

SPARTANBURG DEMOCRATS Monthly Newsletter

December 2025 Edition



From Momentum to Movement in Spartanburg County

Friends and neighbors,

As we close out 2025, I keep coming back to one simple truth: we must stay ready. And this year, Spartanburg County Democrats proved that we know exactly what that means.

Since last March, we have not let up—not in engagement, not in activation, not in candidate support. While many organizations go quiet between big election cycles, you kept knocking doors, making calls, attending meetings, showing up for municipals, and supporting local leaders. Because of that steady, focused work, we've built something real and powerful together.

When I look back over the last three years, I can honestly say: In just three short years, look what we've been able to accomplish.

We've supported good Democrats who are stepping up to run—and win. These candidates are not only aligned with our values, they are competent, prepared, and serious about governing. The success we've seen in municipal races this year shows:

- the caliber of candidates who are willing to step into the arena,
- the competency and readiness of those candidates to lead, and
- a community that is ready to receive that leadership.

Across the state, Democrats have a strong story to tell about what was accomplished in municipal elections this year. That story is not unique to Spartanburg—but let's be clear: we had a significant amount of movement right here at home. From town halls and city councils to grassroots organizing and voter outreach, Spartanburg County is no longer an afterthought. We are part of the momentum.

This moment is not the finish line—it's the foundation. The work we've done in 2023, 2024, and 2025 is setting us up for the fights ahead. Every new voter we engage, every neighbor we bring into the process, every candidate we recruit and support moves us closer to the county, the state, and the future we deserve.

Thank you for staying in the fight when it would have been easier to rest. Thank you for believing that local races matter. Thank you for showing our communities what Democratic leadership looks like in action.

Let's carry this energy into the new year—still ready, still organized, and still moving forward together.

In solidarity,

Kathryn Harvey
Chair, Spartanburg County Democratic Party

Fuel the Fight for 2026: Join the Liberty Fund

In 2026, we're aiming to raise \$100,000 to power our field operations and Get Out the Vote efforts in a crucial midterm election year—and just \$25,000 of that will go toward our core operating budget to keep the lights on, the rent paid, and the doors of SPCDDP open to our community. The most impactful way you can help is by becoming a recurring donor through our Liberty Fund, which provides the steady, reliable support we need to plan ahead, staff our office, and organize year-round. Scan the QR code on this page or visit our Liberty Fund link to start your monthly gift today—every recurring donation, no matter the size, helps build the foundation we'll stand on in 2026 and beyond.



2025 Election Wins

Turning Momentum into Seats

2025 was a breakthrough year for local Democrats and aligned candidates across the Upstate. Out of 18 democratically-aligned candidate running in the Upstate, 16 WON their races two broke 40% competitive districts—over-performing historical benchmarks and narrowing margins in tough precincts. From mayoral wins to school board surges, we boosted turnout in our base neighborhoods, cut into GOP leads in traditionally hard districts, and saw first-time candidates step up and succeed. Here are some of the standout races:

- Dr. Octavia Amaechi – Commission of Public Works, City of Spartanburg
- Kathryn Harvey – 42% in her first Spartanburg County Council run
- Vernon Beatty – School Board, District 7
- Dawn Maddux – 40%+ in her first Spartanburg City Council run
- Tina Belge – Greenville City Council
- David Petty – Mayor, Town of Lyman
- Erica Brown – Spartanburg City Council
- Sharon Porter – School Board District 7
- Sarah Butler – School Board District 2
- Jerome Rice – Mayor, City of Spartanburg
- Caroline Ford – School Board District 5
- Leslie Rodgers – Spartanburg City Council
- Lillian Brock Fleming – Greenville City Council
- Janie Salley – Spartanburg City Council

Note: The Spartanburg County Democratic Party does not endorse nonpartisan candidates or campaigns.



Looking Ahead to 2026

Who Will Step Up to Serve?

The 2026 General Election will be held on **Tuesday, November 3, 2026**, with primary and runoff dates for both parties to be announced soon by the South Carolina Election Commission. Filing for partisan seats will open during the last two weeks of March, making early 2026 a crucial window for anyone considering a run. All seats in the South Carolina House of Representatives and U.S. House of Representatives will be on the ballot.

To help potential candidates explore what running for office really involves, the SPCDP will host a “So You Want to Run for Office?” interest meeting on **Saturday, January 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**. This session is designed for anyone who feels a nudge to serve—whether you’re just curious or already leaning toward a run. There’s no pressure to decide at the meeting; it’s simply a chance to learn, ask questions, and connect. If you’d like to attend, scan the QR code to the right to sign up and receive more details.



Contact Your Representatives

Hold Our Elected Officials Accountable

Federal Representatives

SENATE

Sen. Lindsey Graham
Senior Senator
(202) 224-5972
lgraham.senate.gov

Sen. Tim Scott
Junior Senator
(202) 224-6121
scott.senate.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Rep. William Timmons
4th Congressional District
(202) 225-6030
timmons.house.gov

Rep. Ralph Norman
5th Congressional District
(202) 225-5501
norman.house.gov

State Representatives

STATE SENATE

Tom Corbin
Senate District 5
(864) 834-9915
corbinlawn@bellsouth.net

Shane R. Martin
Senate District 13
(864) 804-8499
shane@senatormartin.com

Josh Kimbrell
Senate District 11
(864) 553-0606
josh@exodusaircraft.com

Harvey S. Peeler, Jr.
Senate District 14
(864) 489-3766
hpeeler@peelerco.com

Roger Nutt
Senate District 12
(864) 706-1557
roger@rogernutt.com

STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dennis Moss
House District 29
(864) 487-2121
dennismoss@schouse.gov

W. Scott Montgomery, IV
House District 32
(864) 237-4499
scott@votescottmontgomery.com

William "Bill" Chumley
House District 35
(864) 303-2726
billchumley1@gmail.com

Josiah Magnuson
House District 38
(864) 420-7933
j@magnusonsc.com

M. Brian Lawson
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blawsonsc30@gmail.com

Travis Moore
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TAMoore2002@gmail.com

Robert J. Harris
House District 36
(864) 542-5036
rob@harrisforsc.com

Rosalyn Henderson-Myers
House District 31
(803) 212-6965
roz2012@gmail.com

Sarita Edgerton
House District 34
(864) 381-8225
saritaforsc@gmail.com

Steven Long
House District 37
(864) 978-3104
stevenlong4@gmail.com

U.S. Congress

To find your federal representatives,
scan the QR code to the right.



State Legislature

To find your state representatives,
scan the QR code to the right.



Download the SC State House App

Gain easy access to information from the
South Carolina State Legislature on the go!
Review bills filed in the State
House and Senate, watch video
recordings, find your legislator,
and keep track of key legislation.



Meet the 2026 Statewide Candidates

Learn More About the Democrats Stepping Up to Serve

U.S. Senate Candidates



DR. ANNIE ANDREWS

Dr. Annie Andrews is a pediatrician and public health advocate running for U.S. Senate to fight for South Carolina families, kids, and working people who've been left behind by politics-as-usual in Washington. Learn more or get involved at drannieandrews.com.



BRANDON BROWN

Brandon Brown is a fifth-generation South Carolinian, former higher-ed vice president, and longtime advocate for expanding opportunity, running for U.S. Senate on a platform of protecting democracy and investing in working families. Learn more at brandonpbrown.com.



CATHERINE FLEMING BRUCE

Author, preservationist, and civic leader Catherine Fleming Bruce is running for U.S. Senate to bring experienced, ethical, and justice-focused leadership to Washington. Learn more at catherineflemingbruce.com.



KYLE FREEMAN

Kyle Freeman is a logistics professional and son of a military family, running for U.S. Senate to restore honesty, integrity, and accountability in government and to champion working families. Learn more at kylefreemanforsenate.com.



South Carolina Gubernatorial Candidates



DR. JERMAINE JOHNSON

State Representative Jermaine Johnson is running for governor to invest in infrastructure, mental health, education, and economic opportunity in communities that have been overlooked for too long. Learn more at johnsonforsc.com.



MULLINS MCLEOD

Charleston attorney Mullins McLeod is running for governor with a focus on smart economic growth, accountability in state government, and a fairer future for South Carolina families. Learn more at mcleodscgov.com.



South Carolina Superintendent of Education Candidates



LISA ELLIS

Veteran educator and 2022 Democratic nominee Lisa Ellis is running again for Superintendent of Education to strengthen public schools, support teachers, and ensure every child learns in a safe, well-resourced classroom. Learn more at ellisforsc.com.



SYLVIA WRIGHT

Lifelong educator Sylvia Wright is running for Superintendent of Education to restore the promise of free, high-quality public education for all students in South Carolina. Learn more at wright2026sc.com.



U.S. House Candidates



ANDREW CLOUGH – SOUTH CAROLINA’S 5TH DISTRICT (SC-05)

Andrew Clough is an airline worker, stepfather, and community advocate running in SC-05 to put working families first and bring practical, people-focused leadership to Congress. Learn more at cloughforsc5.com.



MALLORY DITTMER – SOUTH CAROLINA’S 5TH DISTRICT (SC-05)

Brand strategist and small-business champion Mallory Dittmer is running in SC-05 to lower the temperature in politics and unite Democrats, Republicans, and independents around common-sense solutions. Learn more at dittmerforcongress.com.



COURTNEY MCCLAIN – SOUTH CAROLINA’S 4TH DISTRICT (SC-04)

Spartanburg native and communications professional Courtney McClain is running in SC-04 to deliver fresh, local leadership in Washington and to make government work for everyday South Carolinians. Learn more at mcclainforsc.com.



STATE OF PLAY

MEMBERS BRIEFING

WITH SCDP CHAIR CHRISTALE SPAIN

DECEMBER 2, 7:00 PM

**ZOOM LIKE PROVIDED
UPON REGISTRATION**

Stand With Us. Stand With Steve Evered.

Volunteer to Help in the Senate 12 Special Election



South Carolina Senate District 12 deserves leadership rooted in integrity, experience, and common sense, not the chaos and extremism Lee Bright brings back to our doorstep. With just weeks left in this write-in special election, every volunteer, every door knock, and every conversation matters.

If you believe in steady leadership, protecting our freedoms, strengthening public schools, and keeping politics focused on results—not headlines—we need you on this team.

Scan the QR code below to volunteer today and help elect Steve Evered. Your time could be the difference in this race.

Senate District 12 Special Election Important Dates

Election Day: Tuesday, December 23 from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Early Voting Period

- December 8–19, 2025
- Monday–Friday (closed Saturday & Sunday)
- 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM
- *Location:* Spartanburg County Administration Building – Conference Room 1 (366 N. Church St., Spartanburg, SC 29303). Enter near the flagpoles on the Church St. side of the building

For more information, call the Spartanburg County Voter Registration & Elections Office at (864) 596-2549.

Help Lead Your Precinct for Steve Evered

We are organizing precinct captains in all 14 participating precincts to help get Steve Evered over the finish line.

Precinct captains will:

- Help coordinate phone banking and door-knocking** in their precinct
- Serve as greeters at the polls on December 23
- Report back so we know which precincts are covered—and which aren't—by Monday evening before Election Day



If you live in or near one of the precincts below, please consider stepping up as a precinct captain or volunteering to knock doors and make calls.

Precincts in the December 23, 2025 Special Election

- **Abner Creek Baptist Church** – 2461 Abner Creek Rd, Greer, SC 29651
- **New Jerusalem Baptist Church** – 413 E Poinsett St, Greer, SC 29651
- **Travelers Rest Baptist Church** – 110 Brewton Rd, Spartanburg, SC 29301
- **Pacific Place** (hosts precinct 138 D.R. Hill Middle School – 3.5 mi) – 59 Groce Rd, Lyman, SC 29365
- **Pelham Fire Station** – 3050 S Hwy 14, Greer, SC 29650
- **Poplar Springs Fire Station** (hosts River Ridge Elementary – 2.2 mi) – 3400 Moore Duncan Hwy, Moore, SC 29369
- **Holy Communion Lutheran Church** (hosts Woodland Heights Recreation Center – 0.6 mi & Airport – 1.2 mi) – 1430 John B White Sr Blvd, Spartanburg, SC 29306
- **Wellford Baptist Church** (hosts Startex Fire Department – 2.7 mi) – 235 Syphrit Rd, Wellford, SC 29385
- **Bethlehem Baptist Church** (hosts Roebuck Elementary – 1.9 mi & The Worship Center – 2.4 mi) – 797 Old Georgia Rd, Moore, SC 29369
- **Duncan United Methodist Church** (hosts Beech Springs Middle School – 1.9 mi) – 139 W Main St, Duncan, SC 29334
- **Anderson Mill Baptist Church** (hosts Anderson Mill Elementary – 1.9 mi) – 4371 Anderson Mill Rd, Moore, SC 29369
- **Trinity Presbyterian Church** (hosts Blackstock – 3.1 mi & West View Elementary – 0.4 mi) – 500 Oak Grove Rd, Spartanburg, SC 29301
- **Tyger River Park Clubhouse** (hosts Reidville Fire Station – 1.7 mi) – 285 Gano Dr, Reidville, SC 29375
- **Middle Tyger YMCA** (hosts Florence Chapel Middle School – 0.9 mi) – 720 Shoals Rd, Duncan, SC 29334

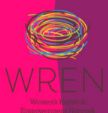
Scan the QR code on this page to sign up as a precinct captain or volunteer for door-knocking and phone banking.

RIGHTS & EMPOWERMENT ART SHOW

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18
5:30-9:00PM**

**BLUE SPIRIT ART STUDIO & GALLERY
104 FRETWELL STREET**

**BENEFITING WREN
WOMENS RIGHTS & EMPOWERMENT NETWORK**



Please join us for the opening reception of Spartanburg's Rights & Empowerment Art Show to benefit WREN at Blue Spirit Gallery 104 Fretwell Street during the December 18th Art Walk, 5:30-9pm (with a brief presentation by WREN around 6pm). RSVP for FREE!

Over 20 artists from the Upstate will have work on view and for sale to benefit WREN and the powerful advocacy work they do for women and girls in South Carolina. This exhibit will be up through January 15th but you won't want to miss the festive December 18th reception with snacks, beverages from the Drink Machine, and an opportunity to meet representatives from WREN*.

This exhibition is presented by Blue Spirit Gallery, Kathryn Harvey, and Alix Refshauge. Special thank you to our fundraiser hosts: Nancy Corbin, Kerry Ferguson, Kathryn Harvey, Alix Refshauge

If you're interested in becoming an event host and helping cover costs for the December 18th reception, please e-mail Alix at: scrightsshow@gmail.com

Thank you to our participating artists:

Sarah Bailey, Leah Brown, Monica Brown, Carrie Caldwell, Cynthia Carden, Michele Cook, Nancy Corbin, Katherine Coyne, Robert Dennis, Red DuMonde, Isabel Forbes, Kasey Ann Freeman, Brianna Greer, Dorothy Josey, Nancy Keim, Eva Grey Llana, Jamie Marfut, Ariel Murphy, Lady Pluto, Scott Neely, Ben Nixon, Katherine Rausch, Alix Refshauge, Nicholle Sale, Kaye Savage, Betsy Neely Sikma, Kay Sticklin, Aimee Wise

Questions and more info: scrightsshow@gmail.com

To Support WREN you can donate here: <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/wren-womensrightsandempowermentnetwork/>



Follow the Spartanburg Dems!

- **Facebook:** @spartanburgdemocrats
- **Twitter/X:** @SpartanburgDem
- **Instagram:** @spartanburgdemocrats
- **Tik Tok:** @spartanburgdems
- **Bluesky:** @spartanburgdems.bsky.social



Calendar of Events



DECEMBER 2	State of Play with SCDP
DECEMBER 5	Legislative Black Caucus Upstate Town Hall (Phyllis Wheatley Center, Greenville)
DECEMBER 17	Executive Committee Meeting with Precinct Captains (SPCDP HQ or Online)
DECEMBER 18	Art & Resistance for WREN at Blue Spirit Gallery
JANUARY 17	Spartanburg Day of Action with the Black Caucus



The South Carolina
Legislative Black Caucus
On the Move



**UPSTATE
TOWN HALL**



Moderator:
Representative Wendell Jones

**Phyllis Wheatley
Community Center
Friday, December 5, 2025
7:00 p.m.- 8:15 p.m.
335 Greenacre Road,
Greenville, SC 29607**

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