

SPARTANBURG DEMOCRATS Monthly Newsletter



May 2026 Edition

The Stakes Are Rising. Spartanburg Democrats Are Ready.

Voting Right Act Gutted. GOP calls for mid cycle redistricting in SC. Heritage Act protecting confederate monuments moves in the state house. SC income tax bill will do more harm than good. Judges in Louisiana ended telemedicine access to the abortion pill, could the Supreme Court follow their lead? Pamela Evette calls SC State students woke mob and members of the Spartanburg Delegation call for the school to be defunded. The federal debt has outgrown the entire US economy. As of March USGDP was a little north of \$31 trillion, which is a big number. But the federal debt held by the public is even bigger, by about \$49 billion.

This is just a summary of the past week in politics.

Are we great yet?

No, but we can be. Because races for the state legislature just became that much more important. And we are challenging every single seat in Spartanburg County.

You can meet all of our local candidates and statewide candidates Billy Webster for Governor, Mullins McLeod for Governor, Dr. Annie Andrew for US Senate, Deshaun Blanding for Agriculture Commissioner, Trav Robertson for State Treasurer, Courtney McClain for Congressional District 4, and Mallory Ditmer for Congressional District 5 on Monday, May 11 at our annual fundraiser.

Our guest will be Rep. Jonathan L Jackson, son of the late Rev. Jesse Jackson, who will join us as our keynote and accept the lifetime achievement award posthumously for his father as he discusses the next steps of the Voting Rights Act.

Tickets and sponsorship available at spartanburgdemocrats.com.

In solidarity,

Kathryn Harvey

Chair, Spartanburg County Democratic Party

Democracy
FOR ALL *Ball*

We are honored to welcome Congressman Jonathan L. Jackson as our keynote speaker as he accepts the Lifetime Achievement Award in honor of his father, the late Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr.



Monday, May 11, 2026 | 7:00 PM | Chapman Cultural Center | SPCDP.org/DFAB

National News Updates

Power, Accountability, and the Fight for Fair Representation

Iran War Update: Congress Must Reclaim Its Constitutional Role

The Constitution gives Congress—not the president—the power to declare war. The Framers made that choice intentionally. They wanted the American people, through their elected representatives, to debate the cost of war before lives and public dollars were committed.

That principle is being tested now. Under the War Powers Act, a president generally must secure congressional authorization when hostilities continue beyond 60 days. The Trump administration has argued that the current ceasefire affected that deadline, but reporting also shows continued U.S. military operations around the Strait of Hormuz, including the launch of “Project Freedom,” interceptions of Iranian drones and missiles, and an ongoing U.S. blockade of Iranian maritime traffic.

Historian Heather Cox Richardson put it plainly: the Framers did not trust the power of war in the hands of one person. They expected public debate, opposition, and accountability. Congress must not surrender that responsibility.

Supreme Court Weakens the Voting Rights Act

The Supreme Court’s decision in *Louisiana v. Callais* is one of the most consequential voting-rights rulings in years. In a 6–3 decision, the Court struck down Louisiana’s congressional map that created a second majority-Black district, calling it an unconstitutional racial gerrymander. The Court did not formally erase Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, but the practical effect is severe: it makes it much harder to defend districts designed to protect the voting power of communities of color.

Section 2 has long been one of the central tools used to prevent states from diluting minority voting strength. After this ruling, plaintiffs may face a much higher burden, including proving discriminatory intent rather than discriminatory effect. That shift matters because discrimination in redistricting is often hidden behind technical language, map data, and claims of partisan strategy.

What This Means for South Carolina

The impact is already being felt here. South Carolina Republicans are openly calling for new congressional maps, with Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette and others pushing to redraw the 6th Congressional District, currently represented by Congressman Jim Clyburn. Gov. Henry McMaster has also said the General Assembly should review South Carolina’s congressional map in light of the Supreme Court’s ruling.

Sen. Josh Kimbrell has made the political strategy plain: “Fix the 6th.” His call for a special session and mid-decade redistricting is not about giving voters more power. It is about using a weakened Voting Rights Act as an opening to reshape representation before the next election.

That is why state legislative races matter. Redistricting is not abstract. It determines whose communities are kept whole, whose voices are diluted, and whether voters choose their representatives (or politicians choose their voters).

The Voting Rights Act was born from sacrifice. Weakening it now threatens voters of color, working families, women, young people, and every community that depends on fair representation. South Carolina Democrats must be prepared to defend voting rights at every level: in Congress, in the courts, at the State House, and in every district across Spartanburg County.

SEN KIMBRELL SAYS: FIX THE 6TH

“Now that the Supreme Court has ruled today that racial gerrymandering is unconstitutional it’s time to call a special session like Florida did to fix South Carolina’s 6th Congressional District, and give voters a choice.”

As Governor, this would be a no brainer to do. I plan to file legislation to pursue mid decade redistricting.

State News Updates

Redistricting, SC State, and Accountability

Mid-Cycle Redistricting Returns to the Statehouse

After the Supreme Court’s Louisiana redistricting decision, South Carolina Republicans renewed calls to redraw the state’s congressional map before the next election. The main target is the 6th Congressional District, represented by Congressman Jim Clyburn. Sen. Josh Kimbrell has called for Gov. McMaster to convene a special session to “fix the 6th,” while other Republican candidates for governor have also pushed for new maps. Statehouse leaders have been more cautious, with Senate GOP Leader Shane Massey previously saying off-cycle redistricting is unlikely this session.

In practical terms, mid-cycle redistricting would mean lawmakers reopening the congressional map years before the next Census. Any proposal would likely focus on breaking up the 6th District and spreading Democratic and Black voting strength across surrounding Republican-leaning districts. Legal experts say the immediate impact in South Carolina may be limited, but the ruling makes it harder to challenge maps that dilute minority voting power and gives partisan mapmakers more room to act.

Freedom Caucus Members Call to Defund SC State

South Carolina State University, the state’s only public HBCU, is facing threats from House members who asked Ways and Means Chairman Bruce Bannister to remove SC State funding from the next version of the state budget. The request came after SC State rescinded Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette’s commencement invitation following student protests and safety concerns. SC State said it would invite Evette back to campus later for a separate conversation with students, faculty, and staff.

The threat is especially troubling because SC State has long been underfunded compared to other public universities. WACH reported that SC State received a little over \$34 million in the 2025–2026 budget, compared with more than \$219 million for Clemson and more than \$325 million for USC. The SCDEMS graphics make the political response clear: every one of these seats is being contested this cycle, including Spartanburg-area races where Saville Williams is running in House District 34 and Tammy Hahn is running in House District 38.

Josh Kimbrell’s Campaign Faces Legal and Financial Scrutiny

State Sen. Josh Kimbrell is running for governor while facing multiple legal and financial controversies tied to his former private aviation company, Exodus Aircraft. A former business partner sued Kimbrell, alleging he diverted company funds; Kimbrell has denied the allegations and called the lawsuit politically motivated. Fox Carolina previously reported that Kimbrell agreed to resign as manager of Exodus Aircraft and surrender his ownership interests while the lawsuit remained pending.

The Greenville News also reported additional disputes involving unpaid loan obligations, aircraft-related tax questions, and a separate defamation lawsuit Kimbrell filed after a public dispute with an Upstate firefighter. Kimbrell says the allegations are baseless and has said he will let the legal process handle the matter. Spartanburg County Democratic Party Chair Kathryn Harvey has called for him to step down, arguing that the lawsuits and public conduct do not reflect the standard voters should expect from someone representing Spartanburg County.



Follow the Spartanburg Dems!

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



Local Updates

Show Up, Celebrate, Be Counted

May 8: Spark Awards

The Young Democrats of Spartanburg County will host the 3rd Annual Spark Awards on Friday, May 8, from 6:00–8:00 PM at Spartanburg Community College’s Downtown Campus in Evans Auditorium.

This year’s program will feature keynote remarks from Courtney McClain, candidate for South Carolina’s 4th Congressional District, and Rep. Keishan Scott of House District 50. Scott made national headlines in 2025 when, at age 24, he became the youngest current member of the South Carolina General Assembly after winning a special election in House District 50.

Tickets and sponsorships are available at YDSPC864.org or through the Spark Awards ActBlue page.



The graphic features the YDSPC SPARK AWARDS logo with a QR code. Text includes: "SCAN NOW TO GET YOUR TICKET AND/OR SPONSOR TODAY! OR GO TO YDSPC864.ORG", "When: Friday, May 08, 2026, 6pm-8pm", "Where: Spartanburg Community College Downtown Campus Evans Auditorium 220 East Kennedy St. 29302", and photos of Courtney McClain and Rep. Keishan Scott with a headline "Democrat wins 'landslide victory' in South Carolina".

May 11: Democracy for All Ball

The Spartanburg County Democratic Party invites you to the 2026 Democracy for All Ball on Monday, May 11, at 7:00 PM at the Chapman Cultural Center.

This year’s special guest is Congressman Jonathan L. Jackson, who represents Illinois’ 1st Congressional District. Rep. Jackson is the son of civil rights leader Rev. Jesse Jackson, and his work in public life is rooted in civil rights, justice, and advocacy for underserved communities.

The evening will also feature statewide and local Democratic candidates on the ballot in the June 9 primary. This event supports the work of building local Democratic infrastructure, mobilizing voters, supporting candidates, and strengthening civic engagement across Spartanburg County.

Tickets include food and beverage. Purchase tickets at SPCDP.org/DFAB. Checks may be made payable to SPCDP and mailed to PO Box 2682, Spartanburg, SC 29304.



The graphic features a portrait of Rep. Jonathan L. Jackson and the SPCDP logo. Text includes: "Democracy FOR ALL Ball", "FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST Rep. Jonathan L. Jackson ILLINOIS 1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT", "Monday, May 11, 2026 at 7:00 PM Chapman Cultural Center", and "Tickets can be purchased at SPCDP.org/DFAB".

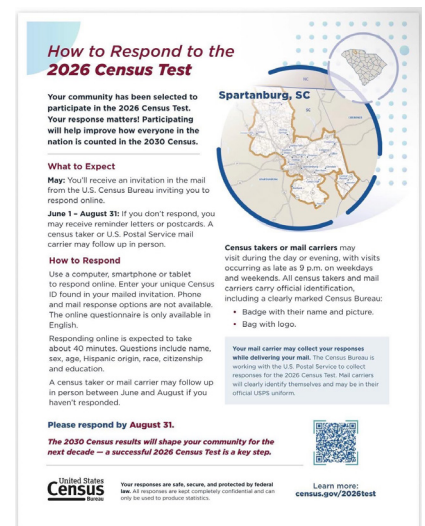
Spartanburg Selected for 2026 Census Test

Spartanburg is one of only two test sites in the country selected for the 2026 Census Test, along with Huntsville, Alabama. The Census Bureau says the test will help evaluate tools and methods for the 2030 Census.

Beginning May 1, approximately 73,600 households in the Spartanburg area will receive mailed invitations to respond online. The questionnaire can be completed by computer, smartphone, or tablet. Phone and paper responses will not be available, and the online questionnaire is available in English only.

A complete and accurate count matters. Census data helps determine federal funding for roads, schools, health care, public services, and representation. Residents who do not respond may receive reminder mailings, and from June 1 through August 31, Census takers or trained USPS workers may follow up in person. Responses are protected by federal law and can only be used to produce statistics.

Learn more at census.gov/2026test.



The graphic is titled "How to Respond to the 2026 Census Test" and includes a map of Spartanburg, SC. Text includes: "Your community has been selected to participate in the 2026 Census Test. Your response matters! Participating will help improve how everyone in the nation is counted in the 2030 Census.", "What to Expect: You'll receive an invitation in the mail from the U.S. Census Bureau inviting you to respond online.", "How to Respond: Use a computer, smartphone or tablet to respond online. Enter your unique Census ID found in your mailed invitation. Phone and mail response options are not available.", "Please respond by August 31. The 2030 Census results will shape your community for the next decade — a successful 2026 Census Test is a key step.", and "Your responses are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. All responses are kept completely confidential and can only be used to produce statistics."

EDUCATION TOWN HALL

TOPIC DISCUSSION

Rep. Rosalyn Henderson-Myers will host an Education Town Hall featuring Dena R. Crews, President of the South Carolina Education Association. Panelists will include Rep. Annie McDaniel, Rep. Courtney Waters, and School Board Member Vernon Beatty. The discussion will focus on key issues impacting schools, students, and educators in Spartanburg and communities across South Carolina.

MONDAY MAY 11, 2026

6-8 pm

OUR SPEAKERS



SCEA President Dena R. Crews



Rep. Courtney Waters



Rep. Rosalyn D. Henderson-Myers



Rep. Annie McDaniel



School Board Member Vernon Beatty



TK Gregg Center, 2nd Floor
650 Howard Street Spartanburg, SC

Candidate Updates

Primary Power and Upcoming Forums

Why the Democratic Primary Matters

Strong Democratic primary participation does more than choose nominees. It gives candidates and organizers better data, shows where Democratic voters are active, and helps campaigns make smarter decisions about where to spend time, money, and volunteer energy.

In districts that are often written off, every Democratic primary ballot sends a message: voters are present, organized, and ready to be engaged. That matters for fundraising, field strategy, candidate recruitment, and long-term party building. A stronger primary turnout helps prove that Democratic candidates in Spartanburg County are worth investing in — and that these races are worth contesting.

Joint Call: The Future of Education in South Carolina

ProTruth South Carolina and Freedom to Read South Carolina are hosting a joint call on Thursday, May 7, at 7:00 PM focused on the future of education in South Carolina.

The call will feature Democratic Superintendent of Education candidates Lisa Ellis and Sylvia Wright. All registered candidates were invited to participate. This conversation comes at a critical time for public education, as South Carolina families continue to face debates over school funding, classroom censorship, book bans, teacher support, and the future of public schools.

Use the QR code on the event graphic to register.

Candidate Meet & Greets with the League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters of Spartanburg County and Upstate Action Alliance are hosting two nonpartisan candidate meet and greet events at Spartanburg Community College's Downtown Campus Gym, located at 220 E. Kennedy Street in Spartanburg.

The first event will focus on Spartanburg County Council races, including County Council Chair and Districts 2, 5, and 6. The second event will focus on U.S. House and South Carolina House races that affect Spartanburg County.

All active candidates have been invited to set up information tables and speak with voters. Candidates appearing on the primary ballot will also be invited to briefly address the group. These events are a practical way to meet the people asking to represent our communities, compare priorities, and hear directly from candidates before casting a ballot.

Voters can also use the nonpartisan guide at Vote411.org to review candidate information in their own words.

CANDIDATE MEET & GREET

Spartanburg County Council 2026 Primary Elections Chair & Districts 2, 5 & 6

Thursday, May 14, 2026 | 6-8 pm
Spartanburg Community College, Downtown (Gym)
220 E. Kennedy Street, Spartanburg

We have invited all active candidates for County offices.
All candidates are invited to set up information tables and chat with voters. Those on the 6/9 Primary ballot will be invited to share briefly with the group.

Meet the people you'll see on your ballot!
Don't miss this opportunity to get to know the candidates who want to represent you.

This non-partisan event is presented by:

Primary elections are integral to selecting the candidate who will represent you best!
Learn more about your candidates on their websites and social media.

Use the non-partisan Voter Guide, Vote411.org, see your ballot, check your registration and more. All candidates are invited to share about themselves in their own, unedited words. Even if they don't, their basic info is there.

| SPARTANBURG COUNTY-LEVEL ELECTION CANDIDATES | | VOTING INFORMATION |
|---|---|--|
| County Council Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ann Angermeier, Republican • William Crawford, Republican • Mike Stacy, Republican • David Whitner, Republican • Kasha Whitner, Democrat • Leon Wiles, Democrat County Council District 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack A. Mabry, Republican (incumbent) • Lou Parris, Republican • Al Schneider, Republican • Jason Seay, Republican • Josh Wykel, Republican | County Council District 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brent D. Cobb, Republican • Garrett Gibson, Democrat • Betty Montgomery, Republican County Council District 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amanda Clubb, Forward • Jessica Coker, Republican (incumbent) • John Moore, Republican • Alex Turner, Republican • Frankland Watts, Democrat County Auditor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth M. Donald, Republican County Treasurer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oren L. Brady, III, Republican (incumbent) | PRIMARY (JUNE 9) Absentee Ballot: Requests by 5/29 Early Voting: 5/26-6/5, 8:30-5:00 (Closed Sat & Sun) Voting Day: 6/9, 7:00-7:00 GENERAL ELECTION (NOVEMBER 3) Absentee Ballot: Requests by 10/23 (Closed Sun, 10/25) Voting Day: 11/3, 7:00-7:00 EARLY VOTING CENTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Voter Regis. Office • Boiling Springs Library • Cowpens Library • Woodruff Library • Cyril-Westside Library • Middle Tyger Library |

CANDIDATE MEET & GREET

US & SC House Seats 2026 Primary Elections

Thursday, May 28, 2026 | 6-8 pm
Spartanburg Community College, Downtown (Gym)
220 E. Kennedy Street, Spartanburg

We have invited all active candidates who will represent Spartanburg County in the South Carolina and United States Houses of Representatives.
All candidates are invited to set up information tables and chat with voters. Those on the 6/9 Primary ballot will be invited to share briefly with the group.

Meet the people you'll see on your ballot!
This non-partisan event is presented by:

Primary elections are integral to selecting the candidate who will represent you best!
Learn more about your candidates on their websites and social media.

Use the non-partisan Voter Guide, Vote411.org, see your ballot, check your registration and more. All candidates are invited to share about themselves in their own, unedited words. Even if they don't, their basic info is there.

| US & SC HOUSES OF REPRESENTATIVES CANDIDATES (* = Incumbents) | | VOTING INFORMATION |
|--|---|--|
| US HOUSE DISTRICT 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Atchley, Republican Jessica Ethridge, Libertarian Robert Lee, Republican Courtney McCain, Democrat William Timmons, Republican* US HOUSE DISTRICT 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wes Climer, Republican Andrew Clough, Democrat Mallory Dilmer, Democrat Andy Kaplan, Forward SC HOUSE DISTRICTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 29 Marina Franco, Democrat Dennis Moss, Republican* 30 Stephanie Holstein, Democrat Brian Lawson, Republican* 31 Mo Abusaff, Democrat Rosalyn Henderson-Myers, Democrat* James Jones, Sr., United Citizens | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 32 Irene Benson, Democrat Scott Montgomery, Republican 33 Abe Harris, Republican Travis Moore, Republican* Clemson Turregano, Democrat 34 Santa Edgerton, Republican* Saville Williams, Democrat 35 Bill Chumley, Republican* Tatiana Skipper, Democrat 36 Adam Crisp, Republican Rob Harris, Republican* Virginia McLean, Democrat 37 Steven Long, Republican* Tony Patel, Republican Seth Sauer-Hart, Democrat 38 Tammy Hahn, Democrat Josiah Magnuson, Republican* Charlannie Wyatt Nestlen, Republican | PRIMARY (JUNE 9) Absentee Ballot: Requests by 5/29 Early Voting: 5/26-6/5, 8:30-5:00 (Closed Sat & Sun) Voting Day: 6/9, 7:00-7:00 GENERAL ELECTION (NOVEMBER 3) Absentee Ballot: Requests by 10/23 (Closed Sun, 10/25) Voting Day: 11/3, 7:00-7:00 EARLY VOTING CENTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Voter Regis. Office • Boiling Springs Library • Cowpens Library • Woodruff Library • Cyril-Westside Library • Middle Tyger Library |

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

Lee Bright
Senate District 12
(864) 978-9522
leebright@sensenate.gov

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
House District 30
(864) 809-3501
blawsonsc30@gmail.com

Travis Moore
House District 33
(864) 680-0441
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 Your 2026 Democratic 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.



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.



BILLY WEBSTER

Former White House staffer, education leader, and businessman Billy Webster is running for governor with a focus on expanding opportunity, strengthening public education, and bringing experienced leadership to state government. Learn more at websterforsc.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



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.



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.



South Carolina House Candidates



MARINA FRANCO

Candidate for SC House District 29



VIRGINIA MCLEAN

Candidate for SC House District 36



STEPHANIE HOLSTEIN

Candidate for SC House District 30



SETH SAUER-HART

Candidate for SC House District 37



ROSALYN HENDERSON-MYERS

Candidate for SC House District 31



TAMMY HAHN

Candidate for SC House District 38



MONIER ABUSOFT

Candidate for SC House District 31



Spartanburg County Council Candidates



IRENE BENSON

Candidate for SC House District 32



LEKESA WHITNER

Candidate for County Council Chair



CLEMSON TURREGANO

Candidate for SC House District 33



LEON WILES

Candidate for County Council Chair



SAVILLE WILLIAMS

Candidate for SC House District 34



GARRETT GIBSON

Candidate for County Council District 5



TATIANA SKIPPER

Candidate for SC House District 35



FRANKLAND WATTS

Candidate for County Council District 6



2026 SCDP State Convention Weekend

South Carolina Democrats will gather in Columbia May 29–30 for a weekend of organizing, celebration, candidate support, and party business.

In just a few weeks, Democrats from across South Carolina will gather in person for the 2026 South Carolina Democratic Party State Convention Weekend. Spartanburg County delegates and alternates will join Democrats from every corner of the state to conduct party business, hear from Democratic leaders, celebrate candidates, and prepare for a critical election cycle.

The convention agenda is still being finalized, so delegates and attendees should check [SCDP.org](https://scdp.org) and their email inboxes regularly for the latest updates.



Friday, May 29: Blue Palmetto Dinner

The weekend begins with the Blue Palmetto Dinner, the South Carolina Democratic Party's largest annual fundraising event.

This year's dinner will feature Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear and will be held at the Moore Building at the South Carolina State Fairgrounds. In honor of Democratic candidates running in all 124 State House seats, delegate tickets are available for \$124 per person. Non-delegate tickets are \$150. County parties also have the opportunity to purchase tables.

- **Time:** 7:00 PM
- **Location:** Moore Building, SC State Fairgrounds
- **Parking:** Enter the North Gate off Rosewood Drive near the Rocket. Parking is included with dinner admission.

Friday, May 29: Jim Clyburn's World Famous Fish Fry

Following the Blue Palmetto Dinner, Congressman Jim Clyburn will host his World Famous Fish Fry at EdVenture in Columbia.

The Fish Fry is free and open to the public. Attendees will have time to attend both the Blue Palmetto Dinner and the Fish Fry.

- **Time:** 8:30–11:00 PM
- **Location:** EdVenture, 211 Gervais Street, Columbia
- **Cost:** Free and open to the public

Saturday, May 30: Democratic Women's Breakfast

Saturday begins with the South Carolina Democratic Women's Council Breakfast at the Rosewoods Ballroom at the SC State Fairgrounds.

- **Time:** 7:00 AM
- **Location:** Rosewoods Ballroom, SC State Fairgrounds
- **Tickets:** \$35 for SCDWC members; \$45 for non-members

Delegate Guide & Convention Logistics

State Convention Registration

All delegates, alternates, and attendees are encouraged to register in advance. Registration helps the State Party plan responsibly and manage convention expenses. A \$10 contribution/registration fee is requested to help offset convention costs.

Credential Pick-Up

Credential pick-up will begin Saturday morning as delegates enter the Goodman Building at the SC State Fairgrounds.

- **Time:** Begins at 8:00 AM
- **Location:** Goodman Building, SC State Fairgrounds, 1200 Rosewood Drive, Columbia

Counties will begin replacing absent delegates by credentialing alternates at 9:15 AM. Alternates should check in at their county registration table when they arrive so county leaders know they are available to serve as delegates if a vacancy occurs.

SCDP Convention General Session

The Convention will convene at 9:30 AM in the Goodman Building. Delegates will sit with their county delegation, and alternates will have designated seating behind convention delegates.

During the General Session, delegates will:

- Celebrate South Carolina's historic field of Democratic candidates
- Elect a State Party 2nd Vice Chair to fill an unexpired term
- Hear from special guest speakers, including California Congressman Ro Khanna
- Debate and adopt resolutions
- Consider proposed changes to the SCDP Rules

Proposed resolutions and rule changes will be sent to delegates in advance. Delegates should read these materials carefully before convention day.

Convention Parking: Enter the SC State Fairgrounds through Gate 6 off Assembly Street.

Reminder for Spartanburg Delegates and Alternates

Check SCDP.org, watch your email, register in advance, review committee materials, and arrive early Saturday morning for credential pick-up. Spartanburg County's delegation has an important role to play as Democrats from across the state come together to organize, vote, and prepare for the work ahead.

Calendar of Events



| | |
|------------------------|--|
| MAY 4 | Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation Meeting |
| MAY 5 | Dr. Annie Andrews at Bond Street Wines |
| MAY 7 | State of Education discussion with Lisa Ellis and Sylvia Wright via Zoom |
| MAY 8 | YDSPC SPARK Awards |
| MAY 8 | Deadline to register to vote in person for Primaries |
| MAY 10 | Deadline to register to vote online for Primaries |
| MAY 11 | Deadline to register to vote by mail for Primaries |
| MAY 11 | SPCDP Democracy for All Ball 7pm |
| MAY 11 | Rep Henderson Myers Town Hall with SCEA |
| MAY 14 | LWV County Council Candidates Meet & Greet SSC Downtown Campus |
| MAY 26 - JUNE 5 | Early Voting for Primary Elections |
| MAY 28 | LWV State House Candidates Meet & Greet SSC Downtown Campus |
| MAY 29 | Blue Palmetto Dinner |
| MAY 30 | South Carolina Democratic Party State Convention |
| JUNE 1 | SPCDP Monthly Meeting |
| JUNE 3 | SCETV Governors Dem Debate |
| JUNE 5 | Last Day of Early Voting for Primaries |
| JUNE 9 | Democratic Primary |
