

THE BRAY

The latest news and updates from the Greenville County Democratic Party



Victories in City Council election signs of Democratic progress

BY KATE FRANCH

CHAIR, GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY



As we welcome another holiday season, we have much to celebrate. Dorothy Dowe and Ken Gibson won their races for seats on Greenville City Council last month and regained a Democratic majority at a critical juncture in Greenville's history. We thank Dorothy, Ken, and Matt Johnson for running dynamic campaigns focused on ensuring neighborhoods and the needs of all of Greenville's citizens are prioritized, and they have a voice at the table.

Their hard work and determination, including leading committed volunteers in engaging voters all over the city, resulted in an impressive (for a municipal election) 18.2 percent overall turnout.

IN THIS ISSUE

Calendar 3

What we've been doing 6

Putting fun in fundraising 8

Continued on page 2

Victories (continued)

Turnout in a third of the city's precincts exceeded 20 percent, with one precinct reaching a noteworthy 33.7 percent.

What can we glean from these results? For one thing, voters want leaders who will ask the right questions and work for the people. Secondly, if we look at the shift in voting trends to the blue side over the past several election cycles, we see again that there are no shortcuts to building electoral support. Taking our Democratic agenda and solutions directly to constituents results in an increase in participation and Democratic votes. We are making steady progress toward flipping seats all over the county. Yes, achieving widespread Democratic victories will require continued diligent work, consistent concentration on long-term goals, and money, but the road has become less steep with each election.

Congratulations to Dorothy and Ken for their victories, and to Matt for running a heartfelt and meaningful race. Being able to enact Democratic values and priorities begins with having passionate, adept, willing individuals step up to campaign for elected office. It also requires supporters willing to volunteer their time and energy. So, we celebrate everyone involved in this "blue village" – candidates and campaign teams and volunteers alike. We can't do it without you.

We also celebrate the inspiring life and legacy of a true Greenville champion, Senator Ralph Anderson. With his passing, we have lost a genuine public servant and much admired and loved man of the people. Senator Anderson exemplified grace, confidence, generosity, and compassion. His soft-spoken demeanor belied a heart and spirit determined to create a better world for everyone. We are deeply grateful for the many ways, large and small, he accomplished change that bent our communities toward justice and fairness.

What can we learn from Senator Anderson's legacy? That seeking to empower others is a worthy calling. That building bridges generates trust and respect, which, in turn, can bring lasting change. That the grassroots work of creating an inclusive and equitable Greenville has been underway and led by community leaders, many of them unsung, for much longer than most of us have been here. We should seek to know and treasure their stories, their experience, and their wisdom.

And, one final takeaway, that we shouldn't be too quick to shy away from taking on "the other side" – his SC Senate win in 1997 was the first time a Democrat had defeated a Republican incumbent in District 7. We can't win if we don't run. Senator Anderson showed us the difference we can make when we stay true to our values and to our fellow citizens.

I wish you joyful holidays with loved ones and friends, and look forward to working with you in 2020 to enlarge our "blue village"!

In solidarity,
Kate

Get involved with a candidate

With just about 80 days to the South Carolina Democratic Presidential primary, things will be heating up. Several candidates have established offices in the Upstate. More will increase their presence here. If you want to get active, there are a lot of options. Here are links to candidate canvassing, phone banking, get togethers, and meetups that are currently in the [GCDP calendar](#).

<https://greenvilledemocrats.com/tag/elizabeth-warren/>

<https://greenvilledemocrats.com/tag/bernie-sanders/>

<https://greenvilledemocrats.com/tag/pete-buttigieg/>

<https://greenvilledemocrats.com/tag/tom-steyer/>

<https://greenvilledemocrats.com/tag/cory-booker/>

Calendar of Events

December

13 SCDP Holidazzle, 7 PM–9 PM, Greenville Convention Center, 1 Exposition Dr., Greenville, 29607. Celebrate the holidays! [Tickets](#) online. \$75.

14 The 2019 John Spratt Issues Conference, Greenville Convention Center, 1 Exposition Dr., Greenville, 29607. Registration 8 AM; Conference starts 9 AM. Dems from across the state come together as a party to address the obstacles and capitalize on the opportunities we have. Tickets available online. \$20.

18 GCDP Executive Committee Meeting, 6:30 PM–8:30 PM, Hughes Main Library, 25 Heritage Green Pl, Greenville, 29601. The county executive committee meets to address party business. The meeting is open to the public.

January

13 Greenville Legislative Delegation Q1 Meeting, County Council Chambers, Greenville County Square, 301 University Ridge, Greenville, 29601. 5:30 PM. [Agendas and more information](#).

14 123rd South Carolina General Assembly resumes. SC State House, 1100 Gervais St., Columbia 29201. [Track legislative action at SC Legislature online](#).

25 January monthly GCDP breakfast meeting, Upstate Circle of Friends, 29 Ridgeway Dr., Greenville, 29605. 8:30 AM. (**Note:** There will not be a December meeting).

28 Legislative Kickoff, 701 Whaley St., Columbia. 6 PM. Mix and mingle with Democratic legislators and fellow constituents to kick off the 2020 legislative term. Hosted by the Charleston County, Greenville County, and Richland County Democratic Parties. [More information](#).

29 Legislative Lobbying Day, State House, 1100 Gervais St., Columbia, 29201. Join with fellow Democrats to learn about effective lobbying, then meet with state legislators in support of legislative priorities. [More Information](#).

February

27 Tastings on the Town, Hyatt Place Hotel, 128 Broad St., Greenville, 29601. 6:30 PM. Sponsorships available by emailing c_urbina@charter.net. Information, tickets and host options available online.

29 South Carolina Democratic Presidential Preference Primary.

Save the Date

March 10. Countywide Special Election for Greenville County Sheriff.

March 14. Statewide Democratic Party precinct reorganization meetings,, 10 AM.

March 30. Greenville County Democratic Party Convention.

News from the SC Democratic Party

The South Carolina Democratic Party Executive Committee met in Columbia on October 19, 2019. Prior to the Committee meeting, the Executive Council met to approve the purchase of a 3,022 square-foot building to serve as state party headquarters at 1929 Gadsden St. in the Arsenal Hill neighborhood of Columbia, near the Governor's mansion. The estimated monthly expenses, including mortgage payment, would be about the same as the party's current rent payment for the Lady St. headquarters in the Vista. The purchase will include a nearby lot. The Executive Council also approved exploring the purchase of another adjacent lot to allow for future growth. The Executive Council is considering a capital campaign in order to pay off the property at an accelerated rate.

Preparations are underway for the next SCDP convention. Precinct meetings all around the state will happen on March 14, 2020 at 10 a.m. Locations will be announced at a later date. County conventions will occur between March 14, 2020 and March 31, 2020. The date and time for Greenville County will be decided by November 1, 2019. Be on the lookout for details. The date and time for the state convention is also forthcoming.

The Spratt Issues Conference has been moved to December 13 and 14, 2019. There will be a fundraising event the night before. More details to come concerning speakers and special guests. An executive committee meeting originally scheduled for the same weekend has been moved to a date to be determined.

The state party will unveil a new website design in the next month. The state party has also partnered with Mobilize America and the Action Network to create a better interface between the website, the events calendar, and a variety of email lists in order to target districts more effectively. Be sure to check out scdp.org for the latest happenings.

Emerge SC launches scholarship honoring Liz Patterson

BY DIANE SMOCK

All Democrats in South Carolina, especially those of us in the 4th Congressional District, owe a huge debt of thanks to the life and legacy of the Hon. Liz Patterson. Liz was the first – and is still the only – woman elected to Congress from South Carolina in her own right. She dedicated her life to lifting up other women, through mentoring and encouragement.

Many years ago, when I first ran for elective office, Liz was the only female role model I had and she guided and cheered me on from our first conversation and throughout my campaigns.

I wanted to honor Liz's memory and continue her work to recruit and support Democratic women candidates for office. I am happy to announce that Emerge SC has agreed to house the Liz Patterson Memorial Fund & Scholarship. The fund provides assistance to emerging women leaders who are members of the Emerge political training program. Founders of the fund believe that the program's cost should not be a barrier to any woman who wishes to participate. By donating to the fund, you enable Emerge South Carolina to provide scholarships to women to assist with travel, childcare, and other expenses related to the cost of participation in the program. Detailed information and donations can be made at <https://sc.emergeamerica.org/liz-patterson-fund>

Short takes

GCDP Huddle supports the Festival of Life

The Huddle will donate to and volunteer at the Allen Temple AME Church Festival of Life on Saturday, January 25, 2020.

Donations can be made for the Greenville County homeless population including new hats, scarves, blankets, gloves, mittens, socks, and jackets or coats as well as non-perishable food items (for example, canned goods) and toiletries (feminine supplies, toilet paper, travel-sized toothpaste and toothbrushes, soap, hand sanitizer, shampoo, and conditioner).

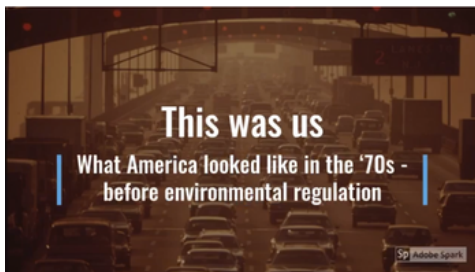
The GCDP Huddle is a service organization that works to improve the lives of the people of Greenville County by listening to, connecting with, and offering labor, expertise, and support for our neighbors. We lend our shoulders, knowledge, and hearts, not just at election time, but all of the time, because we want to show that Democrats Care. Its members and donors are the in-person representatives of the vision, values, and priorities of the Greenville County Democratic Party come to life in our neighborhoods and community. Our unofficial motto is “How can we help?”

To volunteer or for more information, contact 2nd Vice Chair and Huddle Coordinator Whitney Wright at whitney.wrightsc@gmail.com.

What are you doing with that \$50?

Most SC taxpayers got a \$50 check in the mail recently. That's your share of a \$61 million windfall the state received when an anonymous winner won the largest lottery jackpot ever – \$1.5 billion – with a lottery ticket purchased here. Lee Turner, president of Democratic Women of Greenville County, thinks the state should have used the windfall to address one of the state's many serious problems – education. She's started a movement to get individuals to donate their \$50 to local schools. Its gaining traction and publicity. [Learn more on our blog.](#)

ICYMI: New things on the GCDP website



This was US: Take a look back at America before the EPA. We've put together a short video of photos taken by the EPA's Documerica project that shows a dark and unhealthy country that anyone under 50 probably doesn't remember. It's worth taking 2.5 minutes to remind ourselves that the regulations that the Trump administration is quickly eliminating exist for very real and very important reasons. These changes threaten to take us back to a very dangerous past. [Watch now.](#)

The week in impeachment: We added a new page to the website where we're posting our weekly infosheet on the events of the week in impeachment. We are watching and reading all of the impeachment news and culling the key takeaways. So, you can find out what mattered without having to be glued to the TV or news sites for eight hours a day. We publish a new edition on Saturday, usually by 2 p.m. You can also sign up to have it emailed to you each week as soon as it's released. [Check it out.](#)

WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING

In Photos



As a community, we have a lot to be thankful for and Gratefull GVL gave us the chance to share that feeling with our fellow citizens. We hope this is the start of a Thanksgiving tradition!



Dorothy Dowe, **right**, was elected to the at-large seat on the Greenville City Council, flipping control to the Democrats for the first time in many years. **Below**, a reprise of the Climate Strike in November.



Three coalitions got to work to find, register and activate voters.

Below, members of the Democratic Black Caucus of Greenville, phone banked with the dual goal of getting out the vote for Dorothy, Matt, and reaching lapsed voters.



A group of Greenville Dems got on the bus in October to join Trump protestors from around the state in Columbia. The president was on hand for a criminal justice conference. There were some tense moments, but the Trumpers were no match for these determined protestors.

Photos courtesy of Lee Turner, Laura Haight, the GCDP, Dorothy Dowe campaign, and Gratefull GVL.

Ready to lead? State boards need you



BY ROXANNE CORDONIER

SC Women in Leadership, a group of bi-partisan women working together to create communities of collaboration and civility, recently kicked off an effort to encourage more women to consider serving on state boards and commissions. WIL also wanted to make it easier for candidates to identify and apply for vacancies.

While women make up 51.5 percent of the population in South Carolina, only 15.9 percent are serving in state government, placing South Carolina in the bottom 10 states in electing women to state legislatures or appointing them to state posts.

The Gubernatorial Appointments Project or GAP works to recruit women of all backgrounds and perspectives for statewide leadership positions, guide them through the application process, and then deliver potential candidates to the governor's office as openings arise. (This project is inspired by a similar one in Massachusetts that began under then-Governor Mitt Romney.)

The Women in Leadership program is helmed by Melinda Davis Lux, a Greenville corporate and M&A attorney with Womble Bond Dickinson, and Candace Shriver, of Columbia and managing partner of the Shriver Law Firm.

A [website](#) has been set up to provide an easy link to all available openings on boards and commissions, how one can apply, and many more details on the process.

Most seats on state boards and commissions don't require confirmation by the state senate. More than 900 seats or expiring terms are appointed by the governor. Legislative delegations can also select nominees for available positions.

Get your name on the impeachment flash mob list

Moveon.org is gathering names of protesters who want to be part of a nationwide mobilization of voters on the eve of the US House's historic vote on impeaching Donald Trump. The goal is to have millions of people willing and ready to go on a moment's notice to join a rally in their town square or in front of local legislative offices. Get your name on the list by [signing up online](#). A rally at Greenville City Hall is in the planning stages.

Do you have a story to tell?

We welcome your submissions to The Bray. If you're involved in an organization and are having an event, [please submit them to our website calendar](#). That is the source for inclusion in The Bray calendar as well.

Have a bigger story? We'll consider it for inclusion in an upcoming edition. Please submit your content and photos via email to thebray@greenvilledemocrats.com. Not all submissions will be included. All submissions will be edited for clarity and length. Please include your email address and phone number, so we can contact you if we have any questions.

If you are at a local event and have photos you'd like us to consider including on our website, social media, or in The Bray, email them to us in their original size to thebray@greenvilledemocrats.com. Please include caption information.

Deadline for the next edition (January) is **Jan. 7, 2020**

Fundraising is fun and easy with Circle Dinners

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

BY COREY URBINA

GCDP Circle Dinners prove the point that fundraising can be both fun and easy! All it takes is inviting friends and acquaintances over to your house, providing food and drinks, and asking people to give what they can.

Recent Circle Dinner hosts discovered that breaking bread together, good conversation, and laughter weren't the only benefits of their efforts: The combined total of four separate dinners raised \$2,275 for the GCDP and \$825 for Democratic Women, recruited two new volunteers and introduced several newcomers to the GCDP.

The beauty of Circle Dinners is that they can run the gamut from elaborate sit-downs to after-work happy hours. Steve Price and Scott Turner grilled hamburgers and hot dogs and served craft beer in their backyard for 10 guests, including their millennial next-door neighbors.



Linda Derector served cocktails in her garden followed by a sumptuous South American meal of seafood stew and black rice. The fact that some guests were not well acquainted did not diminish the group's good chemistry and spirited conversation.

Francine Hachem's October dinner was a joint GCDP and Democratic Women undertaking. Guests were treated to assorted food and drinks, speeches, and entertainment by a jazz singer. Deb Drucker and her husband, Steve, graciously opened their

home to 13 guests to celebrate Rosh Hashanah. Everyone exchanged conversation around the Drucker's dining table and feasted on a delicious traditional meal of brisket, green beans, challah, kugel, and honey cake prepared by Steve. Circle Dinners generate positivity and dollars to continue the work of the GCDP. Will you consider holding a dinner of your own? Contact Anita LeBold anitalebald@hotmail.com to sign-up. Thanks for sharing the love.

Tastings on the Town 2020 set for February 27



The theme for Tastings on the Town (TOTT) 2020 is Simply Southern and it will take place at the Hyatt Place Hotel Downtown on February 27, 2020 at 6:30 pm, two days before the SC Democratic Presidential Preference Primary. Always a lively affair, TOTT brings together Democrats for food, conversation, and a common purpose. This year, Kelly Jo Ramirez and her musical group Phat Lip will entertain guests with what NPR calls a "potent mix of soulful blues, Latin roots rhythm, and moody pop." Individual tickets cost \$75 and gold, silver, and bronze host tickets are available as well as business sponsorships.

Tickets and more information are available online (<http://tastings2020.eventbrite.com>). Tickets for this premier fundraiser will go fast. For information on becoming a sponsor of this year's event or to pay by check, contact Corey Urbina, c_urbina@charter.net.

Can you be a 10 percenter

Last week, #GivingTuesday kicked off the biggest charitable giving season of the year. We know that all of you have many organizations you support or would like to. And we'd like to ask you to include the GCDP on that list. The GCDP is all volunteer from top to bottom and receives no funding from the state or national Democratic Party. We are fueled wholly by your donations.

We are a community organization doing important work. We fight for better schools and safer streets, for expanded public transportation, for legislation that helps prevent gun violence, for women's reproductive rights and gender equality, for a cleaner environment and a sustainable world, for affordable healthcare accessible to all. We do this by identifying and supporting candidates who will fight in city councils, county council, the State House and Congress for the values we, as Democrats, believe in. And we are making progress.

So during this giving season, while you are supporting multiple candidates and charities, set aside 10 percent to fuel the GCDP's efforts to elect all the Democratic candidates in Greenville County -- up and down the ballot -- and improve our lives and our communities.



The retailers and service providers below are Democrats who are supporting the work of the party with these ads. We encourage you to explore these companies. Want to see your business's ad here? [Complete the order form at www.greenvilledemocrats.com/marketplace-order](http://www.greenvilledemocrats.com/marketplace-order). The deadline for the submissions for the next Bray is: **Jan. 7**.



Greenville Ballet School | Greenville's best dance training for students 4 to 18 years old. Used to dance? Join our weekly Adult Ballet class. Contact [Andrew](#) and Merry Kuharsky, directors



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](#).



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October Contributors

Thanks to those who contributed to the GCDP in October: Ron Cowen, Cynthia Gibson, Laura Haight, John Hester, Gayle Hewitt, Woodrow Hill, Andrew and Merry Kuharsky (check out their ad in our MarketPlace section of The Bray), Kinard Johnson, Anita LeBold, Lucia Messina, Ashley Mullinex, Starla Taylor, Shawn Trapp, Regina Waldrep, Jarrod Wiggins.

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

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.