

SPARTANBURG DEMOCRATS

Monthly Newsletter

January 2026 Edition



Momentum to Movement: What We Built Together in 2025

Because you showed up in 2025 we re-elected our Mayor in the City of Spartanburg for a second term, elected the first black woman to a city-wide seat in the history of Spartanburg, elected the first progressive Mayor of Lyman, elected a new woman to Spartanburg City Council, helped school board candidates gain seats in three different districts, helped Greenville hold their Democratic majority on City Council, helped Democratic candidates run formidable races for County Council and State Senate.

We hosted Rep Justin Pearson from Tennessee, Congressman Clyburn, Bakari Sellars, the Sister Senators and nearly every candidate running statewide and for Congress in the Upstate in 2026. You knocked thousands of doors, made thousands of phone calls, Showed up to our monthly meetings in record numbers, advocated for your community from city council to the state house, and donated tens of thousands of dollars to the local party. This isn't just a moment, it's momentum building into a movement.

And we're just getting started. Join the liberty fund and make a recurring monthly donation to the SPCDP

In solidarity,
Kathryn

Kathryn Harvey
Chair, Spartanburg County Democratic Party

Fuel the Fight for 2026: Join the Liberty Fund

In 2026, we're aiming to raise \$100,000 to power our field operations and Get Out the Vote efforts in a crucial midterm election year—and just \$25,000 of that will go toward our core operating budget to keep the lights on, the rent paid, and the doors of SPCDP open to our community. The most impactful way you can help is by becoming a recurring donor through our Liberty Fund, which provides the steady, reliable support we need to plan ahead, staff our office, and organize year-round. Scan the QR code on this page or visit our Liberty Fund link to start your monthly gift today—every recurring donation, no matter the size, helps build the foundation we'll stand on in 2026 and beyond.

Join Us in 2026

Join the SPCDP the first monday of the month from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Dr. TK Gregg Community Center (650 Howard Street) in downtown Spartanburg. We'll be meeting at the TK Gregg Center all year in 2026.

2026 MEETING DATES

- January 5
- February 2
- March 2
- April 6
- May 4
- June 1
- July 6
- Aug 3
- Sept 14
- Oct 5
- Nov 9
- Dec 7

FEBRUARY 2 MEETING

We will be joined by Former Charleston Mayor John Tecklenburg at our February 2 meeting.

2026 SPCDP CONVENTION

Our annual SPCDP Convention will be held March 7 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at the Spartanburg Community College Downtown Campus. More details to come.



National News Updates

Key Developments Shaping the First Weeks of 2026

Venezuela Update

U.S. MILITARY OPERATION, INTERNATIONAL BACKLASH, AND CONGRESS' WAR POWERS

Over the weekend, the U.S. carried out a military operation in Caracas that resulted in the capture of Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro and his transfer to the United States to face federal charges. The operation triggered an emergency debate at the United Nations, where U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres' office said it was "deeply concerned" that international law may not have been respected, and multiple countries warned the action could set a dangerous precedent.

International reaction has been sharply divided: the European Union reiterated that Maduro lacks democratic legitimacy while emphasizing that any democratic transition must respect sovereignty, international law, and the U.N. Charter; UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer said he would "shed no tears" over the end of Maduro's rule but stressed that the U.S. must justify its actions under international law; and Spain's leadership has publicly condemned what it described as a violation of international law. Meanwhile, members of Congress from both parties are openly discussing War Powers constraints to prevent further hostilities without explicit congressional authorization.



A STATEMENT FROM CHAIR CHRISTALE SPAIN

On Donald Trump's Unconstitutional and Illegal War in Venezuela

What happened to the peace Trump promised? While millions of Americans are struggling to make ends meet because of the rising cost of...everything. And while millions of Americans will not be able to afford their health care this year, Trump is focused on running a country 2000 miles away. Dragging America into a costly war without Congressional action while refusing to continue needed healthcare subsidies for the American people is not putting America first, it's putting Americans in danger.

SCDEMOCRATS

Additional National News Updates

HEALTHCARE SUBSIDIES: ACA PREMIUM HELP

Enhanced Affordable Care Act premium tax credits expired at the start of 2026, meaning many families buying coverage on the marketplaces face steep monthly premium increases unless Congress acts to restore or extend the assistance.

CHILDCARE SUBSIDIES: FEDERAL AND SOUTH CAROLINA IMPACTS

In South Carolina, DSS paused many new and renewal childcare scholarship applications beginning in December due to depleted federal relief funds and ongoing funding uncertainty, while current reimbursements are expected to continue for existing participants. Separately, federal officials have also moved to tighten verification and oversight after major fraud concerns—creating additional delays and confusion for providers and families in multiple states.

EPSTEIN FILES: DELAYED RELEASE

The Justice Department says it is still reviewing a massive volume of Epstein-related records—millions of pages—after missing a statutory deadline, citing the need for victim-protective redactions and the discovery of additional documents that expanded the review workload.

JACK SMITH: NEWLY RELEASED TESTIMONY ON THE 2020 ELECTION INTERFERENCE INVESTIGATION

House Republicans released a redacted transcript and video of former Special Counsel Jack Smith's closed-door deposition (taken December 17 and released December 31), in which Smith defended the evidentiary basis for the election-interference case and rejected claims that the investigation was politically motivated—while also describing evidence that Trump privately acknowledged he lost the 2020 election despite public claims to the contrary.

Contact Your Representatives

Hold Our Elected Officials Accountable

Federal Representatives

SENATE

Sen. Lindsey Graham
Senior Senator
(202) 224-5972
lgraham.senate.gov

Sen. Tim Scott
Junior Senator
(202) 224-6121
scott.senate.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Rep. William Timmons
4th Congressional District
(202) 225-6030
timmons.house.gov

Rep. Ralph Norman
5th Congressional District
(202) 225-5501
norman.house.gov

State Representatives

STATE SENATE

Tom Corbin
Senate District 5
(864) 834-9915
corbinlawn@bellsouth.net

Shane R. Martin
Senate District 13
(864) 804-8499
shane@senatormartin.com

Josh Kimbrell
Senate District 11
(864) 553-0606
josh@exodusaircraft.com

Harvey S. Peeler, Jr.
Senate District 14
(864) 489-3766
hpeeler@peelerco.com

Lee Bright
Senate District 12

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
rozm2012@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.



South Carolina News Updates

Prefiled bills to watch in the 2026 legislative session

Below is a short list of high-visibility, prefiled House and Senate bills already filed for the 2025–2026 session.

- **H. 4817 — “Insurance Rate Reduction and Policyholder Protection Act”**

A wide-ranging insurance package that includes tighter rules around roofing/claim solicitation practices, insurance fraud enforcement changes, and various consumer/mitigation provisions intended to reduce losses and premiums over time.

- **H. 4580 — Property tax relief for seniors (primary residence, age 70+)**

Creates a property tax exemption on the primary residence for individuals who have reached age 70.

- **H. 4598 — Property tax relief for seniors (one personal vehicle, age 65+)**

Creates an exemption for one personal motor vehicle owned or leased by an individual who has reached age 65.

- **S. 742 — Sales tax exemption on baby supplies**

Exempts baby formula, baby food, and baby clothes (including diapers and related items) from South Carolina sales tax.

- **S. 728 — “Tax Free Month” (August expansion)**

Expands the traditional tax-free weekend to cover the entire month of August for eligible back-to-school items listed in the statute.

- **S. 702 — “Criminal Coercive Control” (domestic violence modernization)**

Expands domestic violence-related definitions to include dating relationships and coercive control, and updates

multiple related family-law provisions (including divorce/custody considerations tied to abuse, stalking, and harassment).

- **S. 724 — Data centers and water use reporting**

Requires large commercial data centers (those consuming 3 million gallons/month) to report annual water usage to the Department of Environmental Services, with penalties for noncompliance.

- **S. 689 — Eminent domain limits for private, for-profit pipeline companies**

Restricts eminent domain authority so it does not extend to certain private, for-profit pipeline companies that are not defined as a public utility under state law.

- **H. 4762 — School chaplains + Ten Commandments/historical document displays**

Authorizes policies for volunteer school chaplains (with parental consent requirements) and provides for classroom displays of the Ten Commandments and other historical documents in public K-12 and postsecondary classrooms.

- **H. 4760 — Abortion-inducing drugs (criminal penalties + controlled substances)**

Creates new crimes/penalties tied to abortion-inducing drugs and adds mifepristone and misoprostol to South Carolina’s controlled substance schedules, with specified exceptions.

S. 713: Sen. Josh Kimbrell’s Prenatal Wrongful Death Bill

Prefiled December 10, 2025 and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee, S. 713 would amend South Carolina’s wrongful death law to explicitly allow a wrongful death action for “an unborn child at any stage of development.” It also states that a violation of Article 6, Chapter 41, Title 44 (South Carolina’s abortion statutes) is *prima facie* evidence entitling a parent to maintain a wrongful death action on behalf of the deceased unborn child, lowering the initial evidentiary hurdle in civil litigation when the underlying conduct is alleged to violate those abortion provisions.

The bill also changes the mechanics of who sues and who benefits: for a deceased unborn child, the mother, father, or both may bring the action, and the mother and father are the only beneficiaries, rather than routing the claim through a traditional personal representative structure used in most wrongful death cases. It further authorizes the parent initiating the action to settle the case under the statute’s settlement-approval framework. A House companion bill, H. 4715, mirrors the same approach. In effect, the bill would codify a broader statutory standard than South Carolina’s longstanding viability-focused wrongful-death precedent by specifying coverage at any stage of development.





Measles Outbreak in South Carolina Continues to Rise: Over 100 Cases Reported

Upstate measles outbreak + vaccine policy fights at the Statehouse

South Carolina's Department of Public Health (DPH) reports an ongoing measles outbreak in the Upstate, heavily concentrated in Spartanburg County. As of January 2, 2026, DPH reported 188 measles cases since July 9, 2025, with 185 tied to Spartanburg County.

DPH and recent reporting indicate the outbreak has spread fastest in unvaccinated households, with a large share of cases among children. A January 2 update reported that among cases with known vaccination status, the overwhelming majority were fully unvaccinated, and hundreds of contacts were under quarantine at that time.

DPH notes measles is highly contagious (including transmission before a rash appears and lingering virus in the air after an infected person leaves) and emphasizes MMR/MMRV vaccination as the primary prevention tool.

BILLS AND VOTES AIMED AT RELAXING VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS / MANDATES

Several recent efforts at the Statehouse align with reducing vaccine mandates or expanding exemption-related communications:

- **S. 741 — “Vaccine Prohibition for Babies” (Sen. Kennedy):** Would prohibit mandating vaccines for infants under 24 months (while permitting vaccination at a parent’s voluntary request).
- **H. 4803 — “School Immunizations” (Reps. Terrible, Magnuson, Edgerton, Kilmartin):** Would require DPH (and schools) to include clear exemption information (medical and religious) alongside immunization requirement communications and annual notices.
- **Sen. Shane Martin’s “Medical Informed Consent Act” (prior session activity):** In a prior session fight over vaccine mandates, reporting describes a Senate Medical Affairs subcommittee vote advancing Sen. Shane Martin’s bill on a 3–2 vote, framed as limiting vaccine mandates tied to employment and government response.



Follow the Spartanburg Dems!

- **Facebook:** [@spartanburgdemocrats](https://www.facebook.com/spartanburgdemocrats)
- **Twitter/X:** [@SpartanburgDem](https://twitter.com/SpartanburgDem)
- **Instagram:** [@spartanburgdemocrats](https://www.instagram.com/spartanburgdemocrats)
- **Tik Tok:** [@spartanburgdems](https://www.tiktok.com/@spartanburgdems)
- **Bluesky:** [@spartanburgdems.blksky.social](https://bluesky.social/@spartanburgdems)



Spartanburg County News Year-in-Review

FORMER SHERIFF CHURCH WRIGHT

In a year brimming with news that saw growing pains and a changing of the guard, the opening of a baseball park anchoring a transformation of downtown to the shuttering of Limestone University, even a disease outbreak that grabbed national attention, no other story captured the focus of readers as much as the unfolding saga of the disgraced former sheriff.

Once Spartanburg County's most powerful elected official, former Sheriff Chuck Wright faced a meteoric fall that took him from being the county's top lawman to a defendant in federal court — the result of investigations launched in the wake of Post and Courier reporting that showed Wright used thousands of taxpayer dollars for personal purchases he made using a county-funded credit card.

But those actions aren't what led to federal criminal charges for Wright, who resigned May 23 after a leave of absence to check into rehab.

Instead, prosecutors said Wright stole 147 prescription pain pills under the pretext of disposing of them through a takeback program, allowed L.B. Watson to stay on the county payroll despite not working and bilked the office chaplain's funds out of tens of thousands of dollars — partly by falsely claiming money would fund a trip to honor a slain deputy.

Wright pleaded guilty Oct. 30 to three counts: conspiracy to commit theft concerning programs receiving federal funds, conspiracy to commit wire fraud and obtaining controlled substances through misrepresentation.

Alongside Wright, Watson pleaded guilty to wire fraud conspiracy and former Sheriff's Office Chaplain Amos Durham pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit theft concerning programs receiving federal funds.

Wright, the 18th South Carolina sheriff to face criminal charges since 2010, will be sentenced at a later date. Under an agreement that included never again seeking a career in law enforcement, he won't face state criminal charges.

He also still faces 65 ethics charges, two alleging nepotism for hiring his son as a deputy and 63 for using his county credit card to buy more than \$17,000 worth of personal items dating back to 2020. Those charges are not criminal in nature but carry hefty fines.

DOWNTOWN SPARTANBURG SEES GROWTH, BUT ALSO FRICTION

It was a huge year for The Johnson Group's Project Core, a more than half-billion-dollar effort to transform downtown Spartanburg that's anchored by Fifth Third Park, home to the newly renamed Spartanburgers minor league baseball team.

The public in January learned details of the project's planned hotel, complete with a ballroom, along with apartments and more office space.

And in April, the yearslong push to bring baseball back to the 'Burg reached fruition with the opening of the new baseball stadium and its inaugural season. In their first year in Hub City, the Spartanburgers went all the way to the South Atlantic League title game, falling 2-1 to the Brooklyn Cyclones.

Amid those changes, some residents objected to the city removing the iconic downtown clock tower to accommodate The Johnson Group's planned development. City Council initially voted 4-2 to tear down the tower, but it became subject of a lawsuit that led to a settlement to preserve pieces of the tower that would be moved to a new site.

The tower has since been removed. A new site has not been named.

NOTABLE ELECTED OFFICIALS STEPPED ASIDE, LETTING VOTERS PICK SEVERAL NEW LEADERS

Chuck Wright stepped aside this year as Spartanburg County's top lawman as he faced state and federal investigations, with Bill Rhyne emerging from a crowded Republican field to become the county's newly minted sheriff.

Wright was far from the only elected leader to resign in 2025, although his was the only departure that happened under a cloud of suspicion.

Also leaving was long-time Spartanburg County Councilmember David Britt, whose decadeslong tenure helped shepherd in among the largest investments and jobs growth the county has seen. Britt joined the S.C. Public Service Commission, and local businessman Paul Abbott earned Britt's seat through a contested Republican primary and primary runoff before cinching the post in the November general election.

Another departure was city councilmember Rob Rain, who joined the S.C. Ports Authority board. Voters tabbed Leslie Rodgers as his replacement. Voters also chose Lee Bright to return to his former S.C. Senate seat, ending his series of primary runoff defeats, after Roger Nutt announced he would step down following an Alzheimer's diagnosis.

Spartanburg CPW had two seats come open after Horace Littlejohn Jr. opted not to seek another term and Angela Viney resigned because she was moving. Voters picked Dr. Octavia Amaechi to replace Littlejohn, and in a contentious move, the board selected Dillon Swayngim to fill Viney's seat. Swayngim, who lost the election to Amaechi, was sworn in earlier this month, while Amaechi should take her seat next month.

Spartanburg also said goodbye to long-time county chairperson Jeff Horton, who had retired in 2018 after serving alongside Britt for decades. Horton died Oct. 20 at age 65.

Hicks: As long as voters make such 'Bright decisions,' nothing will change at Statehouse



Upstate voters are sending former Sen. Lee Bright back to the General Assembly, and, well, that'll fix everything.

Except, of course, all those things that South Carolina actually needs to fix.

See, there has been a slew of legislative special elections around the state in recent weeks, with more to come, and the voting has been nothing if not predictable.

In the Midlands, folks chose to replace an admitted pedophile with a conservative pastor ... over a retired Army colonel. In addition to Bright, Upstate voters elected a candidate best-known for her crusade to save women's sports from the allegedly widespread, yet oddly undocumented, problem of transgender people switching sexes to better compete in high school sports. Because, you know, kids wrestling with gender identity really just want to be varsity athletes.

Of all these specially elected new legislators, Bright is the most special. He's the former state senator who, during his last Statehouse stint, prioritized correct bathroom usage ... when he wasn't giving away AR-15s, or suggesting teachers carry semiautomatics to combat school shootings.

You know, fight fire with firepower.

Like a good number of Upstate politicians, Bright is a firm believer that women have no right to make decisions about their own health care, yet believes just as strongly that any fragile yahoo who feels "threatened" is legally justified in ending someone else's life.

The fact that voters have seen Bright in action yet decided "More, please," is enough to make the rest of us think measles isn't the only epidemic afflicting the Upstate.

Not coincidentally, that measles outbreak — the worst in the nation — is completely the fault of such extremist lawmakers, who have made it far too easy for parents to opt out of once-mandatory vaccines and send their children to schools to infect everyone else.

But that's another column.

Point is, it's a good thing there aren't any hot stoves in polling places, because some voters would continue to touch them over and over. That is to say, we aren't learning from our mistakes.

The South Carolina Republican Party took to the unsocial media website formerly known as Twitter last week to crow about these wins, mocking Democrats and lauding the commitment of voters who took time out from ransacking Target to cast ballots that will continue these culture wars.

"We're heading into 2026 organized, energized and stronger than ever," the party proclaimed.

What the message didn't include was a single principle the party

is energized to promote. Because there isn't one. Well, maybe tax cuts.

In the more than two decades since Republicans took complete control of state government, South Carolina has remained perpetually at the wrong end of just about every national ranking: near the bottom in terms of road conditions, health care and education, while finishing with high rates of infant mortality and domestic abuse.

There's been little improvement on any front, and we've even backslid a bit. As The Post and Courier editorial staff notes, South Carolina — unlike practically every other state in the country — can't even get charter schools right.

But hey, we've got the toughest bathroom laws in the country, and will soon ban the scourge of "chemtrails." Too bad there are no national rankings of states that solve imaginary problems.

We'd absolutely rock those rankings.

In fairness, there are many smart men and women at the Statehouse who truly want to improve life in South Carolina. Some of them even quietly try to discourage voters from returning such performative, grandstanding do-nothings to high office. A few sent "South Carolinians for Common Sense" to the Upstate with the message that reelecting Bright, well, wasn't.

Which is admirable, but GOP legislative leaders completely brought this madness on themselves — and, unfortunately, the rest of us. By so expertly and effectively demonizing their opposition (too bad that talent doesn't extend to improving schools or patching potholes) and gerrymandering districts to ensure extreme candidates always have the upper hand, they've put a stop to any potential progress.

All they can do is hope no one notices none of this adds to the quality of life in South Carolina.

Now, some people in our Legislature recognize this, and even have ideas that might improve the state's plight. But pushing such agendas is politically fraught. Such proposals could require voters to take some responsibility or, gulp, spend money. That's a sure way to get un-elected.

It's much safer to let the growing contingent of people with loony ideas set policy on medical procedures they don't understand, chase jets across the sky and solve asinine, imaginary and conspiratorial problems.

Until voters recognize this lunacy, and vote in their own self-interest, Sen. "Bright" is the perfect representative of his constituents.

But, sadly, not the rest of us.

Brian Hicks is The Post and Courier's metro columnist. Reach him at bhicks@postandcourier.com.

Take Action with the SPCDP

January 17 Day of Action: Door-to-Door Voter Education

On Saturday, January 17, the Spartanburg County Democratic Party is hosting a Day of Action alongside the South Carolina Democratic Party Council of Black Democrats focused on door-to-door voter education, civic engagement, and community empowerment rooted in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s moral and democratic legacy. Spartanburg has high untapped voter potential, particularly among Black and working-class communities, and this coordinated effort is designed to build trust through face-to-face conversations, share practical voter information, and strengthen local Democratic infrastructure in a county that matters to statewide outcomes. Scan the QR code to sign up on Mobilize.



Civic Watch: Volunteer to Attend Local Public Meetings

Decisions that impact our community get made in public meetings, often with little public input in the room. SPCDP is building a small "Civic Watch" team to attend key local meetings, take notes for the party and the public, and sign up to speak during public comment when timely issues come up.

Sign up using the QR code to the right to attend a meeting (and get prep/talking points when needed).

Upcoming meetings to cover (times and procedures can change—watch for posted agendas and sign-up rules):



SPARTANBURG COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION (STATE HOUSE + SENATE MEMBERS)

- **Next meeting (tentative):** Monday, February 2, 2026 at 5:30 PM
- **Location:** Spartanburg County Council Chambers, 366 N. Church Street, Spartanburg, SC 29303
- **Submit agenda items:** Written requests are due to the Legislative Delegation Office ahead of each meeting.
- **Additional tentative dates:** May 4, August 3, November 9, 2026.

SPARTANBURG COUNTY COUNCIL

- **When:** Most Monday meetings begin at 5:15 PM
- **Where:** Spartanburg County Council Chambers, 366 N. Church Street, Spartanburg, SC 29303
- **Watch:** Meetings are livestreamed on YouTube
- **Upcoming 2026 dates + agenda deadlines:**
 - January 26 (agenda deadline: Jan 12)
 - February 16 (agenda deadline: Feb 2)
 - March 16 (agenda deadline: Mar 2)
 - April 20 (agenda deadline: Apr 6)
 - May 18 (agenda deadline: May 4)

SPARTANBURG WATER COMMISSION / SPARTANBURG SANITARY SEWER DISTRICT (SSSD)

- **Public comment:** Submit a public comment form no later than 12:00 PM (noon) on the Thursday before the meeting (online or printed).
- **For the January 27, 2026 meeting:** forms due Thursday, January 22, 2026 by 12:00 PM (noon).
- **Proposed 2026 meeting dates:** Jan 27, Feb 24, Mar 24, Apr 28, May 26, Jun 23, Aug 25, Sep 22, Oct 27, Dec 8 (no meeting in July or November).

SPARTANBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT SEVEN (D7) SCHOOL BOARD

- **Frequency:** Typically the first Tuesday of the month (avoiding July & December)
- **Time:** Typically 6:00 PM
- **Location:** District 7 Admin Building, 610 Dupre Drive, Spartanburg, SC
- **Upcoming dates:** Tue Jan 6; Tue Feb 3; Tue Mar 3; Tue Apr 14 (second Tuesday due to Spring Break); Tue May 5; Tue Jun 2 (Budget Public Hearing at 5:00 PM, then regular meeting). Livestream link is typically posted about 24 hours before the meeting.

CITY OF SPARTANBURG BOARDS & COMMISSIONS (AS-NEEDED COVERAGE)

Includes Planning Commission, Design Review Board, and the Board of Zoning & Appeals. These meetings can be critical when housing, zoning, and development issues are on the agenda.

Learn More about Running for Office in 2026

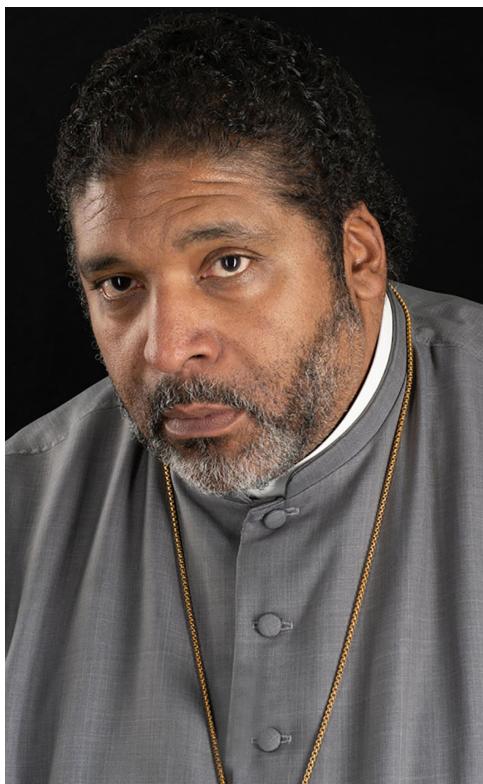
2026 is an election year with major seats on the ballot in Spartanburg County, including statewide constitutional offices (Governor/Lt. Governor and more), U.S. Senate, U.S. House Districts 4 and 5, South Carolina House Districts 29–38, and key local races like Probate Judge, Auditor, Treasurer, and County Council Chair plus County Council Districts 2, 5, and 6—along with several special-purpose district boards. With primaries in June and the general election in November, now is the time to recruit and prepare candidates who reflect our communities. If you've ever considered running, register for "So You Want to Run for Office?" on January 24..



2026 Spartanburg County General Election Offices

Office Title	Seats to Fill	Filing Deadline	Partisan (Y/N)
Governor & Lt. Governor	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
Secretary of State	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
State Treasurer	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
Attorney General	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
Comptroller General	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
State Superintendent of Education	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
Adjutant General	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
Commissioner of Agriculture	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
United States Senate	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
U.S. House of Representatives Dist 4	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
U.S. House of Representatives Dist 5	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
State House of Representatives Dist 29	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
State House of Representatives Dist 30	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
State House of Representatives Dist 31	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
State House of Representatives Dist 32	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
State House of Representatives Dist 33	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
State House of Representatives Dist 34	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
State House of Representatives Dist 35	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
State House of Representatives Dist 36	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
State House of Representatives Dist 37	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
State House of Representatives Dist 38	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
Probate Judge	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
Auditor	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
County Treasurer	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
County Council Chair	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
County Council District 2	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
County Council District 5	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
County Council District 6	1	March 30 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	Y
Soil & Water District Commission	2	July 15 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	N
Thicketty Creek Watershed Conservation Dist	2	File with SC SEC: (803)734-9060	N
Woodruff Roebuck Water District Area B	1	August 17 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	N
Woodruff Roebuck Water District Area D	1	August 17 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	N
Sanitary Sewer District Commissioner	3	August 17 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	N
Cherokee Springs Fire District Commissioner	3	August 17 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	N
Hilltop Fire District Commissioner	3	August 17 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	N
Holly Springs Fire District Commissioner	3	August 17 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	N
Mayo Fire District Commissioner	3	August 17 th at 12:00 PM (noon)	N
Greenville County School District 18	1	Contact Greenville County for Dates	N

Upcoming Special Events



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY 2026

“We Are Called to Be a Movement”

A lecture by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II

President of Repairers of the Breach and co-chair of the Poor People's

Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

Professor in the practice of public theology and public policy,
Yale Divinity School

11:30 a.m. | Jan. 17, 2026

Leonard Auditorium

THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC,
BUT REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.



ANTI-DEI BILL IS BAD FOR SC STAND UP TO STOP IT

When the state Senate returns on January 12, it will take up S. 368 – a bill that will end all diversity, equity and inclusion efforts in state government, public agencies, public education, and private businesses that contract with the state.

The impact: A setback of decades of hard work and progressive public policy to remove barriers for the disabled, for minorities, for women, gay and transgender people.

Learn more about the widespread impact of this bill and how to fight it.

SPEAKERS

Rep. Jermaine Johnson, a passionate fighter against this legislation in the House; Sylvia Wright, educator and advocate for public education; Sen. Karl Allen.



JANUARY 7, 2026
NOON
HUGHES MAIN LIBRARY



Scan to register





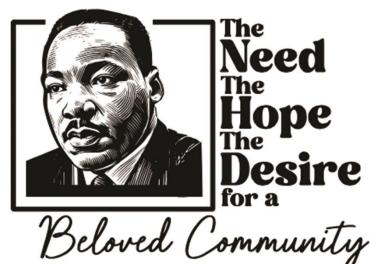
The 39th Annual
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Unity Week Celebration

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18
COMMUNITY CELEBRATION | 3PM
 Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium
 385 N. Church Street

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Adolph "Doc" Brown
 Sponsored by: Spartanburg County Baptist Association

Join us as we celebrate Dr. King's legacy & hear from the World's Greatest Edu-tainer, Dr. Adolph "Doc" Brown!

This is a free, non-ticketed event.
 Doors open at 1:30pm.
 Please be mindful of SMA's official bag policy (clear bags & small clutches only)



Calendar of Events



JANUARY 5	SPCDP Monthly Meeting (6:00 p.m., Dr. TK Gregg Community Center)
JANUARY 7	DEI Bill Panel (12 noon, Hughes Main Library, Greenville)
JANUARY 9	Virtual Town Hall with Courtney McClain (6:30 p.m. via Zoom)
JANUARY 10	UAA + The People's Coalition 2026 Action Plan Kick Off (10:30 a.m., CC Woodson)
JANUARY 13	South Carolina Legislative Session Begins
JANUARY 17	MLK Event with Reverend Barber (11:30 a.m., Leonard Auditorium, Wofford)
JANUARY 17	SCDP Council of Black Democrats Day of Action in Spartanburg
JANUARY 18	MLK Unity Week Community Celebration (3:00 p.m., Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium)
JANUARY 24	So You Want to Run for Office? Info Session (10:00 a.m., SPCDP HQ)
JANUARY 26	Spartanburg County Council Meeting (5:15 p.m., Spartanburg County Administrative Building)
JANUARY 26	District 7 School Board Meeting (6:00 p.m., District 7 Admin Building)
JANUARY 27	Swearing In Ceremony for Dr. Octavia Amaechi, Commission of Public Works
JANUARY 30	Women of Achievement Day of Love for NAACP



February Meeting



John Tecklenburg
FORMER MAYOR
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Monday, February 2
6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Dr. T.K. Gregg Community Center
650 Howard St, Spartanburg, SC 29303