

MARCH 2023

PLEASE CONTINUE TO JOIN US IN THE FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY



SPARTANBURG COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Thank you to all who celebrated the life of Dr. Kenneth Myers, SPCDP Executive Committeeman last month after his untimely passing. He is truly missed and we are holding up our Executive Committeewoman and House Representative Rosalyn Henderson-Myers. Our alternate Executive Committeeman Michael Woodcock has taken on the role as Executive Committeeman through next March. We have also appointed Ursula Hicklin as our Treasurer and Antonio Tanner as our new Secretary. I'm grateful to all of our executive committee members for their leadership during this transition.



YOUNG DEMOCRATS
OF SPARTANBURG COUNTY

YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF SPARTANBURG COUNTY

At the time of penning this letter, I've been Chair for exactly eleven months and nothing has made me more proud than watching a new slate of officers for the Young Democrats of Spartanburg County get elected this week. These future leaders represent three local colleges, and are plugged in to our professional, political, advocacy, legal and faith communities. **Please welcome Antonio Tanner, YDSC Chair; China Whitmire, YDSC Vice Chair; Chance Lebron, YDSC Treasurer; Bryson Blu Thompson, YDSC Secretary; Anna Troutt, YDSC Membership Chair; Caleb Mickler, YDSC PR Chair. I've seen the future, and it is bright.**

As you may know, we launched our Forward Fund for the SPCDP in January with an ambitious goal to raise \$240,000 by the end of 2024 as SC becomes the first primary state in the nation. These funds will support operating expenses as we track a new office space this summer, programming to engage more democrats locally, outreach to get out the vote, and a much needed candidate pipeline in Spartanburg County for the next 3-4 years. To date we have nearly \$20K committed, but it's not enough to move the needle right now. I'm asking you to consider a donation in March to help us build. **You can learn more at spartanburgdemocrats.com.**

We have many opportunities to gather with SPCDP in March!

I hope you'll join us on Thursday, March 23 for lunch at Monarch Cafe on the Northside and Thursday, March 30 from 5:30-7:30pm at Citizens and Southern Event Center as we celebrate Women's History Month and honor Democratic Women Leaders in Spartanburg County. An invitation is enclosed, tickets are \$50, and information for individual event sponsorships are enclosed.

And finally, the SC Democratic Convention is April 29th in Columbia and there will be an election for state Chair and three Vice Chairs. Current candidates for chair include Christale Spain, Brandon Upson, and Catherine Fleming-Bruce. You can request as a delegate by emailing spartanburgdemocrats@gmail.com.

It will take all of us to propel this party forward, and we are grateful to have your support.

Warmly,
Kathryn Harvey, SPCDP Chair

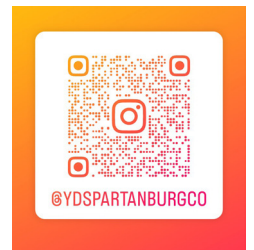
SPARTANBURG COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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

MEET THE YOUNG DEMOCRATS!

CONTACT FOR YOUNG DEM FOR WEBSITE PAGE [HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/YDSPARTANBURGCO](https://twitter.com/YDSPARTANBURGCO)

YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF SPARTANBURG COUNTY



ANTONIO TANNER, YDSC CHAIR
YOUNG DEMOCRATS
OF SPARTANBURG COUNTY

ANTONIO TANNER, CHAIR

Originally a Miami native, this USC Upstate alum has called Spartanburg home for years. Antonio, or Tony as we call him, has an extensive background in community-based led service with organizations like West Spartanburg NAACP and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. He currently utilizes his passion and experience in the nonprofit sector as Operations Manager at Wellville. As Chair Tony serves as the primary liaison with outside groups and organizations

“We want everybody to act like adults, quit playing games, realize that it’s not just my way or the highway.” - Barack Obama



BRYSON BLU THOMPSON, YDSC SECRETARY
YOUNG DEMOCRATS
OF SPARTANBURG COUNTY

BRYSON “BLU” THOMPSON, SECRETARY

“Without knowledge action is useless and knowledge without action is futile.” -Abū Bakr



CHINA WHITMIRE, YDSC VICE CHAIR
YOUNG DEMOCRATS
OF SPARTANBURG COUNTY

CHINA WHITMORE, VICE CHAIR

China is a lifelong resident of the county originally from Duncan. She currently works at city hall. As Vice Chair she serves as a partner to the Chair and as surrogate in the event of the Chair’s absence.

“I love being asked, ‘What is my why?’, because I’ve always tried to offer a simple response but I cannot. Being that your ‘WHY’, drives you as a person. For now let’s just say that my ‘WHY’, can be found when everyone else comes to say ‘WHY THEY WILL NOT’. “



CALEB MICKLER, YDSC PR CHAIR
YOUNG DEMOCRATS
OF SPARTANBURG COUNTY

CALEB MICKLER, PR CHAIR

“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can. The doing is usually more important than the outcome.” - Arthur Ashe



CHANCE LEBRON, YDSC TREASURER
YOUNG DEMOCRATS
OF SPARTANBURG COUNTY

CHANCE LEBRON, TREASURER

Chance is a long-time resident of Spartanburg’s Highland community dedicated to promoting quality of life improvement for all here in our county. As Treasurer, Chance manages the Young Democrats of Spartanburg County finances and ensures that all the group’s political activity is conducted according to state law.

Philippians 4:13 KJV “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”



ANNA TROUT, YDSC MEMBERSHIP CHAIR
YOUNG DEMOCRATS
OF SPARTANBURG COUNTY

ANNA TROUT, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Anna, a Spartanburg County native from Duncan, is currently pursuing an undergraduate degree at one of the county’s premier institutions of higher learning. She is passionate about outreach, organization, and community based around values that matter most here.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE STATE CONVENTION SATURDAY, APRIL 29'

South Carolina Democrats will gather on **Saturday, April 29 in the Goodman Building at the SC State Fairgrounds in Columbia for the State Convention.** The SCDP will host an evening on **Friday evening, April 28** in the Moore Building on the SC State Fairgrounds. Ticket sales will begin next week. And Congressman Clyburn will host his "World Famous Fish-Fry" on Friday, April 28 as well. Location to be determined.

If you were a delegate in 2022 at the state convention then you have a delegate seat on hold for you in 2023. You must email spartanburgdemocrats@gmail.com to confirm your attendance before April 17th. If you would like to be considered as an alternate, you must email your request before April 17th.



JOIN THE SPARTANBURG COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY FOR A SPRING CELEBRATION

THURSDAY, MARCH 30TH FROM 5:30-7:30PM

CITIZENS & SOUTHERN EVENT CENTER, 148 W MAIN ST

The SPCDP will honor Democratic Women Leaders in Spartanburg County for Women's History Month and participants will have a chance to meet and support the new chapter of the Young Democrats of Spartanburg County. A special acknowledgement of Former Representative Liz Patterson will also be held during the event.

Tickets at [SPCDPSpringCelebration.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spcdp-spring-celebration-tickets-50444444444)

Honoring Spartanburg Democratic Women Leaders:

- Representative, Rosalyn Henderson-Myers
- Spartanburg City Councilwoman, Meghan Smith
- Spartanburg City Councilwoman, Erica Brown
- Spartanburg City Councilwoman, Ruth Littlejohn
- Spartanburg City Councilwoman, Janie Sally
- Public Works Commission, Angela M. Viney
- Former SPCDP Chair, Angela Geter
- Former Representative, Brenda Lee Pryce
- Former City Councilwoman, Linda Dogan
- Former City Councilwoman, Linda Bilanchone

Sponsorship opportunities are available contact Kathryn Harvey at spartanburgdemocrats@gmail.com or 646 234 0734.



PURCHASE TICKETS



FIGHTING FOR FAIR REPRESENTATION IN SPARTANBURG

Thank you to **SIREN Upstate Action Alliance** and the Local Redistricting Advisory Committee for fighting for fair representation in school district 7 and 5. The deadline for school board candidates to gather petition signatures to be on this year's ballot is July 17.

The groups with the Local Redistricting Advisory Committee are asking lawmakers to approve new maps that would create new single-member districts in Spartanburg School Districts 5 and 7.

Organizers say the current makeup of the nine-member school boards is outdated, leaving some neighborhoods under-represented.

“We believe (the current) multi-member districts create situations where taxpayers are less likely to have a representative on the school board from their own neighborhood,” said Marilyn Varner of the West Spartanburg NAACP and Local Redistricting Advisory Committee.

The current configurations of School Districts 5 and 7 were created in the 1990s.

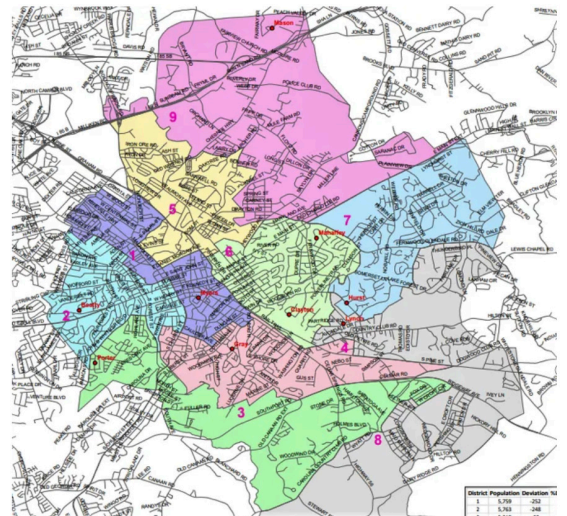
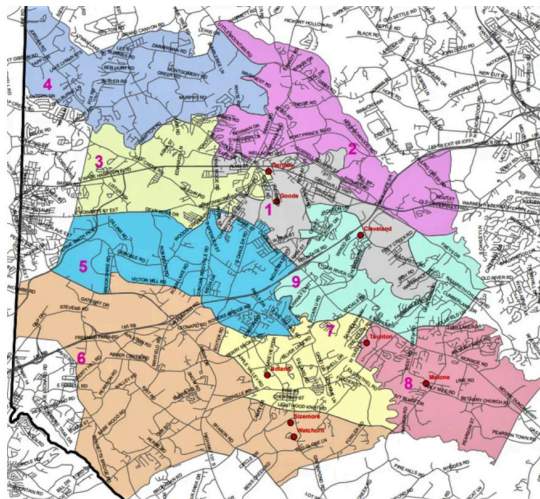
District 5 encompasses Duncan, Lyman, Reidville, Moore, Startex, Wellford and parts of Greer. District 7 encompasses the City of Spartanburg and areas south to Croft State Park, east to Glendale and Converse, and northward from Drayton to Valley Falls.

School District 5 has one single-member district, one district that elects two members and one that elects six members. Board members are elected to four-year terms. Elections are held every other year (odd-numbered calendar years) with four seats being contested during one election cycle and five being contested during the following cycle.

School District 7 has four single-member districts in predominantly Black neighborhoods, and one large, predominantly white, multi-member district that elects five members.

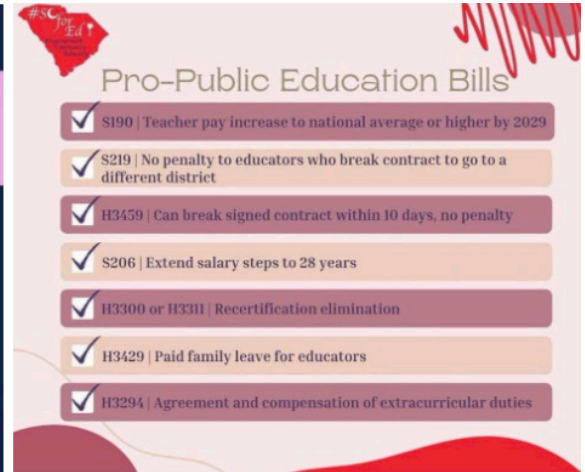
“Candidates are now able to collect signatures without knowing if the names they are collecting will ultimately be in the district in which they are running,” Spencer said. “Some candidates may find they end up in another district completely.

READ MORE



STATE HOUSE UPDATE

The SC United for Justice & Equality coalition and partners invite LGBTQ+ and allied South Carolinians for a special edition of Meet Me at the Statehouse On March 8 from 8:15 am-3 pm. The event will focus on the slate of anti-transgender healthcare bills, which attempt to restrict access to gender-affirming care for South Carolinians up to the age of 25. RSVP here: <https://www.southcarolinaunited.org/march8>



HATE CRIME BILL UPDATE

The House Judiciary Committee gave H.3014 Clementa C. Pinckney Hate Crimes Act a favorable report, and the bill is on the House calendar. South Carolina is only one of two states not to have a hate crimes statute. The bill is named after Clementa C. Pinckney, the former state senator and pastor who died in the massacre at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston in 2015. The bill would allow additional punishments for perpetrators of violent crimes motivated by their perception of someone's race, color, religion, sex, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability. The House approved a similar bill two years ago with bipartisan support but the legislation did not move in the Senate. H.3014 has over half the House members as cosponsors. South Carolina's business community threw its weight behind the 2021 effort and is doing so again this year. Industry leaders argue that the lack of a hate crime law could hurt South Carolina's recruitment and retention of businesses.

ABORTION BILL UPDATE

Demand Lawmakers Vote NO on Abortion Ban

Both the SC House and Senate are considering abortion ban bills with limited exceptions. Call the your senator and your representative and tell them to VOTE NO to all abortion bans!

People across the country have made it clear: we support access to abortion. Politicians shouldn't be in control of our lives, we should. It's time that our laws and policies reflect our values.

Take action today to tell your legislators you demand abortion access in South Carolina. VOTE NO on on all abortion bans.

Phone calls and in-person meetings are the MOST effective thing you can do to move legislators. <https://www.scwren.org/take-legislative-action/>

GUN CONTROL

Republicans in the state legislature have been aggressively pushing to expand access to guns in South Carolina. The most notable bill is the “**Constitutional Carry Act**”, which would allow gun-owners to carry concealed firearms in public without a permit. The bill would prohibit private citizens from carrying concealed firearms onto certain types of properties like courthouses, schools and religious spaces. However, the bill would also lower the age allowed for concealed weapons down to 18 and eliminate the requirement for gun-owners to complete 8 hours of safety training.

The bill (H 3594) recently passed the SC House with the support of Charleston Republican representatives including Kathy Landing, Tom Hartnett, Joe Bustos, Gary Brewer and Matt Leber. The bill is now being debated by the SC Senate.

Other Republican Bills Offered by Republicans:

- House Bill H 3393 would require government and financial institutions to conduct business with gun manufacturers, retailers, and gun associations. It is sponsored by Charleston Republican Matt Leber, among other Republicans.
- Senate Bill S 0247 would allow teachers and administrators to carry concealed weapons onto schools.

Gun Control Bills Offered by Democrats:

- House Bill 3013 would prohibit assault weapons. It is being co-sponsored by Charleston-area Democrats Wendell Gilliard and Marvin Pendarvis, among others.
- House Bill 3055 would require restraining orders and other acts of intimidation or harassment to be reported to SLED in order to prevent the sale of a gun to an unqualified person. It is sponsored by Charleston-area Democrat Leon Stavrinakis, among others.
- Senate Bill 0224 would require gun-owners to buy insurance against the event of a mishap or tragedy with their gun.

EDUCATION CENSORSHIP BILL

The senate scheduled a subcommittee hearing for H. 3728, radical legislation designed to censor educator speech around historical and contemporary racism and oppression. The hearing will be on March 14th, at 9:30 in the Gressette Building, Room 105.

If possible, please consider:

- Providing in person testimony on March 14th. This is most impactful if feasible!
- Meeting with your senator in district.
- Drafting written testimony.

Helpful links:

- Bill text: <https://legiscan.com/SC/text/H3728/2023>
- Coalition fact sheet (soon to be updated): <https://bit.ly/SCEducationAct>

The bill has since been amended to:

Prevent timely instruction of current events AND

Allow any parent anywhere in the state to file a lawsuit against any district in the state without going through the complaint process

- Use this template to provide written testimony (Do not use for a few days.): <https://www.naacpldf.org/truth-2/sc-protruth/sc-testimony-form>

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

THE FIRST MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH FROM 6-7:30PM



DEM LUNCHES

Join us at Monarch Cafe on March 23rd for lunch with the SPCDP. RSVP to hold your spot, and lunch will be \$20.

LUNCH WITH THE SPCDP

THURSDAY, MARCH 23RD, 12-1PM



MONARCH CAFE

498 HOWARD ST
SPARTANBURG, SC 29303

RSVP AT

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

CHAT WITH THE CHAIR EACH THURSDAY!

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/chaichats>



KATHRYN HARVEY

CHAIR, SPARTANBURG COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

CHATS WITH THE CHAIR

EVERY THURSDAY 12-1PM | 20 MINUTES

STARTING IN FEBRUARY VIA ZOOM



QUESTIONS? CONTACT
SPARTANBURGDEMOCRATS@GMAIL.COM

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING

Join us for our monthly meeting on April 3rd to hear from special guests;

CATHERINE FLEMING BRUCE

Candidate for SCDP Chair

MAYRA RIVERA-VAZQUEZ

Candidate for SCDP First Vice Chair
Chair of the SCDP Hispanic Caucus



CATHERINE FLEMING
BRUCE CANDIDATE FOR CHAIR SCDP



MAYRA RIVERA-VAZQUEZ
CHAIR SCDP HISPANIC CAUCUS
CANDIDATE FOR VICE CHAIR SCDP

UPCOMING EVENTS

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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



COMMUNITY WELLNESS EVENT

@ **COLLINS PARK**

April 8

COMMUNITY HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

@ **TK GREGG COMMUNITY CENTER**

April 22


SPRING FLING

April 29-30

SPARTANBURG JUNETEENTH

June 15-17


In celebration of International Women's Day,
Converse College for Women
proudly hosts the
Women's Leadership Speaker Series 2023




featuring Keynote Speaker
Ann Warner
C.E.O. of WREN, Women's Rights and Empowerment Network

&

Alumni Speaker
Kennedy Anderson
Converse Class of 2021



WEDNESDAY MARCH 8 5:30 PM
Twitchell Auditorium
converse.edu/events



Spartanburg Juneteenth
Our History



The Spartanburg Juneteenth, Inc. Presents
THE ANNUAL JUNETEENTH EXPERIENCE


SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 11 ★ JUNE 14 ★ JUNE 17
The Official Juneteenth The Official Juneteenth The Official Juneteenth
REVIVAL RACE SEMINAR BEC GALA



THE MYSTERIOUS ELECTORAL COLLEGE:
IS THIS ANY WAY TO ELECT AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT?

TUESDAY, MARCH 7TH
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
CYRILL-WESTSIDE LIBRARY



CHAD
mind • body • spirit



COMMUNITY HEALTH AWARENESS DAY

Come out to this FREE community health fair with health screenings, activities for the family, food, entertainment, and more!

SATURDAY, APRIL 22 8AM-2PM
DR. TK GREGG COMMUNITY CENTER
650 HOWARD STREET
SPARTANBURG

Please Register at:
CHAD2023.eventbrite.com

