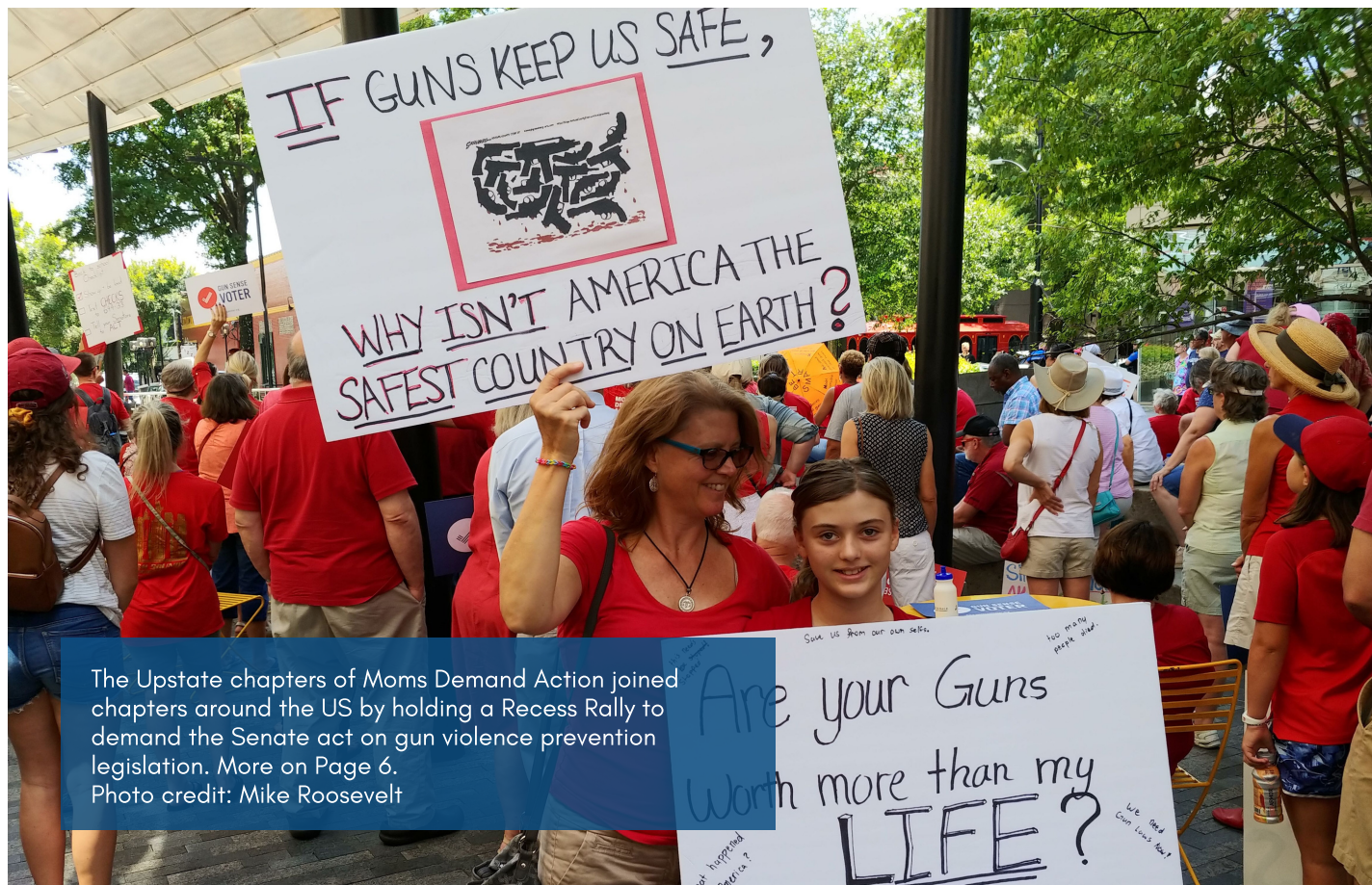


THE BRAY

the voice of the
GCDP
GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

The latest news and updates from the Greenville County Democratic Party



The Upstate chapters of Moms Demand Action joined chapters around the US by holding a Recess Rally to demand the Senate act on gun violence prevention legislation. More on Page 6.
Photo credit: Mike Roosevelt

IN THIS ISSUE

Calendar **3**

Meet Ron Cowen **4**

The Path to Becoming a National Delegate **8**

GCDP Pledges Fairness to All

BY KATE FRANCH

CHAIR, GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY



Greenville Democrats,

Without a doubt, the 2020 election cycle is already upon us. Not only are the presidential candidates in full campaign mode, but, as the weeks progress, prospective Democratic candidates for seats up and down the ballot are also expressing their intention to run. Even more are in the process still of exploring options and viability. It is an exhilarating and hopeful time for voters hungry for choice at the ballot box and change in our legislative halls.

On behalf of all of us, I thank everyone considering or actively seeking elected office! Our democracy survives and thrives only if citizens from all walks of life and experiences present themselves for representative public service.

Fairness (continued)

The months leading into campaign season always create a tricky situation for the GCDP, however, because we do not know how many people will ultimately file for an office. We want to support candidates and prospective candidates as fully as we can in all aspects of campaigning – promotion, fundraising, recruiting volunteers, connecting with voters, etc. – from the moment they announce their candidacy. For one thing, you (voters and potential supporters) deserve to be kept abreast of every development and to have the chance to thoroughly evaluate your electoral options.

We also strive to be fair and equal in that support, which is very important when a primary election will take place. The Party does not endorse one primary candidate over another. In addition, every candidate should feel like he/she has comparable opportunity from the Party's perspective of attracting voters and earning the nomination. In some situations, we know fairly early in the cycle that there will be a primary; in others, we do not know until the completion of the filing period (at the end of March for the majority of November general election seats) when intention is legally affirmed.

Even when we do know, candidates can be quite different in terms of when they decide to formally announce, social media and/or press presence, getting their campaign staff up and running, GOTV (get out the vote) activity . . . Incumbents can have a built-in advantage given their "insider" status already. So, the GCDP works to make judicious decisions about our coverage of each candidate (for instance, how often we post or repost any one candidate on social media) with the full campaign cycle in mind. We are ever mindful of the overall balance, and, believe me, it is a fine line to walk.

I share this because some of you have conveyed frustration that the Party isn't promoting some Democrats who have announced their intention to run as often as you think we should. Please know that we are giving considerable thought each day to what is equitable and fair today as well as over the course of the election cycle. You should challenge us to provide the best service, thank you. We hope you will do so with an understanding of the parameters under which we work. The GCDP is committed, along with you, to electing Democrats at each and every turn.

Now, a complete change of pace . . . I also want to let you know about an exciting opportunity available to 11th and 12th graders exploring college options. The National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) and the South Carolina State Mechanism of the National Council of Negro Women, Incorporated (Greenville has a new chapter!) are co-sponsoring the national "2019 Hungry for Education HBCU (historically black college and university) Tour." First stops on the Tour are Claflin University and South Carolina State University on September 7. NCNW will host up to 500 high school juniors and seniors for a day of serious college recruitment, financial aid information, the campuses, and an SCSU football game. The activities, lunch, and game will be provided free of charge to Tour students, their guardians, and chaperones. SCSU and Claflin will accept applications for admission and financial aid onsite. Students who come with a completed FAFSA can be admitted and awarded financial aid that day. To register, click here <http://ncnw.org/ncnw/hbcu-tours>.

Chartered bus transportation to the Claflin/SCSU Tour from Greenville and back is available free of charge. The bus that will leave Greenville at 6 am on September 7 has a seating capacity of 55. If interested, please contact Davida Mathis, 864-232-0809, for more information. Please share this fabulous opportunity with anyone you think might be interested. Until next month . . . or the next event.

In solidarity,
Kate

Calendar of Events

August

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.

Save The Date

Oct
28

6:30 PM, NAACP Greenville Branch Freedom Fund Banquet, Fuller Normal Industrial Institute, 901 Anderson Road, Greenville, 29601.

September

07

NCNW/SC NCNW 2019 HBCU Tour, Claflin University & South Carolina State University, 9 AM-4 PM, Orangeburg, registration required (see flyer on [page 8](#))

07

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

08

GCDP Huddle monthly meeting, 2 PM, GCDP HQ, 1300 J, East Washington Street Greenville, 29607.

09

Democratic Women of Greenville County monthly meeting, 6-7:30 PM, West End Community Development Center, 404 Vardry Street, Greenville 29601.

11

Young Democrats monthly meeting, 6:30 PM, GCDP HQ, 1300-J E. Washington Street, Greenville, 29607.

12

Democratic Presidential Debate watch party, 8 PM, 1243 Food and Spirits, 1243 S. Pleasantburg Drive, Greenville, 29605.

14

2019 Legacy Awards Banquet

West End Community Development Center. SC Rep. Leola Robinson-Simpson will be honored with a Lifetime Legacy Award. Tickets are \$45 or \$320 for a table for eight. Call 864.498.9019 for information.

14

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

15

Golden Strip Homeless Period packing project, 2-4 PM, Turtle Shell Grill, 306 N. Main Street, Mauldin, 29662.

17

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

19

Moms Demand Action monthly meeting-Taylors, 1:30-2:30 PM, Taylors Library, 316 W. Main Street, Taylors, 29687.

19

Climate Reality: Upstate Chapter, monthly meeting, 6-8 PM, Brewery 85, 6 Whitlee Court, Greenville, 29607.

21

Democratic Women's Coffee Meetup, Greer/Eastside, 2-3:30 PM, Stomping Ground, 208 Trade Street, Greer, 29651.

23

Moms Demand Action, Golden Strip monthly meeting, 7-8 PM, Hendricks Branch Library, 626 NE Main Street, Simpsonville, 29681.

28

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

29

Riley Institute @ Furman University Straight Talk Series, Nationalist Fervor on the Rise, 6:30-8 PM, Thursdays, Aug. 29, Sept. 5, Sept. 12. \$35 for the series, \$15 per session. See [Page 6](#) for registration information.

Meet Ron Cowen

BY LAURA HAIGHT

GCDP Communications Chair

This is another in our continuing series of Q&As with members of the leadership team of the GCDP. Ron Cowen is the new GCDP finance director. As a wholly volunteer organization that receives no funding from either the state or national party, the GCDP is focusing on strengthening our finance policies and activities to provide the fuel for our efforts to elect more Democrats to seats up and down the ticket.



Q. Tell us something about yourself - business background, current position (or retirement), family, stuff you like to do (golf, cabinetry, printing \$\$ in the basement.. :), etc.

A. Born in Buffalo where I lived until age 16 when I moved to Spartanburg, SC (Dorman High). Graduated from University of SC (Go Gamecocks!). Met Marcia in Spartanburg. We have been married since age 19. We adopted 2 daughters from Korea (Amanda b. 1980 and Leslie b. 1983) After Grad School in 1977 took a job with Ford in Detroit area. Moved to Volkswagen in 1981. Lived twice in Germany for one year each and 6 years in Portugal where we built a car factory. In 2008 was given early retirement by VW America. Moved to Toronto working for VW Canada until July 2011 when we moved to Greenville and bought a house downtown. In 2015 went back to work as CFO of Skoda Auto India in Aurangabad.

Finishing in India Jan 2018 I returned to retired life. A lifelong Democrat (I remember hearing George McGovern on the State House steps in Columbia), I was motivated to get involved by Trump's election in 2016. We are avid bridge players and often travel to compete in tournaments. We also love to travel the world.

Q. Why does the GCDP need a Finance Director? Are we big enough to need both a treasurer and a finance director?

A. The GCDP is at the stage in its growth that Chair, Kate Franch, decided it was time to add the role of Finance Director to implement a more rigorous system of financial planning and control to ensure greater transparency. We are implementing a process for approval of all expenditures as well as regular reporting of the budget and actual expenditures.

Q. What funding sources - other than constituent donations - does the GCDP have?

A The local Party gets no support from the State or National level. Everything we do has to be funded locally. We have no paid staff and it costs about \$1,500 per month to pay for our important physical presence, the headquarters office, as well as our online presence, postage, etc. We currently have one major annual fundraising event (Tastings on the Town) which covers most of the basic costs but leaves little left over for the many activities we need to be doing.

Q. What will success look like and how can Democrats help us achieve it?

We are making exciting progress in Greenville, but we can't call it success unless and until we are able to elect more Democrats to state and local office. Having more financial resources is essential to fund Get Out The Vote activities, advertising, technology solutions and other elements of success. I would encourage everyone to donate to the Party via our website or write us a check. Even better, set up a recurring donation as a few of us have done. We need your votes and your time, but we also need your money. No amount is too small.

Things are heating up: Get active on climate change

The Climate Reality Project, an organization founded by former Vice President Al Gore, has a local chapter here in the Upstate. Our mission is to bring awareness to the climate crisis by catalyzing local action through targeted campaigns like "100% Committed" whose goal is to have local companies, organizations, and municipalities commit to moving to 100 percent renewable energy.



The Climate Reality Project: SC Upstate Chapter is looking for a Campaign Leader -- a strong, confident woman who understands that we have months, not years to take a stand on behalf of Mother Earth.

We need someone who can use their influential voice to drive the message that women must lead the conversation for conservation, support women's participation in the development of renewable energy sources, and promote a gender-responsive approach to the climate crisis. Are you our next Climate Reality 'Women and Girls Campaign' Leader? If interested, come to our next chapter meeting in September (see below) or email us at upstate@climaterealitysc.org.

Several action steps are coming up: The UN Climate Summit is scheduled for the week of Sept. 20. Around the world, climate organizations are planning events to raise awareness and increase engagement. Plans are in the work for an event to bring the Upstate together to mark this important event.

On Thursday, Sept 19, the Climate Reality Project chapter will have its next meeting at Brewery 85, 6 Whitlee Ct., Greenville, 29607. We will have two special guests: Sharon Richardson, executive director of Audubon South Carolina, who will discuss land conservation and Dr. Bruce Wielicki, NASA scientist and mission director, who will speak on NASA's mission to track climate change.

On November 20-21, together with Al Gore, we will participate in 24 Hours of Reality: Truth in Action, a global event to give presentations to audiences about the climate crisis and how we can solve it. If you are interested in hosting a presentation or know an organization that would want to host a presentation during this event or any other time, please email Upstate@ClimateRealitySC.org.

It is imperative that we stand up and demand changes to protect the planet. If you are interested in joining our local chapter, please email us at upstate@climaterealitysc.org or join our Facebook group at www.facebook.com/pg/ClimateRealitySC/groups.

We say “Thank you” to Jil Littlejohn for her service

The GCDP will host a “thank you” reception for City Councilwoman Jil Littlejohn on Tuesday, October 1 from 6:15-8:15 pm at the David Hellams Community Center, 111 Spartanburg Street, Greenville, 29607. The youngest member on the council and one of two members of color, Jil has represented District 3 since January 2009. The decision not to run for reelection, as Jil described it, “was not taken lightly and involved prayer, consultation, and even tears.” She also recently resigned from her position as the President and CEO of the Urban League of the Upstate to become Director of Learning Development and Diversity and Inclusion for Hubbell Incorporated.



Over the years, Jil has served the greater Greenville community through her involvement in a host of civic organizations and has received numerous awards including Ebony Magazine’s Top Young Leader Under 30, Greenville Magazine’s Top 50 Influential People, Salvation Army’s Public Servant of the Year in 2011 and Alpha Phi Alpha MLK Citizenship Award.

We congratulate Jil on her many accomplishments and invite you to her reception so that you can greet her personally. Individual tickets at \$25 are available on Eventbrite (<https://jil-littlejohn.eventbrite.com>). Those wishing to pay by check should contact Corey Urbina at 202-236-7939, c_urbina@charter.net.

Straight Talk 2019: Nationalist Fervor on the Rise

FURMAN UNIVERSITY STRAIGHT TALK 2019

NATIONALIST FERVOR ON THE RISE in the U.S. and Europe



This summer’s Straight Talk program offered by the Riley Institute and OLLI at Furman University is ripped from the headlines, tackling the topic of Nationalist Fervor in the US and Europe. The program will run on Thursday evenings from August 29 through September 12. Week one addresses “Nationalist Fervor, Authoritarian Rule, and the Future of Democracy.” Week two focuses on “Culture Wars: Multiculturalism and The Future of White Identity.” And Week Three is “Blood and Soil: When Nationalist Fervor is Racism.” This series is always packed and with this provocative and extremely timely topic, tickets might go fast. Learn more about the program and speakers, and register at <https://riley.furman.edu/riley/critical-issues/straighttalk/nationalist-fervor-rise-us-and-europe>.

Greenville rally to end gun violence brings crowd

Communities all across the United States came together last weekend to send a clear message to the US Senate that “we will not stand for inaction on gun violence.” In Greenville, a committed crowd of 300 came together at One City Plaza. Armed with signs, pain and passion, the group heard from survivors, victims, teen-agers and moms – all carrying the hope that this is the year things will be different. Read our blog post and see more photos: <https://greenvilledemocrats.com/moms-rally-0819/>



The path to becoming a national delegate

Democrats around the country will soon be choosing a presidential candidate to take on Donald Trump in 2020. We will also be putting together a new national platform. The process starts right in your own precinct. The Democratic Party is the party of the people, but it is only as strong as the people who make it up. While your contributions are indispensable, nothing will do more for the future than an organized, energized body of people demanding change. We invite you to turn out and help us get organized for the election fight ahead of us all.

All of our organizing to take back the country for everyday people will culminate at the Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee, WI, on July 13-16, 2020, before we turn all of our energy to November, Trump, and the GOP. If you want to get us there, we need you to get involved in the 2020 fight here at home.

First, vote in the South Carolina Democratic Presidential Preference Primary on Saturday, February 29, 2020. Then attend your county precinct reorganization meeting that will be held in March 2020. In these meetings, members of each precinct will elect delegates to the county convention as well as precinct officers. While everyone may attend the county convention, the only way to be a delegate to the convention (a voting representative) is to be elected at your precinct reorganization meeting. More information will be coming about dates and locations for these meetings.

After your precinct meeting, we need you to attend the county convention where we will elect county Party officers and the Greenville County delegates to the state convention. The county conventions will happen all around the state in late-March through mid-April 2020. More information about the date and location of the Greenville County Convention will be coming soon. Again, you will need to attend the county convention in order to be elected a delegate to the state convention. It is important that you attend your precinct meeting, county convention, and state convention if you want to make it all the way to Milwaukee as a delegate.

The South Carolina Democratic Party will convene in Columbia on Saturday, May 30, 2020, although there will be other events through the weekend. At the state convention, we will elect delegates to attend the national convention. Then our delegates will convene in Wisconsin with those from the rest of the country in order to nominate our Presidential candidate and take the fight to Trump and the rest of the Republicans. We hope to see you soon, fired up and ready to go.

The ultimate collection of presidential candidate profiles

BY LAURA HAIGHT

Can't get enough info about the presidential candidates? Then check out the Almanac of American Politics. The 2020 edition of the almanac is available for pre-order. Each order comes with The Almanac of American Politics Presidential Profiles, which includes 13 incumbents whose profiles will be featured in the brand new 2020 Almanac set to be released in late July as well as four other candidates who no longer hold office but have appeared in previous Almanac editions. Get a jump start on who's who for next year's big race. Also included is a digital download of profiles of all 93 House freshmen elected in November 2018. The download links will be included in your Almanac 2020 pre-order confirmation email.

More info and ordering here: <https://www.thealmanacofamericanpolitics.com/index.aspx>



- PANEL DISCUSSIONS • SCHOOL TOURS
- SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES • RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITIES

TOUR DATES

09.07.2019	SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY	09.28.2019	HOWARD UNIVERSITY
	CLAFLIN UNIVERSITY	11.02.2019	WILBERFORCE UNIVERSITY
09.14.2019	FLORIDA A&M UNIVERSITY	11.06.2019	TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
09.21.2019	CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY		

Register online at ncnw.org



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 (danieletimetotastecatering.com).

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LAURA HAIGHT

Communications Coordinator

July Contributors

Thanks to those who contributed to the GCDP in July; Peggy Baxter, Ron Cowen, Glenn Dorsey, Gayle Hewitt, Kinard Johnson, Andrew and Merry Kuharsky, Anita LeBold, Margaret Paylor. Special Thanks to Linda Derector and Steve Price who both hosted Circle Dinners and raised over \$700 for the GCDP!

If you would like to learn more about hosting a Circle Dinner, please contact our Treasurer, Anita LeBold, at 864.325.8540 or anitalebald@hotmail.com. We welcome your one time or recurring donations on our website;

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/greenville-county-democratic-party-1>

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).

GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

1300 E. WASHINGTON ST. #J

(864) 232-5531

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



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Know someone who would like to receive The Bray? Call HQ or contact 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.