

THE BRAY

the voice of the
GCDP
GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

The latest news and updates from the Greenville County Democratic Party



The 3rd annual Womens' March was held across the country on January 18. Greenvillians awoke to unrelenting, cold rain. But still a couple of hundred grabbed their signs and umbrellas and showed up downtown. More on Page 7.

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Let's show our colors – blue – with highest turnout in presidential primary

BY KATE FRANCH

CHAIR, GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY



When you read this, we will be only days away from the beginning of South Carolina's [2020 First in the South Week](#). The media focus that is ramping up on an hourly basis as I write this will be fully trained on our state to see what Democrats – and Republicans – will do during the final push to the presidential preference primary on **February 29**. Our goal for this primary election should be the largest turnout ever. The message we send to the world must be that South Carolinians are ready, resolute, and up to the challenge in 2020.

Continued on page 2

Colors - continued

I hope that you're fired up and ready to go for the longer term, though, because next week simply kicks off a month+ of political activities that hold the promise of significantly furthering our efforts to build capacity and create change in Greenville County. Be sure to set reminders on your calendar for: **March 10** - special election for Greenville County Sheriff; **March 14** - GCDP/SCDP precinct reorganization; **March 16 to March 30** - candidate filing for seats on the November 2020 ballot; and **March 30** - GCDP county convention.

On March 10 (or now if you will absentee vote in-person or by mail), make the time to vote for Paul Guy for sheriff. We can turn local convention on its ear by electing a Democrat to the office but, more importantly, Paul is running on a platform that every Democrat should get behind. He and the team members he has already named want to overhaul the sheriff's department so that it becomes a true partner in the effort to build strong, effective communities that support, foster, and protect every resident.

His proposed organizational chart outlines a framework for accomplishing this vision. Learn more at PaulGuyForSheriff.com. This election is our chance to implement a meaningful culture shift in local law enforcement that puts us on a path toward much needed healing. It is absolutely a winnable race IF we all talk it up and cast our votes on March 10.

Next up is the SCDP biennial precinct reorganization that takes place in all counties on Saturday, March 14 at 10 a.m. Read more about this formal gathering of Democrats in their smallest local unit on **page 9**. It's formal in the sense that the event and agenda are prescribed; the conversations and connection building will be welcoming and informal. Expect to be bombarded by PR between now and then. In Greenville County, we will do as we have for several cycles and group precincts at designated meeting sites based on the zip code of the precinct's usual polling site.

Plan to attend and, beyond that, commit to bringing neighbors and encouraging your family, friends, and co-workers to join us. It's two hours max, but, if we are to put a Democrat in the White House, take back the Senate, do anything effective locally, Democrats have to be connected at the grassroots level. We need everyone to be informed, to feel valued, to participate.

Two days later, at noon on Monday, March 16, campaign filing for the 2020 election cycle begins. We do have a number of prospective candidates and incumbents lined up, but, if you have ever thought about running, this just might be the year to take the plunge. Turnout is always highest in presidential election cycles. With current profound anti-Trump, anti-Graham sentiment among many moderate Republicans as well as Democrats in the Upstate, 2020 presents a higher than usual opportunity for crossover votes that could flip some districts. All of Greenville County's seats in the SC House and Senate are on the ballot as is half of county council. Let's not have any Republican held seat go unchallenged! See me, or Amanda McDougald Scott or Eli Valentin with the GCDP candidate development committee, to explore how you can make a difference through elected office.

We'll round out the spring phase of political engagement with the GCDP's 2020 County Convention on Monday, March 30 at the Phillis Wheatley Community Center (evening start time to be announced). Delegates and alternates selected at precinct reorganization will gather to elect county party leadership (chair, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd vice chairs, state executive committee man and woman, and alternate state executive committee man and woman), discuss and vote on platform resolutions from the reorg, hear from candidates, and select delegates and alternates to the SCDP state convention. This is where the spirit and scope of the GCDP are shaped. The conventions are open to the public - come see big-D Democrats model little-d democracy.

Don't forget, if you want to be a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee (July 13-16, 2020), then you must meet the following requirements:

- Vote in the presidential preference primary (on Feb 29 or by absentee)
- Attend your precinct reorganization meeting (Mar 14, 10 a.m.)
- Be elected delegate or alternate to the GCDP convention
- Attend the GCDP County Convention (Mar 30, time TBA)

Colors - continued

- Be elected delegate or alternate to the SCDP convention
- Submit a 2020 National Delegate Filing Form to the SCDP by 5 p.m. on April 30
- Attend the SCDP State Convention (May 30 in Columbia).

Read about the [national convention process here](#). I'm also happy to walk you through it, if you'd like.

There is really no telling how contentious or disruptive the next eight months will be, but we will survive and thrive if we can stay in sync with one another. Remember to show up, keep focused, keep the faith, keep your eyes on the prize (a blue Oval Office, US Senate, and House and a bluer South Carolina and Greenville County), and indulge in self-care as needed . . . the journey has begun and I am so happy to be traveling with you.

In solidarity,
Kate



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: **March 3**.

SUPERCUTS®

Supercuts | Find a Supercuts salon near you at Supercuts.com and check in for your next visit. Supercuts offers consistent quality haircuts, color services and facial waxing.



The Robby Brady Team, Allen Tate Realtors | If you are looking for a realtor to help buy or sell a home, there is no better choice than the Robby Brady Team. Call 864-270-5955.



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.

Democratic Presidential Preference Primary

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

It seems like forever since the primary contest began... and it has been! But for South Carolina voters, that comes to fruition on February 29. Cast your ballot for your candidate Saturday, Feb. 29, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Because the election is on a Saturday, schools and some other facilities, which are typical voting locations, are closed. Alternate locations have been selected and, in some cases, voting precincts have been consolidated. Check your voting location in advance. This is the only place to get the accurate list of polling places for this election.

CHECK YOUR VOTING LOCATION

Absentee voting in person is available for voters who meet one of 16 very broad criteria. Everyone over 65 is eligible to vote early. Absentee voting in person is at County Square, 301 University Ridge, Greenville. Enter where the flags are. Voting hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. with extended hours on Saturday, Feb. 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and February 27 when voting will remain open to 7 p.m.

CHECK THE ABSENTEE VOTING CRITERIA

Make a plan for
**ELECTION
DAY**



Find some
friends



Agree on
a time



Decide who's



driving and



your polling places.



out a route.



Pick everyone up and go



If you need a ride to the polls, please contact Democratic headquarters at **864-232-5531**.

We really need volunteers to help on our next two Election Days - Feb. 29 and March 10. We need poll watchers who are certified by the party, and who protect the vote. Watchers alert the GCDP if any irregularities or issues arise at a specific polling place, and also help precinct officers to track turnout in their precincts. This is critical, especially in such contentious times.

We have 118 polling places for this election and we need at least that many - and really more - to volunteer.

We also need drivers to assist others with rides, and runners to help us get food and information back and forth from precincts to our central situation room.

SIGN UP TO HELP

Calendar of Events

February

Absentee voting hours

Absentee voting in person is at 301 University Ridge, Conference Rooms A and B through Friday. Hours: 8:30 AM to 5 PM; Extended hours: Saturday 2/22 9 AM to 1 PM; and Thursday 2/27 from 8:30 AM to 7 PM

19

Collective Day of Action for Bodily Autonomy, 9:30-2 PM, SC Statehouse, [registration and information online](#).

22

Canvass/phone bank with the Greenville Chapter of the Democratic Black Caucus of South Carolina. 11-3 PM, GCDP HQ, 1300-J East Washington Ave., Greenville. To be followed by a **Get Out The Vote Party**, 3-5 PM, Phillis Wheatley Community Center, 40 John Carroll Way, Greenville, 29607. Party with a purpose, canvass for voters, then enjoy live music and delicious food.

22

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

27

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

27

Greenville County Sheriff Candidate Forum 6:30-8 PM, Hughes Main Library, Heritage Green, Greenville, 29601.

29

South Carolina Democratic Presidential Preference Primary, 7:00 AM-7:00 PM. [Check polling locations](#) and confirm your registration.

March

1

Senator Karl Allen Senate District 7 campaign kick off, 2 PM, Reedy River Missionary Baptist Church Life Center, 1012 Mauldin Rd. Greenville, 29607. Admission \$30, tickets and sponsorship info 864-546-1694.

SUNDAY MAR 1ST 2:00PM

"OUR SENATOR" KARL ALLEN

SENATE DISTRICT 7

2020 CAMPAIGN KICKOFF & Appreciation Dinner

HE FIGHTS FOR US!

EXPERIENCED AND PROVEN LEADERSHIP WITH A 2020 VISION FOR JOBS, ROADS, HOUSING, AND EDUCATION!

ADMISSION \$30.00/PERSON

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- ✓ \$250 - SILVER
- ✓ \$500 - GOLD
- ✓ \$1000 - PLATINUM

Reedy River Missionary Baptist Church Family Life Center | 1012 Mauldin Road Greenville SC 29607

For Tickets and Sponsorship Information Please Call 864-546-1694.

Continued on next page

Calendar of Events

March (continued)

1

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

2

Greenville Women in Leadership forum on pending bills in the SC legislature, 5:30-7:30 PM, Greenville One Center. [Registration and information online.](#)

7

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

9

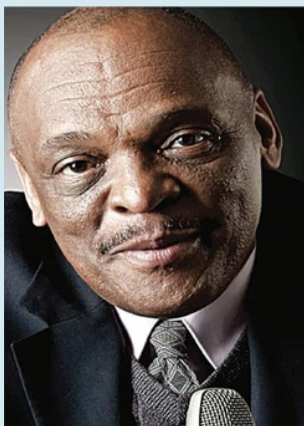
Standup for Emerge SC, 7-10 PM, Warehouse Theatre, a comedy benefit for Emerge SC. Tickets and information online.

9

Democratic Women of Greenville County monthly meeting, 12:00 PM, West End Community Center, 404 Vardry St., 29601.

10

Special Election for Greenville County Sheriff, 7:00 AM-7:00 PM. [Check polling locations and confirm your registration.](#)



14

Statewide Democratic Party precinct reorganization meetings, 10 AM – noon. Learn more at greenvilledemocrats.com, see page 9.

14

Democratic Women coffee meetup, 9-10:30 AM, Old Europe Desserts, 716-A S. Main St., Greenville, 29601.

17

Mom's Demand Action monthly meeting, Triune Mercy Center, 7-8 PM, 222 Rutherford St., Greenville, 29601.

21

Democratic Women coffee meetup Eastside, 2-3:30 PM, A&P Restaurant, 1526 S Highway 14, Greer, 29650.

24

Moms Demand Action hosts a special screening of **After Parkland**, on the second anniversary of Greenville's March For Our Lives. 6:30 PM Cherrydale Stadium 16, 3221 N. Pleasantburg Dr., 29609. [Reserve tickets online.](#)

28

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

30

Greenville County Democratic Party Convention. Details to be announced.

Save the Date

May 6. Day in Blue at the State House. Join fellow Democrats for a day of advocacy.

May 30. South Carolina Democratic Party Convention

WOMEN RISING

3rd Annual Women's March | January 18, 2020



The 3rd annual Women's March fell on another cold and dreary day. Despite a cold rain that relentlessly battered us, a hearty couple of hundred people did turn out and stand up. It helped to have break periods of dancing – yes, you heard me – to keep us upbeat and warmer!



Love the signs! [See more in our video.](#)

[Listen to the remarks](#) by special speaker and former candidate Deval Patrick



Huddle Update

BY WHITNEY WRIGHT

GCDP Huddle volunteers Val Magin and Lisa Wakeley assisted with food service and Coat Closet distribution at the 2020 Allen Temple AME Church Festival of Life homeless outreach event on Saturday, January 25. Over 200 people received clothing, housing counseling, census participation services, fellowship, a hot meal, haircuts, blood pressure checks, and personal/hygiene items to take with them from there!



Coming up: The GCDP Huddle will be canvassing Greenville County neighborhoods each Saturday in February with the Democratic Black Caucus of SC-Greenville County Chapter. The purpose of these canvassing efforts is to encourage election participation among registered and eligible, but inactive, black voters. Canvassing training is held at GCDP HQ (1300-J East Washington, Greenville, 29607) and is offered prior to departure for canvassing from there in pairs.

Canvassing takes place between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. with GOTV parties to follow on some Saturdays as well. Phone banking opportunities are also available to those who would rather make calls. VoteBuilder-generated lists of voters are printed and must be returned to HQ after completion or are tracked through MiniVAN entries via personal devices.

CALL YOUR REPS

Just because we know they won't change their minds, doesn't mean we should give them a piece of ours. Let's keep them honest and remind them that their constituents include Democrats.

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)



Be the change you want to see: Participate in precinct reorg

BY LAURA HAIGHT AND REGINA WALDREP

We live in communities, neighborhoods, towns, and when we vote, we vote in our communities with our neighbors. Those communities are the heart of political activism and organizing. For the GCDP, they are called precincts.

“All politics is local” is a phrase most closely associated with the 47th Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Tip O’Neil (1977 to 1987). Precincts are the grassroots of a political party and comprise the voters that shape it from the bottom up. The more robust and better organized at a local level it is, the more representative a party is at a national level. Precincts comprise delegates and party representatives and help develop the party platform. From coast to coast, all voters are organized and mobilized on a local precinct level first.

Every two years as codified in South Carolina election law, Democrats come together to elect new leadership and discuss and approve resolutions about our values and goals that we hope will be reflected in the state and national party platforms. This year, reorganization takes place on Saturday, March 14 and you are invited – encouraged – to attend. It’s an important part of our efforts to elect more Democrats up and down the ballot and, eventually, turn SC blue again.

Whether you are elected as a precinct officer or just come to learn more about what the GCDP is about, your active engagement is integral to our success.

If you’re wondering what a precinct officer does, here’s a quick rundown:

Precinct organizers in Greenville County knock on doors, share information about candidates, legislation, and events, welcome and register new voters, and ask neighbors to vote. Currently in Greenville County, there are 151 precincts and nearly 250 precinct officers.

In 2017, the GCDP developed an approach to organize, educate, and mobilize precincts. Precincts were divided into clusters, a small group of geographically contiguous precincts. A cluster leader oversees each cluster and is a liaison to party leadership. Precinct cluster leaders and individual precinct officers work together to recruit volunteers, knock on doors, and get voters to the polls. The primary goal is to connect with voters to let them know that the GCDP is active. We want all local Democrats to know that there is a place at the table for them.

In addition, GCDP’s precinct leaders regularly come together to organize, plan, volunteer, and support each other. Currently, precinct networking lunches and coffees take place throughout the county. Volunteers are further connected through social media and meet to collaborate.

Learn more about [precincts in Greenville County](#) and about [precinct reorganization on our website](#).

Check your precinct reorg location

Zip Code	Precinct Reorg Location	Zip Code	Precinct Reorg Location3
29601	Springfield Baptist Church, 600 East McBee Ave., Greenville	29651	Greer Library, 505 Pennsylvania Ave., Greer
29605	Mount Pleasant Community Center, 710 S. Fairfield Rd., Greenville	29662	Mauldin First Baptist Church, 150 S. Main St., Mauldin
29607	Forrester Woods Estates Clubhouse, 118 Sanderling Dr., Greenville	29669	Woodmont Middle School, 325 N. Flat Rock Rd., Piedmont
29609	League Academy, 125 Twin Lake Rd., Greenville	29673	Woodmont Middle School, 325 N. Flat Rock Rd., Piedmont
29611	Anderson Rd. Library, 2625 Anderson Rd., Greenville	29654	Woodmont Middle School, 325 N. Flat Rock Rd., Piedmont
29615	St. Giles Presbyterian Church, 1021 Hudson Rd., Greenville	29680	Woodmont Middle School, 325 N. Flat Rock Rd., Piedmont
29617	Berea Library, 111 North Hwy 25 Bypass, Greenville	29687	Pebble Creek Grill, 101 Pebble Creek Dr., Taylors
29644	Hillcrest Middle School, 510 Garrison Rd., Simpsonville	29690	Travelers Rest City Hall, 125 Trailblazer Dr., Travelers Rest
29681	Hillcrest Middle School, 510 Garrison Rd., Simpsonville	29635	Travelers Rest City Hall, 125 Trailblazer Dr., Travelers Rest
29650	Greer Library, 505 Pennsylvania Ave., Greer	29661	Travelers Rest City Hall, 125 Trailblazer Dr., Travelers Rest

Messaging workshop helps candidates sharpen their message

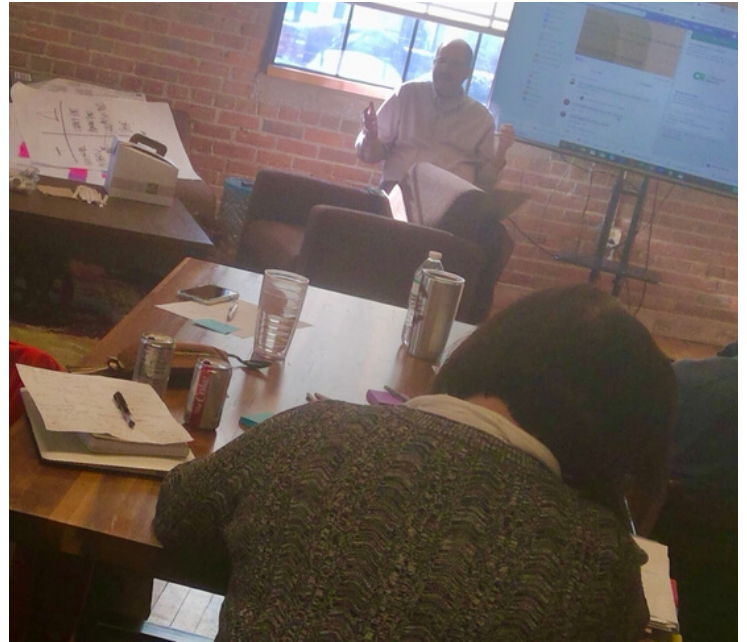
On January 25, 15 participants who were either candidates, future candidates, or campaign staff met at Society Hall to work on their messaging. The GCDP's Candidate Development Committee, co-chaired by Amanda McDougald Scott and Eli Valentin, organized the program. Stuart Rosenberg, founder of Foundation Blue Media, a media company focused on working with Democratic political candidates, led the workshop.

Stu generously donated his time to help the Greenville County group, due to the fact that he is an ardent supporter of local efforts and campaigns. Eli and Amanda met Stu during their participation in the James Clyburn Fellowship, sponsored by the South Carolina Democratic Party.

Participants worked on message framing, delivery, storytelling, and digital delivery. A couple of candidates volunteered for the opportunity to have the class support and guide different aspects of messaging for their own campaigns. Lunch was generously donated by ASADA, a Latin American fusion restaurant based in Greenville.

Feedback from the event was that it was extremely helpful, pertinent, interesting, and engaging. Both the participants and Stu all felt it was a great use of their time, and look forward to future opportunities working together.

A special thank you goes out to our event sponsors: Anita LeBold, Amanda McDougald Scott, Stu Rosenberg, Elias Valentin, Kate Franch, Paul Merlo, and Gina Petti, co-owner of ASADA.



Bid-worthy items will test your fiscal mettle

BY LAURA HAIGHT

Of course you're coming to Tastings on the Town, but are you ready to bid? Because we've got some items that demand you raise your hand.

How about dinner for 10 – that's right 10 – at Cazbah, the downtown tapas emporium? The deal includes five-courses, accompanied by five different wines, served in their private dining room. Estimated value \$1000.

Or maybe a downtown getaway? Our Hyatt Place Downtown Staycation package includes one night at the hotel, a \$100 gift certificate to Foxcroft Wines, breakfast at Maple Street Biscuit Company, a Luna Rosa gift card for \$30, and a bottle of French wine. Estimated value \$400.

These are just two of the items up for silent auction and we didn't want you to come unprepared. If you haven't bought your tickets yet, there's still time. Purchase online at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).



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Thank you, January Contributors

Thanks for your support!

Thanks to our January donors: Peggy Baker, Ron Cowen, Cynthia Gibson, John Hester, Woodruff Hill, Anita LeBold, Lucia Messina, Ashley Newton, Carla Rood, Starla Taylor, and Regina Waldrep.

We accidentally left Corey and Ricardo Urbina off the list of 2019 Yellow Dog Donors. GCDP appreciates the Urbinas' sponsorship and ongoing support of our signature fundraiser, Tastings on the Town.

We welcome your one-time or recurring donations on our [website](https://greenvilledemocrats.com/contribute).

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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