

APRIL 2023

PLEASE CONTINUE TO JOIN US IN THE FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY



'MY FAMILY TAUGHT ME THAT OUR WORLD IS ONLY AS GOOD AS YOU MAKE IT, AND ONE OF THE WAYS TO MAKE IT BETTER IS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS.'

~ LIZ PATTERSON, ANNOUNCING FOR CONGRESS IN 1986

HONORING TRAILBLAZING DEMOCRATIC WOMEN IN SPARTANBURG

There is no shortage of trailblazing democratic women in our county. And on the eve of my first year as the Chair of the Spartanburg County Democratic Party, I'm honored to be sharing space in this community with so many who have paved the way and continue to carry the torch for what is good and just for Spartanburg. This year has already seen attacks on education, women's rights, LGBTQ communities and more. We have much to do to progress our party forward in Spartanburg, and we need more women to run for office and leadership roles that impact policy in this state.

On March 30 we honored the late Liz Patterson and eleven other female leaders who have been doing the work for decades. And I was struck how every other woman being honored had a story about Mrs. Patterson supporting, encouraging, and advocating for them, and how her work and presence has paved a path for so many. And, I also believe she would be thrilled to meet our new officers of the Spartanburg County Democratic Party who give me an immense amount of hope for our future.



HONOREES

District 31 Representative, Rosalyn Henderson-Myers
Former Welford Mayor, Sallie Peake
Spartanburg City Councilwoman, Meghan Smith
Spartanburg City Councilwoman, Erica Brown
Spartanburg City Councilwoman, Ruth Littlejohn
Spartanburg City Councilwoman, Janie Salley
Public Works Commission, Angela M. Viney
Former SPCDDP Chair, Angela Geter
Former Representative, Brenda Lee Pryce
Former City Councilwoman, Linda Dogan
Former City Councilwoman, Linda Bilanchone

SPARTANBURG COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

SPARTANBURGDEMOCRATS.COM | (864) 585-6957 | SPARTANBURGDEMOCRATS@GMAIL.COM

CONSIDER A CONTRIBUTION TO THE LIZ PATTERSON FUND



To support high school and college internships with the SPCDP, candidate training programs for women running for office, and the Young Democrats of Spartanburg County.

During our Spring Celebration we re-established the **Liz Patterson Fund** to support youth engagement in our community, college and high school internships with the SPCDP, scholarships for candidate training programs tailored to women who want to run for office or support political campaigns, and most importantly, funding to provide a foundation for our new young democrats who we raised over \$1000 for in March.



We also awarded three community members with the Liz Patterson Young Democrat Award and the Liz Patterson Volunteer of the Year Award.

AWARDEES



Jaqueline Perez
Mayra Santiago
Liz Patterson Young
Democrat of the Year Award



Lindsay Webster
Inaugural Spartanburg
Dem Dames Award



Mary Deku
SPCDP Community
Engagement Award



Brenda Lee Pryce
SPCDP Community
Engagement Award



Helen Bennett
Liz Patterson Volunteer
of the Year Award



DEM LUNCHES

Join us at Monarch Cafe on April 20th for lunch with the SPCDP. RSVP to hold your spot, and lunch will be \$20.



**LUNCH WITH THE
SPCDP**
THURSDAY, APRIL 20TH, 12-1PM

MONARCH CAFE
498 HOWARD ST
SPARTANBURG, SC 29303

RSVP AT
[BIT.LY/LUNCHWITHSPCDP](https://bit.ly/LUNCHWITHSPCDP)



THE STATE CONVENTION APRIL 29

April 17 is the last day to request to be an alternate at the 2023 SCDP Convention on April 29.

Please email Helen Bennett at spartanburgdemocrats@gmail.com with your name, contact information, age, sex, and voting precinct.



APRIL 28 - 29, 2023
COLUMBIA
SOUTH CAROLINA
SCDP

[SCDP.ORG/2023-DEM-WEEKEND](https://scdp.org/2023-dem-weekend)

FORWARD FUND UPDATE

In the first three months of launching the Forward Fund we have over \$40,000 committed towards our goal to raise \$240,000 by the end of 2024.

FOUNDING MEMBERS

ADVOCATE LEVEL | \$12,000

LINDSAY WEBSTER & BILLY WEBSTER

STRATEGIST LEVEL | \$6,000

MICHELE & PEYTON HARVEY

DEFENDER OF DEMOCRACY | \$2,400

ED EPPS ELSIE WRIGHT

KATHRYN HARVEY JACK & KAY LAWRENCE

THE DEMOCRAT LEVEL | \$1,200

MARY MILES JAMES JONES DARCELL DAVIS-WILLIAMS
HELEN BENNETT WILLIAM WOODROOF URSULA HICKLIN
BRENDA LEE PRYCE

2024 CLUB LEVEL | \$576

ANGELIA EDWARDS ANN MELTON
MARY DEKU

FORWARD FUND
SPARTANBURGDEMOCRATS.COM/FORWARD-FUND

BECOME A FOUNDING MEMBER
OF THE FORWARD FUND

OVER \$40,000 COMMITTED



WHO'S ON THE BALLOT?



CATHERINE FLEMING BRUCE, CHAIR

Bio: catherineflemingbruce.com



CHRISTALE SPAIN, CHAIR

Bio: greenvilledemocrats.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Christale-Spain-Bio-2023.pdf



BRANDON UPSON, CHAIR

Bio: sc4wardtogether.com/brandon



COLLEEN CONDON, VICE CHAIR

Bio: colleencondon.com



MARY GEREN, VICE CHAIR

Bio: csc4wardtogether.com/mary



**MAYRA RIVERA-VAZQUEZ
VICE CHAIR\2ND VICE CHAIR**

Bio: greenvilledemocrats.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Mayra-Rivera-bio.pdf



MELINA RODELO, 2ND VICE CHAIR

Bio: sc4wardtogether.com/melina



MICHELLE BRANDT, 3RD VICE CHAIR

Bio: greenvilledemocrats.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Michelle-Brandt-3rd-vice.docx



ERICA SAMPSON, 3RD VICE CHAIR

Bio: sc4wardtogether.com/erica

LOCAL NEWS

SPARTANBURG MAN HONORED AT SCOP BLACK CAUCUS SUNDAY DINNER

Spartanburg's Russell Bannan received the Allyship Award from the Black Caucus at this year's Sunday dinner for being a fierce ally for working people and the disadvantaged. Russell has stood in the gap for our community and we're excited to share our gratitude.

DONALD TRUMP HAS BEEN INDICTED

The senator called the case "legal voodoo" and "political persecution" that will "fall like a cheap suit under legal scrutiny." Graham also cast doubt on the testimony of Michael Cohen, Trump's one-time personal lawyer and fixer. Cohen previously admitted to paying \$130,000 to Daniels just before the 2016 election to stop her from saying she had an affair with Trump in 2006.

Lindsey Graham tried to fundraise for Trump on Fox News hours after the former president was indicted: 'Give the man some money so he can fight!'

Read Article: <https://bit.ly/DonaldTrumpIndictement>

DEMAND LAWMAKERS REMOVE ABORTION CRIMINALIZATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Despite abortion being legal in South Carolina, you can still face prosecution for self-managing an abortion or helping someone do so using safe medication.

South Carolina is currently one of only two states that criminalizes self-managed abortion. The threat of criminalization unfairly targets marginalized communities and can lead to wrongful punishment for common pregnancy outcomes such as miscarriage.

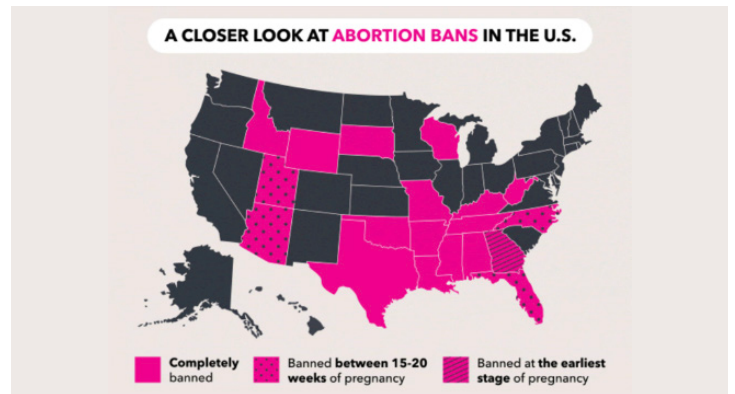
No one should face investigation or jail time for getting an abortion. We deserve compassion and support, not punishment. Join us in the fight to create a safe and healthy community for all.

Tell you legislators to Remove Criminal Penalty for Abortion.

<https://www.naacpldf.org/truth-2/sc-protruth/>

Russell Bannan

Bannan was recognized as Labor Advocate of the Year by the South Carolina AFL-CIO and was awarded the Latino Rights Ally of the Year by the Denver Area Labor Council for Latin American Advancement. He was a regular guest on the Mario Solis-Marich Show as an expert on labor and civil rights issues happening in the area.



STAND UP FOR TRUTH

South Carolina bill H. 3728 seeks to prevent public educators from teaching the full truth of past and present race and gender inequalities in their classrooms.

Ask your Senator to vote NO

Sen. Shane Massey, Chairman (803) 212-6330
Sen. Larry Grooms (803) 212-6400
Sen. Brad Hutto (803) 212-6140
Sen. Ross Turner (803) 212-6148
Sen. Karl Allen (803) 212-6040

STATE HOUSE SPOTLIGHT WITH SEVI ALVAREZ

It's been a busy legislative session. Countless bills have been brought to the House and Senate floors. Here's the short list of the worst legislation currently winding its way through Columbia that is being sponsored by Spartanburg legislators.

Josiah Magnuson is holding a public town hall on Thursday, April 13th, at 6pm.

The address is 3301 Highway 357, Inman, SC 29349.

- **Senate Bill 234, titled “Parents Bill of Rights,”** would allow any parent, including those not in the same school district, to object to any teacher’s lesson plans and would force teachers to follow draconian rules about what they can or cannot teach, based on the whims of whatever parents decide to complain. This would further erode our state’s already dwindling supply of teachers and imperil our education system. Sponsors: Josh Kimbrell, Loftis, Adams, Grooms, Bennett, Rice, Davis, Campsen.
- **Senate Bill 243, titled “Gender reassignment,”** would prohibit transgender children and their parents from making their own healthcare decisions by outlawing hormone blockers for anyone under 18 years of age. This would effectively force kids who know they are trans to experience the wrong puberty, endangering their mental health and lowering their quality of life. Sponsors: Josh Kimbrell, Brian Adams.
- **S 246, titled “Prohibited Subjects of Instruction (‘Critical Race Theory’),”** would restrict teachers’ ability to accurately teach American history by limiting or disallowing discussions of race. Sponsors: Josh Kimbrell, Brian Adams, Rex Rice.
- **S 474, titled “Abortion – Fetal Heartbeat,”** would reestablish the law, previously struck down by the SC Supreme Court, that would outlaw abortions past six weeks. This would be unconstitutional and an abuse of power by the legislature. Sponsors: Josh Kimbrell, Shane Massey, Brian Adams, Grooms.
- **A bill being marketed as “School Choice”** bill is being considered by the Senate, which would redirect \$100 million of taxpayer money from public schools into private and charter schools, lining the pockets of those schools while hanging our public schools out to dry.
- **Criminalizing Abortion in SC** In the South Carolina House of Representatives, members of the “Freedom” Caucus, including Josiah Magnuson, Rob Harris, Steven Long, and William Chumley, are trying to advance a bill that would outlaw all abortions from the moment of conception, and make women who undergo abortion procedures to be punishable as though they had committed murder, punishable by the death penalty.
- **Book Banning in Spartanburg:** A small number of extremists have been attempting to pressure the Spartanburg County Library Board and County Council into removing books that tell LGBTQ stories. So far, they have not been successful, but they haven’t shown any signs of giving up any time soon.

You can make a difference by writing or calling your senators and representatives and let them know that you oppose these terrible bills. Show up at public comment sessions, attend events and rallies, and make sure your voice is heard. That’s all we can do until the next state-level election, which won’t be until November 2024, so be prepared to get loud when necessary! - Sevi Alvarez

STATE HOUSE SPOTLIGHT WITH AMBERLYN BOITER

Women's History Month proved to be a challenging one at the South Carolina State House, and in local governments across the state. In March, we saw attempts to criminalize abortion seekers, restrict access to medical services, censor classrooms and libraries, and more. Furthermore, South Carolina remains one of only two states without an active hate crimes law.

On the abortion front, H.3549 - misleadingly titled the "South Carolina Prenatal Equal Protection Act" - saw a disturbing amount of support from the more radicalized House of Representatives. This bill aims to give pregnant people the death penalty if they receive an abortion. The bill is not expected to pass the House after a massive public outcry forced 11 representatives to remove their names as sponsors of the bill.

However, Spartanburg Representatives Harris, Chumley, Long, and Magnuson remain listed as supporting sponsors of this bill. Greenville Representatives Trantham and Burns remain sponsors, as well as Anderson Representatives Beach and Cromer, and Laurens Representative Stewart Jones. In fact, of the 13 remaining sponsors of the bill, 9 are Representatives of Upstate counties.

H.3728 - which aims to limit classroom discussion of race, gender, or sexuality - has passed out of the House and is poised to potentially pass through the Senate this year. The SC Pro-Truth coalition has served to be a strong opponent on this bill, and continue to passionately fight against it.

S.627 is a bill which aims to ban gender affirming care for transgender youth. Despite every major medial association in the world supporting this often life-saving care, legislators in South Carolina again want to stand between doctors and their patients when deciding what is in their best interest.

The Senate Medical Affairs Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Richard Cash (R-Anderson) had two public hearings on the bill, but the rules for those hearings were inconsistent with 99% of other public hearings held at the State House.

Members of the coalition SC United for Justice and Equality believe this was an intentional move by Cash to silence the voices of the people most affected by this bill - some of whom were forcibly ejected from the hearing for voicing their concerns. The words from transgender youth here in Spartanburg County are heart-breaking as they claim that a ban on gender affirming care would make their lives no longer worth living. The bill passed subcommittee, but is not expected to make it to the House this year.



SC natives Anjene Davis and Paul Bowers prepare to testify against H.3728 in the Senate Education Subcommittee on March 29, 2023. Photo credit: Anjene Davis, SC ProTruth Coalition



Members of the SC United for Justice and Equality coalition wait to testify in opposition of Senate bills 627 and 623 on March 29, 2023. Photo credit: Adam Polaski, Campaign for Southern Equality

STATE HOUSE SPOTLIGHT WITH AMBERLYN BOITER CONTIUNED

S.623 is a bill which would prevent transgender people from updating their identity documents to reflect the correct name and/or gender - despite SC DHEC's Department of Vital Records testifying that they desire to streamline the process further to make it easier for transgender people to blend into society. This bill also passed subcommittee, but will likely not cross over into the House this year.

In good news, there is movement on a couple of proactive bills in the legislature. A bill providing paid parental leave for state educators has been given a favorable committee report, as well as a bill removing taxes on menstrual care products. They are not likely to be signed into law this year, but the team at WREN will continue pushing to advance the bills into the next legislative year.

At the local levels, libraries and school boards across the state continue to see infiltration from extremist groups in an attempt to fire district superintendents, control curriculum, and ban or move diverse and inclusive literature from library shelves. A strong library advocacy group in Greenville County has managed to stave off most attacks, but they still need help. Some concerned citizens in Spartanburg hope to start a similar effort in the coming weeks and months.

The 2023 legislative session has shown us just how dangerous radical legislators can be when left unchecked, which makes running for office, and engaging in voter turnout efforts all the more important in the coming years. Please consider helping each and every year with GOTV efforts.



A HUGE outpouring of support for inclusive literature at the Greenville County Library Board meeting on March 27, 2023. Photo credit: Tyler Prescott, Upstate LGBT+ Chamber of Commerce

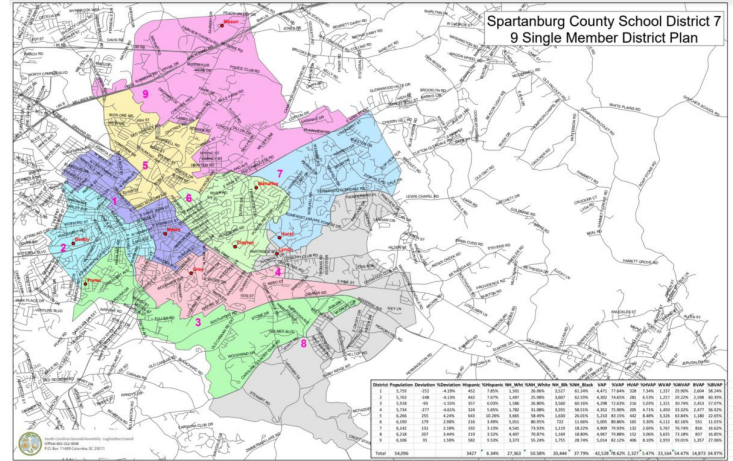
ALL NEIGHBORHOODS IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS 5 & 7 DESERVE FAIR REPRESENTATION

Last Wednesday, Max Hyde introduced bills to maintain the status quo in D5 and D7 -- that is, keep the current mix of single- and multi-member districts rather than go with a single-member plan. Thanks to Rosalyn Henderson-Myers, the legislative delegation is holding a public input session Tuesday, April 4 at 6 p.m. at TK Gregg Community Center.

Redistricting is the most important thing no one cares about.

Redistricting – the redrawing of political boundaries that by law must occur every 10 years after the Census – isn't the easiest thing to engage people on. It's complicated, it's bureaucratic, and it's certainly not sexy.

But it's the best chance we have at making sure everyone in South Carolina at least has a shot at having people in elected office who reflect the interests and concerns of their community. This often breaks down by race, as for years the federal Voting Rights Act kept South Carolina and other states with a history of racial discrimination under strict oversight, but a community of interest (as it is called) could also be something as simple as a neighborhood.



While the Voting Rights Act has lost some of its teeth in the past decade, courts can still rule legislative maps unconstitutional, which is playing out now with South Carolina's 1st Congressional District.

Redistricting also affects things on the local level. SIREN, the West Spartanburg Branch of the NAACP, the Upstate Action Alliance and our partners through the grassroots Local Redistricting Advisory Committee (LRAC) have been engaged in redistricting conversations at the county, city and school board level since the Census was complete.

Two years ago, we began focusing on Spartanburg School District 7 after looking at the current map and realizing that it creates an unequal distribution of power.

District 7 has nine seats. The four seats in predominantly Black neighborhoods are single-member seats, which means the top vote-getter is elected every four years. But the rest of the district is a large, predominantly white multi-member district, which means multiple people run and, for instance, if two seats are open, then the top two candidates win office.

The end result of this is that multiple school board members east of Pine Street live in practically the same neighborhood – which means there are entire other neighborhoods left without a local school board member. It sometimes contributes to 5-4 votes down racial lines on key issues confronting the school board.

Further complicating the matter: While City Council approves City Council maps and County Council approves County Council maps, the state Legislature, usually at the recommendation of a local senator or representative, is the body that approves school board maps.

SIREN and our partners produced four possible single-member maps for District 7 over the past year. We presented this information to legislators and, as a courtesy, the District 7 school board.

Sen. Shane Martin, who at the time was chairman of the Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation, had legislative staff draw two maps for District 7 – one that keeps the current single/multi-member configuration but tweaks political boundaries based on population changes, and another that divides District 7 into nine single-member seats.

ALL NEIGHBORHOODS IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS 5 & 7 DESERVE FAIR REPRESENTATION CONTINUED

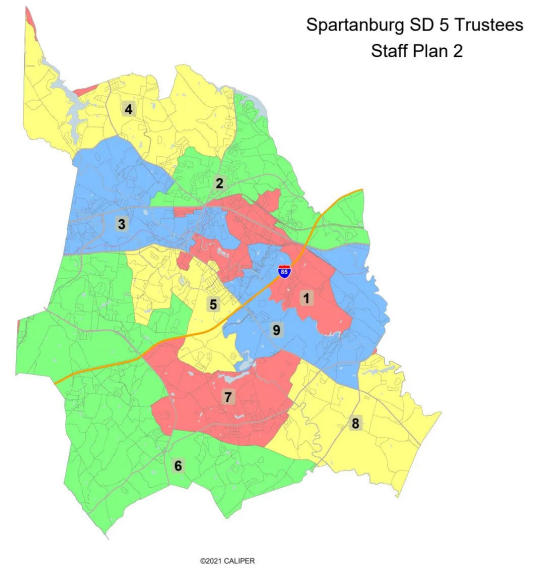
Legislative staffer Will Roberts presented these maps to the District 7 school board in January. The school board was unwilling to publicly endorse one map over the other.

A similar process is playing out in Spartanburg School District 5, thanks to the efforts of the West Spartanburg NAACP. Roberts, too, produced a single-member map for District 5.

A single-member approach is the most equitable and just distribution of power. The Beaumont Neighborhood is a prime example. In Will Robert's single-member District 7 map, you can plainly see that the Beaumont community does not have a school board member. Adopting a single-member map would correct this. If you live in Beaumont, you are literally paying taxes without a fair shot at having local representation on the District 7 school board.

SIREN believes that single-member maps will allow for more diverse representation of neighborhoods on the District 7 school board, which will lead to better public policy and better discussion about issues facing residents and taxpayers of District 7. If you have an issue that needs to be addressed by the school board, would you feel more comfortable reaching out to a board member in your own neighborhood – someone who likely shares in, or at least better understands your concerns – or would you rather call someone on the other side of town?

Unfortunately, this week, state Rep. Max Hyde – the current chairman of the Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation – introduced bills that would maintain the status quo, keeping the current mix of single- and multi-member districts in D5 and D7.



Tuesday, April 4
HOSTED BY THE SPARTANBURG LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

PUBLIC INPUT SESSION: REDISTRICTING SPARTANBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT 7

Come share with your legislators your thoughts on redistricting Spartanburg School District 7. Your input is key!

DR. TK GREGG COMMUNITY CENTER AT 6PM

Thanks to state Rep. Rosalyn Henderson-Myers, a public input session on this matter will be held at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 4, at the Dr. T.K. Gregg Center on Howard Street in Spartanburg.

We ask that you come out Tuesday and tell legislators that you support Will Roberts' single-member maps for School Districts 5 and 7. You can also call Hyde at 864-582-1742 and let him know directly.

Any redistricting bill would have to be approved by the House and Senate, so you can also call Martin at 864-804-8499.

This decision will affect who gets to serve on these school boards for the next 10 years – today's second-graders will be high school seniors. That's a long time to preserve inequity – and it's especially disheartening that it is coming from a lawmaker who is supposed to represent a city that has embraced equity.

The current setup in Districts 5 and 7 was established in 1993. It's been 30 years. We can do better.

Written by Jason Spencer
wearesiren.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

MONTHLY MEETINGS

The SPCDP meets every first Monday of the month except for holidays from 6-7:30pm at the TK Gregg Community Center. Zoom options are available by contacting spartanburgdemocrats@gmail.com

2023 MONTHLY MEETINGS


DR. T. K. GREGG COMMUNITY CENTER | 650 HOWARD ST

JANUARY 9	NO JULY
FEBRUARY 6	AUGUST 7
MARCH 6	SEPTEMBER 5
APRIL 3	OCTOBER 2
MAY 1	NOVEMBER 6
JUNE 5	DECEMBER 4

CHAT WITH THE CHAIR

Do you have ideas, questions, concerns, or just simply want time to discuss the future of Spartanburg Democrats? Well 'Chats with the SPCDP Chair' is for you! Every Thursday from 12-1pm you can register for a 20 minute zoom session for our chair, Kathryn Harvey. Sign up at the link below!

<https://calendly.com/kathrynharvey/chairchats>



CHATS WITH THE CHAIR

EVERY THURSDAY 12-1PM | 20 MINUTES

STARTING IN FEBRUARY VIA ZOOM

KATHRYN HARVEY
CHAIR, SPARTANBURG COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY



QUESTIONS? CONTACT
SPARTANBURGDEMOCRATS@GMAIL.COM

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Join us in April to register voters at the SPCDP booth.



COMMUNITY WELLNESS EVENT @ COLLINS PARK

April 8

COMMUNITY HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

April 22

bit.ly/CommunityHealthAwarenessDay

SPRING FLING

April 29-30

SPARTANBURG JUNETEENTH

June 15-17



CHAD
mind • body • spirit

COMMUNITY HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
8AM-2PM

DR. TK GREGG COMMUNITY CENTER
650 HOWARD STREET
SPARTANBURG

Please Register at:
CHAD2023.eventbrite.com

SPARTANBURG COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
D9
LIVE HEALTHY
ReGenesis Health Care
United Way



GetConnectedSC.org

We are reaching out to people all over the state who are without adequate internet service.

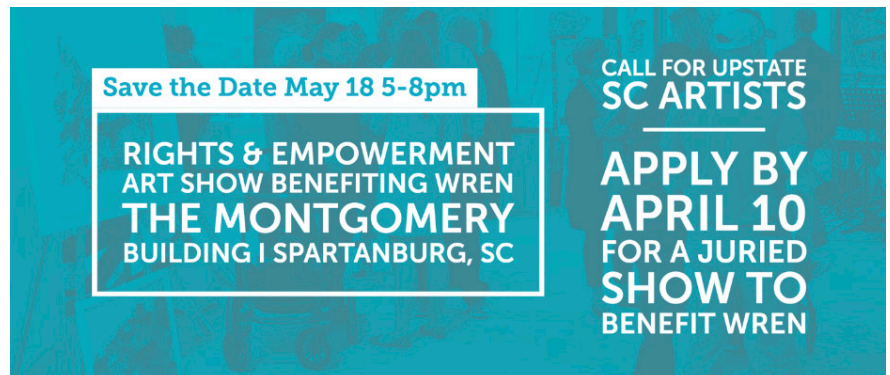
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

PLEASE JOIN US

WED | 5 | APRIL
10:30 AM

Spartanburg Comm. College | Room 105A
1401 Furman L. Fendley Hwy | Union, SC
refreshments will be served

Get Connected SC



Save the Date May 18 5-8pm

**RIGHTS & EMPOWERMENT
ART SHOW BENEFITING WREN
THE MONTGOMERY
BUILDING | SPARTANBURG, SC**

CALL FOR UPSTATE
SC ARTISTS

**APPLY BY
APRIL 10
FOR A JURIED
SHOW TO
BENEFIT WREN**