

SPARTANBURG DEMOCRATS Monthly Newsletter



SPARTANBURGDEMOCRATS.COM



From Gerrymandering to Redlining: Texas' Power Grab Is a Wake-Up Call for Us All

We should all be paying attention to what is happening in Texas. Trump has ordered the Texas GOP to 'find' five more seats for the midterms. This unprecedented mid-cycle redistricting is pouring gasoline on a fire that is already out of control - GERRYMANDERING. Except this is more than just gerrymandering, it's redlining. Texas Democrats fled their state this weekend in an effort to break quorum so the democratic process could not proceed, and many are in Chicago with Gov Pritzler.

And further more the president of the Heritage Foundation pushed the TN state legislature to de-charter Nashville, and take over the 'blue' city for not caving to Trump's agenda.

This is a slippery slope my friends, and it's at the core of our political issues in SC and other southern states around the country, drawing districts so they are uncompetitive. And both parties use it as a tool. Learn more about gerrymandering in SC on our Frogmore Stew Podcast.

Kathryn

Kathryn Harvey
Chair, Spartanburg County Democratic Party

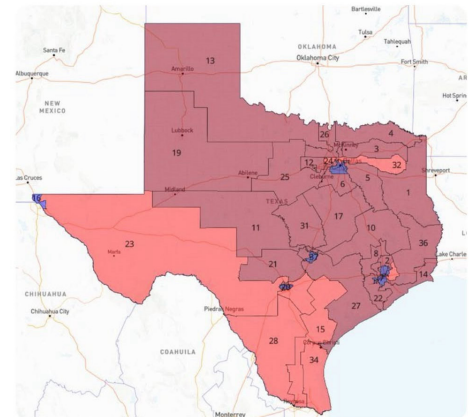


Micah Erfan
@micah_erfan

Texas Democrats get 45% of the vote.

Under the GOP's new gerrymandered map, they'd get just 21% of the seats.

This is not democracy.



Since we last met...

In the United States

- The stock market dropped nearly 600 points, rattling retirement accounts and 401(k)s.
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics revised job numbers down by 285,000, revealing an economy that's a lot weaker than they first claimed. Donald Trump responded by firing the head of the Bureau of Labor Statistics — like a dictator silencing the messenger.
- Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent confirmed they are looking to privatize Social Security
- The Epstein Files continue to proliferate the news after giving Maxwell special treatment and Trump claiming that Epstein 'STOLE' girls from him
- Gaza is starving and still no cease fire
- Texas Democrats have fled the state to block an egregious gerrymandering effort

In South Carolina

- Brandon Brown has joined the SC Senate Race
- Paul Dans has joined the SC Senate Race (Republican architect of 2025)
- Lee Johnson has dropped out of the SC Senate Race
- Nancy Mace and Pamela Evette announced their candidacy in the Governor's race
- School board filing has closed in Spartanburg
- Erica Brown, Jamie Fulmer, Janie Salley, and Mayor Rice have all officially filed for reelection to their seats on Spartanburg City Council.



The Comeback:

A Conversation on How SC Democrats Can Fight and Win Again

South Carolina Democrats are a super minority in the state legislature and non-existent as a player in statewide elections. Since 2013, SC Democrats have lost nearly 25% of their State House seats. In 2022, the party lost five House seats, failing to win a single one back in 2024, and losing an additional 4 Senate seats.

What is happening inside the State House and on the ground that has put a once relevant party on the outside and how do we fix it?

As attention turns to 2026, two Democratic House members and two longtime donors and advisors are offering firsthand accounts of what's happening at the State House, the legal landscape, and what it takes to win competitive seats.



INSIDE THE DOME: A VIEW FROM INSIDE THE STATE HOUSE

State Rep. Heather Bauer (HD75) - Heather Bauer is the Representative for House District 75 in Richland County. In 2022, Bauer was the only Democrat to flip a seat in the State legislature by defeating a 10-year Republican incumbent. In 2024, Bauer won re-election by a larger margin against the same former incumbent. Bauer serves on the State House Committee, the Agriculture and Natural Resources committee, and is 1st Vice Chair, Operations and Management Committee.



HOW WE LEAD AGAIN: HOW SC DEMOCRATS CAN LEAD AS AN OPPOSITION PARTY

State Rep. Kambrell Garvin (HD77) - Kambrell Garvin is an attorney in Columbia and has been a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives since 2018, representing House District 77. A former public school teacher, Garvin has fought to expand Medicaid, reform our public education system, ease the burden of student loan debt, and bring businesses to the Midlands. He serves on the Education and Public Works committee and Government Efficiency and Legislative Oversight committee.



HOW WE TURNED CHARLESTON BLUE

Brady Quirk-Garvan is a Democratic consultant and was Chair of the Charleston County Democratic Party from 2014-2019. Under his leadership, Charleston County flipped 6 seats from Republican to Democrat, and fundraised record-breaking amounts for voter contact and party support. In addition to many local and state-wide races, Quirk-Garvan was a part of Obama 2008 and Biden 2020 in South Carolina.



MODERATOR

Chris Kenney is a lawyer in Columbia who has worked for, volunteered on, and donated to dozens of Democratic campaigns. He has litigated gerrymandering, election law, and campaign finance cases and was a Bauer advisor in 2022 and 2024.

Join us for this event at our next SPCDP Monthly Meeting

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 AT 6:00 P.M.

SPARTANBURG COMMUNITY COLLEGE DOWNTOWN CAMPUS THEATER



Follow the Spartanburg Dems!

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



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
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.



2025 Races

Your Chance to Lead Locally

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). Encouraging 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.

School Board Elections

Filing for school board races has closed. Below are the candidates who have filed and will be on the November ballot.

DISTRICT 1

- Elton Chapman
- Trey Gramling
- David M. Green
- Brad Johnson
- Mark Rollins
- Marshall A. Seay
- Steve A. Skinner
- Linda Tarpley

DISTRICT 2

- Connie Banks
- Sarah C. Butler
- David B. Cantrell
- Latasha Miller Carter
- David Garner
- Michael Steve Hammett
- Scott W. Kimbrell
- Grant McDowell
- Matthew Schubeck
- Jason Seay
- Joshua C. Steadings

DISTRICT 3

- Sam Dawson
- Sarah Dunn
- Chris Jolley
- Deion Logan
- Ami Odom

DISTRICT 4

- Tony R. Davis
- W. Ted Harrison Jr.
- Phil Himbree
- Jay C. Phillips
- Morgan C. Smith
- Nick Sugalski
- Rhonda Sumner

DISTRICT 5

Zone 2

- Kevin Goode

Zone 3

- Scott Clement
- Amy L. Faulkner
- Caroline Ford

- Millie Malone
- Alex Perez

DISTRICT 6

- Nicole Bulman
- Shawn Creal
- Kevin Harrison
- Christie Brockman Johnson
- Carmen I. Levitt
- Christie Lindsey
- Tracy Hanna Smith
- Troy Yarborough

DISTRICT 7

Zone 2

- Vernon Beatty

Zone 3

- Steve Battocchio
- Sharon D. Porter

Zone 5

- F. Manning Fairey
- Griffin Littlejohn Lynch
- Jeff Mason

Municipal Offices

FILING WINDOW

Candidates for mayor, council, CPW, and other non-partisan municipal posts file a Statement of Candidacy at the County Voter Registration & Elections Office by Friday, August 15 at 12 noon. There is no signature requirement, but the filing fee (determined by each municipality) must be paid at submission.

2025 MUNICIPAL SEATS UP FOR ELECTION

- **Campobello:** Mayor (1) & Town Council (at-large, 2)
- **Central Pacolet:** Mayor (1) & Town Council (at-large, 2)
- **Chesnee:** Mayor (1) & City Council (at-large, 2)
- **Cowpens:** Town Council (at-large, 2)
- **Duncan:** Mayor (1) & Town Council (at-large, 2)
- **Greer:** City Council Districts 2 & 4 (1 each) & CPW (1)
- **Inman:** City Council (at-large, 2)
- **Landrum:** Mayor (1) & City Council (at-large, 3)
- **Lyman:** Mayor (1) & Town Council (at-large, 3)
- **Pacolet:** Mayor (1) & City Council Districts 1, 3 & 6 (1 each)
- **Reidville:** Mayor (1) & Town Council Wards 1 & 2 (1 each)
- **Spartanburg:** Mayor (1); City Council District 2 (unexpired), City Council Districts 4, 5 & 6 (1 each); CPW (1)
- **Wellford:** City Council (at-large, 2)
- **Woodruff:** City Council Wards 2, 4 & 6 (1 each)
- **Special Districts:** Gowensville Fire District Commissioner (3); Landrum Fire & Rescue Areas 1 & 2 (1 each)

Sheriff Candidates

The Sheriff's race will be decided in the August 5 primary.



ROBERT J. CHEEKS
robertcheeksforsheriff.com



ANDY CLARK
aclarkforsheriff.com



RUSTY CLEVINGER
clevengerforsheriff.com



ADAM CRISP
crispforsheriff.com



NICK DUNCAN
nickduncanforsheriff.com



RANDY HOLLIFIELD
hollifieldforsheriff.com



JOSEPH A. PILATO
bit.ly/3T4HCXS



BILL RHYNE
billrhynesforsheriff.com



RICHARD STEPHENS
bit.ly/44eFjX8

Step Up & Serve

Apply for Spartanburg's County and City Boards

Passionate about shaping Spartanburg's future? Your ideas and experience are needed on local boards and commissions that make real decisions every day—from parks and zoning to public safety and the arts. Scan the QR codes below to explore current openings and learn how quick and easy it is to submit your application. A few minutes today can translate into years of impact for our community—take your seat at the table!



Candidate Spotlights

2025 Election Cycle

Kathryn Harvey for County Council

Kathryn Harvey, longtime community advocate and current chair of the Spartanburg County Democratic Party, is running to flip County Council District 3—one of only two partisan races on the 2025 ballot. District 3 stretches from Spartanburg’s Eastside neighborhoods through the Town of Cowpens and out to the county’s eastern boundary, an area facing rapid growth, infrastructure strains, and economic-development challenges. Kathryn’s platform focuses on expanding public-transit options, smart land-use planning, and bringing more equitable investment to underserved neighborhoods. A win here would give Democrats a stronger voice on issues like zoning, broadband expansion, and workforce training at the county level.



HOW TO HELP:

- **Volunteer:** Kathryn’s field team is already canvassing! Join Kathryn and her team for canvassing this Sunday, July 13 at 2:30 p.m. Sign up using the QR code to the right.
- **Donate:** Early funds boost name recognition—contribute securely at kathrynforcouncil.com/donate.
- **Spread the Word:** Share her campaign posts on social media and ask Eastside or Cowpens friends to check their voter registration at SCVotes.gov.



Learn more at kathrynforcouncil.com

Caroline Ford for District 5 School Board

Dr. Caroline Ford is a dedicated educator, administrator, and community advocate with over two decades of experience in public education. As a proud District 5 parent and community member, she is seeking a seat on the District 5 School Board (Zone 3). Caroline’s priorities include attracting and retaining high-quality educators; championing college, career, and military readiness; fostering strong parent and community partnerships; and supporting strategic facilities planning to meet growing enrollment needs. Caroline’s passion for supporting teachers, engaging families, and making data-informed decisions drives her work and inspires confidence in her leadership.



HOW TO HELP:

- **Donate:** School board campaigns run on grassroots dollars. Every \$25 prints another batch of yard signs or funds a week of targeted digital ads. Chip in securely at fordforsc.com to help Caroline reach every voter in her district.
- **Host a Meet-and-Greet:** Invite neighbors for an informal Q&A; the campaign provides literature and yard signs.
- **Join the Team:** Phone-bank, text voters, or deliver yard signs by signing up at fordforsc.com.



Learn more at fordforsc.com and share her campaign on Facebook.

Take Action: Step Up to Lead Your Precinct

Precinct development is the backbone of any effective grassroots “Get Out the Vote” (GOTV) strategy. By organizing and engaging voters at the neighborhood level, precinct leaders serve as vital links between the local party, candidates, and the community. They help recruit volunteers, share critical election information, register new voters, and conduct voter outreach that brings political issues directly to people’s doorsteps. Through this direct engagement, precinct leaders build trusted, lasting relationships that empower voters and volunteers, and strengthen the overall impact of the Spartanburg County Democratic Party’s GOTV efforts. If you’re interested in serving as a Precinct Captain, scan the QR Code to the right to complete the application.



Upcoming Events

Local Events & Ways to Get Involved This Month



July 22 nd	6:30 PM	Columbia	The SCEA Bldg. 2999 Sunset Blvd West Columbia, SC 29169
July 24 th	6:30 PM	York/Rock Hill	Boilermakers Hall 712 Patriot Pkwy Rock Hill, SC 29730
July 29 th	6:30 PM	Charleston	Daniel Island Recreation Center, 160 Fairbanks Dr. Daniel Island, SC 29492
Aug. 5 th	6:30 PM	Myrtle Beach	Location To Be Announced
Aug. 28 th	4:30 PM	Greenville Spartanburg	Ramsey Family Branch Library Augusta Road







Town Halls

COWPENS COMMUNITY

Tuesday, August 12

4:00 to 5:00 PM

Cowpens Library

181 School Street, Cowpens, SC 29330



SPARTANBURG COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY



Town Halls

PACOLET COMMUNITY

Sunday, August 17
6:30 to 8:00 PM

Benjamin E Mays Resource Center
850 Sunny Acres Rd, Pacolet, SC 29372



Town Halls

SOUTH CONVERSE COMMUNITY

Monday, August 18
6:30 to 8:00 PM

Mt. Moriah Baptist Church
445 S Church St, Spartanburg, SC 293061



Community Resources

from The Faith Initiative To End Child Poverty

Faith Initiative Quarterly Meeting

- Thursday, September 4, 2025
- Location: Majority Baptist Church (400 Hudson L. Barksdale Blvd., Spartanburg, SC 29306)
- 12:00-2:00pm: Lunch, dialogue, & what we can do
- 2:00-3:00pm: Training

Our next quarterly lunch meeting will be Thursday, September 4 at Majority Baptist Church. Come for fellowship, dialogue, and updates on our projects to propel us forward together. All are welcome! Please RSVP to Scott Neely (scott@faithinitiativespartanburg.org) so we can plan food and space for all.

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). Encouraging 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.

Housing & Homelessness

A WAY HOME

Our congregational rotation family shelter, designed in partnership with A Place To Call Home (our county-wide housing and homelessness collaborative housed at the City of Spartanburg), is called “A Way Home”. In this program, our focus is to serve unhoused children and their families across Spartanburg County. Professional case managers on the A Place To Call Home team work with the families in the program to stabilize their housing, employment, and finances over a 90-day period. During that time, congregations will provide support by offering shelter in our congregational facilities, food, and accompaniment.



REFERRALS

If you would like to refer a family for participation in A Way Home, please contact our case manager Kidada Tate at (864) 410-9931. Kidada conducts intake interviews, background checks, and drug screenings for candidates, and she serves as the lead case manager working with the families through their 90-day stay in the program. Beth Rutherford, who also serves on the A Place To Call Home team, supports Kidada in interviewing and caring for families.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to these congregations that have stepped forward as host or support congregations to create A Way Home, making emergency shelter for children and their families a reality in our community:

Trinity United Methodist	Unitarian Universalist Church	Wild Church
Second Presbyterian	New Beginnings United Methodist	Crossroads Baptist
First Presbyterian	Fernwood Baptist	Come Closer Spartanburg
St. Matthew's Episcopal	Central United Methodist	St. Christopher Episcopal
Episcopal Church of the Advent	Silver Hill Memorial United Methodist	St. Margaret Episcopal
St. John's Lutheran	Hub City Church	Converse University
St. Paul the Apostle Catholic	Central Church of Christ	Wofford College
Church of the Nazarene	The Salvation Army	
St. Paul United Methodist	Westminster Presbyterian	
Bethel United Methodist	Mt. Nebo Baptist	
Tyger River Presbyterian		

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you or your congregation can volunteer to host families, support congregations that are hosting, or donate supplies—we need you! This is a very effective model that has changed many families' lives. To join this effort, please contact our project leader, Sally Dyer [sbdyer@gmail.com / (937) 623-7953].

HELP ON SUNDAYS AT THE DAY SHELTER

Volunteers are especially needed to help staff the family day shelter on Sundays. Hours are from 7:00am-5:00pm and can be done in shifts. This is work of accompaniment, being with families at the day shelter while they rest, wash clothes, and prepare to transition to the next congregation for the week. Click this link to volunteer or contact Sally Dyer [sbdyer@gmail.com / (937) 623-7953].



CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

All volunteers with this program must be trained in child protection, including a background check. If your congregation already has a child protection policy and volunteer training practice, that is outstanding. If your congregation does not, we can help you develop a policy and training. This is a very important way to care for children and adults in our congregations. It is wonderful to see so many of our participating congregations developing new or renewing their child protection policies and training or retraining so many of their congregants in preparation for the launch of A Way Home! For support in accessing these resources, please contact Scott Neely (scott@faithinitiativespartanburg.org).

VOLUNTEER AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES WITH A PLACE TO CALL HOME

A Place to Call Home has a full lineup of events and opportunities this August—spread the word and come!

Hub Situation Table Training

- August 6–7 | All Day
- Mary Black Foundation, Downstairs Conference Room
- This training is ideal for direct service providers and frontline case managers. Please share with staff and agency partners who work closely with clients.

Homeless Court Advocate Training

- August 15 | 10 AM–12 PM
- Northwest Center (701 Saxon Ave)
- This training is designed for anyone working with—or interested in supporting—clients who are enrolled in or eligible for Homeless Court. Our goal is to expand the number of advocates guiding participants through to graduation.

Building Belonging: Understanding Homelessness Together

- Thursday, August 28 | 10–11 AM
- TK Gregg Community Center
- Q&A and discussion for the community on housing and homelessness challenges. Please share widely across your networks!

Donation Drive

- We're launching our first donation drive to support program participants! Please share widely!
- Flyer with QR code to our Amazon Wishlist + purchase instructions on the following pages

Volunteer Day

- Friday, August 29 | 9 AM–12 PM
- Northwest Center (701 Saxon Ave)
- Please share widely across your networks!

Homeless Court Advocate Training

Come ready to become more equipped to serve our friends and neighbors in Spartanburg Homeless Court!

August 15, 2025
10 AM–12 PM
701 Saxon Avenue
Spartanburg, SC

A Place to Call Home

RSVP to Rachel at rdavidson@aptchspartanburg.org

Building Belonging: UNDERSTANDING HOMELESSNESS TOGETHER

Join us for a conversation about housing instability and homelessness in Spartanburg County and learn more about the work of A Place to Call Home. Scan the QR code to register!

August 28, 2025
10 AM - 11 AM

TK Gregg Community Center

A Place to Call Home

SITUATION TABLE SPARTANBURG, SC

Communities Working Together

Free 2-Day Training

DATE:

August 6th & 7th, 2025
Registration - 8:30 am
Training - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

LOCATION:

Mary Black Foundation
349 E. Main Street
Spartanburg, SC 29302



SCAN THE
QR CODE OR
[CLICK
TO REGISTER](#)

Please share this invitation with any partners, colleagues, or organizations whom you feel should or would welcome the opportunity to be a member of your region's Situation Table.

■ **TRAINING SUMMARY:** The Situation Table is a unique, risk-based, rapid triage model that brings together multiple service providers to address the needs of individuals and/or families who are often facing the highest level of combined risks in a community or region but fall through the cracks in the justice and healthcare systems.

Certified instructors will teach based on the 2012 Saskatchewan, Canada, model. There are over 125 Canadian and 39 U.S. Situation Tables following the fidelity of this model, which is recognized as a Model Practice by NACCHO.

There is no cost to attend this training. Organizations are encouraged to send 1 to 2 designated agency representatives for the 2-day training. System leaders and executives are encouraged to attend the morning session on Day 1 of training.

All organizations are encouraged to attend, including community-based organizations, schools, child welfare, youth services, hospitals, fire/EMS, mental and behavioral health, treatment facilities, peer recovery, housing, public safety, public health, courts, correctional facilities, city/town government, and local attorneys.

Coffee and lunch will be provided on site for the two days of training.

■ **INTENDED AUDIENCE:** This training is for any Spartanburg County agency or person supporting vulnerable, underserved populations suffering from substance use and mental health disorders, violence, homelessness, or other social health issue and is interested in participating in your Situation Table.

■ **TARGETED DELIVERY:** Attendees will learn from field operators and leaders from national and local agencies, organizations, and initiatives in a collaborative environment.

■ **MATERIALS:** All participants will receive a student booklet and online link to Situation Table training materials. Table Chair and Data Recorder will receive access to the e-learning site.



A Place to
Call Home

A Place to Call Home

Donation Drive

Your donations help provide vital support to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Spartanburg County.

- Our A Way Home family shelter.
- Hygiene kits for homeless individuals seeking services through our partner organizations.
- Furnishing and outfitting our transitional houses.



Drop-off Instructions:
To coordinate a drop-off location and time please email: lsimmons@apthcspartanburg.org

Scan this QR code to order off our Amazon wishlist:



A Place to Call Home

NORTHWEST CENTER VOLUNTEER DAY




A Place to Call Home

August 29th 9 AM - 12 PM
701 Saxon Avenue Spartanburg, SC

Help us with donation sorting and housekeeping needs at our family shelter.

Register here!

Refugees & Immigrants

SUPPORT VIDA Y SALUD

Support Vida y Salud, our community's major organization offering direct support for Latino families, through the Upstate Family Resource Center: <https://www.upstatefrc.org/vida-y-salud-2>.



CARE FOR UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

Participate in La Jornada's foster program for unaccompanied minors until they are reunited with family: <https://www.nyap.org/south-carolina>

Health

OPIOID USE DISORDER: A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

- August 21, 2025
- 3:00-6:00pm
- Unitarian Universalist Church (210 Henry Place, Spartanburg, SC 29306)
- See attached flyer on the following page to register
- Join in an honest and hopeful conversation about Opioid Use Disorder—what it is, how it affects our families and neighborhoods, and what we can do together to support prevention, recovery, and healing.

FREE HIV, STD, AND HEPATITIS C TESTING FOR 2025

- September 30, October 16, and December 2, 2025
- At most SC Department of Health sites
- Call 1-855-472-3432 to make an appointment

Early Childhood Care & Learning

There is much we can do right now to advocate for early childhood care and learning at every level of our lives—in our families, our congregations, our community, and our state:

A Community Conversation on Opioid Use Disorder

Join us for an honest and hopeful conversation about Opioid Use Disorder -what it is, how it affects our families and neighborhoods, and what we can do together to support prevention, recovery, and healing.

Topics Include:

- Understanding addiction and Opioid Use Disorder
- Signs and symptoms of opioid misuse
- Local resources for treatment and support
- Personal stories of recovery
- Faith-based and community-led responses
- How to reduce stigma and extend compassion

**JOIN OUR WORKSHOP - AUGUST 21, 2025 -
3:00PM-6:00PM**



**Unitarian Universalist
Church of Spartanburg**
210 Henry Place
Spartanburg, SC 29306



**The South Carolina
Witness Project®**
WITNESSING TO SAVE LIVES

Why It Matters:

Opioid Use Disorder touches every corner of our community—rural and urban, young and old, rich and poor. But together, we can face it with knowledge, support, and action.

Together, we can break the silence and build a stronger, healthier community.

“Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”
Galatians 6:2



Recovery Center of Excellence



**SOUTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF
RURAL HEALTH**
Investment. Opportunity. Health.

RSVP by scanning QR code or clicking the link -

<https://forms.gle/bRixSDnJKezZPc8h8>

This HRSA RCORP RCOE program is supported by the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) of the US Department of Health & Human Services

Our families: Do you have a child in your care?

- Complete the Ages & Stages Questionnaire to assess your child's developmental milestones:
 - In English: <https://helpmegrowsc.org/sam-english>
 - En español: <https://helpmegrowsc.org/sam-espanol>
- Text or phone 864-606-9908 or visit Hello Family to access many, many, many supports and resources for children and their families. This is a nationally-recognized program in Spartanburg County whose purpose is to help young families thrive! What if we led our county into the future by connecting every young family in all of our congregations with this amazing resource?!!

Our congregations: Let's go from good to GREAT:

- If your congregation offers early childhood care and learning, make what you are already doing even BETTER: connect with Quality Counts to level up with professional development and continuous improvement. Do not wait – research and experience show that quality early care and learning makes all the difference for our kids.

Our community: Connect to amplify:

- Align with community-wide efforts to amplify each of our individual efforts: connect with the Center for Early Childhood Success at the Spartanburg Academic Movement.

Our state: Advocate this legislative session:

- Join the Institute for Child Success's Common Agenda (scan the QR code to the right for more information).



Advocacy

THE STATE OF ALICE IN SOUTH CAROLINA: 2025 UPDATE ON FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

Scan the QR code to the right to read the report.

ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households earn above the Federal Poverty Line, but not enough to afford basic expenses in the county where they live. Between ALICE households and households in poverty, an estimated 42% of South Carolina households in 2023 were living below what's called the ALICE Threshold—forced to make impossible choices every day, like deciding whether to pay for utilities or a car repair, whether to buy food or fill a prescription. Read the updated 2025 report by the United Way to learn more about financial security, and the struggles and resilience of families experiencing financial hardship in South Carolina.



RACIAL EQUITY PROGRESS REPORT

The 2018 Racial Equity Index connected data with lived experience to clearly demonstrate to the Spartanburg community the connection between our history of racism and disparities in health, economics, education, and opportunity. This report launched the Faith Initiative To End Child Poverty as a collaboration of Spartanburg congregations. Racial Equity in Spartanburg: A 5-Year Progress Report from Strategic Spartanburg provides updated data from the 2018 Spartanburg Racial Equity Index about racial equity gaps in the community across a wide number of issues.



Support

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FAITH INITIATIVE:

The Faith Initiative To End Child Poverty is a coalition of more than 50 congregations working to end child poverty in Spartanburg, SC. A steering committee made up of representatives from our coalition of congregations governs the project. As one partner in the coalition, First Presbyterian Church acts as fiscal sponsor.

Financial contributions support the mission and operations of the Faith Initiative. 10% of our annual budget beyond programming, a tithe, is given in direct support to aid children and their families in financial distress. To contribute, gifts may be made to: First Presbyterian Church, 393 E. Main St., Spartanburg, SC 29302, Memo: Faith Initiative To End Child Poverty, or on-line at <https://fpcspartanburg.org/give/online-giving>



Calendar of Events



AUGUST 1-15	Filing for Spartanburg County municipal races is open.
AUGUST 5	Primary Election for Spartanburg County Sheriff and County Council District 3 (7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)
AUGUST 12	Cowpens Tiny Town Hall (4:00 p.m. at the Cowpens Library)
AUGUST 17	Pacolet Tiny Town Hall (6:30 p.m., Benjamin E. Mays Family Resource Center)
AUGUST 18	Tiny Town Hall (6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church)
AUGUST 19	Primary Election Runoff (7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Early Voting Period is August 13 – 15)
AUGUST 21	Phone Bank Training—Virtual or In Person (6:00 p.m., SPCDP Headquarters)
SEPTEMBER 8	SPCDP Monthly Meeting with Representative Heather Bauer (6:00 p.m., Spartanburg Community College Downtown Campus Theater)
OCTOBER 20	Early Voting for the 2025 General Election begins. Open from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily (Closed Saturday and Sunday), County Administration Building. Ends Friday, October 31 at 5:00 p.m.
NOVEMBER 4	2025 General Election (7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)



Monthly Meeting

September 8
6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Spartanburg Community College
Downtown Campus Theater
220 E Kennedy St, Spartanburg, SC 29302

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