

July 2025

THE VOICE OF THE GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY



MUSICAL ENTERTAINER, JAMIE WRIGHT



KEYNOTE SPEAKER BAKARI SELLERS

## **2025 Tastings on the Town Fundraiser**





# Message from the Chair

**By Stacy Mars,  
GCDP Chair**

I'm often asked how I got involved in politics, and I share that in 2016 I was angry about the outcome of the elections, but more importantly I was angry at myself for not having done more than just voting. Although I know it wasn't my fault that Trump was elected, I knew I could have and should have done more in the months leading up to the election. I could have canvassed or phonebanked. I could have hosted a house party. I could have done something. So, in 2019 I started volunteering on campaigns, determined to do my part to make a difference. Well, here we are again. Trump is in office and causing more chaos and confusion than ever before.



Now, I don't know about y'all but these past six months have felt like a nightmare in a lot of ways. Every day, no... every hour, it seems like this administration creates a new problem. We have a president, legislative, and judicial branches who are actively working to make life harder for low-income and working-class Americans with their Billionaire Bailout Bill.

Right after the Senate voted, Lindsey Graham said that he felt great about his vote. The Senator that is supposed to represent South Carolina feels great that he is going to kick people off of healthcare. He feels great about cutting food assistance for millions of hungry children, and he is oh so happy to be giving his billionaire buddies a tax break. It's time to send this guy packing.

On top of making millions of Americans suffer, Trump, with the assistance of Governor Ron DeSantis, has opened the

concentration camp that they have cruelly named Alligator Alcatraz for immigrants they deem to be here illegally.

With all that is going on nationally, we have our local Republican-led legislatures that are trying to mimic what they see happening at the national level, but thanks to you raising your voices and demanding accountability, we've had a few wins.

When, Greenville County Council wanted to strip funding from the school board you showed up and supported Councilmen Alan Mitchell and Ennis Fant and demanded that they leave the school board funding alone. And when the County Council tried to strip affordable housing funding, you raised your voices and they listened. Although we weren't able to keep the full \$3 million, we were able to keep \$2 million.

We still have a long way to go and the fight continues, but as I mentioned before, we have city council elections coming up and 2026 will be here before we know it. Continue to find ways to get involved. Canvass and phone bank for candidates and the party. Become a precinct leader. And finally, DONATE to your local candidates and party! It's because of your donations, time, and effort that we are able to do the work.

The late Congressman John Lewis would often say, "Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America."

Yours in service,  
Stacey



## 2025 Tastings on the Town Photos





## THE FRANK HOLLEMAN CHAIR AWARD

Named in honor of Frank Holleman, a former Democratic Chair and a pillar of Democratic leadership in South Carolina, the inaugural award was presented by Stacey Mars at this year's Tastings on the Town.



Stacey presents Frank Holleman his replica of this namesake award.

Stacey presents Amanda McDougald Scott the Frank Holleman Chair Award in recognition of her leadership and transformative impact as Chair of the Greenville County Democratic Party. She revitalized party operations through grassroots organizing, strategic fundraising and inclusive party building. She set a powerful example for future generations of party leaders.



In a statement from Amanda, she shared these thoughts:  
Thank you to the current GCDP administration for recognizing the accomplishments we made during my tenure as Chair. I look forward to seeing continued success. The work continues, and we must all do our part to uphold our Democracy and values.

## OUR CANDIDATES

### OUR CANDIDATE FOR GREENVILLE CITY COUNCIL,, AT LARGE SEAT



Tina Belge's areas of focus for upcoming election

"We need homes people can afford, reduced traffic, accessible childcare, and our green space preserved,"

### OUR CANDIDATE FOR GREENVILLE CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 2



#### **She Fights for You in the Rooms You Are Not In**

Flemming is more than a public servant—she is a pillar of Greenville, a trailblazer, and an unwavering advocate for education and equity.

### OUR CANDIDATE FOR SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION



I am running for Superintendent of Education to restore the constitutional and deeply patriotic promise of a free, high quality public education in South Carolina.

"OUR CHILDREN DESERVE THE BEST."

## OUR CANDIDATES FOR US SENATE



Dr. Annie Andrews is a pediatrician and a mom, not a politician. She's spent her entire career serving South Carolina families—not donors and lobbyists—and she's running for Senate because kids and parents across the state are getting screwed by a system designed to work for the powerful, not the rest of us.

After nearly two decades in children's hospitals, Annie saw how Washington's failures reach all the way into her exam room every day. Kids shot in their own neighborhoods. Parents forced to ration medication. Families unable to find mental health care. So she got involved in advocacy and policy—and what she saw in the halls of power appalled her.



Lee Johnson is running for US Senate because he believes South Carolinians deserve leaders who prioritize respect, honesty, accountability, transparency, and unity.

Committed to term limits, Lee pledges to serve no more than two terms, ensuring fresh and accountable leadership in Washington.

A proud resident of Greenville, Lee lives with his wife Shauna and their six year old daughter Max.

An avid pilot and musician in his free time, Lee remains driven by a deep commitment to service.

## OUR CANDIDATES FOR US SENATE, CONT.



Brandon Brown said he is launching his campaign with a message centered on faith, family, and restoring opportunity for working and middle-class families across South Carolina. "We need to protect Medicaid, our rural hospitals and farmers from the destructive policies Lindsey Graham champions in Washington. South Carolina deserves leadership that reflects our values and fights for our future."

## GCDP OFFICE HAS A PROBLEM. CAN YOU HELP?

The Greenville County Democratic Headquarters has gotten overrun with STUFF. We considered the option of renting a storage space, but the cost of that is ongoing. We would much rather spend that money helping our democratic candidates!

So we are asking for your help in supplying the office with a few donations of organizing equipment. Our first preference would be for you to donate something that are no longer using – let us take it off your hands and prevent it from clogging up a landfill. Alternately, we will also be thrilled with a purchased item, similar to the items shown below (shelves, chair rack, dolly). Thank you in advance for your help!



# THANK YOU TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS WHO DONATED TO THE GREENVILLE COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN JUNE



- LEILA AZIZ
- JUDITH BAINBRIDGE
- SUZY BARROS
- PHIL BECKWITH
- HENRY COLLINS
- RON COWEN
- DAVID CROSS
- KARINE DEBATY
- LESLIE FATUM
- JONATHAN FOWLER
- GABRIEL GIBSON
- CINDY HENRY
- JOHN HESTER
- VISHAL JINDAL
- KINARD JOHNSON
- ETTALEE KEARNS
- KATHLEEN LAMBROS
- NADIA LAND-GREENE
- STEPHEN LAURENCE
- JEAN LEPERE
- JANET LOMICKA
- DORIS MCLALLEN
- EVELYN NOCELLA
- ELIZABETH PANDOLFI
- MARGARET PARHAM
- RICHARD POCOCK
- MARY LOU POWERS
- DIANA SAN MIGUEL
- ASHLEY SENFIELD
- AMY SUTHERLAND
- GAIL THOMAS
- COREEN URBINA



Check out Politically Speaking, a new podcast hosted by Kirsten Pruitt from Greenville, Emily Mayer from Bluffton, and Erica Sampson from Charleston. Politically Speaking is a bold and engaging podcast hosted by three progressive young Democrats who break down the latest political news, challenge the status quo, and amplify voices for change. With sharp analysis, candid conversations, and a dash of humor, they tackle the issues that matter most—from policy and elections to activism and social justice. Tune in for fresh perspectives, fearless discussions, and a progressive take on the future of politics. Find Politically Speaking at <https://linktr.ee/politicallyspeakingsc> or on Apple Podcasts or Spotify.



## **SOUTH CAROLINA'S STATE HOUSE YEAR AT A GLANCE - THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY**

### **S 62:**

THE BAD:

USE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL MONEY  
DIVERTED TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS,  
INCLUDING RELIGIOUS PRIVATE  
SCHOOLS, IN THE FORM OF VOUCHERS

### **S 425:**

THE GOOD - STUDENTS WHO LIVE IN  
POVERTY ENSURED ACCESS TO FREE  
SCHOOL BREAKFASTS AND LUNCHES  
THE BAD - REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ACT  
SHALL BE SUSPENDED IF CERTAIN  
FEDERAL FUNDING IS SUSPENDED OR  
DISCONTINUED.

### **S 165:**

THE GOOD - "SOUTH CAROLINA  
CONSERVATION EDUCATION ACT"  
THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONSERVATION  
EDUCATION FUND IS ESTABLISHED FOR  
THE PURPOSE OF CONNECTING YOUTH  
WITH NATURE THROUGH CLASSROOM  
AND OUTDOOR NATURAL RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION EDUCATION, FUNDING  
FOR YOUTH TO ATTEND OUTDOOR  
NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAMS

### **S 4003:**

THE BAD - THE GREATER GREENVILLE  
SANITATION DISTRICT, TO PROVIDE THE  
COMMISSION SHALL NOT PROVIDE  
REFUSE, GARBAGE, OR TRASH  
COLLECTING SERVICES OUTSIDE OF THE  
GEOGRAPHIC BOUNDARIES OF THE  
DISTRICT AFTER JUNE 30, 2026,  
AND TO REVISE THE ANNEXATION  
AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSION TO  
INCREASE THE PERCENTAGE OF  
FREEHOLDERS REQUIRED FOR A PETITION  
TO REQUEST ANNEXATIONS.

### **H3862:**

THE BAD: REVISE CHARTER SCHOOL  
ADMISSIONS PREFERENCE CRITERIA AND  
PROCEDURES (PUTS NEPOTISM OVER  
LOTTERY)

### **H 3309:**

THE BAD - STRIPS AWAY CONSUMER  
PROTECTIONS, WEAKENS ENERGY  
EFFICIENCY PROVISIONS AND REMOVES  
PROVISIONS FOR DATA CENTERS TO PAY  
THEIR FARE SHARE FOR ENERGY USAGE

### **S 247**

### **H 3039:**

THE UGLY (DID NOT GET PASSED!) - SENATOR  
CLEMENTA C. PINCKNEY HATE CRIMES ACT  
NEVER MADE IT OUT OF SENATE JUDICIARY  
COMMITTEE, DID NOT MOVE FORWARD IN  
THE HOUSE

**SO WHY CAN'T WE CLOSE THE  
CHARLESTON LOOPHOLE?**

### **S 300**

### **H 3868:**

THE UGLY (DID NOT GET PASSED) - FIREARMS  
CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS  
DID NOT MAKE IT OUT OF THE HOUSE  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
DID NOT MAKE IT OUT OF SENATE JUDICIARY  
COMMITTEE

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### JOHN LEWIS PEACEFUL RALLY IN UNITY PARK



Join us for a rally to honor John Lewis's life and legacy on his birthday – Thursday, July 17. Bring a friend and let's see if we can pull together 10,000 voices to tell Donald Trump 'No Way.' We are not surrendering our country, our Constitution, or our neighbors. Rally starts at 6 p.m. at Unity Park. Dem Women will rally at the 'Y' in the Unity sign. Let's make good trouble.

**H.R.14 – 119th Congress (2025-2026)**

**John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act of 2025**

03/05/2025 Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

03/05/2025 Introduced in House

**Insist that your congressional representative  
vote in favor of the John R. Voting Rights Act**

### "Unite Our Vote" Rally in Greenville Featuring Congressmen Ro Khanna , Jonathan Jackson and Others

Please join us in Greenville on July 20th to support Parrish House and Pastors United for Action to register new voters, provide vital information voters need, and drive turnout and participation for the upcoming elections. This Block Party style event will feature live music, food trucks, inspirational speakers, and a town hall style question and answer session with Congressmen Ro Khanna and Jonathan Jackson.

Pastors United For Action has brought together churches from around Greenville to present this event to the community

Where: Historic Mountain View Baptist Church

111 Cagle Street

Greenville, SC 29601

When: July 20, 2025

Time: 5 PM

**It's Time to Unite Our Vote in the Face of all the Efforts to Turn Back The Clock. Right here in Greenville, the threat is real. The elimination of Affordable Housing, Black History, and the attack on Diversity Programs are all LOCAL. Yes, it's happening in our local councils and school boards. Nationally, the Big, Ugly Bill cuts education and Medicare to fund tax cuts for billionaires. But you have the power to fight back. Join Us.**



## 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)



## Calendar: What's going on?

For events calendar, go to <https://greenvilledemocrats.com/events/>

COUNCIL & STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING SLINK: <https://www.greenvillecounty.org/apps/CalendarGC/Council/Council.aspx>

### 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.

[online.https://www.greenvillesc.gov/1694/City-Meetings-Listing](https://www.greenvillesc.gov/1694/City-Meetings-Listing)

#### Greenville County Council

Meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. 6 pm 301 University Ridge (County Square) For info, go to

<https://www.greenvillecount9.3y.org/Council/Information.aspx>

#### Greenville County School Board

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month. 9 am 301 Camperdown Way . For info, go to

<https://greenville.k12.sc.us/>



FOLLOW GVLDEM ON:

FACEBOOK

INSTAGRAM

X/TWITTER

BLUESKY & THREADS



## Greenville News

GREENVILLE

### Nancy Mace has 'swamp and a dream,' praises Alligator Alcatraz, says SC 'gators are ready'

**Nina Tran** Greenville News  
Updated July 7, 2025, 4:08 p.m. ET

Yes, this was an actual news headline this week, with Governor McMaster actually considering Mace's suggestion to make an alligator alcatraz here. Contact McMaster this week and let him know your disgust that he would endorse this inhumane housing in our state!

In closing, we are experiencing dark times and it is sometimes hard to have hope. This week at a fundraising event, I was reminded of a quote of John F Kennedy during his presidential nomination acceptance speech.

"We are not here to curse the darkness, but to light the candle that can guide us through that darkness to a safe and sane future."

## PARTY LEADERSHIP

### STACEY MARS

Chair

### STEVEN RAMIREZ

1st Vice Chair

### JANET LOMICKA

2nd Vice Chair

### CHARLES MORRIS

3rd Vice Chair

### JAMIE QUATTLEBAUM

Secretary

### RON COWEN

Treasurer

### KEVIN NORTH

Finance Director

### LYNN RAMIREZ

State Executive Cmte. Delegate

### JOHN MACCARTHY

State Executive Cmte. Delegate

### KIRSTEN PRUITT

State Executive Cmte. Alternate

### HENRY WASHINGTON

State Executive Cmte. Alternate

### OPEN

Voter Protection Coordinator