



*The latest news and updates from the Greenville County Democratic Party*



## An unprecedented month; a challenge to us all

In late May and June, Greenville joined cities large and small around the country and across the globe to protest the death of George Floyd under the knee of a Minneapolis police officer – and the inherent racism in our society that allowed it to occur. On **Pages 2-3**, we take a look at those days of protest in Greenville through photos and words of protestors and chroniclers. The cover photo above and many of the others on the following pages appear courtesy of **Humanizing Through Story**. These pages look back. What happens next depends on all of us and the affirmative steps we take to demand and work for change in how we think, act, and feel toward Black Americans.

### What else is inside?

Here's something you can do right now: Get involved with the local branch of the NAACP! See **Page 12**. If you care about protecting the vote, we must all take our demands for full no-excuse mail in voting off social media and right to our state reps. Take our Advocacy Challenge on **Page 5**. This month we also start a five-month series focusing on our Greenville candidates for election this cycle. This month, read what candidates for State House districts 18 and 19 have to say on **Page 6**. COVID is rising and there are still ways we can help each other. See **Pages 15-16**. And, finally, just because we are socially distanced doesn't mean we can't make a difference. See some things you can do from home on **Page 4**.



# I CAN'T BREATHE ... AGAIN


## *Greenvillians join together in days of protests*




**Timicia Grant**  
2 hrs · 🧑🏿‍🦱  
Keep applying pressure

**Walter A. Clyburn Reed**  
4 hrs · 🌐  
Can't stop, won't stop.


**The Birmingham movement lasted 37 days** NOW THIS




**The Freedom Rides lasted seven months** NOW THIS



**The Greensboro sit-ins lasted six months** NOW THIS



**The Montgomery Bus Boycott lasted 382 days** NOW THIS



On these two pages, we see images of anger, commitment, righteous indignation. And read words of hope and encouragement. 'Keep it up.'

**Images courtesy of Humanizing through Story.**







Derrick L. Quarles is with Derrick L. Quarles in Greenville, South Carolina.

June 1 at 7:14 AM · 🌐

By any means necessary, I will protect our children. Little man wanted to know if the police was going to kill him for being black. 😞

No kid should have to ever wonder if they're life will be taken. No matter what the circumstance !!

This is why we march. This is why buildings are burning. This is why cop cars are blowing up. This is why looting and rioting is happening all over the "United States."

And they want to know when will it end.. it'll end the same day our kids no longer have to fear the day their skin color being the reason they could be murdered by a cop.

#Georgefloyd #breonnataylor #ahmaudarbery #blacklivesmatter #sayhisname #sayhername #stopkillingus #nojusticenopeace #yeahthatgreenville #politicalwiz #explore #ad #greenville #sc



Bruce Wilson

June 4 at 7:16 AM · 🌐

Marching won't fix it alone we must also go to the ballot box 🗳️

2016



2020



Ennis Fant is with Lee Turner and 99 others.

June 3 at 9:17 AM · 🌐

HERE'S MY TAKE!!!

There can be no disconnect between our protesting against racism and injustice and us exercising our right to vote EVERY TIME there is an election. When you go to a march, you should have a voter registration card in your pocket. [Bruce Wilson](#) every time you lead a march make sure there is a voter registration table on site and make sure that people who are not registered are sent to it. I have 5 NO votes waiting on me every single week at County Council, automatically, just because I'm black, no matter what. It is extremely painful to deal with and hard to accept. These types of people never develop a change of heart, they must be voted out of office by US!!! If we truly want a better and brighter future, we have to demand it and take it. And it starts with registering to vote and voting for people that truly believe in "Liberty and Justice for ALL"

"For those of you who are tired of reading about racism, I'm tired of black and brown bodies being killed by it.

I'm tired of watching some white people be more upset by those who are protesting racism as opposed to the racism itself."

## Calendar: Things we can do at home

This space is normally reserved for our calendar. But because so many events have been cancelled, this month we'll focus on things you can do from home on your own schedule.



**CHARLESTON NINE SURVIVOR JOINS OUR BREAKFAST:** Join the GCDP as we welcome a special speaker to our virtual breakfast. Rev. Sharon Risher, whose mother Ethel Lee Vance was murdered by Dylan Roof at Mother Emanuel Church in Charleston five years ago, will speak to us about gun violence, its toll on survivors and society, and what we can accomplish when we advocate together.

Questions for Rev. Risher can be emailed in advance to [gcdpcomms@greenvilledemocrats.com](mailto:gcdpcomms@greenvilledemocrats.com). You even get an extra half hour of sack time. Join us at [www.freeconferencecall.com/wall/gcdpcomms](http://www.freeconferencecall.com/wall/gcdpcomms) at 9 a.m. on June 27.

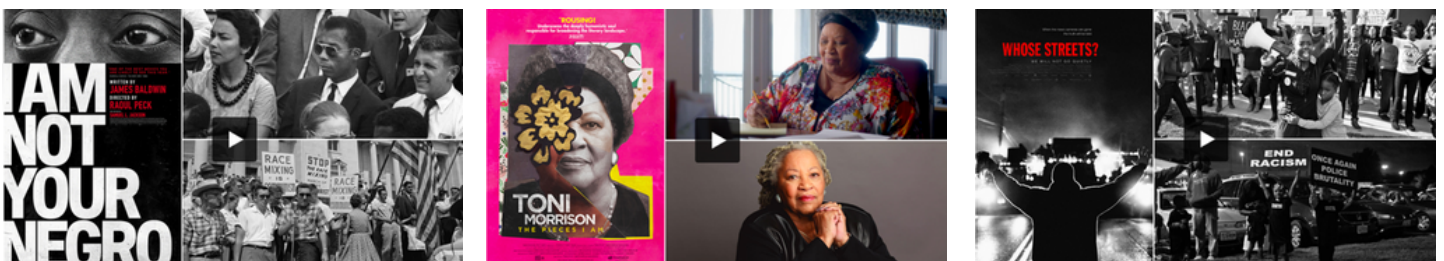
**USE YOUR TOOLS FOR JAIME HARRISON:** Things may be opening up but canvassing for candidates may still be a ways away. Not to worry, you can reach out to voters in support of Jaime Harrison through text and phone banking at home. Timicia Grant, the Upstate organizer for the coordinated campaign topped by Harrison, invites you to join a **text bank launched specifically for the Upstate**, or a **virtual phone bank**. You don't need any special tools, just a browser on your computer or tablet, and a phone.

**STAY ON TOP OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT:** Live stream Greenville County Council meetings on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month @ 6 PM. **Click here for the calendar and a link to view the meetings.** Live stream Greenville City Council meetings on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month @5:30 PM. **Click here for the calendar of events and links to join the meeting.**

**GET TOGETHER AND TALK POLITICS:** OK, it's not quite the same as hanging out in a bar, but you can still find like-minded people who want to tip a glass and talk about politics. Drinking Liberally is a left-leaning group that meets every Thursday from 6-8ish. The meetings are now held virtually online. Sign up for their mailing list at [livingliberally.org](http://livingliberally.org) or contact [greenville@drinkingliberally.org](mailto:greenville@drinkingliberally.org) for more details and to get a link.

**MEET BAKARI SELLERS AT NEXT DWGC MEETING:** The July meeting of Democratic Women will be held online on July 13th at noon. The guest speaker will be attorney and former SC Representative Bakari Sellers. Sellers was the youngest African-American elected official in the country at age 22. **Register to receive Zoom link.**

**THE NAACP RECOMMENDS:** The Peace Center has partnered with Magnolia Pictures to offer three documentaries for in-home streaming designed to give a deeper understanding of the events happening in the country today. Click on the images to get more information and a preview of the films. Rent individually for \$6.99 each or all three for \$15 here. Offer expires June 30. Click on an image to view information about each film.





This is the second month of our new feature: The Advocacy Challenge. The challenge, however, remains the same: Reach out to your state elected officials to **demand mail-in voting for all in November**.

## Expanding mail-in voting to November cannot wait

BY LAURA HAIGHT

**The issue:** After passing legislation in May that permitted the use of a “state of emergency” excuse to be used in absentee voting by mail or in person, there has been no action to extend that to the November election. Legislators say it can wait and be discussed in September, but the state Election Commission says it needs time to prepare and it must begin now to be ready for what is expected to be a turnout even bigger than 2008.

And now we see the problems that will beset elections in the time of COVID. Not enough polling places, not enough poll workers, long lines, long waits, untrained replacements manning new and unfamiliar equipment. All that came together in Georgia where the last person voted sometime after midnight, and, to a lesser degree in South Carolina in general and Greenville County in particular. Greenville Election Director Conway Belangia told reporters: “It will be 10 times worse in November.”

The state must act now to extend mail in voting to everyone in November and the only way that will happen is if they hear en masse from their constituents. Your task, and our challenge, is simple: Call or write your state representative and state senator and demand that the legislature take all steps necessary to authorize no-excuse mail in voting now while there is time to prepare.

### Talking points:

1. The SC Election Commission has warned the Governor and legislature that emergency changes must be made to our election process to ensure safe and secure elections. Strategies it mentioned include no-excuse absentee voting including allowing voters to submit ballot requests online, electronic submission of ballots, elimination of the witness requirement, expansion of early voting and voting locations, and mail-in voting. Because we can’t know what the pandemic situation will be in the fall, we also can’t wait until the situation is clear. We have to start now. The commission urged that decisions be made as soon as possible so election officials can be ready.



**THE ADVOCACY CHALLENGE**  
FOR JUNE: MAIL-IN VOTING IN SC

2. Adding to the need for expanded and no-excuse absentee voting is the potential reduction in available polling places. The average age of poll workers in the state is 71, putting all of them in a high-risk classification. We should expect a significant reduction in the number of poll workers, thus enabling counties to staff fewer polling places. The polling places themselves may be less willing to open their doors to a mass influx of voters, especially if the COVID situation is continuing or surging.

3. Even if the state of emergency is lifted, until a vaccine is available many citizens who have underlying health conditions or older family members may still be avoiding crowded, public places and personal contact. This election is expected to be one of the most important in our history; voter turnout will be high.

**The ask:** We feel it is critical that the Legislature move quickly to extend and enhance those changes for the November general election. This is essential to ensure every citizen can vote and that no one has to choose between the health of themselves or a family member in order to do so.

**The challenge:** Contact both your state senator and representative ([click here if you need to find out who they are and get contact information](#)). Most likely you will speak to an aide. Make sure they take your name and address. Also get their name. Ask them if they are getting a lot of calls on the issue. They may or may not tell you. Tell us how you did. On Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, post a comment on your experience with the **#AdvocacyChallengeEveryoneVotes**. In your posts, challenge your friends, family, and co-workers to make similar calls. Don’t forget the hashtags!

## Focus on the candidates

*Over the next several months, the GCDP is offering all our local candidates a chance to talk directly to you about their reasons for running, policies, and objectives. We are starting this month with State House candidates in districts 18, 19, (candidates in districts 20 and 22 did not contribute). Next month, districts 23, 25, 28, and 35. August: State Senate districts 5, 6, 7, and 12; September: County Council districts 20, 22, 24, and county sheriff. And in October, the federal races: CD-3, CD-4, and US Senate. For ways to contact any of our candidates, check out our website. All information is provided by the candidates or their campaigns.*

### **Jevarus Howard, State House Dist. 19**



Hi, I'm Jevarus Howard. Here in District 19: I am a father, husband, combat veteran, and local business owner. With your support, I'll be running to represent my community at the State House for District 19.

I'm running as we are seeing and hearing a clear call for leadership. I want

to ensure the call is answered. I want to ensure representation is in place to help EVERYONE take advantage of the growth. Fair and equal regardless of the party you vote for.

I believe we have an opportunity to impact South Carolina's education system, seeking enhancements that will allocate proper funds and strategies for our youth. Increasing pay for our educators who are not just teachers but mentors and leaders for our youth. I believe we have a chance to build partnerships throughout the community focusing on economic development. Development that means small business support, entrepreneur encouragement and growth, as well as great job opportunities. I also believe it's time to uplift our very important veterans and enhance our veterans affairs. Because I believe these things, I'll fight to ensure they happen.

**See HOWARD on Page 9**

### **Benjamin Smith, State House Dist. 18**



I jumped in the race for State House 18 because not a single Democrat has run for this seat in over a decade.

I am a Christian, and I believe that when the Constitution guarantees freedom of religion, it's freedom for people of all religions and not just the faith that I practice. I promise to protect your right

to worship or not worship as you please.

I believe that absolute power corrupts, which is why our founders created a system of checks and balances. Unfortunately, our state has given absolute power to the Republican Party in both the executive and legislative branches since 2002 and the system in Columbia has become corrupt. It's time for the checks and balances to return. It's time for diverse representation that looks out for all of us.

We are ranked 44th in education and last for state roads. I am running to move our state forward. We can no longer accept a political system that leaves people behind. We can no longer accept politicians who are out of touch with the working class. It's time for a change.

I will work with teachers, experts, and education advocates to ensure that education is our number one

**See SMITH on next page**

## Smith

### Continued from previous page

priority. Teachers are the backbone of our education system, and they deserve to be treated as such. They should not have to supply their classrooms out of their paychecks, they should be making at least \$40,000 a year to start with sufficient annual pay raises, and they should have representatives who listen to their concerns and make policy that helps them do their job instead of telling them how to do their job. I will focus on funding for early childhood literacy programs and ensure that taxpayer funding for education goes to public schools. I will vote against any bills that implement school vouchers!

The current representative for State House 18 voted for the gas tax, which was supposed to pay to fix our roads. If you drive down the roads in our district and across the state you will notice that they are filled, but it is potholes they are filled with. Our taxpayer

dollars are not going towards infrastructure where it is needed! I will make sure all roads in need of repair are included in the budget so everyone benefits.

Finally, I will fight for equal rights for all. This includes making sure that we pass Hate Crime Legislation and that we take all measures necessary to end minority and LGBTQ discrimination. We are a nation of the people, by the people, and for the people. It's time that we implement laws that reflect that.

I am Benjamin Smith, and I am your candidate for State House 18. This race is about you, your family, your neighbors, and your friends. This race is about all of us because we are better together. You can interact with me at [www.smithforschouse18.com](http://www.smithforschouse18.com), by email at [smithforschouse18@gmail.com](mailto:smithforschouse18@gmail.com), or on **Facebook** [@benjaminasmithforschouse18](https://www.facebook.com/benjaminasmithforschouse18). I look forward to representing you.



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: **July 8**.

**SUPERCUTS®**

**Supercuts** | Find a Supercuts salon near you at [Supercuts.com](http://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.

*Style Matters*  
**GREENVILLE**

**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](http://www.stylemattersgreenville.com), 864-715-9727

**UNIONHOME**  
MORTGAGE

**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.

## Pride is a rallying cry to keep 'pushing forward'

*We invited Greenvillians to tell us what Pride Month meant to them. Benjamin Smith has had a bold year: Coming out and choosing to run for State House. This is his perspective on what Pride Month is all about.*

**By Benjamin Smith**

Candidate, SC House District 18

This year was my first year to officially come out as gay. This year will also be my first year to celebrate Pride.



Growing up in an extremely conservative family, I kept my identity hidden and was afraid of what would happen if people found out I was gay. I fought internally for over 12 years with who I was. Slowly coming out to select friends over the course of the past few years has led me to finally open up, and I have found an amazing group of friends and supporters who accept me for who I am.

What is more important is that I finally accept myself for who I am. Pride month means acceptance. Acceptance of who I am, and that I don't have to be ashamed of who I love or what I love. Pride means love – that I can love myself and others even when we disagree. Pride means hope; that one day we all will have equal rights and won't fear for our safety, health, or jobs because of who we love.

I am grateful for those who have stood up for LGBTQ+ rights to pave the way for me now. Without the protests at Stonewall and the decades of LGBTQ+ activism, our lives would be different. We have come a long way in the path to equality, but there is still a long way to go. Pride is a celebration of the successes, but also a rally to keep pushing forward. To keep fighting until everyone has equal rights. To love our neighbors. To love our enemies. To do unto others as we would have them do unto us. This is what Pride means to me.

### Howard

#### Continued from Page 3

It's time for new leaders to step up. New leaders to take the responsibility and make the tough decisions for us all to thrive in this growing South Carolina. It's time for a fresh new look of representation for citizens, business owners, and families.

I've spent my life serving. Serving our community and Country as a soldier, a local business owner, and a community volunteer. With your help, I'm asking for the opportunity to be your advocate in our State House for District 19. Thank you for the opportunity and support. Join us as we accomplish this goal! Onward.

<http://www.howardfor19.com/>

"WE MAY  
ENCOUNTER  
MANY DEFEATS  
BUT WE MUST  
NOT BE  
DEFEATED."

*Maya Angelou*



## Meet the new GCDP leadership

*With a new team in place, we thought it would be nice to get to know the new leadership a bit. We've asked each of the vice chairs to "introduce themselves." Next month: The state executive committee members and alternates.*

### Ruth Todd, 1st Vice Chair



I am Ruth Todd, and I am pleased to be your 1st Vice-Chair of the GCDP. I have been married for 34 years to Donald Todd and we have three children and seven grandchildren. I am a lifelong Democrat and I have been very active in the Democratic Party since moving to Travelers Rest in 2015. Soon after moving, I joined the Democratic Women of Greenville County and began volunteering for campaigns. In 2016, I became a precinct president and a state delegate. As part of the Party's precinct development effort, precincts have been grouped together into clusters and I am the cluster lead for a group of North Greenville precincts. In that role, I am proud of the progress made for reorganization. I hope to continue in precinct management in my role as 1st vice chair.

In 2017, I was devastated when Trump won, so I traveled to DC on the Greenville bus for the first Women's March. Upon returning, I organized an activist group to visit the senator's offices weekly and we have persisted for over three years. In 2018, I also helped with the logistics of the Women's March in Greenville. Another contribution I made was to offer my professional photography expertise donating my time to candidates and to the GCDP.

In January 2018, I started the North Greenville County Democrats to get people in the northern part of the county more involved. As chair of the NGCD in 2018, I also co-managed Judi Buckley's campaign for SC Statehouse 17. We built a group of fantastic volunteers. These volunteers had never been involved in a campaign before, and currently, 90 percent remain involved, not only with the NGCD but also with the county Party. We set up a booth at the Travelers Rest Art Crawl to distribute candidate information and to register voters. Additionally, we hosted a separate forum for the representatives of the presidential candidates.

In 2019, I joined the board of Democratic Women of Greenville County as 2nd vice president of membership. We have been working hard to support local candidates, engage and grow our membership, and become more visible in the community. I want to help grow the GCDP and the Democratic Party, and I believe that I have the skills and determination to do this. Our time has come!

### Sharon Garrett, 2nd Vice Chair



I ran because I want to make sure that the marginalized voters' voices are heard and that they have access to funds that are distributed to them for education, housing, and economic development. I want to still focus on that as well as these issues.

I want to make sure that the school system is educating all students regardless of color, religion, national origin, ethnic background, sex, or sexual identity in the best possible manner and that all students feel valued and respected. That is the first point. Second, I want to register voters who feel that their issues do not matter and let them know that they do matter and make them understand that it is important to vote in all elections for Democrats. Third, I want to help grow the party by establishing connections with the local colleges and universities in the area including Furman, Clemson, USC Upstate, Converse College, and Greenville Technical College.

## Leadership

### Continued from previous page

The Young Democrats on these campuses need to know that they have a voice and they are the future of the Democratic Party. Fourth, I want to make sure that the Greenville Democrats work for all the different ethnic groups, disabled minorities, religious backgrounds, genders, and sexual identity, not just one certain part of the population of Greenville County. Fifth, I want to work to strengthen the youth in government in high schools and middle schools so that the students know that they can make a difference in the political party. I want to work a lot on equity in the party along with the inclusion of certain groups that may have been left out and showing that diversity does make for a stronger party.

### Jonathon Sweeney, 3rd Vice Chair



We did it! I was elected 3rd vice chair with your help. I am capable, qualified, and have the track record to complete this work. In times like these, we need leaders that are not only willing but also competent. You will find that leadership in me. A true leader does not sit idly by while times of crisis call for people with great ideas and servant hearts to step up. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said: "History will have to record that the greatest tragedy of this period of social transition was not the strident clamor of the bad people, but the appalling silence of the good people." This statement is relevant today.

We are good people. We can't afford to be silent while injustice occurs. This city, state, nor nation can stand for us – people who know what is right – to look the other way. We have a responsibility to act, speak out, and like one of my favorite congressmen, John Lewis, has said: "Get in a little good trouble."

I believe that the 18-36-year-old age group is a group of voters we can ill-afford to ignore. That's why I ran for this office. Every significant social movement in this country was powered by young people. We will need their energy, enthusiasm, and insight come November. I am asking for your help to reach every voter because, as we know, this is the most critical election of our lifetime, and I'm counting on you. As a Greenville native with meaningful connections in the community, I am poised to build upon the vital work that those before me have done. I am humbled by the opportunity to serve you in this capacity. I won't disappoint you. Let's go to work!

## Bookmark our candidate listings page

Educated and empowered voters make smart decisions and lend their talents and time to helping the candidates of their choice to success in November. The GCDP has a **web page listing all the candidates who are running this year with links to connect you to their campaigns and social media sites.**

All information was provided by the candidates or their campaigns and this page is continually being updated as more information is received. **Watch video from our April Virtual Breakfast** where candidates introduced themselves and their campaigns.



## Democratic Black Caucus of Greenville County Update



**By Ann Thompson**

Vice Chair, GCDBC

A new nonprofit has opened that provides shelter and education through counseling for women recently released from prison. It is currently housing six women. The Bobby Lewis Housewives (BLH) is in need of household items from towels and linens to hygiene products like soap, lotion. Drop off donations at GCDP headquarters, 1300-J West Washington Ave., Greenville. Remember to include your name and contact information so the BLH can thank you! For more information contact the founder and director, Kamil Braddock at [kamilbraddock@live.com](mailto:kamilbraddock@live.com) or 864-631-9417.

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The GCDBC is preparing for the resumption of regular meetings and activities once the Covid pandemic is under control.

So, be on the lookout for future emails, texts, conference call notifications and in-person meetings to discuss rebuilding our caucus and reestablishing connections with members, family and friends.

The GCDBC hopes to schedule a meeting in July to focus on solutions to preventing police brutality and discuss the ongoing murders of people of color. We intend to delve heavily into recognizing and correcting the age-old misnomer of police reform.

For more information about the GCDBC contact Ann Thompson at [ann.thompson917@gmail.com](mailto:ann.thompson917@gmail.com)

**CALL YOUR REPS** *More stimulus legislation will be debated in the House and Senate, including an important push to include funds for development of a national Vote-by-Mail program.*

**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)



# The NAACP has tons of ideas, but needs our hands

**By Kate Franch**

Are we at the tipping point? Are Americans finally willing to fully embrace and engage in the work of creating a truly equal, equitable, and just country? Millions of us have taken to the street to emphatically say yes. I can't help but wonder what the crowds would look like without COVID-19 in the mix.

If you have joined in this urgent call for action in some form or another, thank you. There are numerous ways through which each of us can be a part of the reckoning and reordering that is long past due. Of course, vote; in addition, be active in your precinct, support candidates fighting for change, lobby legislators, participate in community dialogues, and challenge family, friends, and neighbors to question personal bias, bigotry, and prejudice.

Here at home, I invite you to become a member of the Greenville Branch of the NAACP. This is not an exclusive invitation – there are many worthwhile groups doing important dismantling and advocacy work – but I have a particular personal affiliation to this branch. I've been a proud member for a decade and have served as assistant secretary for the last four years. While our numbers have increased in recent months, for far too long, far too few of my white sisters and brothers have attended events, much less officially joined.

The NAACP is the nation's largest and leading civil rights organization. Founded in 1909, by 48 white and seven black activists, the NAACP's vision is to "ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights without discrimination based on race." (learn more at [naacp.org](http://naacp.org)) Members work to answer the simple call of Fannie Lou Hamer: "Nobody's free until everybody's free."

Pre-pandemic, the organization held monthly membership meetings (every second Sunday at 4 pm), hosted an annual Life Membership Prayer Breakfast and the iconic Freedom Fund Banquet, championed talented high school students in scholastic and artistic pursuits through the ACT-SO Program, connected citizens with legal redress resources, pushed for accountability and just standards reform in law enforcement, advocated for equitable treatment in the public schools and underserved communities, registered and educated voters, initiated a joint community Sickle Cell Disease Advisory Board, and was planning a Racial Equity and Inclusion Forum. I could go on. The list is long and we have more ideas that we'd like to implement. We're doing what we can through remote connection at this time and will return full force when in-person meetings can safely resume.

But we need more voices, we need more hands, we need a broad representation of all of Greenville County's citizens in order to be as influential and effective as possible – in short, we need you.

And, if not now, when?

Basic adult membership is \$30 per year (youth is \$10) and includes a subscription to the quarterly "Crisis" magazine. A new member should be sponsored by a current member, so feel free to contact me at 919-417-6406 if you are interested. I'm happy to answer any questions.



## What do you know about your precinct?

**By Leigh Learning**

Greenville County has 151 precincts. Each has around 2,100 registered voters and each is unique. South Carolina state election law mandates that both political parties reorganize their party leadership every two years. Democrats' reorganization falls in the even years, so we just had ours in mid-March. That means you might have new officers for your precinct.

With Greenville's continuing rapid population growth, we did see a lot of new faces get elected into leadership roles this year. Unfortunately, our "reorg" coincided with the arrival of COVID-19 in the Upstate. That coincidence might have prevented many people who wanted to participate in their reorg event from attending. If you are one of those people, you can still be involved because we can confirm new precinct officers at the GCDP's quarterly executive committee meetings. Please reach out to us at [precincts@greenvilledemocrats.com](mailto:precincts@greenvilledemocrats.com) and we will connect you with party leaders in your area. They'll be happy to inform you of any openings, describe what those responsibilities are, and walk you through the proper channels to becoming an official precinct officer.

Since COVID-19, social distancing rules have created challenges for candidates launching campaigns this election cycle. In addition to their campaign staff, candidates rely on precinct officers and volunteers to help spread their platform message. They have to be creative with campaigning since canvassing is discouraged right now. If they are challenging an incumbent, then they are at a distinct disadvantage in terms of name recognition.

What can you do if you can't knock on doors or hold "meet and greet" events? You tap into the network that the Greenville County Democratic Party has been building for decades! Precinct officers can spread the word through their social media networks, phone banking, and literature drops to assist our candidates. It's a built-in volunteer army of enthusiastic Democrats ready to spread the word throughout their neighborhoods.

Want to know more about your specific precinct? Check out [www.gcgis.org/apps/voterinfo](http://www.gcgis.org/apps/voterinfo). Type in your address to find your precinct's boundaries, current representatives with contact information, polling site locations, and other helpful data.

# The DNC offers training to help volunteers and activists expand skills

By Mary Wright

The coronavirus crisis has plunged us all into a global health crisis and an economic downturn. It has dramatically redefined what a normal life means. So, what do we do in times like this, when we do not know where to start and what to do? Truth is, every crisis, while deeply unsettling, also contains the seeds of opportunity.

For me, that opportunity presented itself through my participation with Emerge South Carolina. I learned of a program being launched by the Democratic National Committee and ASDC (Association of State Democratic Committees) Best Practices Institute, called the Train the Trainer (T3) Program, designed to expand the political skills of activists and volunteers.

The T3 program is offered annually and is a six-week, 12-session webinar, covering several aspects of grassroots campaigning. It is offered all over the country, seeking to expand the political skills of activists and volunteers, and do this by ensuring that comprehensive training is free and accessible for Democrats. To be certified in the program, participants are required to complete all sessions and associated skills testing.



As a graduate of the class of 2020, it has been well worth my investment of time and effort. I have gained additional political skills to assist in building our Democratic Party infrastructure at the grassroots level — whether that is by volunteering, training, or even running for office.

Everyone comes to this program with their own unique background, skill set, and experiences, but once completed, it provides many opportunities to pull together and put the knowledge to use in helping to elect Democrats up and down the ballot. T3 students learn and sharpen skills in organizing, technology, communications, fundraising, and strategic planning.

Even in the face of a pandemic, there has been a new sense of urgency for many of us to roll-up our sleeves and get to work if we are to prevail in November and take back the White House, win the Senate, and elect more candidates locally. Make no mistake, this will take all the hard work and skill we can muster.

As for my part, this has been an excellent opportunity to put my life work and experience as a Management Consultant to good use. As a part of my work, I delivered management seminars and training in a corporate setting. With enhanced learning from the Best Practices Institute, I can bring political skills and address the needs of grassroots campaigning, organizing, and training.

As a member of the Democratic Party, I have learned more than ever, there are programs and opportunities to serve and support one another. Most of all, Democrats are committed to building a strong, united party that pulls together for the greater good of our country.

**More information about current DNC training offerings.**



**HELP FAMILIES  
IMPACTED BY COVID-19**

# FOOD & SUPPLIES DONATION DRIVE

Please bring new, unexpired, wrapped non-perishable foods and beverages, as well as toiletries and cleaning supplies.

- Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Allen Temple AME Church Saturday Soup Kitchens: 104 Green Avenue, 29601
- Monday through Friday, 8:30 to 10 a.m; 12:30 to 3 p.m. at Project HOST Soup Kitchens: 525 Academy Street, 29601
- Monday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Relentless Church: 635 Haywood Road, 29607
- Monday and Wednesday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Harvest Hope Food Bank: 2818 White Horse Road, 29611

Sponsored by the Greenville County Democratic Party, the Democratic Black Caucus of SC, Greenville Chapter, Jevarus Howard for State House District 19, and Kim Nelson for CD-4.

## THE VIRUS: What can we do?

*It's still here. Yes, we are opening up our economy but amid that it's important to remember that what we did to slow the virus before was totally because we stayed away from each other, wore masks when we went out, washed our hands, and worried about the health and well being of our neighbors as well as ourselves. We need to keep doing that.*

### Masks delivery needed

Sew. Some. Good. Greenville, a Facebook group of dedicated makers who are churning out masks like crazy, needs your help. They provide masks to organizations across the upstate and they are seriously in need of drivers to pick up and deliver. No sewing skills required. [Check out their work here](#) (you'll have to join this private group):

Interested in becoming a driver? [Let them know by completing this form.](#)



### Where can I get tested?

DHEC in partnership with upstate providers is offering no-referral "community testing" throughout the state. Tests will be provided regardless of your ability to pay. Get updated information from [Prisma Health](#), which also has a hotline you can call for more current information. 833-277-4762.

### Give Blood

There is a critical shortage of blood and platelets. That's a dangerous situation during this pandemic. The Red Cross is currently offering free antibody testing to anyone who gives blood.

[Red Cross Blood Drives](#)

[Blood Connection Blood Drives](#)





# Our goal? Blue Greenville

## How can you help? Recurring donations

**By Regina Waldrep**

Fundraising Committee Chair

In the words of GCDP Chair, Elias “Eli” Valentin II, “Being a Democrat means being confident in the knowledge OUR investment over time will pay off.”

The GCDP receives no state or federal funding. We are a 100% volunteer organization. And we are committed. Despite a worldwide pandemic, our volunteers are working hard at overcoming obstacles to reach voters. Your recurring donation can make a difference. Here’s what we are doing -

- We’re coordinating with candidates and their campaigns to get-out-the-vote (GOTV).
- We’re calling local Democrats to promote voting by mail.
- We’re refreshing and maintaining our website to provide relevant, up-to-date information for voters, a one-stop-shop calendar for the community, a journalist-quality blog that covers Democratic issues, and direct links for newcomers to various Democratic resources and organizations.
- Our precinct organization is connecting Democrats by hosting events, training and recruiting volunteers, and mobilizing voters across 151 precincts countywide.
- We’re hosting monthly Party breakfasts (currently virtual), participating in physical and virtual activism, and giving back to our community through an active GCDP Huddle.
- We’re taking your calls and opening our office (with precaution) to campaigns and volunteers.
- We’re identifying and recruiting candidates to run for local office, boards, and committees - and supporting them when they choose to run.
- We are increasing our Digital presence by adding more digital advertising and a new texting program to reach out to voters.

In 2018, Greenville County saw a 570 percent increase in voter participation in the primary over the 2016 election. We saw a similar increase in Presidential Preference Primary turnout in February. Greenville Democrats are witnessing the results of our hard work and know our investment is paying off.

If you would like to support the GCDP in fighting for our values, the middle class, and those who cannot fight for themselves, please consider becoming a recurring donor. **[Go to the GCDP website today to contribute.](#)**

We know you will give to candidates of choice. But giving just 10 percent of your planned giving this year will go a long way to helping sustain GCDP’s long-term mission - this year, next year, and beyond. Thank you for your investment in your Party.

**DONATE**



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## Thank you, May Contributors

The GCDP appreciates all those who contributed to the party in May.

Ron Cowen (monthly recurring donor), Cynthia Gibson (monthly recurring donor), Sarah Gilley, John Hester (monthly recurring donor), Adair Hill, Woodruff Hill (monthly recurring donor), Jeannette Jacobs, Kinard Johnson (monthly recurring donor), Anita LeBold (monthly recurring donor), Laurel Melson, Lucia Messina (monthly recurring donor), Ashley Newton (monthly recurring donor), Peggy Schotsch, Mike and Vera Stang, Starla Taylor (monthly recurring donor), Regina Waldrep (monthly recurring donor).

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

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



The GCDP office is open once again.

Hours are M-F, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Call us at 864-232-5531 or email  
[headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com](mailto:headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com)

YOU CAN MAKE MUCH-NEEDED DONATIONS IN PERSON, BY VISITING THE OFFICE, MAILING A CHECK, OR DONATING ONLINE 24X7 AT [GREENVILLEDEMOCRATS.COM/DONATE](https://greenvilledemocrats.com/donate).

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