

# The Bray

May 2025

THE VOICE OF THE GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY



**This is just the  
beginning!**



# Message from the Chair

**By Stacy Mars,  
GCDP Chair**

What a year it's been. Donald Trump was inaugurated in January and since then it's been nothing but chaos. Our Republican state legislators are following his lead by introducing anti-diversity, equity, and inclusion bills and trying to ram through a flat-tax that will benefit the rich and hurt middle- and lower-income South Carolinians.



Steve Bannon made an appearance in Greenville, and Peter Navarro had the nerve to attack BMW. But I'm heartened to see people standing up and making their voices heard. We've seen rally after rally and people making calls, protesting, and sending letters to their legislators in the SC legislature and in DC demanding that they work for the people.

Democrats are standing up and meeting the moment. We witnessed an historic, awe-inspiring 25+ hour filibuster speech by Sen. Cory Booker, which was a resounding call for people to continue fighting, standing up, and making our voices heard. Sen. Chris Van Hollen of Maryland traveled to El Salvador to fight for the release of his constituent, Kilmar Abrego Garcia, whose case has been supported in part by both federal courts and the Supreme Court. And Democratic members of Congress are holding town halls all across the nation in deep red districts.

Trump's approval rating is at an all-time low

Locally, our representatives fought against a so-called first in the nation merit-based, anti-diversity, equity, and inclusion bill which passed the House and is awaiting action in the Senate.

Representatives Wendell Jones and Chandra Dillard have both spoken out on the impact the bill will have on our freedom of speech, the economy, and our schools and universities. Rep. Dillard sounded the alarm on the flat-tax that is being pushed by Rep. Bruce Bannister and Gov. Henry McMaster. The first hearing was held recently, and Rep. Dillard has encouraged everyone to make calls and write to their legislators encouraging them to not bring this harmful bill up for a vote.

Needless to say it's been a rollercoaster of a year, bringing into clear focus the challenges we face nationally and locally and the urgency of our purpose. Looking at everything that is happening, and how people are pushing back, I see vision, strength, courage, and the goodness of the American people. I see hope for a better tomorrow. I see people who are willing to stand up and fight for justice.

Yes, the road is long and narrow and there will be obstacles, but all of us together, standing in unity with common purpose, can and will bring about change. On March 25, 1965, Dr. King gave a speech at the capitol in Montgomery, AL. In his speech, he said "the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice."

There will be long days and even longer nights, but we are not the first people to have had to defend civil rights and fight for justice. We are not the first but it is our turn now and I believe we are up to the task. We must continue to fight and stand for what is right. There is no time to wallow in despair, we must, we WILL keep moving forward because joy comes in the morning.



## Opinion: I Didn't Vote For This

By Don Tucker, local guest columnist from  
North Greenville County Democrats

The newly minted version of Trump, and his second term minions, led by a South African, ketamine addled trust fund baby from who violated his student visa, are running rough shod over the Constitution, statutes, legal precedents, and historically bi-partisan norms of behavior. The national Democrats seem to have both feet in the same shoe as they stumble aimlessly toward an unarticulated goal. The rest of us feel helpless, looking for a Messiah to save us, or a miracle of patriotism over party in the GOP majorities of both houses.

There are signs of hope from among the people. A Pennsylvania House seat went Democratic last week in a special election in a district Trump won by nearly 20 points. We won the Supreme Court race in Wisconsin last month. Polling is beginning to reveal seams opening in the Republican rank and file over the economy, inflation, and doubts about tariffs. Most Americans still favor aid to Ukraine, tougher gun laws, the easing of abortion prohibitions, addressing climate change, strengthening Social Security and Medicare, vaccinations, maintaining FEMA, preserving NATO, and keeping our National Parks open. A great majority are fearful of what Elon Musk is doing to our departments of government, acting without Congressional or Constitutional authority while still maintaining his many federal contracts

Activists on the left continue to show their ire in repeated public demonstrations throughout the country. Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez have held huge rallies in blue and purple states speaking to Americans in plain populist terms. And many commentators and Democratic officials are stressing the need, not to go to the right, but rather to talk about common sense issues that everyone can agree upon. Gavin Newsom, Governor of California, is interviewing conservatives on his podcasts, seeking common ground. Bill Maher, a longtime critic of stupid policies on both the right and the left, rails at Democrats for not seeking common sense answers and ignoring the extremism of the left fringe. There is some truth to the idea that we liberals embrace every concept of

fairness and inequity, making us vulnerable to the center of folks who, politically, simply want answers that will benefit themselves and their families.

So how do we give safe haven to those who voted against Biden/Harris because he was too senile, and she was too "woke" (a hijacked term the right uses to describe we who are aware of wrongdoing)? We won't win elections unless we are perceived as the lesser of two evils. One way is to, of course, not condemn everyone who doesn't believe everything that we do. Live with an open mind and an open heart. Talk with your friends. Don't open with "Trump is an asshole!" Listen to what they have to say about him. Many don't like him. Most don't like what he is doing. There are those who want to destroy federal government and we can't make a home for them under our tent. But the rest of their folks are not "true believers" seeking an Ayn Rand dystopia.

Which brings me to my premise. A great friend and law school classmate shared his concept that the message of "I didn't vote for this!" taps into their state of mind right now. Wearing a button, having a bumper sticker, or posting on Facebook which says that "I didn't vote for this!" may give disgruntled Trump voters comfort, a sense that they aren't alone, and that there are others out there who share their doubts and concerns.

I'm on board with this idea but I will die of optimism and enthusiasm before a traditional disease gets me. What's important to me is what do you think? Try it out on someone you think may not be a crazy MAGA adherent. Let me know if you think we should get buttons made (my first batch are coming from New Hampshire soon: don@dontuckerconsulting).

The polling mentioned above tells us that younger voters are NOT becoming too conservative. We just didn't give them the right choice. We still have a majority of folks who believe in the same things we do. This is a difficult time. The courts are slow, elections are too far apart, and Trump's plan is to act fast, lose many fights but win enough to persuade America that rapid change is the way of our new politics. And yes, annexing Greenland, changing the name of the Gulf of Mexico, making Canada into several states, invading Panama, and running for a third term are distractions, but we need to point out these as part of his irrational pattern of government. As James Carville said recently, they don't know how to govern. Give them time. They will self-destruct.

# Tastings On The Town



Join us for this annual fundraiser that brings our Democratic community together around good food, good music and good conversations with our leaders, candidates and volunteers.

Amanda MacDougald Scott will be honored for her years of service to our Party.

Here is a taste of the variety of food sponsors that include Presus Indian Grill, Todaro Pizza, Travinia, Aryana Afgan Cuisine, Hall's Chophouse, Old Europe Desserts, Chef Stephanie Bolden and Company, Restorante Bergamo, Big D's Baked Goods, and Sum Bar, with more to be added!

Ticket sales are limited, so order now!

Check out the many levels of sponsorships on Eventbrite.

<https://Tastings2025.eventbrite.com>

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS





## Ramping Up the Ground Game

by Steve Ramirez, First Vice Chair



For some completely inscrutable, mysterious reason, there seem to be a LOT of people interested in joining the Democratic Party Precincts development effort. I suppose Americans are eager to fight back against the damage to this country (and the world) being done by the Trump administration and his minions in the SC legislature.

We started this Greenville County Democratic Party term with only 17 people signed up at Precinct Presidents. (That's 17 out of 151 precincts.) After analyzing the issues, I've

adjusted the process and the new "ask" of these Precinct Leaders is now a much more manageable scope of work. We can now engage a lot more people, without them feeling intimidated or overwhelmed.

In essence we are now recruiting democratic community members with a focus to expand the known network of like-minded voters in their neighborhood, on their block, or in their precinct. The three key objectives are:

- Expand the network of Democrats who we know are with us
- Continually keep the people in this network active and engaged by providing up-to-date opportunities to act and to be involved in saving this democracy
- Recruit more precinct leaders (Because the target areas are smaller bite-sized chunks, we require more leaders to be involved.)

As many of you are likely well aware, there are plentiful opportunities for like-minded people to gather at rallies, protests, town halls and other events held by Democratic organizations, and non-partisan organizations. We are seizing these opportunities to recruit people in a variety of ways, including becoming precinct leaders.

**JOIN US. Many hands make light work.**  
**Contact [Precincts@GreenvilleDemocrats.com](mailto:Precincts@GreenvilleDemocrats.com)**



## Links

GCDP  
Events



GCDP  
Volunteer



Moms  
Demand  
Action



ACLU SC



Get  
Connected



Palmetto State  
Abortion Fund



GCDP  
Donate



Find Your  
Precinct



Find Your  
SC Reps



5 Calls  
(Website)



**ASK ME**  
**how you**  
**can help !**

Contact  
Precincts@GreenvilleDemocrats.com

FOLLOW GVLDEM ON:  
FACEBOOK  
INSTAGRAM  
X/TWITTER  
BLUESKY & THREADS

# YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF GREENVILLE COUNTY LEADERSHIP

By Charles Morris, Third Vice Chair



## **Emily Barnes - Chair**

My name is Emily Barnes, Chair of the Young Democrats of Greenville County. I'm originally from the Atlanta area and have a background in International Affairs and Marketing. I first got involved in local politics while working to help turn Georgia blue in 2020. Now, I'm focused on driving progressive change in the Upstate and across South Carolina by empowering young people to lead.

## **Pel Doski - 1st Vice Chair**

Pel Doski, PMP is a Kurdish American young professional and poet currently serving as the 1st Vice Chair of the Young Democrats of Greenville County. Her top focus areas are on local and statewide people development/empowerment, voter education, and campaign support. Pel's main inspirations are Maya Angelou and Mary Oliver. "The truth is, no one of us can be free until everybody is free." -Angelou

## **Jonah Simmons - 2nd Vice Chair**

He has been involved in politics most of his life and has been in leadership in YDGC, the Young Democrats of South Carolina, and the Greenville County Democratic Party since 2021. In all past and present roles he has focused on community service, connecting with other politically aligned groups, activism, advocacy, and getting others involved. He has studied Environmental Policy and Computer Aided Design in school. As a dual citizen of the US and France, he has voted in French elections and he loves practicing French with others.

## **Storm Bruner - 3rd Vice Chair**

I grew up in Texas where I was raised as a Christian Nationalist but became a progressive when I enlisted and fought in the Afghanistan war on terror. The war opened my eyes. I bring people opportunities to protest and fight back against the robber baron takeover and general tyranny in a legal and effective way. To show my fellow workers how to stand up, use their voice and unite. Workers Unite!

## **Solomon Troupe - 4th Vice Chair**

In an era of politics where messaging often matters more than policy, I aim to spread the message of the Young Dems of GVL and change our perception online.

## **Jonathan Jimenez - Treasurer**

Proud Mexican American and Staff Accountant. I bring structure, accountability, and purpose to the Young Dems of Greenville. My goal is to ensure every dollar raised is transparent, well-managed, and strategically used to support our mission. With a background in financial systems and a deep commitment to community, I'm here to help build an organization that not only empowers young progressives—but sets the standard for left-leaning leadership across South Carolina.

## **David Todd - Secretary**

I got tired of feeling like I couldn't make a difference, so I decided to put my passion into action. Now, I want to keep us coordinated and focused, and help encourage others to join to build a better community together.

# MANY THANKS!

**EVELYN NOCELLA WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL WHO SIGNED UP  
TO VOLUNTEER!!**



**THANK YOU TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS WHO DONATED TO  
THE GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN APRIL**

- LEILA AZIZ
- JUDITH BAINBRIDGE
- SUZY BARROS
- PHIL BECKWITH
- SAM CLEMETSEN
- HENRY COLLINS
- RON COWEN
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- ASHLEY SENFIELD
- AMY SUTHERLAND
- GAIL THOMAS
- COREEN URBINA
- RONALD WAXELL



# Calendar: What's going on?

## MAY

09

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm South Greenville Democrats' 2nd Friday Lunch  
South Greenville Democrats' 2nd Friday Lunch  
Warehouse at Vaughns 109 West Trade St, Simpsonville  
Info: [mcazessus@gmail.com](mailto:mcazessus@gmail.com)

12

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm Democratic Women of Greenville County Monthly Meeting  
Democratic Women of Greenville County Monthly Meeting  
The Kroc Center 424 Westfield Street, Greenville, SC  
<http://bit.ly/demwomen-lunch>

13

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Tell Them Tuesday

14

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Call to Action Happy Hour  
Swamp Rabbit Brewery 26 S. Main Street,  
Travelers Rest, SC

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Drinking Liberally Weekly Gathering  
Drinking Liberally Weekly Gathering  
Otherlands Brewing 731 Rutherford Road, Greenville, SCs

17

9:00 am - 10:30 am Eastside Dems Coffee  
Eastside Dems Monthly Coffee Meetup  
Cartwright Food Hall 215 Trade St., Greer

9:00 am - 11:00 am Democratic Women Saturday Coffee  
Old Europe Coffee and Desserts 716 S. Main St., Greenville, SC

20

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Tell Them Tuesday

20

5:00 pm - 6:30 pm  
Dem Women Cocktails and Conversation  
Oak and Honey 200 East Washington St., Greenville, SC

21

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm  
Mom's Demand (Central Greenville) Monthly Meeting  
Augusta Road Library 100 Lydia Street, Greenville, SC

22

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Democratic Women's Monthly Book Club  
Democratic Women's Monthly Book Club  
Foxcroft Wine

## 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.](#)

# Calendar: What's going on?

## MAY

24

10:30 am – 11:30 pm Indivisible Upstate Monthly Meeting  
Indivisible Upstate Monthly Meeting  
Taylors Library 316 West Main St., Taylors, SC  
[indivisibleupstatesc@gmail.com](mailto:indivisibleupstatesc@gmail.com)

26

7:00 pm – 8:00 pm Moms Demand (South Greenville)  
Monthly Meeting  
Moms Demand (South Greenville) Monthly Meeting  
Simpsonville Library 626 NE Main St., Simpsonville, SC

27

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Tell Them Tuesday  
Greenville City Hall

28

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Drinking Liberally Weekly Gathering  
Drinking Liberally Weekly Gathering  
Otherlands Brewing 731 Rutherford Road, Greenville, SCs

29

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
Fighting for Freedom Fundraiser with Tennessee Rep. Justin Pearson  
Chapman Cultural Center 200 East St. John, Spartanburg, SC

31

SCDP State Convention  
in the Goodman Building at the SC State Fairgrounds.

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### 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.](#)

### Greenville County Council

Meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. 6 pm  
301 University Ridge (County Square)  
[Agendas and meeting information available online.](#)

### Greenville County School Board

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month. 9 am  
301 Camperdown Way [Agendas and meeting information available online.](#)

### COUNCIL & STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

#### LINK:

<https://www.greenvillegovernments.org/apps/CalendarGC/CountyCouncil.aspx>

## JUNE

3

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Tell Them Tuesday  
Greenville City Hall

4

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm Drinking Liberally Weekly Gathering  
Drinking Liberally Weekly Gathering  
Otherlands Brewing 731 Rutherford Road, Greenville, SCs

7

9:30 am – 10:30 am North Greenville Democrats Monthly Breakfast  
North Greenville Democrats Monthly Breakfast  
Swamp Rabbit Brewery 26 S. Main Street, Travelers Rest, SC

7

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm Progressive Spartanburg Protest March Against Fascism  
Progressive Spartanburg Protest March Against Fascism

For more, go to [calendar@greenvilledemocrats.com](mailto:calendar@greenvilledemocrats.com)

## PARTY LEADERSHIP

### STACEY MARS

Chair

### STEVEN RAMIREZ

1st Vice Chair

### JANET LOMICKA

2nd Vice Chair

### CHARLES MORRIS

3rd Vice Chair

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### JOHN MACCARTHY

State Executive Cmte. Delegate

### KIRSTEN PRUITT

State Executive Cmte. Alternate

### HENRY WASHINGTON

State Executive Cmte. Alternate

### JEANMARIE TANKERSLEY

Voter Protection Coordinator

## OUR CANDIDATE



Tina is the owner of a small business, Catalyst Community Consulting, where she helps spark change for local governments, nonprofits, and the private sector for housing affordability. She utilizes her community development and urban planning background, as well as her policy and advocacy skills, to help her clients make a sustainable impact. Her career has spanned the governmental, non-profit, and private sectors where she has written, led, and advocated for POLICY in regards to housing affordability, trees, and zoning reform.

She is a two-time AmeriCorps service member, former planner at both Greenville County Redevelopment Authority and Greenville County, former Executive Director of Keep Greenville County Beautiful, former Director of Policy and Advocacy for the Greenville Housing Fund, and former candidate for SC Senate 6.

She is the third generation of her family to live in the upstate and is an alumnus of Georgia Southern University and UNC Chapel Hill's MPA program, where she focused on Community and Economic Development. She has a wonderful husband, Jacob, and two daughters, Sammy and Robin, and their two dogs, Lily and Ruff.

YOU CAN MAKE MUCH-NEEDED DONATIONS ONLINE 24X7 AT  
[GREENVILLEDEMOCRATS.COM/CONTRIBUTE](https://greenvilledemocrats.com/contribute)

## GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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