

THE BRAY

the voice of the
GCDP
GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

The latest news and updates from the Greenville County Democratic Party



Since the last issue of The Bray was published, there have been 24 mass shootings (those involving more than three victims) in 15 states. They left 84 people dead and 33 injured. Last week, the Upstate chapters of Moms Demand Action for GunSense met to continue their work for positive legislation to prevent gun violence and against the acceptable and unchecked spread of guns in our communities. The political climate seeks to distract us, but we have work to do: like making our communities and citizens safer.

Here's a look at where each of our presidential candidates stands on this issue.

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Turning the Upstate blue starts Nov. 5

BY KATE FRANCH

CHAIR, GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY



"We matter." That was my response when a local reporter asked why Greenville would be the site of Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to South Carolina earlier this month. Democratic Party leadership greatly appreciates the faithful commitment of our true-blue active Democrats and voters as well as the opportunity inherent in the area's growing population and changing demographics.

Additionally critical to electing Democrats up and down the ballot are the many unregistered voters and "missing" voters (i.e., inconsistent turnout from one election to the next) throughout the Upstate. In his remarks at the dinner with the Speaker, SCDP Chairman Trav Robertson

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Turning the Upstate blue starts Nov. 5

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confirmed that Greenville and the Upstate will be ground zero in a voter mobilization effort over the next year.

We welcome the attention, the recognition, and the resources. It's not news to any of you that activism and engagement have increased significantly during the past several years. Volunteerism and vote totals in the midterm and special elections have demonstrated the "blue wave" momentum taking place across the county. Direct SCDP support will make flipping seats a reality so much sooner. That's an outcome in which all of us will revel.

Our work is still at the beginning stage though. Organizing at the precinct level, activating reluctant/inconsistent voters, and supporting the brave Democrats who throw their hat in the ring each cycle must be ramped up considerably if we expect success at the ballot box. There will be more to come as partnering with the SCDP takes shape. Then it's onto the presidential preference primary in February, a general primary if needed next June, and Election Day on November 3, 2020 (goodbye Senator Graham!).

But foremost for us, at this time, are the municipal elections on November 5. We can return Greenville City Council to a Democratic majority to ensure that economic equality and access for all City residents are the filters through which every decision is made. Greenville's council can then serve as a moral influence on the County's and sister cities' councils. Accomplishing that means avoiding having Dorothy's, Ken's, and Matt's victories hinge on a handful of votes – the strength of our message must be reflected in decisive wins.

The key is you. No one should sit this out. Vote if you live in Greenville and take someone with you; if you don't live in the City, then hound anyone you know who is a resident to vote. If you live in one of the other municipalities, carefully consider your options, then exercise your right to choose your leadership as well.

And, then, find a way to participate in GOTV for this election (see page 5). We matter if we make the process matter. Never has the saying "democracy is not a spectator sport" been more true or more instructive. Change will take hold, political progress will happen for us one election at a time. Make November 5 launch day.

In solidarity,
Kate

Tastings on the Town Returns

Mark your calendars for the third annual, much-anticipated Tastings on the Town, which will be held **Thursday, February 27, 2020 from 6:30-9:00 pm at Hyatt Place Hotel**, 128 East Broad Street. Our premiere fundraiser brings together Democrats for gourmet food, live music, conversation and a common purpose. The theme of this year's don't-miss event is Simply Southern and it will feature a sampling of innovative southern cuisine created by the chefs at Larkin's.

The price of your ticket advances our local Democratic network, precinct by precinct. It will also assist in supporting candidates, registering voters, building grassroots engagement and much more.

Tickets for TOT are \$75 each.

There will be three "Host" levels as well as opportunities for corporate sponsorship. An Eventbrite site will be set up soon for online ticket purchases. Look for event updates in future editions of the Bray. For more information or to buy tickets, contact Corey Urbina at 202-236-7939.

Calendar of Events

October

- 25** 25 All Politics are Local: What's Important to Women in Government and Business 2020, 3:45-6 PM, USC Alumni Center, 400 Senate St., Columbia, 29201. [More info.](#)
- 26** GCDP monthly breakfast meeting, 8:30-10 AM, Upstate Circle of Friends, 29 Ridgeway Dr., Greenville, 29605. Greenville City Councilman Russell Stall and council candidates Dorothy Dowe, Ken Gibson, and Matt Johnson will speak.
- 28** Moms Demand Action (Golden Strip) monthly meeting, 7-8 PM, Simpsonville Branch Library, 626 NE Main St., Simpsonville, 29681.
- 29** Environmental Equity: A World of Possibility, 6-8 PM, Mountain View Baptist Church, 111 Cagle St., Greenville, 29601. Tickets available on [Eventbrite](#).

November

- 02** Democratic Women's Coffee Meetup (Simpsonville), 9-10:30 AM, Panera Bread, 708 Fairview Dr., Simpsonville, 29680.
- 03** GCDP Huddle monthly meeting, 2-3 PM, GCDP HQ, 1300 E. Washington St., Ste J, Greenville, 29607.
- 05** **Election Day**
Polls open 7 AM to 7 PM. See full election details including polling place changes on Page 5.
- Democrats on the ballot for Greenville City Council**
Dorothy Dowe for the at-large seat
Ken Gibson for District 3
Matt Johnson for District 1
- 09** Democratic Women's Coffee Meetup (Greenville), West End Coffee, 9-10:30 AM, 1021 S. Main St., Greenville, 29601.
- 11** Democratic Women of Greenville County, monthly dinner meeting, 12:15 PM, West End Community Center, 404 Vardry St., Greenville, 29601
- 15** Moms Demand Action (Augusta Road) monthly meeting, 7-8 PM, Augusta Road Library, 100 Lydia St., Greenville, 29605.
- 16** Democratic Women's Coffee Meetup (North Greenville) 10-11:30 AM, Atlanta Bread Company, Cherry Dale, 3203 N. Pleasantburg Dr., Greenville, 29609.
- 17** Who Will Write Our History: Movie screening, panel discussion, 2-5:30 PM, Furman University, <http://bit.ly/2W2S8R8>
- 19** Moms Demand Action (Augusta Rd) monthly meeting 7-8 PM, Augusta Rd. Library, 100 Lydia St. Greenville, 29605.
- 21** Moms Demand Action (Taylors) monthly meeting, 1:30-2:30 PM, Taylors Library, 316 West Main St., Taylors, 29687.
- 23** GCDP monthly breakfast meeting, 8:30-10 AM, Upstate Circle of Friends, 29 Ridgeway Dr., Greenville, 29605.
- 25** Moms Demand Action (Golden Strip) monthly meeting, 7-8 PM, Simpsonville Hendricks branch Library, 626 NE Main St. Simpsonville, 29681.
- 25** Gratefull GVL, 1st Annual Citywide potluck, 11:30-1:30 PM, the bridge on Main St., 400 block of S. Main. All are welcome. <http://bit.ly/2qtFf6J>
- 28** **Thanksgiving Day**

Can SC go blue?

Coordinated efforts underway to find and engage voters to close the narrowing political gap

BY LAURA HAIGHT

GCDP Communications Chair

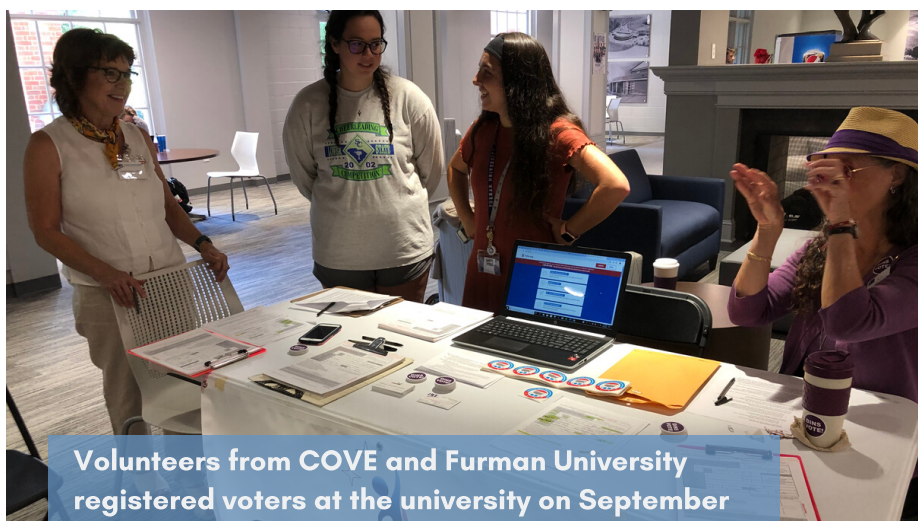
Speaking to 700-plus attendees at the fundraising dinner with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, SCDP Chair Trav Robertson threw a lot of numbers at the crowd. Number of voters short in Greenville County in 2016 (28,000), number of African American voters in Greenville County who are registered but didn't vote in the last election (28,000).

He thundered other stats and the message was clear: We are closer to turning the state and perhaps even our county purple - and maybe blue - but it all depends on registering, engaging, and locking in voters.

To that end, several initiatives are underway.

A **Voter Engagement Task Force**, bringing together the Greenville County Democratic Black Caucus, the GCDP, the NAACP, the League of Women Voters of Greenville County, and Pastors United in Action, has been formed. It's goal is to engage voters and non-voters in the county, knocking on doors, blanketing communities to find those 28,000 non-voters as well as register and activate new voters. Additional goals include disseminating voting information and recruiting precinct officers to further help organize local communities. To get involved, come to the GCDP office at 1300 East Washington Ave., Suite J, Greenville, 29605, every Saturday at 11 a.m. Training, a script, and a walk list will be provided.

The **Young Voter Coalition** brings together Furman and Clemson College Dems, SC College Dems, and Greenville Young Dems. This community of active, young voters will be working to unite local groups, build relationships, and get more young people involved in voting and the political process. The group will reach out to other activist organizations including environmental groups, LGBTQ groups, multicultural organizations, and anti-gun violence groups to help identify and register their members and others in their orbits. Follow the organization on **Facebook** or Instagram (@youngvotercoalition).



**Volunteers from COVE and Furman University
registered voters at the university on September
24 – National Voter Registration Day.
Photo courtesy of Laura Haight**

COVE (Community Voters Empowerment) continues to

Empowerment) continues to be a steady force in registering voters in Greenville County. The organization trains volunteers, schedules non-partisan registration events around the county, and maintains a calendar to staff events. The more volunteers they have, the more events they can staff. Check out the schedule for upcoming training sessions, then sign up to register voters. Get more information [**online.**](#)

Everything you need to know

Municipal races fill the 2019 November elections

BY LAURA HAIGHT

GCDP Communications Chair

This would be called an off-year election, but not if you live in Greenville County. Mayors are on the ballot in Greenville, Greer, Mauldin, and Simpsonville. Council seats are on the ballot in Greenville, Fountain Inn, Greer, Mauldin, Simpsonville, and Travelers Rest.



Dorothy Dowe



Ken Gibson



Matt Johnson

Election Day

Nov. 5
7 AM to 7 PM.

Have a problem? Call the Election office at 864-467-7250, or the GCDP office at 864-232-5531.

We need volunteers on Election Day.

Complete this form if you can help.

Only the Greenville City Council seats are partisan and we have two Democrats challenging: Dorothy Dowe for the at-large seat and Matt Johnson for District 1. Ken Gibson is running unopposed for the District 3 seat. Our candidates are knocking on a lot of doors and talking to a lot of voters and they need your help during this final push. Check the candidates' websites for information on how to get involved.

Other non-partisan municipal elections are scheduled across the Upstate. Fountain Inn will elect representatives for wards 2, 4, and 6; Greer will elect a mayor, seats in districts 1, 3, and 5, and commissioner of public works; Mauldin residents will vote for mayor and seats in districts 2, 4, and 6; Simpsonville votes for mayor and seats in wards 1, 3, and 5; and Travelers Rest has four at-large council seats on the ballot. Check your town's website for more information.

Democratic voters have been turning out in more significant numbers and we are looking for that trend to continue as we run up to the national election next year. Turnout is key in all of our elections.

When and where to vote

Absentee voting is currently open at Greenville County Square. If you qualify, you can vote Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. You must bring your driver's license or other acceptable photo ID. Vote at 301

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Everything you need to know (continued)

Continued from Page 5

University Ridge, Greenville, 29601. To see if you qualify for absentee voting, visit the county Election Commission website. Schools are not closed for this election so some polling places have been moved. See a complete list of polling places, here: <http://bit.ly/2019-polling-places>.

How to vote

You might think it's exciting or scary, but if (when?) you vote in this election, you'll be the first ones in the county to use the new voting system. The new machines utilize a paper ballot marking system. While it requires two extra steps, it creates a paper backup. If you are a part of a civic organization, neighborhood organization, or other group, county election officials say they are willing to come out to do demonstrations. You just have to ask. Contact them at 864-467-7250 to schedule one.

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.

How to help

First and most important, vote. And don't just vote, bring a plus one with you. We all know people who don't vote. One voter at a time, we can all make a difference.

Second, help the GCDP protect our vote by volunteering to be a poll watcher. This is a crucial role and we hope to have a poll watcher at every polling place. You can work either a half day - 6:30 AM to 1 PM or 1 PM to 7:30 PM - or full day. To learn more about being a poll watcher, [check out what GCDP Chair Kate Franch wrote last month](#).

If that's more than you can handle, we also need drivers and runners to assist intermittently and as needed throughout the day. If you can help in any way, please take a moment to let us know your availability.

More about candidates

This is a significant election with local implications. Right behind it is the South Carolina presidential preference primary on February 29. We still have 19 presidential candidates in the race. To help Upstate voters who haven't yet made up their minds, we've put together a candidate page to help connect voters with info about each candidate as well as local offices and volunteer opportunities. We'll keep this updated as more information comes our way from the candidates' teams. [Check this out](#).

9th Annual A SECOND CHANCE FORUM

Sponsored by *Senator Karl B. Allen*
Co-Sponsored by
S.C. Probation, Parole, and Pardon



JOBS - EXPUNGEMENT - PARDONS EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW!

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH, 2019
EXPUNGEMENT & PARDON WORKSHOP
AND JOB FAIR 10:00AM**

SPECIAL GUESTS INCLUDE

S.C. Department of Corrections Greenville Chamber of Commerce South Carolina Workforce
Greenville Technical College U.S. Department of Justice Re-Entry Task Force
SPICE Program - Greenville Technical College



NOW HIRING!

Last year over 40 employers who hire
ex-offenders were on site!

**West End Community Center
404 Vardry Street
Greenville, SC 29601
(864) 235-9049**

BUS VOUCHER

Good for Transportation
To/From A Second Chance Forum
Valid **ONLY** between
8:30am and 2:30pm
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH, 2019



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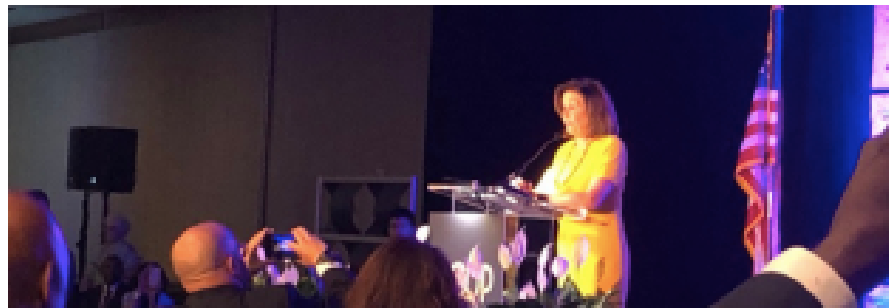


WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING

In photos

Welcome, Madam Speaker

Some 700 SC Democrats joined House Speaker **Nancy Pelosi** for a fundraising dinner in early October. The evening at the Hyatt Regency brought out Democratic royalty and GOP protestors. In roughly 20 minutes of remarks, the speaker did not break any news, but her words rallied the troops and reaffirmed our resolve. Is impeaching Trump worth the risk, she asked. "He may not be, but the Constitution and our democracy are."



Former Governor Richard Riley



Rep. James Clyburn and SCDP Chair Trav Robertson



Period Packing Party

Members of the GCDP Huddle joined volunteers with the Homeless Period Project to put together "period packs". **Gayle Hewitt** reported more than 450 gallon bags were filled with packs to go to Hurricane Dorian victims in the Bahamas.

Strengthen the party, win elections, volunteer

By **Melissa Bernardi**

GCDP Volunteer Coordinator

It has been a privilege to join the volunteer coordination team for the GCDP. It's not surprising that Democrats are signing up at a brisk pace to volunteer on behalf of Democratic candidates here in Greenville County. I have attempted to speak with each person who has filled out our Volunteer Interest form on the website, and have met with many of them at the HQ office. It is a great feeling to match these volunteers and their unique skills with the needs of the party. If you haven't registered to volunteer, it's easy to [sign up on our website](#).

If you've been to the breakfast meetings over the past few months, you've seen the county map on which Greenville Democrats have taped their names. It's a great visual to see how many other like-minds are in your neighborhood. I look forward to seeing the map so full of slips of paper with names that the map itself has disappeared. This is our strength, and this is how we build the party in Greenville. If you haven't yet added your name to the map, be sure to look for it at our next breakfast meeting.

Speaking of the breakfast meetings, you all will be happy to know I have found a new team of volunteers to provide breakfast for these Saturday mornings. Starting in November, please feel free to once again attend hungry!

There are also new office volunteers to join the pros who have been keeping HQ open Monday through Friday. There is always room on the substitute list, so consider signing up. And the next time you stop in the office, please be sure to thank these dedicated folks who are (literally) keeping the lights on for the GCDP. Remember to check the GCDP website calendar for additional volunteer opportunities. We are currently looking for poll watchers for the November 5 election. You can contact me melissa.eve.bernardi@gmail.com and I'll give you the details.

There are also campaigns needing help for the Greenville City Council candidates (Everything you need to know about the upcoming election is on Page 5). If you have never knocked on doors or phoned a voter on behalf of a candidate, now is the time to find out how great it feels to be part of something so important, and to know every voter contact you make strengthens our presence in the community.

And if you are waiting to get involved in the 2020 presidential race, consider brushing up on your skills with what are arguably equally important local political races. Our local elected officials affect our lives directly every single day.

Can you tell I have a campaign field background? Field is what wins elections. Field is what gets out the vote. And field, most of all, gives you power over the nuttiness of our times. I hope I can inspire all of you to find your place here in the GCDP. I promise you'll love it!

Donate used plastic bags to help feed neighbors in need

Looking for something to do with those plastic grocery bags? The Harvest Hope Food Bank uses more than 4,000 bags a day for sorting and bagging products in its emergency food pantry.

The organization is asking for donations of used plastic bags or for supporters to host a "plastic bag drive" in their communities. Bags can be dropped off at any of these locations:

- Harvest Hope Food Bank, 2818 White Horse Road, Greenville
- Ashley Harper: Allstate Insurance, 1004 W. Georgia Road, Suite A, Simpsonville
- Shannon Harvey: Allstate Insurance, 16 Berryblue Court, Simpsonville

Thank you for helping us feed our neighbors! If you have any questions, please call 864-281-3995.



STRIKE

September 20

Two to three hundred climate warriors in the Upstate joined four million others around the world to demand their countries act immediately to stem the impact of global climate change.

Greenville's event at City Hall Plaza was one of more than 2,500 events scheduled in over 163 countries on all seven continents.

Protestors heard a stream of speakers – some with stats, some with passionate calls to action, some with both – over several hours on a sweltering hot afternoon. The event was organized locally by The Climate Reality Project of the Upstate. Follow them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ClimateRealityUpstateSC>.

Despite the massive global turnout, the following UN Climate Summit ended with no major commitments and a deafening silence from the US.



All photos courtesy of Nadia Land-Greene



2020 SC African-American History Calendar released

Councilwoman Xanthene Norris is the September calendar girl



Mrs. Xanthene Norris, Greenville County councilwoman, education advocate, and diplomatic community leader, has been honored this year with inclusion in the annual South Carolina African American History Calendar.

Published since 1989, the calendar is a publication of the state Department of Education with support from community and corporate partners. It recognizes and highlights African Americans in South Carolina who have had a lasting impact on the state and the nation.

Councilwoman Norris's write up in the calendar attributes Greenville County's finally adopting and observing Martin Luther King Day to "her diplomacy, initiative and determination..." It also notes her "exemplary career of public service and civic engagement."

The calendar is printed and distributed to schools and organizations throughout the state. It is used as a tool to educate students on the accomplishments of African Americans in the state and to serve as an inspiration to future leaders. Councilwoman Norris (September) and the 11 other honorees - Vivan Ayers Allen, Reuben Bookert, Mignon Clyburn, Richard Fields, Benjamin James Glover, James Hall, Roy Jones, Joe Neal, George Rogers, Nathaniel and Viola Stewart, and The Taylor Family - were recognized at an event last week in Columbia.

A PDF of the calendar can be downloaded here: <http://bit.ly/African-American-calendar-2020>



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:
www.greenvilledemocrats.com/marketplace-order

Questions? Email
brayads@greenvilledemocrats.com

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Voter Protection Chair

LAURA HAIGHT

Communications Coordinator

September Contributors

Thanks to those who contributed to the GCDP in September: Jonathan Addelsen, Ron Cowen, Cynthia Gibson, Kinard Johnson, Anita LeBold, Starla Taylor, and Regina Waldrep.

We welcome your one-time or recurring donations on our website. <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/greenville-county-democratic-party-1>

Also, special thanks to Deb Drucker, who recently hosted the most successful GCDP Circle Dinner to date! The following contributed: Charlotte Abrams, Julie Larson, Leslee O'Kelly, Susan Stewart, Carol Toth, Ted Volskay. A Democratic Circle Dinner, is a fun, low-key way to raise money and increase awareness for the GCDP. For more information, please contact Anita LeBold at 864.325.8540 or anitalebald@hotmail.com.

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

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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.