

THE BRAY

the voice of the
GCDP
GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

The latest news and updates from the Greenville County Democratic Party



Representatives Chandra Dillard, Ann Parks, Rosalyn Henderson Myers, and Leola Robinson-Simpson called attention to the state's "shameless" record on pay equality with a press conference in August. More information on Page 4.
Photo credit: Laura Haight

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How you can help ensure a free and fair election

BY KATE FRANCH

CHAIR, GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY



Fellow Democrats,

We've got two essential goals over the next five months: 1) to get voters to the polls for the November 5 municipal election and the February 29 Democratic presidential preference primary in higher numbers than we've seen in recent years and 2) to make sure that our voices ring out loud and clear at the ballot box. You know the first step – connect with voters. Talk with everyone in your various circles about the upcoming elections and the issues at hand, help to organize your precinct, and/or phone bank and canvass for a specific candidate.

Continued on Page 2

Free and Fair Elections (continued)

We must make the Republicans feel the power of our presence and determination. We must elect more Democrats to office to create the just and equitable communities we envision.

We have a new challenge with regard to protecting the vote, however. The new voting machines are here. We might see them during the November 5 municipal election; they will definitely be in use across the county in February. The multi-step process they require in order to submit a vote will feel unfamiliar and therefore daunting and somewhat untrustworthy to many of us. We need to do everything we can to ensure that no one walks away from the polling place out of frustration or mistakenly fails to register his/her vote.

What you can do:

- Conway Belangia and the Greenville County Voter Registration and Elections Office team will offer hands-on voter education opportunities between now and the February primary. Invite them to speak to every group you know. 864-467-7250.
- Sign up to be a paid Greenville County poll manager (worker). Due to the additional steps required to cast a vote on the new system, more hands will be needed at each polling place to keep things moving at a reasonable pace. Democrats believe in access to the ballot box. If you are a registered voter and can work a minimum 14-hour day, consider this critical role. More information: greenvillecounty.org/VoterRegistration/pdf/application_pollworker.pdf.
- Sixteen- and seventeen-year-olds may also apply to work the polls in a paid position that requires training, they must be willing and able to work the entire 6 am to 8 pm day. Information and the application can be found here: greenvillecounty.org/VoterRegistration/pdf/student_pollworker.pdf
- Help the GCDP protect the vote by serving as a GCDP poll watcher. Nineteen polling sites will be used in the November municipal election; in February, we will vote across the entire 151 precincts of the county. Volunteer poll watchers monitor activity on Election Day to make sure that no one is kept from voting and assist with Democratic voter turnout. You can work all- or part-day, depending on your availability. We'll train in October and again in February. It's a noble way to honor the American "your vote, your voice" promise. Call 864-232-5531 or email headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com to add your name to the list and we'll follow up with more information.

In this 100th year anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, let's make Susan B Anthony's words our motto: "Someone struggled for your right to vote. Use it." Make actually casting one's vote as assured and trouble free as possible.

In solidarity,
Kate

What you need to know about Greenville's new voting machines

Thirteen hundred new voting machines and 160 optical ballot readers were delivered to the Greenville County's Board of Elections last month. They represent a new era in voting for South Carolina. The new machines will be certified first by the manufacturer and then put through their paces by the county election team, headed by Conway Bellagia. The County plans to provide demos to any organization of any size that requests one. If the training and tests go well, it is possible that the new voting machines could be used by some voters in the November municipal and public service district elections. [Read the full story in Upstate Business Journal.](#)

HOW TO VOTE ON THE NEW MACHINES



1. First, insert blank ballot.
2. Make selections on the touch screen.
3. Review choices, make changes if needed, and print.
4. Deposit ballot in secure scanner.

Calendar of Events

September

28

GCDP monthly breakfast meeting, 8:30-10 AM, Upstate Circle of Friends, 29 Ridgeway Drive, Greenville, 29605. Will Morin of the Climate Reality Project will speak.

28

HBCU Classic Game, 4 PM, Sirmine Stadium, 100 Cleveland St., Greenville, 29601.

CORRECTION

Nov 01

In last month's Bray, we gave the wrong "Save the Date" for the upcoming Freedom Fund Banquet held by the NAACP, Greenville Branch. The date is Nov. 1st at 6:30 PM. The event will be at the Fuller Normal Industrial Institute, 901 Anderson Rd., Greenville, 29601.

October

01

Jil Littlejohn Appreciation Dinner, hosted by the GCDP, \$25 per person, 6:15-8:15 PM, David Hellams Community Center, 111 Spartanburg St., Greenville, 29607. Online registration required. <https://jil-littlejohn.eventbrite.com>

02

Young Democrats of Greenville County, monthly meeting, 6:30 PM, GCDP HQ, 1300 E. Washington St., Ste J, Greenville, 29607.

04

Dinner with Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Rep. Jim Clyburn, 6:30 PM reception, 7:30 PM Dinner, Hyatt Regency, 220 N Main St., Greenville, 29601 <https://www.pelosidinner.com>

05

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

05

Democratic Black Caucus SC Greenville County Chapter voter engagement kickoff, 11 AM, GCDP HQ, 1300 E. Washington St., Greenville 29607.

06

GCDP Huddle monthly meeting, 2-3 PM, GCDP HQ, 1300 E. Washington St., Ste J, Greenville, 29607.

12

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

14

Greenville Legislative Delegation, quarterly meeting, 5:30 PM, County Council Chambers, County Square, 301 University Ridge, 29601

14

Democratic Women of Greenville County, monthly dinner meeting, 6 PM, West End Community Center, 404 Vardry St., Greenville, 29601

15

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

17

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

19

New Location! Democratic Women's Coffee Meetup, Greer/Eastside, 2-3:30 PM, A&P Restaurant, 1526 Hwy 14, Greer, 29650.

19

New Coffee Meetup! Democratic Women's Coffee Meetup, North Greenville, 10-11:30 AM, Atlanta Bread Company, 3202 N. Pleasantburg Dr., Greenville, 29609.

26

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

28

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

07

2019 Municipal Elections

Absentee voting begins for Greenville Municipal elections. County Square, 301 University Ridge, Greenville, 29601.

Democrats running for Greenville City Council

Dorothy Dowe for the at-large seat

Matt Johnson for District 1

Ken Gibson for District 3

Equal pay for equal work? Not so much

BY LAURA HAIGHT

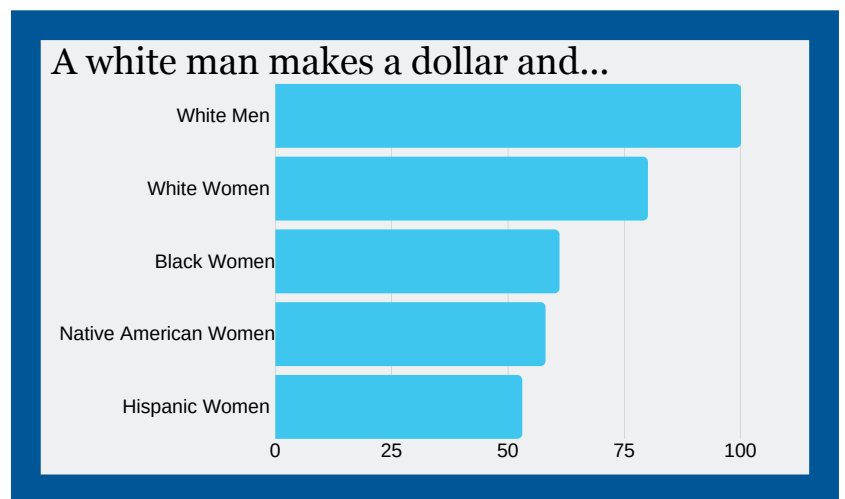
GCDP Communications Chair



Rep. Rosalyn Henderson Myers of Spartanburg speaks at the press conference while colleagues Chandra Dillard, Ann Parks, Rosalyn Henderson Myers, and Leola Robinson-Simpson look on.

It's been 59 years since JFK signed the Equal Pay Act into law making it illegal to discriminate based on gender, race, or ethnicity in salary. Today, that law is still not a reality.

On August 22, Chandra Dillard, Leola Robinson-Simpson, Rosalyn Henderson Myers, and Ann Park – four black state legislators representing the Upstate – held a press conference to draw attention to what Robinson-Simpson called this “shameful inequality.”



August 22 is Black Women's Equal Pay Day, marking the eight months and 22 days into 2019 it took to reach the same pay a white colleague with the same job made in 2018.

South Carolina is distinguished in two more ways: we are one of only four states without an Equal Pay law and black women here make just 57.5 cents on the dollar. That means less money for women to feed their families, provide healthcare for themselves or their families, pay off student loans or attend college, and save for retirement.

In January, state Rep. Wendy Brawley, D-Richland, and state Sen. Katrina Shealy, R-Lexington, introduced House Bill 3615 and Senate Bill 372 – the Act to Establish Pay Equity. The legislation would give employers and employees many tools to prevent wage discrimination.

“Pay equity is not just a women's issue,” WREN Chief Executive Ann Warner said. “It is also a family, community and economic viability issue for South Carolina.”

The legislation was referred to committee, but there have been no hearings.

Incoming! Incoming!

Keeping ahead of presidential candidate visits is not an exact science



Former Vice President and presidential candidate Joe Biden made his first campaign visit to Greenville last month.

By Laura Haight

GCDP Communications Coordinator

Not too long ago, a woman called the GCDP headquarters and left a message for me. She wanted to know what she had to sign up for, how much it would cost, or who she had to know to get a reasonable heads up about visits from presidential candidates.

I sympathized with her frustration and we had a productive conversation. I am new to the organizing side of politics. Having spent my life in journalism, I've been more on the issues side of political contests. Also, as a journalist, despite being pretty wonky, there's no way you can volunteer or work with a party or a campaign. So, my back-office education really began in the spring of 2017.

Like most of the uninitiated, I believed that "the party" had a far more centrally organized role in candidates' activities. The truth is that's far from the reality.

For the past year, because of our status as one of the first states with a presidential primary, coupled with our diversity, Greenville has had a steady influx of candidates seeking the Democratic Presidential nomination.

In some cases, we've had a week's notice (Sen. Warren in February) in others, barely a couple of days (Sen. Klobuchar just a week later). Recently, GCDP Chair Kate Franch had maybe a week's notice that Julian Castro would be coming to Greenville, but no definitive date or logistic info until the Wednesday morning prior to a Sunday visit.

Sometimes, we don't know at all. On a recent Monday morning, Mayor Pete Buttigieg was the speaker at a breakfast sponsored by the Greenville Chamber of Commerce. The first we heard of it was by reading Facebook posts. (Sure, we are reaching out to the Chamber to see if we can get and give a heads up when our interests intersect).

Continued on next page

Presidential candidate visits (continued)

From previous page

Some might think it's a good idea to send out what info we have even if it's not definitively verified. We see that as counterproductive. What if a location or time changes just a day or two ahead of time – a situation not all that unusual? Those people who miss a follow up email or social media posts will be at the wrong place at the wrong time, miss the person they really wanted to see, and feel it is the GCDP's fault.

Knowing how fluid arrangements can be, we err on the side of accuracy. This is all by way of explaining why we aren't always able to give you a lot of lead time.

As soon as we do know, however, we will send out an email blast to all our subscribers (you can become one by signing up on the homepage of www.greenvilledemocrats.com) and post on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

If we are organizing the event, as is sometimes the case, we will ask you to register. Many of the campaigns also request that you register. Although signing up is often not required (rarely are you going to get turned away), it is an excellent idea that enables you to be kept informed of any last minute schedule changes that might occur. They do happen!

Things are heating up as the campaign season has moved into full swing and we expect to have many more visits from presidential candidates. We will do everything we can to let Greenville Dems know as early as possible when events are scheduled.

Candidates opening offices in Greenville

Some candidates have already opened offices in Greenville to get closer to the voters, give their local operatives a home to work from, and provide a place to muster for canvassing and phone banking calls.

Here's how to find them:

Kamala Harris For The People, 205 N. Laurens St., Greenville, SC 29601

Warren 2020, 1622 E. North St., Greenville, SC 29607

Bernie Sanders, 141 Traction St. Greenville, SC 29611

We will [update this listing with other candidate's offices](#) as they become available. If we've missed someone, please contact us.



Sen. Kamala Harris's national campaign manager Ron Rodriguez came to Greenville to open her local office in August.

Greenville Chamber to host Political Leadership Institute Candidate School

Have you thought about running for office but are clueless about what to expect and how to start?

The Greenville Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a two-night Upstate Political Leadership Institute Candidate School, October 29-30 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.. The program, featuring elected officials and experienced campaign operatives, will provide the tools you need before you commit to run. The program costs \$40 for Greenville Chamber members; \$50 for non-members.

Get more information and register at the Chamber website: <http://bit.ly/candidate-school>.

Redevelopment of County Square moves forward with no tax hike

By Ennis Fant

Councilman, District 25

Greenville County Council recently agreed to move forward with the \$152M redevelopment of County Square, which will be the largest single development by a county government in South Carolina history. After much back and forth and months of debate, this project will change the landscape of downtown Greenville, create over 5,500 new jobs and bring \$1.1B in economic investment to the area.

What is truly exciting about this new project is that it will be constructed without a tax increase being placed on the taxpayers of Greenville County. Councilwoman Xanthene Norris and myself were always supporters of the project but insisted that council agree to finance the early stages of the project with one-year notes that could be

renewed until the new tax revenue begins to come in so as to not add an additional tax burden on the backs of low and moderate income families.

The financing structure will work as follows:

The sale of county property will be used to pay for the construction of the new county building, which will cost approximately \$70M. It is anticipated, over time, that the property will sell for approximately \$105 million.

Currently the County Square property generates no tax revenue. As development occurs, taxes will be generated which will be used to fund project related costs including infrastructure improvements, state office relocation, engineering and design. Once complete, the new taxes are projected to be \$23.5 million annually.

The county will issue a series of short-term notes to cash flow and finance the project. The debt will be repaid from the sale of property and taxes generated from the development. At the conclusion of the building and infrastructure construction, if there is any remaining short-term debt, it will be replaced with permanent financing via general obligation bonds serviced by project generated taxes.



Heartbreak vs. heartbeat: Legislators hear testimony on abortion ban

Sixty people testified to a state Senate subcommittee on the anti-abortion bill known as the "Fetal Heartbeat" bill. It would ban abortions after the detection of a fetus's heartbeat, establish criminal penalties for women and doctors found outside the law, and makes no exceptions for health of the mother or fetal medical advice regarding the health of the fetus. There's still time for your voice to be heard.

You can submit testimony directly to the committee by e-mails/attachments to: smedicomm@scsenate.gov (please use H3020, the bill number, in the subject line). Written correspondence may be sent to: SC Senate Medical Affairs Committee, Attention: Research Director, PO Box 142, 412 Gressette Building, Columbia, SC 29202. They have said that comments/testimony must be received by October 1.

Our communications coordinator was at the hearing. [To read her take on it, go to our blog.](#)

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).

**WANT TO
SEE YOUR
AD HERE?**

AND HELP THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY AT THE SAME TIME?

Submit your logo and 25-word ad copy at:
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Questions? Email
brayads@greenvilledemocrats.com

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August Contributors

Thanks to our August donors to the GCDP: Art Campbell, Edith Chou, Ron Cowen, Democratic Women of Greenville County, Nicki Davidson, Woodrow Hill, Kinard Johnson, Jean Jones, Anita LeBold, Karen Lucas, Shirley Scott, Starla Taylor, Regina Waldrep and Karry Walker.

Are you interested in helping the party grow? Consider hosting a Circle Dinner. These are small informal gatherings you host with the goal of getting your friends, neighbors or new acquaintances involved in or donate to the GCDP. you would like to learn more about Circle Dinners, 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](#).

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.

GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

1300 E. WASHINGTON ST. #J

(864) 232-5531

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