

January Newsletter



**We will never forget.
We will never stop fighting.**

Dear Spartanburg Democrats,

As we gather for our first meeting of 2025, today's date, January 6, serves as a sobering reminder of the importance of the work we have ahead of us. Four years ago today, our nation witnessed a violent attack on the U.S. Capitol, an assault on the principles we hold dear: free and fair elections, peaceful transitions of power, and a government that listens to and acts on the will of the people. That dark day continues to underscore the importance of our commitment to protecting these values.

In the wake of the November elections, we are inspired by the resilience and determination of voters here in Spartanburg and across the country. The challenges ahead are real, but together, we will continue to organize, mobilize, and fight for our shared vision of a just, equitable, and inclusive future. Democracy is not self-sustaining—it requires all of us to stand guard, to take action, and to uplift one another as we work toward a brighter tomorrow.

In solidarity,

Kathryn Harvey
Chair, Spartanburg County Democratic Party

State Legislative Update

The 128th General Assembly Begins

The South Carolina General Assembly returns to session on January 14, 2025, marking the first regular session of the 128th General Assembly. This session will run through May 8, 2025, with a critical crossover deadline on April 10, the last day for bills to pass from one chamber to the other. With Republicans holding a supermajority in both the House and Senate, leadership battles have emerged over the control of subcommittee chairs. Jordan Pace, Chairman of the SC Freedom Caucus, recently declared, "Only Republicans should chair subcommittees," signaling a potential shift in how legislative priorities will be managed.

Rep Rosalyn Henderson Myers was appointed to the Judiciary Committee and Regulations, Administrative Procedures, AI, and Cybersecurity.

Key GOP Legislative Priorities for 2025

As the session begins, Republicans are poised to advance their priorities, which could have sweeping impacts across the state

- **Private School Vouchers:** Following the South Carolina Supreme Court's decision to strike down private school voucher programs, Republican lawmakers plan to revive this effort, pushing for expanded school choice measures.
- **Abortion Rights:** Expect stricter abortion bans, including proposals to further limit access to abortion medications and to restrict cross-state travel for abortion services.
- **Income Tax Cuts:** Legislative leaders aim to lower the state income tax rate to 4.5% and expedite cuts in an effort to remain competitive with neighboring states.
- **DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) Opposition:** Anticipate increased resistance to DEI initiatives. Proposed bills may target hiring and promotion practices at state universities and other public institutions.

Resources

The Spartanburg County Democratic Party remains committed to holding our state leaders accountable. We encourage all members to stay informed and engaged throughout this legislative session.

Explore Pre-Filed Bills

Review legislation already filed in both the House and Senate by scanning this QR code:



Find Your Legislator

Locate and contact your state representatives by scanning this QR code:



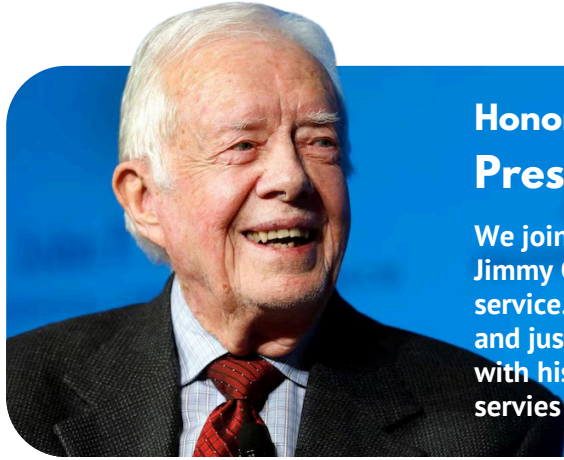
Download the SC State House App

Gain easy access to information from the South Carolina State Legislature on the go!



South Carolina Democratic Party State Convention May 31

The South Carolina Democratic Party will hold its statewide convention on Saturday, May 31, 2025, in Columbia. This pivotal event brings together Democrats from across the state to elect party leadership, set priorities, and strategize for the upcoming election cycle. It's a unique opportunity to connect with fellow Democrats, hear from party leaders, and help shape the future of the Democratic Party in South Carolina. Save the date and make your voice heard!



Honoring the Legacy of President Jimmy Carter

We join the nation in mourning the loss of former President Jimmy Carter, a champion of peace, human rights, and public service. His unwavering commitment to kindness, humility, and justice continues to inspire us all, and our thoughts are with his family during this time of remembrance. Funeral services will be held January 9 at 10:00 AM on YouTube.

Spartanburg Delegation Abortion Criminalization Update

Six South Carolina Freedom Caucus members, including four Spartanburg GOP representatives, have pre-filed legislation that seeks to criminalize abortion as murder. H.3537 represents one of the most extreme anti-choice measures in the country, directly threatening the health and safety of women across South Carolina.

The bill would redefine abortion as homicide, leaving healthcare providers and women subject to criminal prosecution, even in cases involving abortion medications or miscarriages. Spartanburg Rep. Josiah Magnuson, the bill's chief sponsor, did not rule out the death penalty as a possible punishment when recently pressed on the issue. This dangerous legislation not only infringes on personal freedoms but also fails to address the complexities of reproductive healthcare.

HUFFPOST

South Carolina
Republicans Set To
Reintroduce Bill
Allowing Death Penalty
For Abortions

A snippet of a HuffPost article with a white background and a torn edge effect on the left side.

Take Action Now

Let the Spartanburg delegation know this extreme legislation does not reflect the values of our community. Contact these four representatives and urge them to drop this harmful and divisive issue:

Rep. William "Bill" Chumley (HD-35)

Phone: (864) 303-2726

Email: billchumley1@gmail.com

Rep. Steven Long (HD-37)

Phone: (864) 978-3104

Email: stevenlong4@gmail.com

Rep. Rob Harris (HD-36)

Phone: (864) 542-5036

Email: rob@harrisforsc.com

Rep. Josiah Magnuson (HD-38)

Phone: (864) 420-7933

Email: j@magnusonsc.com



POST-ELECTION FEEDBACK

What We Heard from You

Over 50 members of our community completed the SPCDP Post-Election Feedback Survey, sharing their thoughts on what we did well, where we can improve, and what's on their minds as we move forward. Here are the highlights from your responses:

WHAT WE DID WELL

- **Increased Community Engagement:** 30 respondents praised our improved communication and outreach, noting it was easier to get involved and stay informed. Comments included, "The party was alive and active" and "There was new energy and persistence."
- **Improved Candidate Quality:** 18 respondents highlighted the increased number and quality of candidates this cycle, with 9 specifically praising Kathryn Harvey's campaign for its professionalism and energy.
- **Diverse Volunteer Opportunities:** 16 respondents appreciated the variety of ways to get involved, from events to phone banking.
- **Visibility and Communication:** 13 respondents noted the impact of consistent outreach, including phone calls, billboards, and social media presence.
- **Inclusivity and Accessibility:** 7 respondents praised our efforts to create an inclusive and open environment.

WHAT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

- **Messaging Strategy:** 26 respondents emphasized the need to refine messaging, focusing on relatable, local issues such as grocery prices, and appealing to rural voters, young men, and moderates.
- **Start GOTV Efforts Earlier:** 22 respondents suggested launching Get Out the Vote initiatives immediately to build momentum for 2026.
- **Focus on the Democratic Base:** 17 respondents encouraged relying less on swing voters and more on energizing our core supporters.
- **Stronger Social Media Campaigns:** 12 respondents called for a more effective digital presence, emphasizing policy achievements and broad-reaching campaigns.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

- **Frustration and Disappointment:** 32 respondents expressed concerns about the current political climate, especially under the Trump administration.
- **Supporting Marginalized Communities:** 25 respondents asked how we can better serve and protect vulnerable groups in the face of harmful policies.
- **Looking Forward:** Despite challenges, 13 respondents shared hope and determination, saying they're "ready to resist" and "thankful for their community."

Take Action

Opportunities to Get Involved

The start of 2025 brings numerous opportunities for advocacy, planning, and community engagement. Here's how you can take action and make your voice heard this month:

Shaping South Carolina's Future: WREN's 2025 Legislative Agenda

- *When:* Thursday, January 9 at 12 Noon (via Zoom)
- *What:* Join the Women's Rights and Empowerment Network (WREN) to learn about their legislative priorities for 2025, including initiatives for economic justice and reproductive rights.
- *Who Should Attend:* Advocates, newcomers, and anyone interested in creating lasting change for South Carolina families.



Outlook Spartanburg with OneSpartanburg, Inc.

- *When:* Friday, January 10 from 7:30 AM to 2:00 PM
- *Where:* Milliken & Co Customer Center
- *What:* This annual conference features forecasts on legislative, economic, and community issues to guide decision-making in 2025. Key topics include economic updates, legislative outlooks, and talent solutions in Spartanburg County.



Dem Women Greenville Monthly Meeting

- *When:* Monday, January 13 at 12 Noon
- *Where:* Kroc Center, 424 Westfield St., Greenville
- *What:* Participate in public discussions about the vision for 2025 and receive reports from the board. This meeting is an open mic format, allowing attendees to shape the program.



MLK Unity Week Celebration by the City of Spartanburg

- *When:* January 14-20
- *What:* Spartanburg's annual MLK Unity Week honors the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a series of events focused on equity, community, and service. Highlights include opportunities for fellowship, dialogue, volunteerism, and a keynote address by Civil Rights icon Ruby Bridges.
- Visit the City of Spartanburg's website for a full schedule of events and details on how to participate.



Moms Demand Action Advocacy Day

- *When:* Tuesday, January 28 at 9:00 AM
- *Where:* Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 1100 Sumter Street, Columbia
- *What:* Advocate for common-sense gun laws. The day begins with preparation at the church, followed by meetings with legislators.



League of Women Voters of South Carolina Education & Advocacy Day (LEAD) 2025

- *When:* Saturday, February 1 from 9:30am to 3:00pm
- *Where:* Midlands Technical College Beltline Campus, Columbia
- *What:* Join panel discussions with state legislators and experts like Dr. Scott Huffmon. Open to LWV members.



Upcoming 2025 Races

Your Opportunity to Make a Difference

Thinking about running for office? Now is the time to consider stepping up and making your voice heard.

Local races have a profound impact on our communities, from shaping school policies to deciding how our towns and cities grow. Many of these nonpartisan seats, particularly school boards, have become targets for conservative extremists in recent years (e.g. Moms for Liberty). Recruiting candidates who share our Democratic values ensures that every level of government works to build a better Spartanburg County, protect public education, and support an equitable and inclusive future for all residents. These races also help us create a strong candidate pipeline for future races.

- Spartanburg County School Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6: Five (5) seats to fill
- Spartanburg County School District 5-3: Four (4) seats to fill
- Spartanburg County School District 7-5: Three (3) seats to fill
- Spartanburg County School Districts 5-2, 7-2, & 7-3: One (1) seat to fill
- Town of Campobello: Mayor (1 seat to fill) & Town Council (at-large, 2 seats to fill)
- Town of Central Pacolet: Mayor (1 seat to fill) & Town Council (at-large, 2 seats to fill)
- City of Chesnee: Mayor (1 seat to fill) & City Council (at-large, 2 seats to fill)
- Town of Cowpens: Town Council (at-large, 2 seats to fill)
- Town of Duncan: Mayor (1 seat to fill) & Town Council (at-large, 2 seats to fill)
- City of Greer: City Council Districts 2 & 4 (1 seat to fill per district), & CPW (1 seat to fill)
- City of Inman: City Council (at-large, 2 seats to fill)
- City of Landrum: Mayor (1 seat to fill) & City Council (at-large, 3 seats to fill)
- Town of Lyman: Mayor (1 seat to fill) & Town Council (at-large, 3 seats to fill)
- Town of Pacolet: Mayor (1 seat to fill), City Council Districts 1, 3, & 6 (1 seat to fill per district)
- Town of Reidville: Mayor (1 seat to fill), Town Council Wards 1 & 2 (1 seat to fill per ward)
- City of Spartanburg: Mayor (1 seat to fill), City Council Districts 4, 5, & 6 (1 seat per district), & CPW (1 seat to fill)
- City of Wellford: City Council (2 seats to fill)
- City of Woodruff: City Council Wards 2, 4, & 6 (1 seat to fill per ward)
- Gowensville Fire District Commissioner: Three (3) seats to fill

If you're interested in running or learning more, contact SPCDP for guidance, resources, and support to help you navigate the process. School Board candidate petitions are due by 12:00 PM on July 15, and municipal filing will run from 12:00 PM on August 1 until 12:00 PM on August 15.

Watch. Listen. Read.

Explore these insightful podcasts to stay informed, engaged, and inspired:

- **The Bulwark:** A podcast and online publication offering thoughtful analysis on politics, culture, and democracy, often from a center-right perspective critical of extremism.
 - **The Daily:** A deep-dive podcast from The New York Times that breaks down a single news story each weekday for greater understanding.
 - **Fast Politics:** Hosted by Molly Jong-Fast, this podcast explores the intersection of politics, media, and culture with a sharp and witty lens.
 - **Up First with NPR:** A quick, 10-minute daily podcast summarizing the biggest news stories to help you start your day informed.
 - **Pod Save America:** A lively podcast hosted by former Obama staffers offering progressive takes on the latest political news and strategies to mobilize change.
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SAVE THE DATE

Spartanburg County Democratic Party Convention

Saturday, March 22, 2025

Time and Location TBD

On March 22 the SPCDP will host our local county convention to elect a chair and 3 vice chairs (1st is a different gender from the chair, 2nd is a different race, and 3rd is under 36.) These officers will serve for a two- year term. We will also elect two members of the state executive committee who must be of different genders. This is a crucial opportunity to shape the leadership and direction of the Spartanburg County Democratic Party.

We will also elect precinct captains to represent their precincts as members or alternates on the county executive committee during the convention.

Filing for these roles will open 16 days prior to the convention. Additional information will be shared at the February meeting and at spartanburgdemocrats.com.



Monthly Meeting

DR. T.K. GREGG COMMUNITY CENTER

**Monday, February 3, 2025
6:00 PM to 7:30 PM**

SPCDP
SPARTANBURG COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

At our February meeting, we will hear from Midas Hampton of Strategic Spartanburg about the recently completed Racial Equity Report. We'll also receive a recap of precinct data analysis from Phil Ford of the Ford & Ford Group.
