



## Message from the Chair

**By Amanda McDougald Scott**  
**GCDP Chair**

As we move past the Primary Run-offs, we would like to congratulate our primary winners:



Joe Cunningham – Governor  
Lisa Ellis – Superintendent of Education  
Krystle Matthews – US Senate  
Wendell Jones – SC House 25  
Alan Mitchell – Greenville County Council District 23

There has been a lot of activity – some positive, some distracting – going on over the past few weeks. We must pull together and move forwards as Democrats with sometimes different points of view, but who share an overall vision of a more just, equitable, considerate, and positive city, state, country, and world.

The truth is that we need more Democrats to win – to hold onto and center our ideals. No one is perfect. We will not agree on everything. Our election officials, like all of us, are flawed. But overall, we know most Republicans are going to choose Party over what is best for the people. We see that in Roe. We see that in good Republicans who have been voted out for NOT choosing Party over people. Even Democrats we do not agree with 100 percent of the time share enough of our values to run as Democrats – and we should put aside our disagreements and focus on the larger, overall goal.

Primaries are a great way to decide which candidates will uphold our values as a Party, who will vote for our collective best interests. However, when the primary is over, it is time to unite and support our nominees. Our nominees are not the opponent. We must keep this in the forefront of our minds.

Choose a candidate you can support and do it. All of our candidates/nominees may not be our favorites but if we all pick a few who are, and support them, we can win some elections. Please save



he infighting for private places, and respect that every candidate is a human being with a real life... and deserves some grace. This is really about what is best for our city, county, state, and country. Publicly shaming our candidates/nominees does not model our Democratic values or support Democratic goals.

Let's support growth, good ideas, best practices, and love. Let's learn and grow together—and put aside invented problems so that we can inspire voters and beat extremism in South Carolina in November 2022.

We are just 100 days out from Election Day and SCDP/GCDP are organizing a day of action with volunteer opportunities for canvassers and phone/text bankers. [Sign up today!](#)





# Abortion Rights: The fight isn't over

By Laura Haight

The Supreme Court has set women back 50 years in many ways. But there are still options, still fights to take on, and battles to win.

## South Carolina

Currently, the six-week abortion ban, known as the "Heartbeat Bill" is in effect. But the Legislature is close to taking that farther with a [total ban and no-excuse bill in the House, and a ban with a life-of-the-mother exception and a felony with a 25-year prison sentence in the Senate](#).

The Senate bill has been referred to the Medical Affairs committee. There will probably be another opportunity to provide testimony and to appear in person to rally and show support for exceptions for rape and incest.

Vicki Ringer, political director of Planned Parenthood South Atlantic in South Carolina, says this is the time to ramp up our activism. She tweeted: "Keep calling legislators. Every. Single. Day" and linked to a [tweet thread from Lynn Teague](#), lobbyist for the LWV SC, explaining to the state's politicians "why WE are upset."

Vicki also encourages everyone to write letters to the editor, op-eds, add comments to stories where permitted, contribute to local blog and non-traditional news sources (more to come on these). If you need some help getting started, there are some good talking points [in this article from the LWV](#) (the hearing is outdated now, but the talking points remain valid).

Social media posts are cathartic, but rarely impactful. We have to get up close and personal to make a difference to legislators.

## Swing States

Although South Carolina and the Southern states have pretty much barred the door on abortion, there are still 24 states in the country that stand up for women's reproductive rights. Some of them, however, are swing states.

[DefendChoice.org](#) is a project of the Democratic National Committee and other partner organizations to reach voters in swing states on behalf of Democratic candidates, and focusing on the issue of choice and women's healthcare.



Photo by Laura Haight

You can pick a state you want to call for, and sign up to do phone banking, text banking or Zoom banking. It is critical that we hold the line in these states not only so women from banned states have somewhere to go other than their local back alley, but also as a bulwark against a nationwide abortion ban.

That legislation is clearly on the minds of GOP legislators in Congress, even as Democrats try to codify abortion. The House narrowly passed a nationwide abortion rights bill on July 15, but it appears to have little chance of gaining the 60 votes necessary in the Senate. Although it may seem unlikely to achieve much, write to Sens Lindsay Graham and Tim Scott anyway!

[The States' Project](#) calls itself a "community of changemakers" and "a movement." Its focus is state-level elected officials. This is where the GOP has focused its attention for decades and how they have succeeded in achieving minority rule across much of the country. The States' Project focuses on starting to refocus our attention on statehouses. They are primarily trying to put money behind the best candidates in the most vulnerable states. They do this through a giving circle model. You can start a giving circle of your own or find one to join.

Although raising money and donating to candidates may not seem so hands on, it is the grist for the political mill that makes a significant difference for state candidates, who frequently are underfunded.

Continued on Next Page

## Welcome our Summer Interns

*We've got two new summer interns in the office. They'll be working on volunteer organization, and developing volunteers for Election Day. Let them introduce themselves.*



### **Caroline Avinger**

Hello! My name is Caroline, and it has been wonderful getting to work at the GCDP Headquarters this summer! I am from Greenville and have lived here all of my life. I am in school at Clemson University, where I am studying Political Science and Women's Leadership Studies. I have worked on different campaigns before, but I have not done much "behind-the-scenes work" like I have gotten to do this summer. Working here this summer has been an outstanding experience and has given me excellent opportunities to connect with local and statewide campaigns, recruit and work with volunteers from all over the county, and help work on the Core Messaging Campaign. This experience has equipped me with skills that I know will carry me far throughout the rest of my academic career and into my professional life.



### **Tye Bridges**

My name is Tye Bridges and I'll be handling voter transportation for the upcoming midterm elections. I am a brand-new Greenville resident after I moved here shortly after college. I graduated from the University of North Carolina (Go Heels) with a double major in American History and Political Science. I feel very strongly about helping the Democratic Party develop a more representative democratic process and I hope to help in any way I can to help that come to be.

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## **Abortion Rights: The fight isn't over**

**Continued from Page 3**

### **Helping Women**

How far are you willing to go to help women in need of an abortion? [The Palmetto State Abortion Fund](#) is one of several in the country that are finding ways to provide "essential community services to people in need." Those services may include driving someone to an abortion procedure, providing a safe space for a woman in need, and - of course - funding their efforts. Their website is pretty general. Perhaps they want to be as non-specific as possible so as not to rile up the other side. But there is a volunteer form where you can sign up to help in the specific ways you feel you can.

### **Back to South Carolina**

Maybe you heard, we've got an election coming up. We have candidates who need your help to get elected. From governor to county probate judge, our candidates need us. [Visit our website](#), get to know the candidates, check out their websites, make a donation or volunteer to help. We need to do all we can to support Democrats in this election, in every election. Or, to borrow from Vicki Ringer: Every. Single. Day.

Let's get at it.



# My Experience at the Statehouse

*Linda Derector attended the July 7, 2022 rally at the State House that coincided with a hearing on a total, "no-excuse" abortion ban under consideration. These are her observations.*

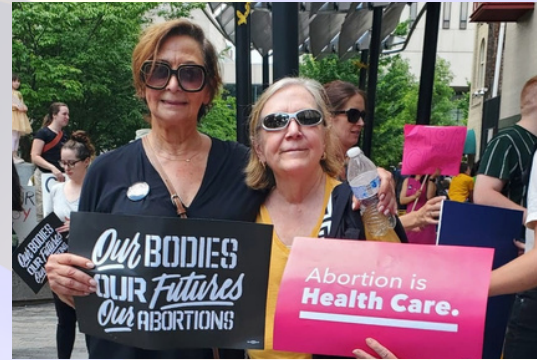
**By Linda Derector**  
**LWVGC member**

**On July 7, 2022, it was 100+ degrees when I went to Columbia to attend the Ad Hoc Committee hearing on reproductive rights, or lack thereof.**

**I had received emails from the League of Women Voters, WREN, and Planned Parenthood, to name a few, touting the importance of attending this event. As a woman of certain age, this draconian law, H5399, will not affect my life or my future. Yet, I am furious that a woman's right to govern her personal life has been removed and that she is once again considered a second-class citizen. We've gone back 100 years.**

**I arrived early hoping for an opportunity to testify. Unfortunately, that didn't happen. I understand - although I can't verify - that they were selective in their choice of speakers. (Editor's Note: Although this is accurate, at the urging of Rep. Chandra Dillard, the committee did agree to continue to take testimony from those remaining outside who wanted to speak. That continued into the evening.)**

**The highlight of this rally for me was a strong presence of young, childbearing-aged women. I learned from these youthful activists about the existence of so called "medical" clinics in SC that promote themselves as providers of abortion and maternal health counseling. The fine print on their websites indicate that they do not provide abortion help. In truth, they are quid pro quo kinds of places, i.e. if you attend religious services they will provide some care for you and your child after birth. These "clinics" are conservative, pro-life organizations and receive state funding, unlike planned parenthood. I met a group firsthand. I can still be shocked.**



**you and your child after birth. These "clinics" are conservative, pro-life organizations and receive state funding, unlike planned parenthood. I met a group firsthand. I can still be shocked.**

**WREN and Planned Parenthood both had a presence outside the State House. They offered lunch, some shade, cold drinks, and lots of speakers sharing encouraging messages.**

**The thing is: At the end of the day I felt let down, disappointed. I've had some time to reflect on this and I realize why. I did wish the turnout was better. My malaise was the realization that nothing we did that day would change the outcome of the passing of this law.**

**But I've pivoted. When one considers:**

- It took the conservatives and the evangelicals 50 years of chipping away at Roe to finally realize this goal.
- It has taken Gabby Giffords 11 years of hard work and fierce determination to restore her ability to walk, to talk, and to independently function.
- We still have a long way to go on equal rights for people of color.
- The suffragists fought for nearly 100 years to win the right to vote for women.

**My point is, we simply must not give up! As difficult as it may be, we need to show up at rallies, write letters, get the vote out for people who share our beliefs. This will be a long and difficult fight but what are our options?**

# 2022 CANDIDATES



Joe Cunningham  
**Governor**



Rosemounda Peggy Butler  
**Secretary of State**



Lisa Ellis  
**Education Superintendent**



Krystle Matthews  
**US Senate**



Ken Hill  
**US House 4**



Chris Salley  
**State House 7**



Michael Reitz  
**State House 18**



Chandra Dillard (i)  
**State House 23**



Wendell Jones  
**State House 25**



John Fritz Wiebel  
**State House 28**



Sheryl Guarniero  
**County Council 17**



Alan Mitchell  
**County Council 23**



Debora Faulkner  
**Probate Judge**

[See more about all our  
candidates on the  
GCDP website](#)



## Young Dems Summer Update

By Shadae Boakye-Yiadom  
President

The Young Democrats of Greenville County have had a great start into the new term. Since the start of the new leadership term, we have hosted Mexican Bingo on a profit-sharing night with a local restaurant (comal864), canvassed for our members running for office, coordinated our 1st litter pickup with the city of Greenville, sang karaoke at our May social at Growler Haus, tabled at the Upstate Black Pride festival, rallied for abortion access at the State House, and launched our 1st book club.



## SHOPPING FOR THE CAUSE

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).



**Swamp Rabbit Brewery & Taproom** | Travelers Rest's first and only brewery serving award winning beer! Visit our website- [theswamprabbitbrewery.com](http://theswamprabbitbrewery.com) – for more information about what's on tap & events.



**Artemis Consulting** | We combine scholarly achievements and lived experience, providing premier consultation, research, and advocacy in the nonprofit, government, and educational sectors. Visit our website <https://www.partnerwithartemis.com>



## 2ND ANNUAL BBQ AND COOKOFF



## THANK YOU TO OUR 2022 BBQ SPONSORS

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Harry Chapman  
Sen. Mia McLeod

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Kat Dunleavy  
Rep. Jerry Govan

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Denise Graham  
Janet Lomicka  
Karen Akerheim  
Ryan Hawkins  
Stephanie Pavik  
Walter Willard



# Calendar: What's going on?

## July

23

GCDP Monthly Breakfast meeting, 9-10AM, Upstate Circle of Friends, 29 Ridgeway Dr. Greenville, 29605. Meetings are hybrids and you can join on Zoom. Registration required. <https://bit.ly/GCDP-breakfast>

25

Moms Demand Action, monthly meeting, 7-8 PM, Simpsonville Hendricks Branch Library, 626 NE Main St, Simpsonville, 29681. For info, [upstatescmoms@gmail.com](mailto:upstatescmoms@gmail.com)

28

Young Democrats of Greenville County book club. 6:30-7:30 PM, GCDP HQ, 1300 E Washington, Unit J, Greenville, 29607. Dues are \$5 monthly. For info: [youngdemocrats@greenvilledemocrats.com](mailto:youngdemocrats@greenvilledemocrats.com)

30

Day of Action at GCDP HQ -- join us to make phone calls, canvass, and text voters to motivate turnout for this crucial midterm election. 10:00AM to 4:00 PM. [More info.](#)

## September

07

Young Democrats of Greenville monthly meeting, 6:30-8:30 PM, GCDP HQ, 1300 E Washington, Greenville, 29607. More info [youngdemocrats@greenvilledemocrats.com](mailto:youngdemocrats@greenvilledemocrats.com)

10

Bi-Monthly Democratic Women's Coffee meet-up, 9-10:30 AM, Old Europe Pastries, 716 S Main, Greenville, 29601. [More info.](#)

12

Democratic Women of Greenville County monthly meeting, Noon-1:30 PM. <http://bit.ly/demwomen-lunch>

24

GCDP monthly breakfast meeting, 9-10 AM, Upstate Circle of Friends, 29 Ridgeway Drive, Greenville, 29605. <https://bit.ly/GCDP-breakfast>

26

Moms Demand Action monthly meeting, 7-8 PM, Simpsonville Hendricks Branch Library, 626 NE Main, Simpsonville, 29681. [For Info.](#)

## August

03

Young Democrats of Greenville monthly meeting, 6:30-8 PM, GCDP HQ, 1300 E Washington, Greenville, 29607. Info: [youngdemocrats@greenvilledemocrats.com](mailto:youngdemocrats@greenvilledemocrats.com)

08

Democratic Women of Greenville County monthly lunch, Noon-1:30PM. \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door. Register and pay online. <http://bit.ly/demwomen-lunch>

12

S. Greenville Democrats monthly meeting, 12:30-1:30 PM, The Warehouse at Vaughn's, 109 W. Trade St, Simpsonville, 29681. Info: [mcazessuse@gmail.com](mailto:mcazessuse@gmail.com)

22

Moms Demand Action monthly meeting, 7-8 PM, Simpsonville Hendricks Branch Library, 626 NE Main St, Simpsonville, 29681. [upstatescmoms@gmail.com](mailto:upstatescmoms@gmail.com)

27

GCDP monthly breakfast, 9-10 AM, Upstate Circle of Friends, 29 Ridgeway Dr., Greenville, 29605. <http://bit.ly/gcdp-breakfast>

## Recurring Meetings

### Greenville City Council

Meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. 3:30 pm is a work session; 5:30 pm is a formal meeting. [Agendas and meeting information available online.](#)

### Young Democrats of Greenville County

Meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Email [youngdems@greenvilledemocrats.com](mailto:youngdems@greenvilledemocrats.com) for a Zoom link.

### Greenville County Democratic Black Caucus

Meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. Go to [Facebook Live!](#) for more information.

### Democratic Women of Greenville County

Meets the 2nd Monday of each month at noon. Generally but not always for lunch at the Kroc Center. For more information and links to reserve your spot for lunch, [visit their webpage.](#)

### GCDP Monthly Breakfast

We gather for breakfast - currently virtually - on the 4th Saturday of each month at 9 am. Join at this link: <http://bit.ly/gcdp-breakfast>

## PARTY LEADERSHIP

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1st Vice Chair

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### BRIDGETTE WATSON

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## DONORS APRIL 1-JULY 18

Our thanks to contributors to the Greenville County Democratic Party during the last quarter from April 1 to July 18.

### Recurring Donors

Judith Bainbridge, Phil Beckwith, David Cross, Cynthia Gibson, Cindy Henry, John Hester, Kinard Johnson, Sue Lawrick, Janet Lomicka, Doris McLallen, Ashley Newton, Evelyn Nocella, Hampton Smith, Jeanmarie Tankersley, Coreen Urbina.

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The Bray is published by the Greenville County Democratic Party. We are located at 1300 E. Washington St., Greenville, 29607, and can be reached by phone at 864-232-5531. The office is staffed Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bray Editor: Kirsten Pruitt [3rdvicechair@greenvilledemocrats.com](mailto:3rdvicechair@greenvilledemocrats.com); Layout and Design: Lucille Herwald.