org-190502-supporter-housing/>

Get [updated information on campaign housing needs](#) as we receive more requests.



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).

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AND HELP THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY AT THE SAME TIME?

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Questions? Email
brayads@greenvilledemocrats.com

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May Contributors

Our thanks to the May contributors to the Greenville County Democratic Party:

Michael Corley, Ron Cowan, Democratic Women of Greenville County, Page Dillon, Michelle James, Kinard Johnson, Anita LeBold, Katherine Muller, Amanda McDougald Scott, Ashley Newton, Sara Stewart, David Swearingen, Starla Taylor

Some of our donors choose to power-up their contributions by making them recurring. Even a small donation made every month maximizes your impact!

You can help to meet the challenges Democrats face in Greenville County by becoming a Gold Yellow Dog member.

The GCDP is now with ActBlue!

We've moved our payment processing to ActBlue which is a big advantage for Democratic donors. Once you donate with ActBlue, you have an account that is used on most Democratic sites and candidates. You don't have to remember logins, fill out contribution forms, or dig around for your credit card. **Thank you for supporting the GCDP with your time, your commitment and your donations!**

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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