

THE BRAY

the voice of the
GCDP
GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

The latest news and updates from the Greenville County Democratic Party



New City of Greenville councilors Dorothy Dowe (at-large) and Ken Gibson (District 3) were sworn in by former SC Governor and US Secretary of Education Richard Riley on December 9. Their election flipped the City Council blue for the first time in many years.

IN THIS ISSUE

Calendar	3
Paul Guy for Sheriff	5
Emerge Class 2020	8
Handling Social Media	10

The year we've been waiting for kicks off. Are you ready?

BY KATE FRANCH

CHAIR, GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY



2020. It's here. Happy New Year! Will it be a happy BLUE year? We are already off to a momentous start with an impeachment trial on tap, the abrupt breakdown of relations in the Middle East, and a local special election for sheriff. 2020 promises to be an exciting, probably exasperating at times, eventful month-by-month trek to November. There will be any number of ways for you to be involved - to make a difference - beginning now. It's not hyperbole to say that everyone will be needed in order to achieve the outcomes we have been dreaming

Continued on next page

2020 kicks off (continued)

What you can do to get us there:

DONATE. I list this first because the scope of how much more the GCDP can do will be defined by the money in the bank. Our communications outreach, precinct development, and candidate recruitment and support are poised to move to expanded and far more effective levels with discretionary funding. [Donating just 10 percent of what you'll give to candidates in the attention-getting races to the GCDP](#) means more voters activated in Greenville County and seats flipped. Green and Blue are integrally related after all. [Do it now.](#)

VOTE. Every time you can this year – February 29, March 10, June 9, November 3. (There is a possibility of yet another special election in Greenville County before November – to replace Rep. Bobby Cox who was named in late December to lead the state's new Veterans Affairs Department.) Take one or two or three people with you when you vote. Our candidates might not always win, but they definitely can't if we don't show up. Moreover, our turnout always sends a message about our values and our engagement. [Check whether your polling place has changed for the Feb 29 and Mar 10 elections.](#)

Be sure you're registered and that your registration is up-to-date by checking on [scvotes.org](#).

REGISTER new voters and ACTIVATE lapsed ones. So many groups are registering voters. Choose one and give a few hours to help empower more voices. The [Greenville County Democratic Black Caucus](#) canvasses lapsed voters every Saturday – join them at headquarters between 11 and 3. Help your precinct officers with reaching out to and connecting with your Democratic neighbors. We're building strength through numbers.

Who's registering voters?

GCDP

High School Dems

League of Women Voters

NAACP

COVE

POLL WATCH. [We need your assistance to protect the vote every Election Day.](#) The sheriff's election on March 10 is a particularly important one. You can work a half or a full day. Our goal is to be able to assign a poll watcher in every polling place by the November election. There's no better time than the present to start. Training/support will be provided.

GET INVOLVED with your precinct on March 14. (And encourage your friends, neighbors, co-workers to do the same.) Democrats in Greenville County will gather that Saturday to discuss issues important to you (they become resolutions to the Party platform) and elect neighborhood leadership. See story on Page 9. If you haven't been to a precinct meeting, try it. You'll be delighted to see who shows up and get some questions answered. Consider being a precinct leader. The precinct is the heart of the Party and, frankly, where winning begins . . . with voter engagement, which can be as simple as helping your neighbors learn that they are not alone. Being an officer will not be overly demanding, but a bigger team will make more connections possible. Many hands make light work, as they say. [Learn more about precincts and stay in touch with activities on the GCDP website.](#)

I'm mixing metaphors to some degree, but in the serendipitous circle that is life, every January we begin the new year with honoring the indelible and aspirational legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. His insistence that "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice" – intended, I'm sure, to keep us hopeful and unequivocally committed to the cause – could not be more relevant nor demanding than it is now. I have these words pinned to my bathroom mirror so that I will start every day with clear focus. Knowing that you and I are working together, in community, also inspires me to keep the faith. Thank you! I look forward to boldly, intentionally continuing the shift to a bluer Greenville County.

In solidarity,
Kate

Calendar of Events

January

Last Day to Register to Vote in Presidential Primary

30

January 30 is the last day to register if you want to vote in the February 29th presidential preference primary. It won't hurt to take a minute at scvotes.org to check that your existing registration is accurate and up-to-date.

Also on this day, absentee voting in person begins. Election Office, 301 University Ridge, Conference Rooms A and B. Hours: 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM; Extended hours: Saturday 2/22 9 AM to 1 PM; and Thursday 2/27 from 8:30 AM to 7 PM

25

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

27

Greenville Legislative Delegation meeting, 5:30 PM, Greenville County Council chambers, Greenville County Square.

28

Legislative Lobbying Day at the State House, Columbia. Hosted by the Charleston County, Greenville County, and Richland County Democratic Parties. Blatt Building, RM 321, 10 AM-1PM. [Learn more.](#)

A Lobbying Day reception is planned at 701 Whaley St., Columbia. 6 PM. [Sign up to participate in Lobbying Day and attend the reception.](#)

30

The Case for Medicare for All, Furman University, Johns 101 Lecture Hall, 7-8:30 PM <https://www.facebook.com/events/580563392783427/>

February

01

Democratic Women's coffee meetup (Simpsonville), Panera Bread, 708 Fairview Rd. Publix/Hobby Lobby shopping center, 9-10:30 AM.

08

Democratic Women's coffee meetup (Greenville), Old Europe Coffee and Dessert, 716 S. Main St., Greenville. 9-10:30 AM.

02

Greenville Huddle monthly meeting, 2 PM, GCDP HQ, 1300 J, E. Washington St. Greenville.

10

Democratic Women of Greenville County monthly meeting, West End Community Development Center, 404 Vardry St., Greenville, 29601, 12:15-1:30 PM.

05

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

10

Absentee voting in person begins. for Sheriff's General Election. Hours: 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM; Extended hours: 2/27 and 2/29 from 9 AM to 1 PM; and 3/7 from 9 AM to 1 PM

06

GCDP Executive Committee Meeting, 7 PM, Anderson Road Library.

12

New voting system demonstration, 6:30 PM, St. Giles Presbyterian Church, 1021 Hudson St., Greenville.

Continued on next page

Calendar of Events

February (continued)

15

Democratic Women's coffee meetup (N. Greenville), Atlanta Bread, Cherrydale, 29609, 10-11:30 AM.

15

Democratic Women's coffee meetup (Eastside), A&P Restaurant, 1526 SC Hwy. 14, Greer, 29650 2 PM-3:30 PM

18

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense monthly meeting, Triune Mercy Center, 222 Rutherford Rd., Greenville, 29601, 7-8 PM.

22

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

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. 7 AM to 7 PM

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.

May 30. South Carolina Democratic Party Convention

Guy sees greater citizen involvement in sheriff's office

BY LAURA HAIGHT

Former Greenville County Sheriff's Officer Sergeant Paul Guy is the only Democrat running for sheriff and will face off on March 10 against Hobart Lewis.

Guy wants to be the "people's Sheriff," vowing greater transparency and community involvement. He pledges to create a Citizen Review Board to hold the Sheriff's office accountable.

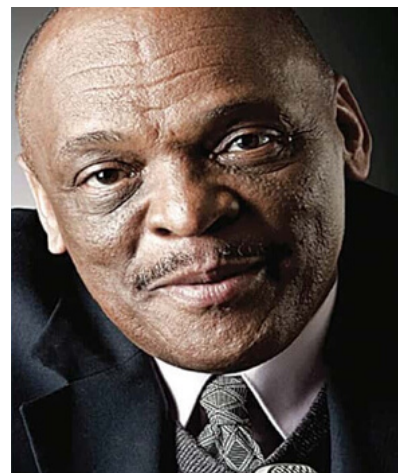
After being terminated from the Sheriff's department in 1999, Paul Guy became a community activist. He founded Race Matters, which according to his website is a coalition of community agencies including PRISMA Health, Furman University and Greenville Forward to study race relations in Greenville County. Guy also created a youth conflict initiative designed to decrease the levels of violence in our schools and

community. Guy advocated for intervention strategies that define violence as a health issue not a law enforcement issue.

Guy is a graduate of Berea College and the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy.

He advocates for intelligence-led policing connecting strategic intelligence analysis with the core principles of community policing to solve problems and create public value in neighborhoods. The intelligence-led approach employs the precepts of community policing: accountability, transparency, impartiality and clear communication. As sheriff, Guy would establish an external grievance policy process and would give deputies more of a say in establishing new policies and procedures.

For more information on Paul Guy or to donate to his campaign <http://paulguyforsheriff.com/>



Experience Tastings on the Town 2020

BY COREEN URBINA

Tastings on the Town (TOTT) is the perfect way to usher in the SC Democratic Presidential Preference Primary by bringing Democrats together for an evening of great food, conversation, and a common purpose. This year's event will take place on February 27 at 6:30 pm at Hyatt Place Hotel Downtown, 128 East Broad St.

The event will feature southern food, musical entertainment by area musical group Phat Lip, and a silent auction. Some of the exciting auction items include a Greenville getaway hotel and dining package, a live recording session at a leading Nashville studio plus tickets to The Grand Old Opry with backstage passes, and dinner for 10 persons at Cazbah tapas restaurant and wine bar in downtown Greenville.

Will you help make the third year of this premier fundraising event a huge success by becoming a Gold (\$1,000 - 3 tickets, drinks, parking), Silver (\$500 - 2 tickets drinks, parking) or Bronze (ticket, drinks) host or a sponsor? For more information on both host and sponsor options, please contact Corey Urbina at 202-236-7939, c_urbina@charter.net.

Individual tickets to TOTT cost \$75 (cash bar) or \$50 if you are an existing Young Dem member or would like to become one. Tickets are selling fast, so **[purchase yours now](#)**.

Thank you for joining your Democratic friends in support of GCDP and celebrating our roots and accomplishments. See you there!

WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING

Winter 2019



The South Carolina Democratic Party brought its annual issues conference to Greenville in December. Coupled with the Holidazzle - the SCDP's holiday party - that made for a good event for local and statewide Dems to kickoff 2020!



Impeachment Eve rally drew a big crowd downtown, joining hundreds of thousands of ralliers around the US.



Lifelong Dem donates Kennedy/Johnson memorabilia to GCDP

Allen Grumbine recently donated a shadowbox of 1960 campaign memorabilia on JFK and LBJ to the GCDP. It is displayed in our office. We called Allen to find out more. Here's what he told us.

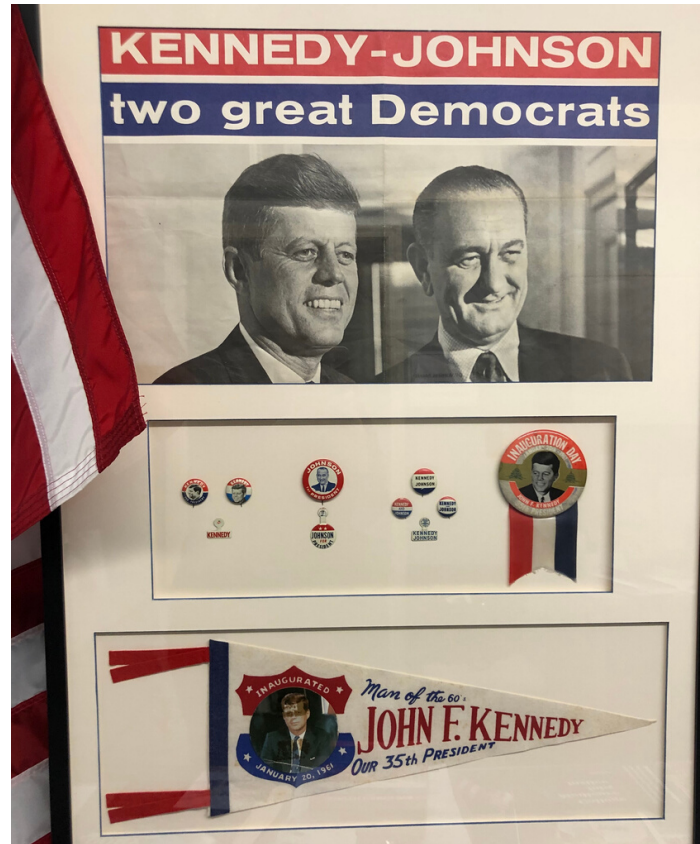
BY LAURA HAIGHT

Ten-year-old Allen Grumbine was completing a school assignment in February of 1960 when he wrote to the Lyndon Johnson and John F. Kennedy campaigns for some campaign literature.

He ticks off the Democratic candidates for president in 1960 – a roll call of giants of political history: LBJ, JFK, Stu Symington, Hubert Humphrey, Stuart Udall.

The assignment was to write to a campaign for literature and to deliver a report in front of the class about what you found out about the candidate.

Allen wrote to both JFK and LBJ, receiving an autographed photo of the future president in his packet. It would not be the last bit of political memorabilia he would collect.



Although that was homework, Allen had already had a pretty good grounding in politics at home. “My parents would talk about politics and current events at the dinner table,” Allen remembers. They “thought a lot about Kennedy as a senator” he recalls, and his grandmother “hated Nixon. She thought he was a crook.”

His Democratic parents liked Kennedy, but they thought his religion – Catholic – would keep him from being elected. Growing up, Allen had a front-row seat to history that included living in Montgomery, AL, during the Rev. Martin Luther King’s rise to prominence, working for the Johnson campaign in 1964, and being in law school (Vanderbilt) during the Nixon impeachment. “It was an interesting time to come through.”

Forty years later, Allen, now a Greenville resident and retired attorney and managing partner of Womble Carlysle, remembers that fifth grade teacher (“she was a great teacher”) with a wistful sense of loss. “We haven’t had that in a long time,” he says, “and that has consequences.”

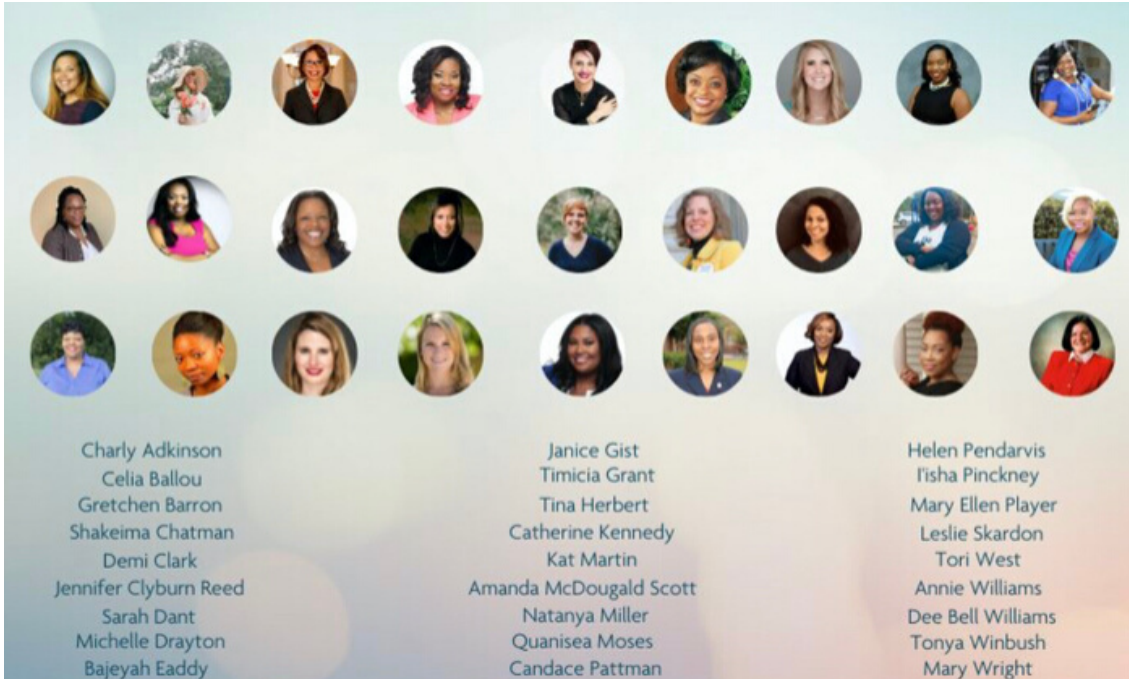
“I grew up with a decent understanding of the Constitution and how it worked,” he notes, lamenting that we don’t have those same levels of knowledge today. Looking at our fractured politics, he suggests: “We may be better off that this has happened and has been called out.”

Recently, Allen was cleaning out his house and came across some of the political remembrances of his youth. Some things he could not part with – like the autographed picture of JFK. But he wanted the JFK-LBJ shadowbox to find a real home. “Maybe our day will come again,” he says. “I wanted it to be somewhere it would be appreciated.”

Five Greenville Women Earn Spots in Emerge Class of 2020

BY LAURA HAIGHT

Emerge SC has named its largest and most diverse class of future leaders for 2020. We are thrilled to have five Greenville women in this group. They are: Sarah Dant, Bajeyah Eaddy, Timicia Grant, Amanda McDougald Scott, and Mary Wright.



We also want to add a shout out to the two Spartanburg members of the class: Helen Pendarvis and Janice Gist.

Emerge America began in 2002 with a goal of identifying, training, and assisting Democratic women from diverse backgrounds to run – and win – on the local, state, and federal level. Now operating in 29 states, Emerge has a national network it can leverage to support candidates across the country.

The signature training program is an in-depth six-month, 70-hour immersion that covers public speaking and communication, fundraising, media and messaging, networking, campaign strategy, field operations, labor and endorsements, technology and new media, cultural competency, and ethical leadership. Graduates are armed with tools, tactics, strategies and a national organization to give them all they need to run confidently – and win!

Dorothy Dowe, a 2018 Emerge graduate, was elected to the Greenville City Council in 2019. The 2019 graduates from Greenville were: Adriene Atkinson, Tina Belge, Thomasina Gary, and Kim Nelson, who is currently running for SC-4, the congressional seat currently held by William Timmons.

Congratulations, ladies. Go change the world!

Make a difference by getting involved with your local precinct

By Laura Haight

On March 14, Democrats across the county will converge in libraries, schools, and community centers to reconnect, reorganize, and [select new precinct leaders](#).

Precincts are the smallest geographic political unit. Each one represents a group of about 2,000 residents and neighbors. There are 151 of them in Greenville County – the largest of all of the state’s counties. Learn more on the GCDP website.

Every two years, Republicans (in the odd years) and Democrats (in the even years) elect grassroots leaders who will organize, educate, activate, and engage voters in their local communities.

In 2018, the GCDP began to build a stronger, more robust precinct system. Today, we have more precincts with active leadership than ever before. We have created “precinct clusters” to provide more collaboration and sharing of information and efforts in geographically aligned areas. Precinct volunteers have been knocking on doors and calling voters in their community to support candidates, to ensure Democrats in their communities are registered to vote, and to increase awareness of the Party’s objectives.

Start by planning to attend your precinct reorganization meeting on March 14 from 10 AM to 12 PM. Locations will be announced soon, so stay connected.

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

[GCDP website](#)

CALL YOUR REPS

There is so much to be concerned about and reading the comments on social media shows the anger and frustration. But our US reps need to know you cared enough to call. Want a fair trial with witnesses, tell them. Or share your feelings about how the US should enter into a war.

Sen. Lindsey Graham

202-224-5972 (DC)
864-250-1417 (Upstate)

Sen. Tim Scott

(202) 224-6121 (DC)
(864) 233-5366 (Upstate)

Rep. Jeff Duncan (SC-3)

(202) 225-5301 (DC)
(864) 224-7401 (Anderson)

Rep. Wm. Timmons (SC-4)

(202) 225-6030 (DC)
(864) 241-0175 (Greenville)



Where do we draw the line on social media discourse?

By Laura Haight

Politics has taken all of the fun out of social media. It's hard to find the cute puppies, toddler birthday parties, and family reunions out there amongst all the memes and misinformation. And, yes, even factual news.

The GCDP believes that part of our job is educating and engaging our constituents on relevant news and analysis at the local, state and national level as well as county activities, elections, and programming.

A large component of our communications is social media – Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. In today's superheated political environment and because we are a political party, this has presented a new challenge: Handling negative comments that can range from opposing views to fake news to denigrating, nasty posts that have little to do with the issue on the table.

We have received a lot of notes from readers who wonder why we don't delete some of the negativity. Here's how we deal with this.

We monitor our social media accounts daily. We want to see what topics people are most interested in and the direction the comment-based conversation takes. This is significantly higher on Facebook than on Twitter or Instagram. So I'm going to focus there.

Although comments can often be angry, vitriolic, and uncomfortable, we are inclined to allow people to have their say. We are the Democratic Party and, as such, we stand for free speech, even – especially – when it is disagreeable and angering.

Even though this is our default position, there are three exceptions:

- When we see strongly negative comments or comments that support President Trump, other Republicans, or the Republican agenda without really addressing the topic in the thread, we look up the user. We have banned and reported several accounts that we believed were cut outs or fake accounts. There are a lot of those out there, so we have to be especially diligent to try to keep them out of our conversations. Legitimate users who post comments supportive of an individual or a position with which we disagree still deserve to be heard. We will not remove those.
- When users – even those we know to be legitimate – flood comments with a single-minded political message, we can ban or block. We have banned at least one user for doing this after contacting them repeatedly and asking them to stop, and also speaking to one of their connections and asking them to get the point across. When those efforts failed, we blocked the user.
- We think we all would benefit from a somewhat thicker skin to be effective in this environment, so we're not likely to delete comments or ban users who use salty language occasionally. But there are boundaries. We won't be a delivery mechanism for slander or libel. We won't allow violent language of hate against any individual or group or organization under any circumstances. We won't allow comments that use sexually explicit language.

Much of this is a judgment call. And what offends you might not meet our threshold. When we do act, you will notice only two dots (similar to an ellipse) that indicates a comment was removed.

If we're true to ourselves and our Party, you will not see many of them.

We encourage you to let us know if you see comments you think are offensive or posted by fake accounts. Contact us via messenger or email to gcdpcommse@greenvilledemocrats.com.

Short Takes



Courtney Thomas starts new gig with WREN

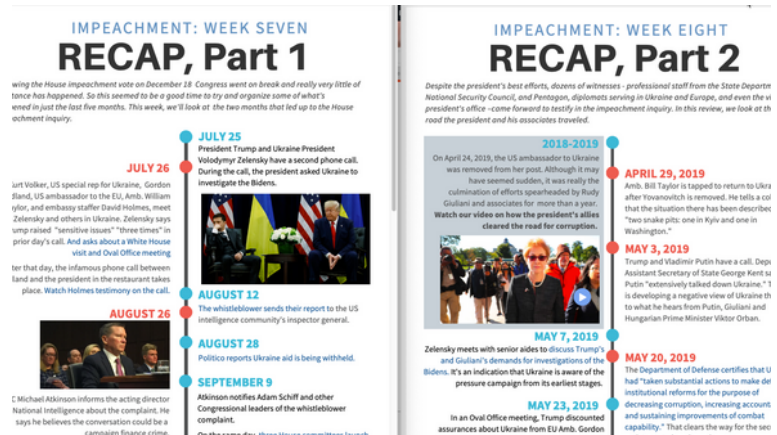
Courtney Thomas, Greenville, GCDP active volunteer, and previously WREN's Upstate Liaison, has started a new position as WREN's Director of Communications. She'll be based in Columbia, so we won't see Courtney around as much. For those who don't know, Courtney has been a key member of the GCDP's communications team, designing The Bray each month. That's a loss for us, but we're excited to see what she can do with this incredible organization.

Congratulate Courtney: Cthomas@scwren.org / (803)939-2192 *14
Check out what [WREN](#) is working on while you're at it.

Recapping impeachment

With the Senate trial heating up, you may need a refresher on the case against Donald Trump. We've got two recaps in our "This Week in Impeachment" series that can help. They include links to three videos we put together to focus in on three critical elements of the case: the phone calls, the smear campaign and alternate theories, and the coverup.

Visit our [This Week in Impeachment](#) page to view all our weekly infosheets or to get your name on the email list.



Have a story to tell or an event to promote?

The GCDP welcomes brief articles or notices of events for publication. Do you or an organization you're involved in have an item you'd like to see in The Bray? There are two ways you can get them to us: 1. All events should be submitted to the GCDP calendar. Events chosen for publication will be open to the public, of general interest, and take place in Greenville County; 2. For brief stories or photos of events of general interest, please email them to thebray@greenvilledemocrats.com. The deadline for content for the February Bray, which will publish on February 19, is February 4.

ADVERTISE WITH THE GCDP

Reach Dem shoppers and help the GCDP

Your ad will appear on our website as well as in The Bray.

Submit your logo and 25-word ad copy at: www.greenvilledemocrats.com/marketplace-order



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. The deadline for the submissions for the next Bray is: **February 4.**



G.A. Thompson Insurance | We are a provider of homeowners, auto, motorcycle, rental and landlord insurance. Our goal is to develop loyal relationships with our customers. Call Ann at 864-269-1061.



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](#).



Style Matters | We are a personal wardrobe styling business. Our mission is to offer you the tools you need to look and feel fabulous. www.stylemattersgreenville.com, 864-715-9727



Anita LeBold | Mortgage Loan officer, Union Home Mortgage Corp. Helping thousands of individuals and families experience the American dream of home ownership. NMLA #396283. Call 864.325.8540.

PARTY LEADERSHIP

KATE FRANCH

Greenville County Chair

JALEN ELROD

1st Vice Chair

WHITNEY WRIGHT

2nd Vice Chair

TINA BELGE

3rd Vice Chair

GAYBRIEL GIBSON

Secretary

ANITA LEBOLD

Treasurer

KATY LENTZ

State Executive Com. Delegate

CHRISTOPHER SHIPMAN

State Executive Com. Delegate

ROXANNE CORDONIER

State Executive Com. Alternate

CASS TYSON

State Executive Com. Alternate

JAKE ERWIN

Voter Protection Chair

LAURA HAIGHT

Communications Coordinator

Thank you, Nov-Dec Contributors

Jacquelyn Clement, Ron and Marcia Cowen, Jamie Fivecoat, Cynthia Gibson, Woodrow Hill, Carol Hallman, John Hester, Kinard Johnson, Jennifer Knox, Anita LeBold, Lucia Messina, Victoria Minetta (in memory of her mother Liz Walker), Ashley Newton, Xanthene Norris, Starla Taylor, Ann Thompson, Regina Waldrep.

2019 Yellow Dogs

We are grateful to all our 2019 Yellow Dog Democrats.

GOLD

Ron and Marcia Cowen, Democratic Women of Greenville County, Eric and Helen Graben

SILVER

Peggy Baxter, Tina Belge, Nancy Bender, Robby Brady, Paula Catterall, Harry Chapman, Edith Chou, Dale Farran, Kate Franch, Ann Funderburk, Laura Haight, Linda Hines, Philip Hodge, Frank and Anne Holleman, Jeanette Jacobs, Kinard Johnson, Steve Price, Patel Shalin, Diane Smock and Brad Wyche, Gaye and Joel Spargue, David Swearingen, Ann Thompson.

BRONZE

Leila Aziz, Arthur Campbell, Maurice and Sharon Cherry, Steve Evered, Anita LeBold, Ashley Mullinax, Susan Zeigler.

We welcome your one-time or recurring donations on our website.

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

YOU CAN MAKE MUCH-NEEDED DONATIONS IN PERSON, BY VISITING THE OFFICE, MAILING A CHECK, OR DONATING ONLINE 24X7 AT [GREENVILLEDEMOCRATS.COM/CONTRIBUTE](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/greenville-county-democratic-party-1).

GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

1300 E. WASHINGTON ST. #J

(864) 232-5531

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

