

# THE BRAY

the voice of the  
**GCDP**  
GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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



Kim Nelson, an **Emerge 2019** graduate, announces her run for Congress. Applications are currently open - until August 16 - for next year's class. We need more Democratic Women on the ballot!

Photo Courtesy of Ruth Todd Photography

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## Canvass, phone bank, donate Three steps to achieve three 2019 goals

**BY KATE FRANCH**

CHAIR, GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY



Greenville Democrats,

Can you believe that we've passed the midpoint of 2019 already?! Thank you to all of the GCDP delegates, alternates, and guests who attended the jam-packed SCDP Dem Weekend last month. What a weekend! It felt like the real kick-off to political action for the next year and a half.

That next 18 months can seem daunting in terms of all that will (needs to) take place, however, so let's focus on chunks that feel manageable. I was reminded the other day that we often thrive and succeed best when given definitive tasks and deadlines. Here are three priorities to put on your calendars:

## Canvass, phone bank, donate (continued)

**1. Elect Carrie Counton to the SC House District 19 seat.** The excitement and ramped up political activity surrounding the Democratic presidential primary, the looming 2020 local races, and the surging Democratic momentum throughout the state will significantly impact the legislative agenda in the State House. When the legislative session opens again in January, Republican state senators and representatives will tack even more conservatively on issues and legislation in order to court base voters in anticipation of potential primary contenders and Democratic Party opponents. That pressure was in full preview at the July Greenville County legislative delegation meeting. Three of the five public comment speakers stridently berated the delegation for the failure to enact constitutional carry earlier this year. The final speaker rabidly supported personhood. All of them laced their comments with falsehoods and specious contentions. This is our reality if we don't change our delegation's political and ideological makeup as rapidly as we can.

The District 19 special election on Aug. 20 can put another moderating Democratic voice of reason in the State House. But we have to make sure that district voters go to the polls in order for this to happen. That starts with everyone in the district knowing that there is even an election taking place. Find one day or evening, a couple of hours, to canvass or phone bank for Carrie; donate to her campaign. She can and will win this race if she has our manpower behind her. Carrie's campaign: [votecarriecounton.com](http://votecarriecounton.com).

**2. Elect three Democrats to Greenville City Council.** We all know the issues our namesake city is facing. Its growth is not slowing in the foreseeable future. We need leaders who will represent all community members and champion policies that create and ensure equity and equality in economic opportunity, access, and empowerment in the midst of the booming prosperity. Matt Johnson, Ken Gibson, and Dorothy Dowe are committed to those ideals and will be on the Nov. 5 ballot. We'll get Carrie elected in August, then shift that same energy into building the support throughout the City that puts them on Council (that means canvassing, phone banking, donating).

### Connect with campaigns:

Matt Johnson: [johnsonforgreenville.com](http://johnsonforgreenville.com)

Ken Gibson: [facebook.com/Ken-Gibson-for-Greenville-City-Council-District-3](https://facebook.com/Ken-Gibson-for-Greenville-City-Council-District-3)

Dorothy Dowe: [dorothydowe.com](http://dorothydowe.com)

**3. Grow our precinct infrastructure.** Our power, sustainability, and future are fundamentally linked to voter connection at the neighborhood precinct level. If we want the *Democratic Party vision* – We're fighting on behalf of the notion that anyone, from any walk of life, should have a fair shot at the American Dream – enacted, then we have to mobilize our fellow citizens to engage regularly with their elected officials and elect more Democrats to office. It starts with our realizing how very many of us there are, building trusting relationships, and sharing timely information and messaging . . . with the Democrats in our own backyard.

Toward those ends, the precinct development committee is actively organizing throughout the county. Precinct cluster leads have been meeting with their respective precinct officers to provide guidance, support, and materials. The GCDP is targeting resources such as our canvassing teams at the effort. An early success: Belle Meade residents (where Upstate Circle of Friends is located) have come to our last couple of Saturday breakfast meetings as a direct result of canvassing in the neighborhood. In addition, we're creating call and email lists of newly connected local voters and seeing an ever-increasing number of folks signing up to volunteer with the GCDP.

You can double, triple, and quadruple these successes by assisting your precinct leadership to reach out to your neighbors. Again, it's simple: canvass, phone bank, donate. Our goal is to create a web of knowledgeable, galvanized Democratic voters ready to activate the power of the ballot box at every election. Email [precincts@greenvilledemocrats.com](mailto:precincts@greenvilledemocrats.com) to join in the fun and make change a reality!

The summer's longer days provide a great opportunity to contribute to the GCDP's vision of being an effective and resilient county party. With your participation, we'll gain in strength and relevance . . . and become unstoppable, because we are stronger together.

In solidarity,  
Kate

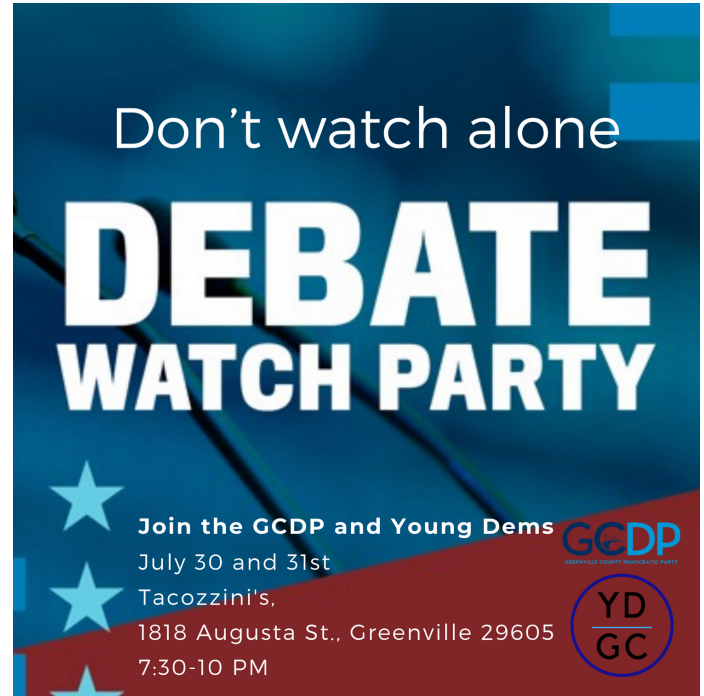


## Calendar of Events

### July

27

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



### August

03

Connecting the Dots (housing, transit & land use) 9:30-11:30 AM, Hughes Main Library, 25 Heritage Green Pl, Greenville, 29601. Sponsored by LWVGC, Upstate Forever & WREN. Register: <http://bit.ly/connect-the-dots-gvl>

03

Democratic Women's Coffee Meetup, 9-10:30 AM, Panera Bread, 708 Fairview Rd., Simpsonville, 29680.

04

GCDP Huddle (Democrats Care Community) monthly meeting, 2 PM, GCDP HQ, 1300 East Washington St., Greenville.

10

Upstate Black Expo, 10 AM-4 PM, Greenville Convention Center, 1 Exposition Dr., Greenville, 29607

10

Democratic Women's Coffee Meetup, 9-10:30 AM, West End Coffee Shoppe, 1021 S. Main St., Greenville, 29601.

11

NAACP Greenville Branch August meeting, 4-5 pm at Tabernacle Baptist Church, 400 South Hudson St., Greenville, 29601.

16

Deadline to apply for admission to the 2020 class of Emerge SC. <https://sc.emergeamerica.org/training/signature-program/>

20

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

24

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

26

Moms Demand Action Golden Strip monthly meeting, 7-8 PM, Simpsonville, Hendricks Branch Library, 626 NE Main St., Simpsonville, 29680.

## Special Election

### August

20

Help Carrie's Get-Out-The-Vote effort by phone banking every Tuesday and Thursday to Election Day.

### Save The Date

Saturday, Sept. 14th, 6 PM, 2019 Legacy Awards Banquet, West End Community Center. The evening will celebrate the service and commitment of Leola Robinson-Simpson. Tickets are \$45 or \$320 for a table for eight. RSVP required by Aug. 30. Call 864.498.9019 to reserve.

# High School Dems are stepping in and stepping up

**BY JANINE DSOUZA**

President, High School Dems of Greenville County



A few months ago, I walked through the open doors of GCDP headquarters for my volunteer shift and was greeted with an office that was clearly preparing for an election. Call sheets were spread across tables, fingers were flying to send out texts, and people were leaving to canvass as quickly as they were coming in.

It was a familiar scene: the frenzy of activity before an election. But one thing was different: nearly all of the volunteers present were high schoolers.

Generation Z has already gotten a reputation for political activism catalyzed by the 2016 election, the March for Our Lives movement, and catastrophic climate change. Unfortunately, not all of us can have a national platform for our work, but from the work I've done for the GCDP, I've learned that high schoolers' involvement on the local level is equally, if not more, important.

What makes local youth involvement unique from national youth involvement is the environment in which we live. Greenville is a changing place, but just because there are more coffee shops downtown doesn't mean there's been wide-scale change. Our government, housing, infrastructure, and education system continue to be left behind. The result is being stuck in an area where many voters remain trapped in a bubble of traditional beliefs, ignorance, and a resistance to change.

But our ability to actually change the status quo is limited by the priority of being a student. Growing up as a blue dot on a red map is frustrating, and the only solution for high schoolers like myself used to be to move as far away as possible for college, taking our desire for change with us as we go. However, these shared experiences have been what has united those of us who are tired of inaction in Greenville. Through social media, growing youth networks, and the amazing youth outreach done by the GCDP, we've gone from a handful of kids meeting at headquarters to dozens of students volunteering hours on end for the causes we're passionate about.

The clearest example I can give of how much high school involvement within the party has changed is the SC Senate District 6 election from back in March. What would have normally been a small local election that flew under the radar became one of the biggest Democratic challenges to a Republican-held seat in local memory. Tina Belge's incredibly well-run campaign went beyond the traditional, reaching out to high school Democrats from the very beginning. What started as a few kids at headquarters making calls every weekend quickly turned into dozens of us coming in as often as we could before the election. Beyond phone-banking, we went out into Greenville to canvass, attended and volunteered at GCDP events leading up to the election, and sent texts to remind voters about the election.

Because campaign work wasn't limited to high schoolers, we even got a chance to meet other Democrats in Greenville County, who we would otherwise have not received a chance to meet, which opened our eyes to the hundreds of other perspectives that form our local community.

The biggest takeaway from the campaign was how far a simple action could go. While completing one volunteer shift doesn't seem like much, every call made, door knocked on, and text sent helped make people in the community go from feeling ignored to welcomed. The residents of Greenville are clearly sick of inaction under Republican incumbents, but by establishing ourselves as the generation and party that is willing to take action to change that, we've started a blue wave that isn't likely to go away anytime soon.

While we've made immense progress as an organization over the past few years, our work as Greenville County High School Democrats has barely begun. Do your part to support our work and encourage the importance of youth in politics by attending our monthly meetings, showing up to our phone-banking and canvassing events, or simply staying up to date with us on social media (@gvillehighschooldems on Instagram and Greenville County High School Democrats on Facebook).

Support from all is greatly appreciated by us but even more necessary for the coming years because hope for a brighter future is only possible if the torch is passed down to the youth of today.



## National survey identifies economic priorities of black Americans

BY ROXANNE CORDONIER

The [Black Economic Alliance](#), a nonpartisan group founded by black executives and business leaders, recently released the results of a nationwide survey focused exclusively on the economic priorities for black Americans. The survey — conducted by Hart Research and Brossard Research of 1,003 black adults — found that black Americans still face a number of obstacles to improving work, wages, and wealth, and provides valuable insights into the top policy priorities for this crucially important voting bloc.

The organization reported these high-level results:

Eighty-one percent of respondents continue to believe that it is hard for black Americans to achieve the American Dream today. This is true among black Americans of all ages and income levels whether they reside in urban, suburban, small town, or rural areas.

Other results from the survey include:

- Ninety-one percent say that expanding training programs that train people for jobs that specific employers are seeking to fill would improve working conditions for the black community;
- Seventy-six percent say that making sure people have the training and skills needed for the jobs of the future is an extremely high priority;
- Eighty-seven percent say that expanding re-entry programs would help the black community a great deal or a fair amount and 59 percent feel that ensuring Americans with prior convictions have opportunities to get jobs is an extremely important priority.

The survey found that there is an urgent need for Democratic presidential candidates to adopt an economic agenda that will specifically address the needs of black Americans. Three in four respondents indicated that they would be more likely to vote for a candidate with a plan to improve working conditions, wages, and wealth in the black community, with nearly 50 percent indicating they would be much more likely.

Dig deeper into the survey: <http://bit.ly/black-eco-survey>.

## Volunteers Needed

The recently formed GCDP Bylaws Committee needs volunteers to work on the proposed bylaws changes. An initial draft has been developed. But we need input and involvement of all communities of interest to complete the development of a workable document. If you are interested in working on this initiative, please [contact Kate Franch at 919-417-6406](#) by Aug. 15.

## Kim Nelson Launches Bid for 4th Congressional District Seat

BY ROXANNE CORDONIER

Democrat Kim Nelson, a public health professional, recently announced her campaign for the 4th Congressional District seat currently held by Republican incumbent William Timmons.

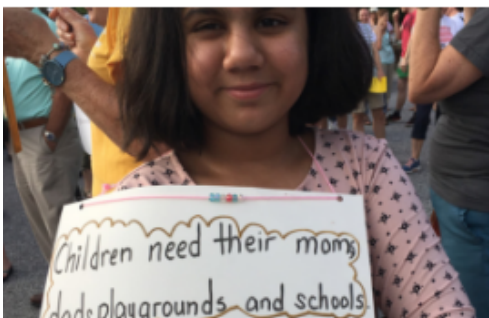
Nelson, a Greenville native, is a graduate of Greenville High and Wofford College. She and her husband and two daughters live in Greer. Nelson is also a 2019 graduate of Emerge SC, a nationwide effort to recruit, train and empower diverse women to run as Democrats for political office.



Nelson says her campaign will focus on healthcare: "I'm running for Congress because my husband has a pre-existing condition and every time a Republican gains a congressional seat, they vote to take health care away from someone I love."

At her campaign kickoff, Nelson pledged to fight for healthcare reform and to provide the opportunity and resources for all South Carolinians to succeed: "I don't just want better for my two little girls, I love this place, this is my home."

For more information on Kim Nelson's campaign click on [www.kimnelsonforcongress.com](http://www.kimnelsonforcongress.com)



### LIGHTS FOR LIBERTY

More than 200 Upstaters joined counterparts in 700 other cities and towns on July 12 to stand up against conditions at the southern border. We have more photos, and posts here: [www.greenvilledemocrats.com/tag/lights-for-liberty/](http://www.greenvilledemocrats.com/tag/lights-for-liberty/)



# Greenville Dems at SCDP convention

Ninety-four Greenville County Democrats joined 1000 others from across the state at the SCDP Convention in Columbia in June.

While there was some state business to do, overwhelmingly the theme was the 2020 presidential election.

21 candidates crossed the stage, many accompanied by sign-waving, drum-beating, and chanting supporters.

Listen to **all** their remarks in full on this playlist:

<http://bit.ly/SC-conv-speeches>



# 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

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 ([danieletimetotastecatering.com](http://danieletimetotastecatering.com)).**

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### JAKE ERWIN

Voter Protection Chair

### LAURA HAIGHT

Communications Coordinator

## May Contributors

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

Ron Cowen, Laura Haight, Margaret Heatherly, Anita LeBold

You can help to meet the challenges Democrats face in Greenville County by becoming a 2019 Gold Yellow Dog member. To find out more about becoming a Yellow Dog Democrat or a recurring donor click on this link:

[www.greenvilledemocrats.com/contribute/](http://www.greenvilledemocrats.com/contribute/)

## 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](http://GREENVILLEDEMOCRATS.COM/CONTRIBUTE).

## GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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