

A photograph of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris standing at a podium. Joe Biden is on the left, wearing a dark suit and a blue tie, looking down. Kamala Harris is on the right, wearing a blue blazer over a white top and a pearl necklace, smiling and looking down. The background is dark with some lights.

THE VOTING ISSUE

Everything you need to know to get registered and to vote. Pages 2-9

There are lots of ways to volunteer to help in the election. Page 5

Safe or rigged? Absentee ballot security explained. Page 6

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The Census matters. You matter. Don't get left uncounted. Page 14

Everything you need to know to be prepared for November

A VOTERS' GUIDE

The election of 2020 is likely to be the most important one we've ever faced. The situation and problems with getting out the vote are made worse by our COVID-19 reality, and – just as bad – are attempts to suppress turnout, limit new voter registration, and undermine/disrupt postal service. Though it might feel overwhelming, this changed voter reality demands that we keep up and adjust as everything keeps shifting between now and Nov. 3. We hope this guide helps and, again, shows how crucial it is to know your rights and know how to vote.

Compiled by Terry Barr

Voter Eligibility

First things first. Are you registered to vote? Have you moved since the last time you voted? Did you get married? Have you voted before? Have you been convicted of a felony?

Check your registration: If you're registered but haven't voted in a few years, check your registration at [SCVotes.gov](https://www.scvotes.gov). You just need to enter your name, county and birthdate.

Check your name: When you vote you will need to show a form of photo ID. If you need to change your ID, **do it now!** Rules have changed at the DMV due to COVID and you must now make an appointment. Allow extra time to get this done.

Check your address: If you've moved into the county from outside of the state or Greenville County, you must get a new registration. If you've moved from within the county, you can update your existing registration. Call the Election Office for more information: 864.467.7250.

Have you been convicted of a felony?: You can vote if you are not on parole or probation. Your rights are not automatically reinstated, you must register again and you

Continued on next page

When's the deadline?

We've had Election Day – Nov. 3 – imprinted on our brains for four years. But there are a lot of important dates over the next three months. Here they are. Write 'em down!

Think you've got everything covered? **Check your voter registration** today and be sure you are current, listed at the right address, under the right name (did you get married? divorced?). [SCVotes.gov](https://www.scvotes.gov)

NOW

If you're sure you want to vote absentee, request your ballot now. [VoteBlueSC.com](https://www.voteblue.sc.gov)

SEPT.

24

Absentee ballots will be mailed. Once a ballot has been mailed to you, you cannot vote in person.

OCT.

2

The last day to register. If you are 17 but will be 18 on or by Election Day, you can register to vote. But do it before 10/2. [VoteBlueSC.com](https://www.voteblue.sc.gov)

5

In person absentee voting begins at County Square and four (expected) satellite locations.

20

Have you moved? If so, this is your last day to change your address.

24

State law says you can request an absentee ballot as late as the Friday before Election Day. But county Election Officials say that is **too late** to ensure the ballot can make a round-trip back to the county by Tuesday. They say request your ballot no later than Oct. 24.

27

Under current state law, absentee ballots must be **received** by Nov. 3. The county Election Office strongly suggests you mail yours a week in advance.

NOV.

3

Election Day. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

A Voters' Guide



Voter Registration Events

Many organizations are trying to help register voters working within the need for social distancing.

The Young Voter Coalition is a coalition of Upstate organizations dedicated to getting more young people involved in voting and the political process. They are knocking on doors and dropping off voter registration forms throughout August. [Connect with them on Facebook.](#)

The Democratic Black Caucus of Greenville County is organizing an large voter engagement initiative that will run for a dozen days over the next few months. Located at County Square, Suite 400, the DBC will be registering votes, helping voters confirm their status, offering training on voting machines, and checking polling places. Everyone will be masked and socially distanced. The events will be held from 10-2 p.m. on the following dates:
August 24, 25, and 26
September 2, 3, 4, 25, and 30
October 1, 27, 28

The GCDP will be organizing registration events at satellite locations to assist the DBC every Saturday from 8/29 - 9/26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Locations TBA.**
For information email:
gcdpcomm@greenvilledemocrats.com

Continued from previous page

may be required to show documentation that you have completed your entire sentence. If you have been convicted of a misdemeanor, you may vote so long as you aren't in jail.

Are you 17?: You can register to vote now if you will be 18 by Election Day. You will need your Social Security number to complete your application. Ask your mom.

Voter Registration

There are several ways to register to vote. But we should anticipate delays because of reduced staffing due to COVID. So don't wait. **Do it now.**

Register online: If you are a US Citizen, and have a current Driver's License, Election Director Conway Belangia says you can now complete your voter registration completely online. Your digital signature will be pulled in electronically from the DMV. This is the fastest way to register and will be processed with four business days). Go to [VoteBlueSC](#) to register.

Register by mail or at a registration event: You can register on a paper form, which you can download [here](#). You will need to attach a copy of your drivers' license, sign and date the application, and mail it back to the Greenville County Election Office at 301 University Ridge, Suite # 1900, Greenville, SC 29601.

If you have not received your voter registration card by two weeks Election Day, call 864-467-7250 to check your status.

Voter ID

No matter where you vote or when, you will need to have one of five forms of identification.

- Current SC Drivers' License
- SC DMV Identification Card
- SC Voter Registration Card with photo
- Federal Military ID
- Current and valid US Passport

If you do not have one of these forms of ID with you, you will still be permitted to cast a provisional ballot. However, that ballot will only count if your ID is verified at the County Board of Election offices prior to certification of the results. These deadlines may vary and you should contact the Board of Elections (864-467-7250) if you are unable to produce a valid form of photo ID.

A Voters' Guide

Absentee Voting

Once the province of students, home-bound citizens, traveling businessmen and ex-pats, absentee voting has become more and more essential in recent years. This year, it is critical. And it is also mired in controversy and a political punching bag. **Thirty-three states, including the Southern states of Florida, North Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia will require absentee ballots for everyone with either no excuse or COVID as an excuse.** Only eight states, including SC, require a non-COVID excuse this year. The state Legislature returns next month and will take this up.

There are currently 18 valid excuses for voting absentee in South Carolina. The most common include being a student outside of your county of residence, work, having a physical disability or being over 65. No documentation is required for back up. **Find all 18 excuses here.**

In the meantime, new problems have arisen with the Postal Service leadership doing all it can to slow down the mail, reduce the capabilities of mail sorting, and even removing physical mail boxes from communities across the country.

What does this all mean to you? If you are capable of voting absentee, request your ballot early, complete it early, and return it early. Consider returning it directly to County Square but if you're mailing, leave plenty of time – at least 10 days – for it to be delivered.



Absentee by Mail

The first step to obtaining an absentee ballot is to request an application. **Do this online at VoteBlueSC.com.** If you have a printer, you can request an application be emailed to you. If not, you can request the application come by mail. Allow extra time for this. If you do not have access to the Internet, call the office at 864-467-7264.

The request form must be filled out and returned to the county elections office address on the form. You can submit your application for an absentee ballot now, but ballots will not be sent out until the third week in September when all candidate information is complete.

Once your absentee ballot has been mailed to you, you cannot vote in person absentee or at the polls on Election Day.

If you don't receive your absentee ballot by the first week of October, call the Election Office at 864-467-7264.

If you can, complete your ballot as soon as it's received and get it in the mail. Before you return it make sure you have signed it and signed the ballot envelope. If information is missing or incomplete, the Election Office will – time permitting – make an attempt to call voters and correct the problem. But that may not be possible within two weeks of the election.

Ballots must be **received** at the Election Office by Election Day to be counted.

Absentee in Person

South Carolina does not have Early Voting, although we have gotten in the bad habit of using the term.

Absentee Voting in Person will begin October 5 at County Square. There will also be a number of satellite locations, as there were for the primary, throughout the county. Those locations and their schedules have not yet been released.

You will need to bring Voter ID and must follow social distancing requirements and wear a mask. You should expect lines and be prepared to stand outside at County Square.

Resources

[The Greenville County League of Women Voters](#)

[The South Carolina Election Commission voter information page](#)

[Greenville County Election Office](#)

**South Carolina Voter Protection Hotline:
855-785-0222, [website](#) and [Facebook Page](#)**

[Greenville County Democratic Party website](#)

[How does South Carolina rank nationally on mail-in voting? Is a D good?](#)

A Voters' Guide

Voting on Election Day

No one can say right now what we may experience on Election Day. We don't know if the virus will "disappear" or be raging. We don't know if a large number of voters will be able to cast their ballot by mail or if the lines at the normal polling places will be long with uncomfortable wait times.

For those who choose to and those who have no choice only two things are certain:

It will be like no other Election Day most of us have seen and no matter what **we must vote**.

Polls, Workers and Watchers

Election Director Conway Belangia expects to have 150 polling places open for voting. As with every election there will be some changes, so it's important to check your polling place. Don't assume you are voting at the same place as last time.

A key factor in how long the lines and the waits may be at each location are the number of poll workers. Belangia says he would like to have 2000 poll workers optimally; he'd be comfortable with 1600; he can squeak by with 1250.

This is where you come in. There are several roles where your help is going to be needed.

1. **The county needs poll workers.** This is a long-day and requires a three-hour training class. You do get paid (\$135 total), and you are doing your civic duty. Those who routinely sign on as poll workers say it is very rewarding. The county would like to get more younger people to sign on. So if your work schedule is flexible, or you are not currently working, consider helping us fill this need. Belangia will be conducting 170 (no that's not a typo) training sessions from Sept. 8 through Oct. 24.
2. The GCDP needs **poll watchers**. Poll watchers represent the party and are at polling places to observe the election. You are the party's eyes and ears: machines break down, lines are around the corner, people are turned away, voter suppression activities going on outside the polling place. These are things we want to know about. Poll watchers must be certified by the party. In some cases, we may be able to schedule you for a half day, instead of the 6 am to 8 pm shift the poll workers sign up for.
3. We also need volunteers to sign up as **drivers** to be on call to drive voters to the polls. Our hope is that we have enough drivers to try and assign you rides closer to your home. And we'll need **runners** to deliver snacks and water



Election Day Volunteers

The election of our lives is just around the corner and we need to be ready! We need to have poll watchers at each of 151 polling places as well as drivers and runners to help get people to the polls and assist the party. We need your help. Complete this form and a member of the GCDP team will be in touch with you with details.

Name *

First Last

Email *

Mobile Phone Number *

- ### -

Town or community where you reside *

Roles we need volunteers for (check all that you are interested in)

☐ Poll watcher

☐ Driver

☐ Runner

☐ Poll worker

Hours you are available (different roles have different hours.)

☒ All Day

☐ Afternoon (1 PM - 7:30 PM)

☐ Morning (6 AM - 1 PM)

Submit

to polling places and also to collect any information necessary to bring back to the party's "boiler room."

If you can volunteer any of these roles, [click on the image above](#) to complete this quick form. If you select poll worker, the information you provide will be forwarded to the county Election Office.

A Voters' Guide

How secure is your absentee ballot?

By LAURA HAIGHT

We have all heard it. The constant railing against mail-in voting, the fear-mongering about rigged elections, massive fraud, and, of course, the efforts by the administration to hog-tie the Postal Service at a critical time. All at the same time that Democrats are trying hard to get the COVID exemption for absentee voting extended to all South Carolinians for the November election.

So, we went to the source – Greenville County Election Director Conway Belangia – to get his take on election security. Belangia has been in charge of Greenville County elections for 26 years, and he prides himself on running thorough, fair, free elections. In 2018, Belangia was recognized with the Moore Award from the South Carolina Association of



Registration and Election Officials for exemplifying the spirit of the organization through “continued unselfish giving of time and effort to make the Association a more educated, concerned group that promotes training and education in voter registration and election administration.”

The first thing we asked Conway to explain was the security steps around mail-in absentee voting. Can any of these things that are being tossed around actually happen?

Security Check #1: You must apply for an absentee ballot. You can do this online at www.votebluesc.com or by calling the election office at 864-467-7264 or emailing absentee@greenvillecounty.org. You’ll want to include your address, date of birth, phone number, and the reason for voting absentee.

Security check #2: When you receive your absentee application you’ll notice they are numbered. Each has a unique number assigned to the specific voter. That makes it impossible, Conway says, for someone to copy a single application ‘hundreds of times’ or just pick up multiple applications.

Once you receive the application, complete it and return in the provided envelope, which has the same unique number associated with it. Before you mail in the application be certain you really want to vote absentee by mail. Once your absentee ballot has been mailed to you, you cannot vote absentee in person or at the polls on Election Day.

Conway says absentee ballots will start being mailed out around September 24. Allow about a week and if you haven’t received your absentee ballot by the first few days of October, contact the Election Office. When you receive your ballot, complete it and mail it back as early as you can. High turnout is expected – and hoped for – so it’s important that the Election Office get a steady stream of incoming ballots rather than a flood within a week to 10 days of the election.

The ballot currently requires a witness signature. “We’ve been requesting the Legislature remove that,” Conway explained, “because it serves no useful purpose.” That will be one of the Election-related items under consideration when the Legislature returns to wrap up its session in September. You can also return your ballot in person by taking it to the Election Office at County Square. You must complete the yellow form included with the ballot and sign it if you are dropping it off. If you are asking someone else to drop it off, you must include their name and your signature. **Security Check #3.** This check on the return of absentee ballots in person is one reason why Conway is opposed to drop boxes, although there is a move afoot to push for them in this election. See story on Page 7.

Security check #4, when your ballot is received, the signature on the back of the envelope is checked against the signature in the voter file by Election Office personnel. “We are not handwriting experts,” admits Conway, “but we have some things we look for.” If

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A Voters' Guide

The case for drop boxes

By RUTH TODD

GCDP, 1st Vice Chair

There are many pros to having ballot drop boxes and some cons... you decide.

The South Carolina Election Commission's Executive Director, [Marci Andino, and other SC election officials, have sent a letter to Gov. Henry McMaster](#), Senate President Harvey Peeler, and House Speaker Jay Lucas asking for changes for the upcoming election.

The four most important changes are: 1) no-excuse absentee voting; 2) removal of the witness requirement; 3) allowing opening of the ballots to begin the Friday before the election; 4) allowing drop boxes for submission of absentee ballots.

During the 2020 primary, Andino stated that mail-in absentee voting was up 213 percent. Fear of this creating a backlog in the US Postal Service system is increasing as the agency runs out of funding and unfunded overtime is disallowed by new leadership. The SCDP's Director of Voter Protection, Shaundra Scott, is [pushing for changes](#) that were in place during the June primaries, and many are the same as Andino's. [National election officials are confident in the security of ballot drop boxes.](#) Also, SC state officials are confident in the security of the drop boxes with added security protocols.

The public press for drop boxes is an area of concern for Conway Belangia, Greenville County Election Director, who says state law prohibits them. Some counties have said they intend to use drop boxes under a "pandemic law" exception. Conway, however, is not down with that. "We have the laws there to protect the vote," he says, citing the restrictions on returning ballots is what guards against the harvesting of ballots (the issue that resulted in North Carolina's 9th congressional district result being overturned in 2018). "Drop boxes are not part of that process."

Pros to having ballot drop boxes: 1) Increases voter confidence that their ballot is received; 2) Removes issue of late delivered ballots not getting to County Square in time; 3) Increases health safety by reducing lines for absentee in-person voting and Election Day voting.

Cons: 1) Potential of damaged or stolen drop boxes 2) Need to hire security to watch the boxes or install monitoring systems.



To have ballot drop boxes, one box for every 15,000–20,000 registered voters is recommended.

That would be 16 boxes around the county to accommodate our 313,000 registered voters. Population concentrations and demographics would also be a placement consideration.

Who are you voting for? Bookmark our candidate information 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.](#)

We are adding information about volunteer opportunities and virtual events candidates are participating in, as we become aware of them.

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.

A Voters' Guide

How secure is your absentee ballot? (Con't)

Continued from Page 6

a signature is missing or there's a question about it, election office staff will try to contact the voter to see how to rectify the issue. "With the kind of volume we're expecting," Conway says, "the only time we'll be able to do that is for ballots received 3-4 weeks before Election Day. Within two weeks, contacting individual voters is unrealistic." If you forget to sign the ballot envelope and the ballot is received inside that two-week window, your ballot will go in the "Do Not Count" box.

Under law, absentee ballots cannot be opened until the morning of Election Day. The Election Commission has asked for permission from the Legislature to start getting those ballots ready to be counted at least the day before. Whether that is approved or not, the process will be the same: Signed outside envelopes are separated from the ballot envelope. Now there is no way to link the ballot back to the ballot envelope and the voter. "That protects the secrecy of the ballot," Conway explains. Ballots will be separated to be scanned and tabulated, by feeding them through the same optical scanners voters use at the polling places. With as many as 40,000 absentee ballots possible in November, Conway knows it's going to be a long night and fears that the counting of ballots could run into the early morning Wednesday or beyond.

Unlike many others, Conway is not concerned about lapses in Postal Service impacting the election. Conway praises the Postal Service's efforts during the June primary. "They worked their butts off," he says, including some post offices hand delivering ballots to the Election Office on Primary Day. "They understand," he says, "they are part of the process." Still, he suggests making sure you have mailed your ballot back at least a week before Election Day.

And don't wait until the week before the election to request your absentee ballot. By law, the office is required to mail ballots out until 5 p.m. the Friday before the election. But, Conway notes, in reality "that ballot is probably not going to make it to the voter and back to us by the close of the polls on Tuesday."

Voting is a right and a privilege

Voting is your right. If you are properly registered, are at the right polling place, and are in line by 7 p.m., you **MUST** be allowed to vote. If you are denied your opportunity to vote, contact the GCDP office at 864-232-5531. The state Democratic Party also has a voter suppression hotline at 855-785-0222.

Do not leave your polling location while you call; stand your ground. If you have to leave, ask for a provisional ballot and then follow up with the Election Commission the next day to ensure that ballot gets counted. Document anything you are told and ask for the names of the poll workers you interact with.

Above all VOTE.
Help and encourage others to VOTE.
Be safe and preserve our democracy.

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



And don't forget your mask!



A Voters' Guide

Furman's Straight Talk Series Takes On Voting

The Riley Institute and OLLI @ Furman's 10th Annual Straight Talk Series is going viral. Straight Talk 2020: Voting in America, a series of three in-depth conversations premieres Tuesday, Sept. 1 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm, with **Lurching Forward: 244 Years of Fighting for the Right to Vote**. Expert panelists including Michael Waldman, president of the Brennan Center for Justice, will discuss the ongoing battle for voting rights and voter suppression.

Session two on Sept. 8, **The Dark Art of Politics: When Politicians Choose the Voters**, the role of the Census in determining representation in

Congress will be covered as well as redistricting and gerrymandering. Panelists include; Allison Riggs, interim director of the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, and SC Representatives Gary Clary and Gilda Cobb-Hunter, both of whom support the establishment of an independent voting redistricting commission in South Carolina.

The third and final session on Sept. 15 is **Democracy at Risk: Safeguarding Votes, Voters and Election Integrity**. It will explore what the Constitution says about how we elect our president and the cost of declining trust in our democratic institutions. Robert Costa, moderator and managing editor of Washington Week on PBS, and Indiana University President Michael McRobbie are among the panel's experts.

For more information on the series and a [link to register](https://riley.furman.edu/riley/critical-issues/straighttalk/voting-america), visit <https://riley.furman.edu/riley/critical-issues/straighttalk/voting-america>. The series is free.



Aim higher with advocacy for #EveryoneVotes in November

BY LAURA HAIGHT

Over the past few months, we've been asking you to call and write your elected officials and demand full mail in (absentee) voting for everyone in November.

Now we think we'd better up our game. The Legislature returns in September and will take up Election issues.

It's time to put the pressure on the leadership. Please write letters or postcards to:

Gov. Henry McMaster, State House, 1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Speaker of the House, Rep. Jay Lucas, Suite 506, Blatt
Building, Columbia, SC, 29202



President of the Senate, Sen. Harvey Peeler, Jr., Suite 213,
Gressette Building, Columbia, SC 29201

Majority Leader of the Senate, Sen. A. Shane Massey,
Suite 311, Gressette Building, Columbia, SC 29201

Talking point: The right to vote and to representation is the foundational right of our Constitution. The state Election Commission has asked for full mail-in voting and other changes for this election. Heed their call and ensure all South Carolinians can vote without risking their health in November.

[Find more talking points online](#)

From the chair

Eli Valentin, GCDP chair, has a personal relationship with Kamala Harris from his experience as SC Political Director of her campaign during the presidential primary season. Here's his take on our new vice presidential candidate.

My Walk with Kamala Harris

By **ELIAS (ELI) VALENTIN**

GCDP Chair

The first time I met Kamala Devi Harris, affectionately known as KDH inside the campaign trail, was on October 19, 2018 when she came to stump for our Greenville slate for the midterms. This experience would be a precursor of one of the most rewarding, fun, challenging, and demanding experiences of my life.

Later that evening I printed out a picture of Sen. Harris, put it on my vision board and wrote the word BOSS over the top. I was putting it into existence.

I became familiar with Sen. Harris as a college student, as she was an up-and-coming district attorney on the forefront of marriage equality from San Francisco. This was an interesting time for me as I was at an inflection point in my life. I was balancing being a full-time college student-athlete, working full-time, struggling with my sexual identity, and working on my personal faith journey.

Kamala was a decade ahead of the pack on marriage equality and I vividly remember watching love win on Valentine's Day 2004 as hundreds of same-sex couples gathered at the San Francisco court house to get marriage licenses. Kamala was leading.

Kamala cared for Greenville. She came here when no one else would, a fact many quickly forgot as the Presidential primary came into full swing. She didn't just show up for us in 2018, when he had a historic opportunity to elect an African-American leader to Congress in the 4th, she showed up for us (and me) with Tina Belge's race....

[Wait.. there's more. Read Eli's full post on the GCDP blog.](#)



Calendar: What's going on?

August

22

Meet Us In The Middle rally, organized by Beyond Differences, 11 a.m. County Square, 301 University Ridge, Greenville. (see right)

22,
29

Voter Registration Form Door Drops organized by the Young Voter Coalition, 9am- Noon, 301 University Ridge, Greenville, 29601. Meet at County Square, split into teams of two and go door-to-door across the city and county. [Get info.](#)



25

The Color of Incarceration. United Ministries and the Second Chance Justice Collaborative host a virtual program on mass incarceration and racial inequality. [Register for the Zoom link.](#)

30

Last day to register for the **Upstate Forever Citizen Planning Academy** six-session series of virtual seminars designed to help Greenville area residents become more familiar with local land use and planning policies. The series will run from Sept. 23- Oct. 28. [Register here.](#)

22



24

US Senate Candidate Jaime Harrison joins SC-4 Candidate Kim Nelson, and State Sen. Karl Allen for the first of a series of Roundtable events focused on the Black Agenda. [Streaming live on Facebook.](#) (See flyer on next page)

September

The Riley Institute/OLLI annual summer series - **Straight Talk** - goes virtual (and free) this year with a three-part program on **the** topic of the day: **Voting**. A full story and link to register is on **Page 9**.

10

Being a Black Man Today is the second in the GCDP's **2nd Thursday Conversations** series. Our panel of legislators, candidates, and activists will discuss their paths to bring about change in communities. [Register here for the Zoom link.](#)

16

Moms Demand Action Greenville monthly virtual meeting. 7-8 PM. Email UpstateMoms@gmail.com

Calendar: Get Active Anytime

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**. You don't need any special tools, just a browser on your computer or tablet, and a phone.

MAKE A CHANGE IN CONGRESS: Let's send Kim Nelson to Congress! Want to help make that happen? Kim's campaign has virtual phone banks running every Tuesday and Thursday from now until Election Day. Check out these dates and find one (or two or three) that you can do **from home!** [Find Kim's events and signup links on the GCDP calendar.](#)



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.](#)

ICYMI



Rev. Sharon Risher lost her mother and two cousins at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. She talked of her journey from anger to activism. [Watch the replay.](#)

E-ROUNDTABLE
MONDAY, AUGUST 24TH • 7PM
JUSTICE:
ECONOMIC & CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM
Join the Greenville Democratic Black Caucus for the First in a series of Roundtables focused on the Black Agenda. We are blessed to have inaugural discussion joined by:

SC SENATOR KARL ALLEN 4TH DISTRICT

CANDIDATE FOR U.S. SENATE JAIME HARRISON

CANDIDATE FOR U.S. CONGRESS 4TH DISTRICT KIM NELSON

MODERATOR KWADJO CAMPBELL, CHAIR GREENVILLE DEMOCRATIC BLACK CAUCUS

DBCS
DEMOCRATIC BLACK CAUCUS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

FACEBOOK LIVE
FACEBOOK.COM

LET'S TALK ABOUT EQUAL PAY

A FRANK DISCUSSION OF THE IMPACT OF THIS ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

PANELISTS
Rep. Leola Robinson Simpson | Rep. Chandra Dillard | Timicia Grant | Thomasina Gary | Faith Adedokun | Shadae Boakye-Yiadom | Courtney Thomas

GCDP
GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

We recognized Black Women's Equal Pay day with a multi-generational panel of activists and legislators. [Watch the replay.](#)

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. This month, we invited candidates for 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.

Hao Wu candidate for SC-Senate 6

I'm sure you've heard Dwight Loftis approved McMaster's decision for our schools to open without a solid plan to protect our students' and teachers' health and safety. Many Greenville students begin their first day of school next week and what we learned from neighboring schools is without responsible leadership, the catastrophic results affect the most vulnerable.



I'm Hao Wu, and I've served in the military from 2010 to 2014. Since leaving the Army in 2014, I have made the Upstate my home where I have built successful businesses and partnered with many nonprofits to advocate for veterans' issues such as healthcare, education, and public infrastructure.

I fell in love with the values and opportunities to serve the community on many levels. Greenville provided a platform for my mission of service and investing in local businesses because helping others breaking down obstacles to achieve their dreams is a privilege. I have kept up with the changing needs of my neighbors and their concerns and if we don't elect responsible leaders, these issues will never change. I'm running for Senate District 6 because I'm passionate about ensuring all Greenvillians have the resources they need to improve their quality of life. My background as an immigrant, biochemist, Army veteran, and small business owner prepared me to be your champion. I am ready to serve as the next senator from District 6. If you agree with demanding a high

Continued on next page

Dr. Dawn Bingham candidate for SC-Senate 12

Hello! My name is Dr. Dawn Bingham and I am your candidate for SC Senate District 12. As an OB/GYN and public health professional, I am delighted and honored to be your Democratic choice for SC Senate. I am a wife, mom of four, professor and a physician - I know the needs of our community, and I am dedicated to working together to



further the health and economic mobility of the people of South Carolina. In my work as a physician for the past 20 years, I have had the privilege to care for thousands of South Carolina women, deliver thousands of South Carolina babies, and teach hundreds of medical students and residents. As an Elder at First Presbyterian Church of Spartanburg, my church home is an essential part of my life. I am honored to be part of the congregational leadership, and serve our community.

My work as Chair for the Spartanburg Faith Initiative to End Child Poverty Summit has been a powerful reminder of the unique challenges that our community faces, from gaps in income to housing uncertainty to lack of healthcare. As a Board Member of the United Way of the Piedmont, I am very fortunate to be part of the effort to support and grow the projects of the non-profit agencies that are helping the most vulnerable people in our community.

Being so deeply involved in our community has allowed me to see the many needs in District 12 and has inspired me to run for office in order to make the voices of our families

Continued on next page

Stand up and be counted: Complete the 2020 Census; it matters

The Census does not just gather information for the sake of having it. And it doesn't just add to the data coffers of the federal government. The information has an impact on your family, your school, your representation, your community and the services it can provide.

And that matters whether you are a citizen, green card holder, visa holder, or undocumented. This month, the Census Bureau announced that it would end its decennial count a full month early, stopping on September 30. With a full 40 percent of the population incomplete, stopping a month early virtually ensures – according to four former directors of the Census Bureau who testified before Congress this month – that the count will be “seriously incomplete.” That matters because the population data collected now will be used to make decisions about federal funding and political representation for the next decade.

What will be cut short are door-to-door visits by Census takers trying to track down residents who have not returned their Census or completed it online.

The Census Bureau says it needs extra time to compile the results to meet a federal end-of-year deadline to get the data to President Trump. Some fear it is another purposeful attempt to under count immigrants and people of color across the country.

Let's not let them do it. You can complete the Census online even if you do not have the Census document that was delivered to your house.

Go to my2020census.gov. If you have the Census mailing, enter the 12 digit code. Don't worry if you don't, you can enter the address you were living at in April. You can do this from your phone, tablet, or computer. And it will take less than 10 minutes to complete.

Dr. Dawn Bingham (con't)

Continued from Page 5

heard in the SC legislature. **Like you, I am ready to say, “Enough is enough,” to the lack of South Carolina leadership on healthcare, education, equity, economic strategies, and environmental issues.**

It is my privilege to do this work to serve others. I will be the only physician in the Senate (and the first female physician EVER in the SC legislature), one of only a few women Senators, and I will provide a vital missing voice of diversity and experience as we debate all the issues that affect South Carolinians.

Please take a moment to take a look at the Priorities page on my website: www.drbingham.com. This webpage outlines how I will address the major issues affecting the citizens of SC Senate District 12. I am passionate about each of these priorities and look forward to working as your Senator to really make a difference in our community. I would be honored to have your support for my campaign now,

and your VOTE in November. I promise that I will work harder than anyone to ensure a healthier and more prosperous future for all South Carolinians.

Let's do this together! You can contact me via email at dawn@drbingham.com or give me a call at 864-660-9567. Also, check out Dr. Bingham for SC Senate on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Hao Wu (con't)

Continued from Page 5

quality public education, an infrastructure system built to help you and your family thrive, and rebuilding our small business community as we work through the pandemic then I encourage you to visit [my website](https://mywebsite.com).

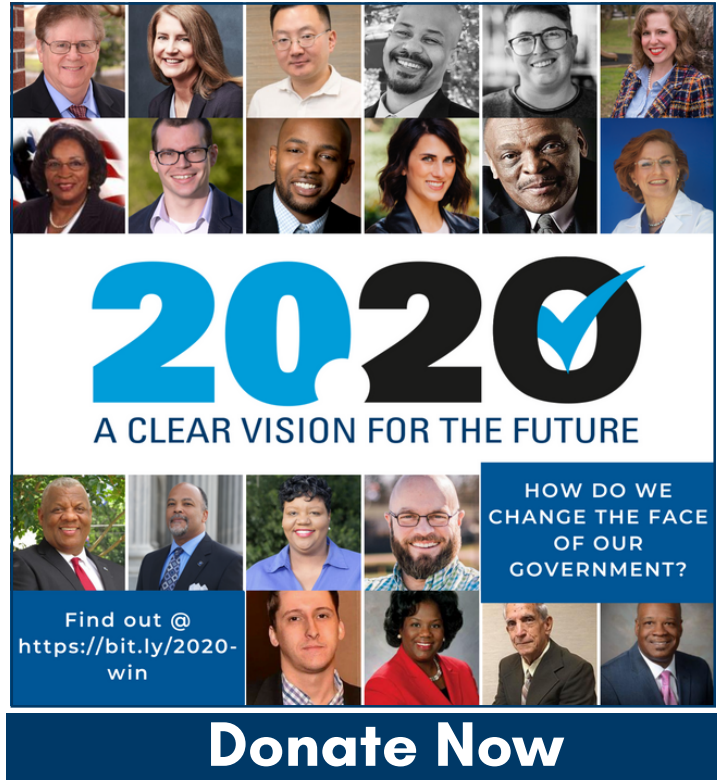
There are multiple safe ways you can support my campaign. It takes a village, and together we will make the American Dream a reality for all in Greenville.

Want Better Results? Elect more Democrats. That's our Vision.

Greenville County has changed a lot over the years. We've gone from a textile manufacturing center to an innovation hub; from a sleepy Southern town to a national tourist destination; from an antebellum past to a multiracial, multiethnic, multinational, multigenerational citizenry.

Know what hasn't changed? How we are governed. Republicans have had a stranglehold on Greenville and South Carolina for generations. The two-party system of governance in this state is an ideal, not a reality. Republicans are so entrenched they don't even try to defend their seats: They refuse to debate Democratic opponents. When they meet with their constituents it's in private town halls. Why are they so reluctant to stand up to opponents on their records? Because their records are terrible.

And yet we keep electing them. [Among the 20 Greenville County candidates running this cycle are eight newcomers vying for three state Senate seats and five State House seats.](#) They are up against a Republican juggernaut that has collectively held those seats for 190 years! Nearly two centuries!



2020
A CLEAR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

HOW DO WE
CHANGE THE FACE
OF OUR
GOVERNMENT?

Find out @
<https://bit.ly/2020-win>

Donate Now

We hear people complain of donor fatigue. And we understand, you are giving not only to Jaime Harrison but to high profile candidates in other parts of the state and even other states.

But the Greenville County Democratic Party is the only entity that is working to get [Michael McCord, Dr. Dawn Bingham, Jevarus Howard, Farris Steele Johnson and 16 other Democrats elected.](#)

Why give to the GCDP? Because it is the state and local races that change the quality of life in South Carolina. And it is the GCDP's entire focus to win those seats. Our office is home base for campaigns, mustering points for canvassers, phone bankers, and volunteers. Our volunteers are registering voters in precincts across the county, developing messaging to educate, engage and activate those voters, building plans to increase visibility for those candidates.

We do not receive any funding from the South Carolina Democratic Party or the national party. So we ask you to be all in with us. **Make your \$20.20 monthly recurring donation today** and help us fight harder, employ better tools, expand digital advertising and more to break the Republican grip on the state and our county.

Greenville deserves governance on the local and state level that matches the multicultural, innovative, forward-thinking community we have become. For that, we must elect more Democrats.

That's what the GCDP is here to do. And we need your help to do it.

Donate Now

**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.

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Thank you, July Contributors

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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

Donate Now

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