

The Bray

GCDP
GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

SEPTEMBER 2020

THE VOICE OF THE GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY



RIP, RBG
Ruth Bader Ginsberg, 1933-2020

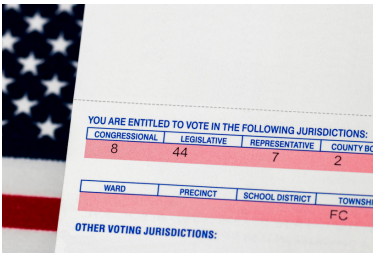
Make A Plan To Vote

The day we've waited for is nearly here. Time to vote. So let's make it count by making sure we've got the information we need and we have a plan in mind. Check out the [What You Need to Know to Vote](#) page on our website for up-to-date info.

1. Check your eligibility

Make sure your voter registration is up to date. Have you gotten married or moved into a new precinct? Do you have the appropriate and current voter ID? Confirm your voter registration at [SCVotes.gov](https://scvotes.gov). You will need to have one of these IDs:

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



4. Plan a ride

Things are way more fun with friends, so don't vote alone. Take a couple of friends with you. Work out in advance what day and time you're going to go. And who's going to drive.

Many of our neighbors could need a ride to the polls. And we want to make sure everyone is able to get one. We've been recruiting drivers for weeks now and we have a pool of drivers signed up for early voting and Election Day.

Now we need to know who needs a ride.

Request a ride here and our coordinator will be in touch.



2. Get registered

You have until **Oct. 2** to register to vote. If you are 17, but will be 18 on Election Day, you can register. If you are a convicted felon who is not on parole or probation, you must re-register, but you can vote.

Getting registered is easy. [Go to voteblueSC.com](https://voteblueSC.com). You will need your Social Security number! If you are more comfortable doing that in person, you can go to the Election Office at County Square or one of the [Democratic Black Caucus voter registration events being held this month](#).

Final Thoughts

Do not let the noise and suppression tactics control you. It is your right to vote. If you are properly credentialed and at the correct location, you may vote.

If you have a question, if you are challenged, if you feel your right to vote is being suppressed, call the South Carolina Voter Protection Hotline at

855-785-0222

3. Absentee or Election Day?

OK, you're ready to go. Now when? Now that the governor has signed into law legislation that permits **all** South Carolinians to vote absentee, we all have a decision to make: Mail in, absentee in person, or Election Day.

Absentee voting in person begins at County Square on Oct. 5 from 8:30 to 5 p.m. and at four satellite locations on Oct. 12 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.. Those locations are:

- Simpsonville Activity and Senior Center, 310 W Curtis Street, Simpsonville 29681
- Pleasant Community Center, 710 S Fairfield Road, Greenville 29605
- Renfrew Baptist Church, 951 Geer Highway, Travelers Rest 29690
- Tryon Recreation Center, 226 Oakland Avenue, Greer 29650

Get more detail on the dates and times for absentee in person vote.

Mail-in absentee voting is coming under attack but the key here is getting it done early. To vote by mail, you must submit an application. You can do that on VoteBlueSC.com. Do that right away, so you will be most likely to get your ballot sent out in the first mailing which will be no later than **Oct. 1**.

Once you get your ballot, complete it immediately (honestly, how much time do you need?). You can track your absentee ballot online at VoteBlueSC.com

You can return your ballot by mail (postage paid. Thank you CARES Act.) or drop it off at County Square or any of the satellite locations. Make sure you give it to a poll worker! We do not have drop boxes.

More info on all methods of absentee voting are on the GCDP website.

From the chair

The legacy of RBG will empower us

The legacy of Ruth Bader Ginsburg will be one that history will write about fondly. She was an icon to so many and a champion of equality for women and men. Her tenacity, thoughtfulness, and commitment to the law are some of the attributes that will be passed onto future generations of jurists. As a human I was saddened to hear of her passing, as a Democrat I know I must do my part to keep her flame going.

Her collegiality amongst her colleagues is something that was highlighted in each of their statements on her passing. All were extremely personal speaking to her character, which is something I inspired most about the Notorious RBG. She led with a strong voice, but never forgot her role as a teacher of equality. She has been compared to Thurgood Marshall as a ground breaker who used the law to educate, persuade, and motivate Americans into understanding freedom isn't free unless all of us have access to it.

Her brilliance in highlighting and rectifying the discrimination pervasive for women during her professional journey was a parallel movement to the work of activist, political and thought leaders many of us enjoyed seeing in the dramatic series "Mrs. America." She fought the battle the best way she could through the courts, through her

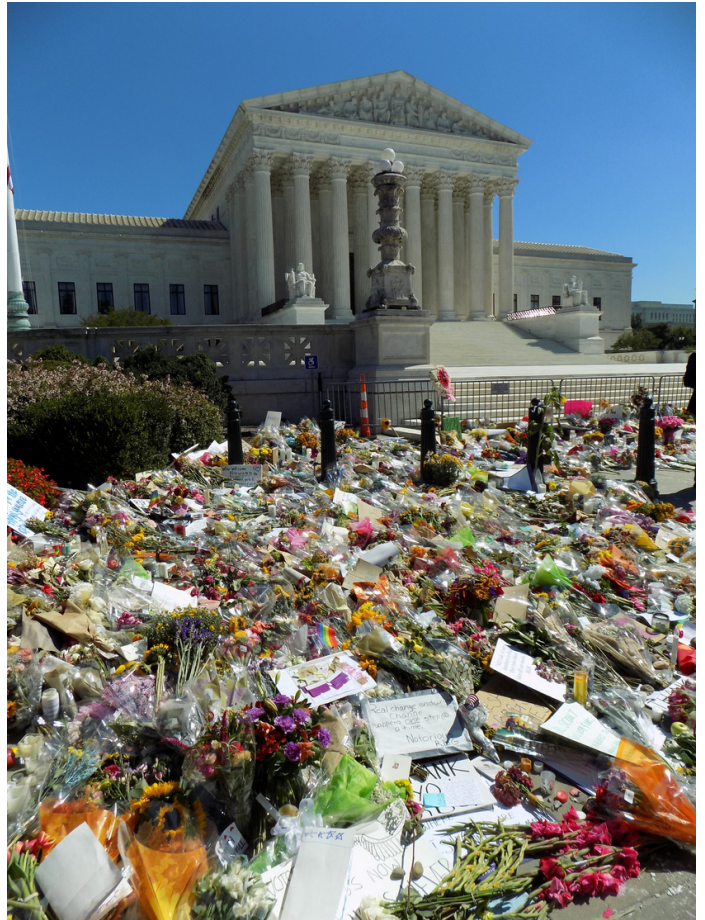
scholarship, and by inspiring future RBGs by providing a window into her life as a Justice.

She took great pleasure and found a deep sense of pride in becoming the dissenting voice on the court in the middle of her career, moving from a consensus builder to the voice of the left. She laid the groundwork for future lawyers and legal scholars to take up the mantle, giving them a guide to change those opinions in the future in which she provided such clarity and passion in her dissents.

The thing I will take away the most from her career and life of the legal giant was the care that she put in every single word. Many of us in this party can learn from that example, some of us NEED to learn from that example. The battle for the court has emboldened and empowered the conservative movement for so long. This election cycle lets make sure this is animating us to elect Democrats up and down the ticket to uphold the equality, inclusiveness, and commitment to service Justice Ginsburg displayed in her life and through her work. We all know what is at stake if we don't.

Let's do this,

Elias



Calendar: It's 48/48 people, let's go win this thing!



Recent polls show Jaime Harrison locked in a 48-48 tie with Lindsey Graham. This is the best opportunity we've had in 20 years go flip this seat. Let's do everything we can to make that happen.

There are many phone banks and text banks set up for the Upstate. So find a few that work for you and sign up to help. Every call matters and every touch with a voter increases the chance that they will go to the polls.



Find a phone bank

Find a text bank



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

Calendar: Get Active with Candidates, GCDP

The candidates listed below have volunteer needs, including phone banking, literature drops and more. Click on the candidate of your choice for a complete schedule



Sign up to no-contact canvass for Kim Nelson for US Congress and let's send Bill Timmons home!

Find events and sign up



Michael McCord is working hard to be elected to the SC State Senate in District 5. You can phone bank for Michael anywhere including at home.

Find events and sign up



Dr. Dawn Bingham is running for SC Senate in the 12th District. She needs you to make calls – from home – to her voters!

Find events and sign up



Hao Wu is running for the SC State Senate in District 6. The Wu campaign is doing literature drops every Saturday in October.

Find events and sign up



Jevarus Howard is running for the SC House in District 19, his campaign is phone banking during the week and doing literature drops on Saturday. Email the campaign for more info at howardfor19@gmail.com



Farris Steele Johnson is the Democratic candidate for Greenville County Council in District 20, you can help with literature drops during the week and on Saturdays and Sundays.

Find events and sign up



Amanda McDougald Scott is running for Greenville County Council District 24, click on the link to sign up to canvass for Amanda.

Find events and sign up



Samantha Wallace is the Democratic candidate for Greenville County Council District 22. The Wallace campaign needs volunteers for literature drops every Saturday and Sunday.

Find events and sign up




Will Morin is the Democratic candidate for County Council District 27. He's got phone banking opportunities weeknights to Election Day.

Find events and sign up

JUST 6 WEEKS AWAY

cue the volunteers!

WE NEED YOUR HELP ON NOVEMBER 3!
Sign up: <http://bit.ly/ED-Volunteers>



The GCDP needs your help on **Election Day and during absentee voting in person.** We need poll watchers, drivers and runners. You can set your own schedule, too.

[Register to join the team](#)

Calendar: What's going on?

Plan ahead: October celebrates Hispanic heritage

Celebrated by Americans across the spectrum, it was first celebrated in 1968 and became a month-long celebration in 1988. The celebration began in 1968, under President Lyndon B. Johnson, and was made a month-long annual celebration by an act of Congress in 1988. Heritage Month coincides with the independence days of Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Belize. **Find SC events.**

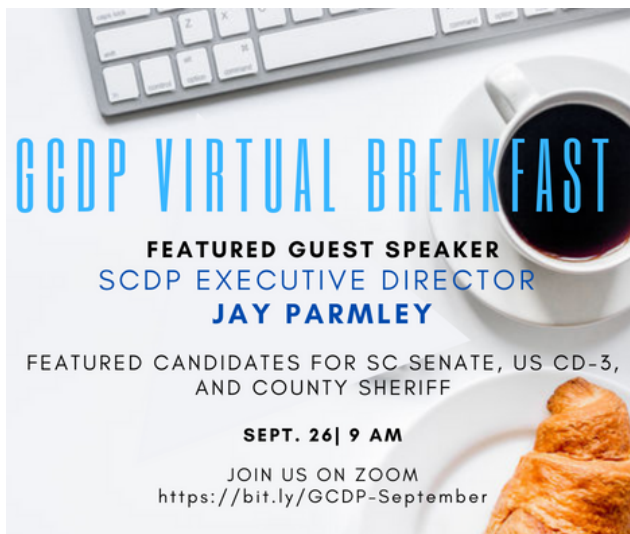


September

23

Women's Rights and Empowerment Network's (WREN) 4th Annual state wide summit continues, 7-9 PM. **More information and registration.**

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September's guest speaker is Jay Parmley, the executive director of the SC Democratic Party. Jay will give us the inside scoop on how we will make gains this year on the local, state and national level. Also on hand will be our candidates for the state senate; Michael McCord (5), Hao Wu (6), Karl Allen (7) and Dr. Dawn Bingham (12), Congressional candidate Hosea Cleveland and Greenville County Sheriff candidate Paul Guy. **Click here to join.**

26

Register to vote, complete your 2020 census, 10 AM-2 PM, various locations around the Upstate. Sponsored by the Democratic Black Caucus of Greenville. **Find locations and get more info.**

26

Voter protection and poll watcher training, sponsored by the SC Democratic Party, 9-11 AM and 1:30-3:30 PM, a virtual event. Every Saturday, through November. **Details and registration.**

29

Join the Greenville County Democratic Party for our Trivia Tuesdays fundraiser, every Tuesday at 7 pm until Election Day. Test your general trivial knowledge against like minded people from across the county. \$10. **Get tickets online.**

October

1



See **Page 12** for details.

12

Greenville County Democratic Women monthly virtual lunch. Speakers and link TBA. Noon.

Focus on the candidates

For the past months, the GCDP has been 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.

Farris Steele Johnson candidate for County Council 20

At Farris For 20, we're realists. We know that District 20 is hard soil to till. When we run the numbers on likely-Democratic voters, we aren't surprised by the slim findings. And yet, we're still setting high goals and reaching them: raising thousands of dollars, launching a serious ground game (as I'm writing this, we've placed



campaign literature at 2,500+ doors in just four days!), organizing around our key issues, and bringing new folks into the fold. And if you're wondering, what's the point in running such a seemingly-impossible campaign?

Here's a few reasons: Representation is why I got into this fight. When I filed to become the Democratic candidate for Greenville County's District 20, I was taking Shirley Chisholm's advice, "If they don't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair." The Farris For 20 campaign is our folding chair.

- We're running because Sid Cates ran unopposed in District 20 for years, and the new Republican nominee shouldn't be able to run without a fight.
- We're running because in an election where so many people are feeling disappointed in their ballot, we knew Greenville needed a strong shot of hope.
- We're running because we know change doesn't just happen in the voting booth, and we're reminding folks of that truth.

We're running because we're in it for the long haul, and we know our work extends well beyond November 3rd.

Continued on next page

Will Morin Candidate for County Council 27

To say that I am running a campaign that differs from the incumbent for County Council's District 27, or that my values and appreciation of life, the planet, and just the sheer existence of my neighbors probably doesn't go far enough.

I was reminded of this when I replied to the questionnaire from



the Executive Director of Bike Walk Greenville – the Upstate's premier cycling and pedestrian centric nonprofit organization – regarding funding for (1) Swamp Rabbit Trail expansion; funding of (2) safe routes to school recreation and work plan; and (3) county land development ordinances requiring sidewalks in new subdivisions but fail to require private funding for sidewalks on existing roads to connect to a school or business destination. (**Read the full questionnaire here.**)

My answer to Bike Walk Greenville's questionnaire is thus:

I believe that the best way to answer all three questions is this:

Cars are a cancer and more roads only metastasize that cancer.

The focus of Greenville County Council must be on mass transit and greater access for all citizens – not just those living within a 1/2 mile of the SRT. We need significant expansion of dedicated lanes for human powered vehicles and separate lanes for pedestrian traffic in every major

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Focus on the candidates

Amanda McDougald Scott, candidate for County Council 24

Amanda McDougald Scott credits the summers she spent in rural North Carolina with her grandmother, Rose McDougald, as the inspiration for serving her community. Her “Grandmama” was her role model. She was a teacher, a nurse, and an integral part of her church family and community. More than



anything, her grandmother understood that belonging to a community matters -- and that it matters what we do for our neighbors.

Amanda learned the values of inclusion, empathy, action, and service to her neighbors from her grandmother, and will bring those values to Greenville County Council - District 24 (Greenville, Mauldin, Conestee), and to all of her neighbors in Greenville County. Amanda believes in building relationships and coalitions, and has done so for years in her professional career in nonprofits and research.

Amanda has a long history of community service, research, and advocacy in the Southeast, beginning with her work in Augusta, GA, as the founder of the nonprofit, Healthy Augusta. She has worked on cardiovascular and health literacy research at Vanderbilt University and has served in

leadership roles in nonprofits for more than a decade. Since moving to Greenville in 2014, she most recently served as a Research Associate for the Institute for Child Success, where she advocated for systems, policy, and practice excellence for young children. Prior to that role, she coordinated the return of Head Start to Nicholtown and assisted Rep. Chandra Dillard in growing the Nicholtown Child and Family Collaborative from a grassroots taskforce to a 501c3 non-profit organization.

Amanda is currently a PhD Candidate in International Community and Family Studies at Clemson. She has a Master of Science in Applied Experimental Psychology. Amanda is also a member of the Emerge Class of 2020, Clyburn Fellow, and graduate of the Furman Women’s Leadership Institute. Amanda serves as co-Chair of the Greenville County Democratic Party Candidate Development Committee, Past Chair of the Prisma Children’s Hospital Community Advisory Council, the Junior League of Greenville LEAD committee, as well as the Keeping Greenville County Beautiful and Upstate Carolina Education Outreach Boards.

But her favorite qualifications are as Grandmama’s granddaughter, Brandon’s wife, and especially Polk’s mom. Amanda has always been inspired by her grandmother, and today, she also draws inspiration from her four-year old son, Polk. He is the most important factor in why she is running. He is the most important job she has, but one that she doesn’t get to list on her resume.

Once elected, Amanda will work to improve access to affordable housing, childcare, healthcare, transportation, and a clean environment, all with a commitment to inclusive diversity. She is a natural connector and will work to bring people together and get things done to enhance and advance the lives of every person living in District 24.

Her campaign website is www.amandaforgreenvillecounty.com. You can subscribe to her biweekly newsletter, #AmandaMondays at her website, and follow her on Instagram and Facebook at @amandaforgc.

Farris Steele Johnson candidate for County Council 20

Continued from previous page

We’re running for the people who will run after us.

Right now, we’re building the infrastructure of activists that will bring the change Greenville County desperately needs. We’re investing in people who have felt unheard or unwanted, and empowering them to imagine a better world. We’re organizing the team that is going to win every last point of the Farris For 20 policy agenda – at the ballot box, at the courthouse, at county square, and in the streets – we will see it through. Won’t you join us? www.votefarris.org

Thinking of running for office?

Some advice from three women who've been there

By Erin D. Basinger

The thought of running for political office can be daunting. Fundraising, debates, canvassing, phone banking, and other rites of passage on the campaign trail hardly come naturally to most people. Yet, the need for qualified candidates abounds.

I talked to three people who could de-mystify the experience: Dorothy Dowe, who won her race for Greenville City Council At-Large Representative in November 2019; Tina Belge, who lost a close race for South Carolina Senate in 2019; and Amanda McDougald Scott who is currently running for Greenville County Council in District 24.

All three women knew for years that they wanted to run for office. This gave them time to be strategic about building their resumés, constructing their social networks, and refining their stances on key issues.

Belge said she always considered elected office a way to “improve the world and make it a better place, right wrongs, improve the status quo, and help people,” but she ran for office sooner in life than she anticipated she would. ...

There's more. Read the full story on our website

Will Morin, candidate for County Council 27

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thoroughfare and secondary roads in Greenville County. These lanes must be separated by curbs and elevation.

If a road is replaced or rehabilitated, then two additional lanes for cyclists and pedestrians must be constructed. The county has the funding and can easily accomplish this task.

You will not find another council member with a stronger opinion about the needs of safe, dedicated lanes for cycling and pedestrians than myself.

This answer, the approach, the context, the mission driven response to the questions, will most certainly differ from Mr. Kirven, who even at his best, never once has put people other than himself and his rich friends, first.

My existence, my purpose on this planet can be summed up with the following statement: I exist to provoke thought and positive change that builds upon hope and happiness. My purpose-driven life takes on a form that is echoed through my talents.

I am a

- Situational Analyst - I observe my surroundings to form an educated opinion.

- Thoughtful Craftsman - I search and discover new ways of building toward a successful outcome.
- Possibility Advocate - I exhaust all avenues of support toward positive change.
- Persistent Challenger - I provoke further thought outside of the status quo.

There is a lot of work that needs to be done on Greenville County Council over the next four years, but I cannot do it without your help - to earn the votes of our neighbors and also to hold me accountable after I am elected. I want you and your friends to show up at my bi-monthly constituent outreach 'town halls' to discuss the issues with me, face to face, because the old ways of governing have failed us, a new path of openness and inclusion must be paved.

In the coming days and what few weeks we have left before November 3rd, I will need your time (and donations) to get the word out to all voters in District 27 and share with them that I will work tirelessly on their behalf to build upon their own hope and happiness.

Read more about me at www.ElectWillMorin.com.

The Republican Record (yes, it's really bad!)

The Republican record

SC LAGS IN THE BOTTOM 20% OF STATES AFTER DECADES OF GOP GOVERNANCE

The Republican Record: On gun violence

Who Cares About Gun Violence in South Carolina? South Carolina has been governed by Republicans for decades – in some parts of the state – for generations. In that time, the state has never crawled out of the basement on any major metric of governmental success. From education to GDP, the state languishes in the [...]

[Read more](#)



The Republican Record on Guns: A survivor's story

Melody McFadden was 17 when her mother was shot to death by her boyfriend. Years later, her niece was killed by in a mass shooting in Myrtle Beach. Melody, a minister and gun violence prevention advocate, has dedicated her life to fighting to make our world safer. In South Carolina – number 1 in the [...]

[Read more](#)



The Republican Record on Guns: By the Numbers

South Carolina has been governed by Republicans for decades – in some parts of the state – for generations. In that time, the state has never crawled out of the basement on any major metric of governmental success. From education to GDP, the state languishes in the basement while other states, including Georgia, Florida, and [...]

[Read more](#)

South Carolina has been run by Republicans for generations. And the results are bad. We're at the bottom of every positive measurement and the top of every "worst of" list.

We're taking a deep dive into how Republicans have kept the state in the basement for the past 20+ years to illustrate this point: We're not working well as a monolith. We need more Democrats to balance the scales and move progressive measures forward. The state can't afford to continue its record of failure.

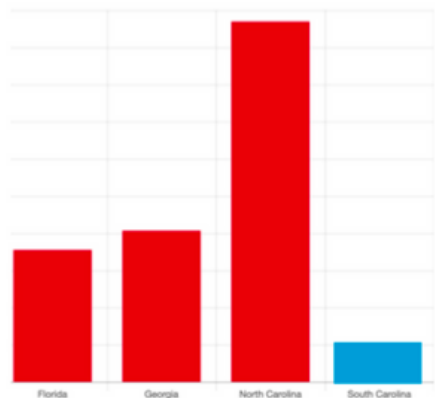
Each week we'll dig into a new area of Republican failure and Democratic opportunity. **Want better results, elect more Democrats!**

The Republican Record ON THE ECONOMY

The Republican Record: On the economy

A failure to plan for the future, leaves SC stuck in the past South Carolina has been governed by Republicans for decades – in some parts of the state for generations. In that time, the state has never crawled out of the basement on any major metric of governmental success. From education to GDP, the [...]

[Read more](#)



South Carolina loses out to Southeast competitors

Part of The Republic Record series US News and World Report ranks South Carolina 45th in the country in economic measurements. Here's a look at some of those, comparing our state to neighboring states – the same one we compete with for incoming business, new business start ups, entrepreneurial growth, venture capital, and corporate headquarters [...]

[Read more](#)

FUNDRAISING

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!



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, Jeverus 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. 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, and 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. We need your help to do it.

Donate Now

FUNDRAISING

GCDP forum explores our country at a crossroads

We are at a crossroads. Our laws are being twisted at best, ignored at the worst. Our values have been set aside for political gain. A war against immigrants, people of color, and non-Christian religions is being prosecuted from the highest levels of our government.

Four respected leaders, with decades of experience in law, public service, and environmental justice, will participate in an important discussion of Democracy at a Crossroads, the first in a quarterly series of programs in the Greenville County Democratic Party's Equal Justice Forum.



Ricardo Urbina



Teresa Nesbitt Cosby



Frank Holleman



Shaundra Young Scott

Ricardo Urbina, former U.S. District Court judge in D.C., and the first Latino appointed to the federal bench, will moderate the panel.

The panelists are:

Teresa Nesbitt Cosby, associate professor of political science at Furman University, and a former Assistant Deputy Attorney General for South Carolina. She specializes in Constitutional law, focusing on racial and ethnic politics.

Frank Holleman, former U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education, was law clerk for Supreme Court justice Harry Blackmun after graduating from Harvard Law School. He is the senior attorney for the Southern Environmental Law Center.

Shaundra Young Scott, the Director of Voter Protection for the South Carolina Democratic Party. She has also served as the director of the South Carolina chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, and supervising attorney of the migrant division of South Carolina Legal Services, representing migrant and seasonal farm workers.

The virtual discussion will focus on how the administration is dismantling valuable Constitutional protections, what's at stake, and what steps we can take going forward.

Among the topics on the table: Environmental and racial injustice, the impact on public education, undoing public health policy during a pandemic, immigration policy and the impact on asylum seekers, the diminution of the First Amendment vs the outsized role of the Second.

The forum will be held October 1 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. [**Sign up on Eventbrite to receive the Zoom registration link by email.**](#)

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Thank you, August Contributors

Jeanne Blinkoff, Arthur Campbell, Paula Catterall, Kay Christopher, Democratic Women of Greenville County, Mary Gorman, Nikki Grumbine, Sonya Harth, Margaret Heatherly, Frank and Anne Holleman, Laura McGillicuddy, Linda Maloney, Virginia May, Bonnie Meier, Genie Murphy, Ray Lattimore, Debbie Plonkey, Shirley Scott, Kristina Seitz, Bonnie Silberman, Thomas Slater, Ron Sobczak, John Charles Stewart, Dona Anastasi-Styron, Ted Volskay, Laura Wang, Asher Wilde, Virginia Willard, Nancy Williams

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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 weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Call us at 864-232-5531 or email
headquarters@greenvilledemocrats.com

Donate Now

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