

SPARTANBURG DEMOCRATS Monthly Newsletter

October 2025 Edition



Where We Go From Here

Friends and neighbors,

Across every level of government, our basic rights and services are being treated like bargaining chips. We've watched healthcare turned into a political pawn, the most extreme anti-abortion proposals in our state's history pushed forward, and our military leaders dragged into partisan theater. The President is using every political maneuver available to deploy troops against American citizens in Portland, and the ongoing federal government shutdown is already disrupting services and threatening critical programs for South Carolinians.

Here's the good news: we are not powerless. Dozens of local races will shape our schools, safety, and services right here at home. When we organize neighbor-to-neighbor, we win the future we want for Spartanburg. If you can, please make a contribution and sign up to help us get out the vote. Every call, door knock, and dollar matters before Tuesday, November 4.

Kathryn

Kathryn Harvey
Chair, Spartanburg County Democratic Party

Help Us Raise \$15,000 by October 15

To put volunteers, literature, rides to the polls, and digital outreach in motion before Election Day, we need to raise \$15,000 by Wednesday, October 15. Thanks to you, we've already raised \$50,000 toward our \$75,000 annual goal. Now let's finish strong so we can meet voters where they are and turn them out.

Your gift today funds:

- Weekend canvasses and daily phone banks
- Printed voter guides and ride-to-the-polls coordination
- Targeted digital reminders for early voting and Election Day

Give what you can—\$15, \$50, \$150, or any amount—and help us cross the finish line.



Volunteer for a Local Candidate

Want to make the most impact between now and Tuesday, November 4, 2025? Pitch in with a local candidate. We'll match you with a campaign and role that fits your schedule—door-to-door, phone banking, texting, or giving rides to the polls. One evening a week (or a single Saturday) truly moves votes. Sign up using the QR code to the right.



October Action Brief

Key fights, dates, and ways to plug in this month

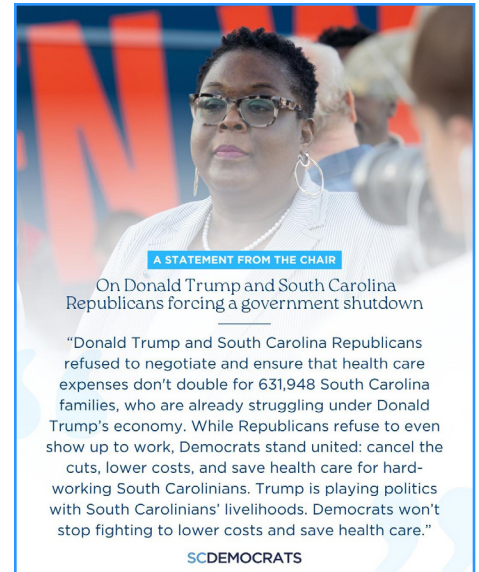
National Updates

CONGRESSIONAL GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN – PROTECT HEALTH CARE & KEEP GOVERNMENT OPEN

Congress is in a shutdown (day six as of Oct. 6). Call your U.S. Senators and House member and demand a clean funding bill that protects healthcare for millions (ACA subsidies, Medicaid) and keeps essential services running. What to know: essential workers (e.g., border protection, law enforcement, TSA/air traffic control) continue working—often without pay—so travel delays are possible; some FAA operations are curtailed. Smithsonian museums are closed during the funding lapse. Social Security and Medicare benefits continue, but some SSA services like benefit verification may pause. USPS remains open because it's self-funded. Keep the pressure on—fund the government and safeguard the healthcare of millions of Americans.

EPSTEIN FILES – TRANSPARENCY NOW

Tell your Representative to demand full transparency: support H.Res. 577 to require release of federal Epstein documents and back the Khanna–Massie effort (Epstein Files Transparency Act) to force a vote via discharge petition. Survivors and a bipartisan coalition are calling for a floor vote with protections for victims and ongoing investigations. Ask your member: “Will you co-sponsor H.Res. 577 and sign the discharge petition to bring the Epstein Files Transparency Act to the floor?”



State Updates

SOUTH CAROLINA TOTAL ABORTION BAN (S. 323) – CALL & EMAIL YOUR SENATORS

S. 323 is the most extreme abortion proposal yet. It would: ban medication abortion and even criminalize manufacturing abortifacients (and distribution/possession for distribution when you know they'll be used to induce an abortion); remove exceptions for rape, incest, and fatal fetal anomaly; redefine “human embryo” as a legal person, threatening contraception, IVF, and miscarriage care; impose severe felony penalties on providers (up to 30 years if an “unborn child” dies); criminalize transporting a pregnant minor out of state to obtain an abortion; and gag doctors/advocates from sharing information online about how to obtain an abortion. Call and email your state senators today and tell them to vote NO on S. 323.

Local Updates

CITY OF SPARTANBURG ADVANCES HATE CRIMES ORDINANCE

The City Council unanimously approved first reading of a local Hate Crimes Ordinance. The ordinance adds a Hate Intimidation charge when someone commits an underlying city offense or a state crime triable in Municipal Court (e.g., vandalism or assault) with intent to target a person for their ethnicity, race, color, creed, national origin, religion, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity, or physical or mental disability. The add-on misdemeanor carries up to a \$500 fine and/or 30 days in jail. South Carolina is one of only two states without a statewide hate-crimes law, and Spartanburg joins more than 20 municipalities that have approved local protections. Second reading is scheduled for October 14, 2025.



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.



Know Before You Go

2025 Election Update

Municipal, School Board, and County Council District 3 Special Election

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025

Early Voting for the November General Election runs Monday, October 20 to Friday, October 31 from 8:30 AM–5:00 PM (closed Sat/Sun) at the Spartanburg County Administration Building, 366 N. Church St., Spartanburg — Conference Room 6 (downstairs). If you need to vote absentee by mail, your application must be received by your county office by 5:00 PM on Friday, Oct 24 (11 days before the election), and your completed ballot must be received by 7:00 PM on Election Day. On Election Day (Tuesday, November 4), vote at your assigned precinct. Polls are open from 7:00 AM–7:00 PM. Find (and confirm) your registration, polling place, and sample ballot at [SCVotes.gov](https://scvotes.gov).

Senate 12 Special Election Primary

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025

Senate District 12 will face a special election following the recent resignation of Sen. Roger Nutt. In Spartanburg County, Senate District 12 generally covers much of the Middle Tyger area — Duncan, Lyman, Wellford — plus portions of Reidville, Moore, Roebuck, and the Spartanburg-County side of Greer. Check your exact address and district at [SCVotes.gov](https://scvotes.gov). Because no Democratic candidate filed, the seat will be decided in the primary (and runoff, if necessary). South Carolina has open primaries — party registration is not required to participate (you choose which party’s primary to vote in).

Early Voting for the Primary Election begins Monday, October 6 and runs through Friday, October 17 from 8:30 AM–5:00 PM (closed Saturday/Sunday) at the Spartanburg County Administration Building, Conference Room 1 (upstairs). The Senate 12 Primary Election will take place on Tuesday, October 21, 2025 from 7:00 AM–7:00 PM at your local precinct. If there’s a runoff in the primary, Runoff Early Voting is October 29–31 in Conference Room 6 (downstairs), with the primary runoff being held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 in conjunction with the General Election. The winner of the Primary will be confirmed in the Senate 12 Special Election on Tuesday, December 23, 2025.

School Board Elections

Below are the candidates who have filed for school board 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 Elections

Below are the candidates who have filed for nonpartisan municipal elections and will be on the November ballot.

CAMPOBELLO

- **Mayor (1):** Aaron Ash, Rob Medley
- **Town Council (at-large, 2):** Lance Kaminer, Reitha G. Stevenson

CENTRAL PACOLET

- **Mayor (1):** Susan Bennett, Buddy Harrelson
- **Town Council (at-large, 2):** Mary Brown, Bobby Wilkins

CHESNEE

- **Mayor (1):** Lauren Uldrick Dove
- **City Council (at-large, 2):** Dusty Hughes, Robert R. Johnson, Kevin J. Lancaster, Monica Skipper

COWPENS

- **Town Council (at-large, 2):** Pam Camp, Danyelle Dowis Goode

DUNCAN

- **Mayor (2):** Shirley Clopton
- **Town Council (at-large, 2):** Alicia Fulghum, Greg Rensberger, Lora Parris Rogers

GREER

- **City Council – District 2 (1):** Karuiam V. Booker, Tahitsha J. Pearson
- **City Council – District 4 (1):** M. Lee Dumas, Charles Lander
- **Commissioner of Public Works (1):** Gene Gibson

INMAN

- **City Council (at -large, 2):** Amanda Blackwell, Kathy Dittimore, Petro J. Ramantanin

LYMAN

- **Mayor (1):** Philip Bennett, Glenn Greer, David Petty
- **Town Council (at-large, 3):** Cindy Behm, Adam Crisp, Matthew Dawes, Alton Free, Katrina Freier, Rick Hellams, Andy Karas, Matthew Kreft, Martha Lander, Dillon Lindsay, Phil McIntyre

PACOLET

- **Mayor (1):** Tim Burrell, Ned T. Camby
- **City Council – District 1 (1):** Eric W. Green, Chantal Lemmonds
- **City Council – District 3 (1):** Jamey Cooper, Teresa R. Sexton
- **City Council – District 6 (1):** Starmieka Wofford

REIDVILLE

- **Mayor (1):** Paul Konon, Joshua Simpson
- **Town Council – Ward 1 (1):** Bob Jordan
- **Town Council – Ward 2 (1):** Amy Reid Gore

SPARTANBURG

- **Mayor (1):** James A. Jones Sr, Jerome

Rice Jr

- **City Council – District 2 (Unexpired):** J. Patrick Anderson, Jeff Parks, Leslie Rodgers, Josh Summers
- **City Council – District 4 (1):** Jamie Fulmer, Dawn Maddux
- **City Council – District 5 (1):** Janie C. Salley
- **City Council – District 6 (1):** Erica Brown
- **Commissioner of Public Works (1):** Octavia Amaechi, Mike Fowler, Dillon Swayngim

WELLFORD

- **City Council (at-large, 2):** Bobby Edge, David Hagan, China R. Whitmire, Wymond Wilkins

WOODRUFF

- **City Council – Ward 2 (1):** Toni V. Sloan
- **City Council – Ward 4 (1):** Allen Durham
- **City Council – Ward 6 (1):** Jeff Wood

SPECIAL DISTRICTS

- **Gowensville Fire District Commissioner (3):** Jared L. Drew, Al Essey, Virgil Potter
- **Landrum Fire & Rescue – Area 1 (1):** R. Scott Humphries
- **Landrum Fire & Rescue – Area 2 (1):** Scott C. Owens

Special Elections

Below are the candidates who have filed for two partisan special elections and will be on the November ballot.

COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 3 SPECIAL ELECTION

- Paul Abbott (Republican)
- Kathryn Harvey (Democrat)
- Sarah Gonzalez (Forward Party)

SENATE 12 SPECIAL ELECTION

- Bobby Cox (Republican)
- Hope Blackley (Republican)
- Lee Bright (Republican)

Ways to Get Involved

Sign up on Mobilize Today!

Phone Banking

VIRTUAL PHONE BANK (VPB) TRAINING

Build confidence fast—learn the script, how OpenVPB works, and best practices for having effective, respectful voter conversations. Great for first-timers and a quick refresher for veterans. Available select Wednesday and Thursday evenings in October. Sign up on Mobilize for more details.



IN-PERSON PHONE BANKING

Join us at HQ to make targeted calls that move the needle. We'll set you up with OpenVPB and a clear goal for each shift. Daytime shifts are Tuesdays through Thursdays (11 AM–4 PM, 1-hour appointments) with limited seats; select Wednesday evenings (6–8 PM) are available for after-work volunteers. Come once or make it a weekly habit—every hour counts.



REMOTE PHONE BANKING

Prefer to help from home? You can call from your computer, tablet, or smartphone—no special equipment needed. After you complete the Virtual Phone Bank Training, we'll send your OpenVPB login, script, and step-by-step instructions. Already comfortable with OpenVPB? We can provide your list access and script without training—just let us know when you RSVP.



Poll Watcher Training + Materials Pickup

Protect the vote on Election Day. Learn your rights and responsibilities, what to watch for, and how to report issues quickly and accurately. Training is virtual; materials pickup happens at HQ before Election Day so you're fully ready. Training is available Thursday, October 23 or 30 from 6:00 to 7:00 PM.

Materials Pickup (HQ): Thu–Fri (Oct 30–31) 11 AM–4 PM; Sat (Nov 1) 1–3 PM

Where: Training Virtual; Pickup at 505 E Main St, Spartanburg, SC 29302



Election Day Operations Training

Help run the heartbeat of Election Day from HQ—roles include voter assistance hotline, ride coordination, call-backs, and rapid-response support. We'll walk through the playbook, escalation paths, and tech setup so you're confident and ready.

When: Sat, Oct 25 (1–3 PM) & Sat, Nov 1 (1–3 PM)

Where: Spartanburg Democrats HQ, 505 E Main St, Spartanburg, SC 29302



Support Kathryn's Campaign

CANVASS WITH KATHRYN

Door-to-door conversations are still the gold standard. Walk targeted turf with Kathryn's team, get a quick script briefing, and help us turn out our voters where it matters most.

REQUEST A SPARTANBURG COUNTY COUNCIL DISTRICT 3 YARD SIGN

Live in District 3? Claim a yard sign to show your support and help build visibility across the district. Quick request form—pickup or delivery options may be available.



Volunteer for a Local Candidate

Tell us your availability, interests, and where you'd like to help—field, comms, events, data, or something else. We'll match you with a local race that fits your skills and schedule.



Ways to Get Involved

Sign up on Mobilize Today!

Art & Elections

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2025

Spartanburg has more than 25 women running for local office this year—come meet them! Local artists Alix Refshauge and Cathryn Judice are hosting a relaxed, gallery-style meet & greet where you can chat with candidates, enjoy the art, and plug in before Election Day. Free and open to the public.

When: Tue, Oct 7, 6:00–7:30 PM

Where: Ridge Gallery — 146 East Main St, Downtown Spartanburg

More info: alixr1@gmail.com



“No Kings” Protest

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025

Add your voice for democracy and against authoritarianism. Bring a sign, bring a friend, and if you can't stand for long, do a drive-by and honk—your support still counts.

When: Sat, Oct 18, 11:00 AM–1:00 PM

Where: Corner of Church St & St. John St, Downtown Spartanburg

What to bring: Signs, water, comfy shoes, and your outside voice



2026 Election Preview

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025

We're turning our November meeting into a 2026 partisan-races preview—what's on the ballot, how to recruit and support candidates, and where volunteers can make the biggest impact. Perfect for anyone considering a run (or helping someone else do it).

When: Mon, Nov 10, 6:00–7:30 PM

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

Meet, Greet & Eat with the 2026 Statewide Candidates

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2025

Meet Democratic candidates running for statewide office and hear their plans for South Carolina. Come with questions and leave with ways to help win in 2026.

When: Mon, Dec 1, 6:00–7:30 PM

Where: McClellan's Fish & Chicken, 1441 Union St, Spartanburg, SC 29302

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.



Calendar of Events



OCTOBER 6-17	Early Voting Period for the Senate 12 Primary (8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday)
OCTOBER 7	National Night Out (Times vary, sign up to volunteer with a neighborhood)
OCTOBER 7	Caregiving in Spartanburg Forum (5:00 – 7:00 p.m., Wofford College)
OCTOBER 7	Art & Elections Event (6:00 – 7:30 p.m., Ridge Gallery, 146 E. Main Street, Spartanburg)
OCTOBER 18	“No Kings” Protest (11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., corner of Church St & St. John St, Downtown Spartanburg)
OCTOBER 19	Stop the Violence Event in Greer
OCTOBER 20-31	Early Voting for the 2025 General Election (8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, County Administration Building)
OCTOBER 21	Senate District 12 Primary Election (7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)
OCTOBER 29-31	Early Voting Period for Senate 12 Primary Runoff (8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., County Administration Building)
NOVEMBER 4	2025 General Election and Senate 12 Primary Runoff, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
NOVEMBER 10	SPCDP Monthly Meeting (6:00 – 7:30 p.m., SCC Downtown Campus, 220 E Kennedy St, Spartanburg)
DECEMBER 1	Meet, Greet, and Eat with the 2026 Statewide Candidates (6:00 to 7:30 p.m., McClellan’s Fish & Chicken, 1441 Union St, Spartanburg, SC 29302)
DECEMBER 23	Senate 12 Special Election (7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)

Stand Up for Democracy

Meet at the corner of Church St. and St. John St. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 5:00–6:00 p.m. Join us for a peaceful protest of the current administration and to raise awareness of pressing issues in our community.

Canvass with Kathryn

Join Kathryn Harvey every Sunday at 3:00 p.m. to canvass neighborhoods across Spartanburg County Council District 3. Scan the QR code to sign up.



November Monthly Meeting

Monday, November 10
6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

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

[SPARTANBURGDEMOCRATS.COM](https://spartanburgdemocrats.com) | (864) 585-6957 | [INFO@SPARTANBURGDEMOCRATS.COM](mailto:info@spartanburgdemocrats.com)

PAID FOR BY THE SPARTANBURG COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY. NOT AUTHORIZED BY ANY CANDIDATE OR CANDIDATE'S COMMITTEE.