

SPARTANBURG DEMOCRATS Monthly Newsletter

July 2026 Edition



Democracy Is a Team Sport

As the world gathers this summer for the FIFA World Cup, people from every continent are cheering for their teams, celebrating their cultures, and sharing in the universal language of sport. For a few weeks, borders matter on the scoreboard — but the game itself reminds us of something bigger: our shared humanity.

This year, Americans are also beginning to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, a multi-year remembrance of the people, places, and events that shaped the United States. From Lexington and Concord to the battles fought here in South Carolina, communities across the country will come together to remember not only where we have been, but who we still aspire to be.

Like the World Cup, America's 250th anniversary is about bringing people together.

The Revolutionary War was fought by people with different backgrounds, beliefs, and visions for the future. They did not agree on everything, but they shared a conviction that ordinary people could shape their own destiny. That belief became the foundation of the American experiment in democracy.

For 250 years, that experiment has endured not because it has been perfect, but because generation after generation has chosen to strengthen it. Americans have expanded liberty, corrected injustices, and continued the difficult work of building “a more perfect Union.”

Democracy asks the same of us today. It invites us to compete fiercely with ideas while remaining committed to the principles that allow us to live together as one people. Disagreement is not a weakness. What matters is our willingness to keep showing up,

listening, participating, and believing that the next generation deserves an even stronger democracy than the one we inherited.

Here in Spartanburg County, where pivotal Revolutionary War battles helped change the course of American history, we have a unique opportunity to tell that story. Our battlefields, historic sites, schools, libraries, and community spaces can become gathering places where history is not simply remembered, but experienced together.

The World Cup will crown one champion. America's 250th anniversary offers something even more meaningful: a chance for all of us to reconnect with the ideals that have carried this nation for a quarter of a millennium.

The beautiful game reminds us that people can come together in celebration. America's 250th reminds us that democracy is also a team sport. Its success has always depended on citizens willing to participate, to serve, and to believe that our greatest victories are achieved not alone, but together.

As we celebrate 250 years of the American experiment, may we approach it with pride in our story, respect for one another, and hope for what comes next.

Let's root for the home team as the USA takes on Belgium!

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kathryn'.

Kathryn Harvey

Chair, Spartanburg County Democratic Party



LOCAL CHAMPIONS
FUND

The Local Champions Fund is a unified effort to support nine Democratic candidates running for South Carolina State House seats in 2026. Each candidate is challenging an incumbent in a competitive district and will receive coordinated support from the SPCDP. With a goal of \$50,000—about \$5,000 per race—this fund allows supporters to strengthen multiple campaigns through a single contribution that is distributed across all participating candidates. These races matter not only for representation in Columbia, but also for driving voter engagement and turnout across Spartanburg County and beyond.



July News Briefs

From Columbia to Washington

South Carolina Begins Fiscal Year Without a New Budget

South Carolina entered the 2026–2027 fiscal year without a finalized state budget after lawmakers missed the June 30 deadline. The state is currently operating under a continuing resolution, which keeps agencies funded at last year's levels while House and Senate negotiators continue working toward a compromise.

- Lawmakers remain divided over property tax relief, earmarks, Scout Motors cost overruns, and other spending priorities.
- The Senate has pushed for expanded property tax relief for senior homeowners.
- The House has sought to preserve more funding for local earmark projects.
- State agencies remain open under the continuing resolution.
- Proposed raises for teachers and state employees are delayed until a final budget is approved.
- Lawmakers are expected to return to Columbia in mid-July to continue negotiations.

The delay matters because budget decisions affect public schools, state employees, infrastructure, health services, local governments, and working families across South Carolina.

Former Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright Faces Sentencing

Former Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright is scheduled to be sentenced in federal court in Greenville on July 7 after pleading guilty to charges tied to abuse of public office, theft of funds, and obtaining controlled substances by misrepresentation.

Prosecutors have said Wright used the authority of his office to steal money intended to help deputies and their families, kept a relative on the county payroll despite little evidence of work, and obtained prescription drugs while serving as sheriff.

- Wright pleaded guilty to federal charges including wire fraud conspiracy, obtaining controlled substances by misrepresentation, and conspiracy to commit theft.
- Court filings listed a recommended sentencing range of 33 to 41 months in prison.
- Filings also listed more than \$462,000 in restitution.
- The case remains a major example of why transparency, ethics, and accountability in local government matter.

Supreme Court Issues Major End-of-Term Decisions

The U.S. Supreme Court issued several major rulings in late June that will shape civil rights, elections, immigration, and state policy for years to come.

TRANSGENDER ATHLETES AND SCHOOL SPORTS

The Court ruled that states may exclude transgender girls and women from girls' and women's sports teams. The ruling allows state bans to stand, but it does not require every state to adopt such a ban. For Democrats, this ruling is another reminder that LGBTQ+ rights remain under direct legal and political attack.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

The Court struck down federal limits on coordinated spending between political parties and candidates. The 6–3 ruling means political parties can spend more directly in coordination with their candidates. Critics warn the decision will make it easier for wealthy donors and party committees to exert even more influence over elections.

BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP

The Court also rejected President Trump's attempt to restrict birthright citizenship. The ruling reaffirmed that children born in the United States remain protected under the 14th Amendment's Citizenship Clause. This decision preserved one of the clearest constitutional protections in American law, but the close legal fight shows that even long-settled rights remain vulnerable.



Data Center Debrief

From the SC Daily Gazette

Residents of Spartanburg County successfully pushed back on a different data center proposal by a company called TigerDC, which was seeking property tax incentives to develop in the county. In February, the company withdrew its application.

Now disgruntled residents and environmental groups have turned their attention to a project already underway.

NorthMark Strategies, along with its subsidiary Valara Holdings, is converting a former Kohler kitchen and bath manufacturing plant into a computing center.

As part of the development, the company plans to generate its own power for the center, rather than adding demand to the grid as other such centers have done.

State regulators initially approved the company for about 50 megawatts. But the company has since sought to amend its application to a total of 450 megawatts.

It's that application that brought hundreds of residents to a downtown Spartanburg auditorium Thursday to voice their concerns. In addition to the public hearing, the company held an online informational session Wednesday.

While the center doesn't raise the same concerns over impacts to residential customers' power bills, air pollution as well as noise from the generators dominated the conversation, said Emily Wyche, an attorney for the Southern Environmental Law Center.

The facility is already permitted for 24 natural gas generators that each produce 2,000 kilowatts. The new request, submitted to the state Department of Environmental Services in March, asks for an additional five 17-megawatt natural gas combustion turbines and six 54-megawatt natural gas combustion turbines.

The increase led the Southern Environmental Law Center to raise the alarm about potential air pollution at the facility.

In addition to going through the environmental permitting process, the Southern Environmental Law Center has petitioned state utility regulators to conduct their own review. It is also asking the Public Service Commission to halt construction at the site until a final ruling can be made.

Wyche argues that the Public Service Commission takes a more holistic view, "weighing the different sort of impacts against alleged benefits of a facility," rather than just looking at it through an environmental lens.

The hearing for the construction pause is scheduled for July 13 in Columbia.

Meet Your 2026 Democratic Candidates

Learn More About the Democrats Stepping Up to Serve

Statewide Candidates



DR. ANNIE ANDREWS (U.S. SENATE)

Dr. Annie Andrews is a pediatrician and public health advocate running for U.S. Senate to fight for South Carolina families, kids, and working people who've been left behind by politics-as-usual in Washington.

Learn more or get involved at drannieandrews.com.



DR. JERMAINE JOHNSON (GOVERNOR)

State Representative Jermaine Johnson is running for governor to invest in infrastructure, mental health, education, and economic opportunity in communities that have been overlooked for too long. Learn more at johnsonforsc.com.



SYLVIA WRIGHT (SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION)

Lifelong educator Sylvia Wright is running for Superintendent of Education to restore the promise of free, high-quality public education for all students in South Carolina. Learn more at wright2026sc.com.



VINCENT COE (STATE TREASURER)

Vincent Coe is a community advocate and longtime South Carolina organizer running for State Treasurer to strengthen financial transparency, improve accountability in state investments, and ensure public funds are managed responsibly for taxpayers. Learn more at vincentcoeforsc.com.



RICHARD HRICIK (ATTORNEY GENERAL)

Richard Hricik is a Charleston attorney with more than 30 years of legal experience running for Attorney General to defend the rule of law, protect South Carolina families and consumers, hold powerful interests accountable, and safeguard the state's public resources. Learn more at richardforattorneygeneral.com.



JASON BELTON (SECRETARY OF STATE)

Jason Belton is a public service professional and community-focused candidate running for Secretary of State to modernize business services, strengthen election administration support systems, and improve accessibility and efficiency for South Carolinians. Learn more at jasonbeltonforsc.com.



TIFFANY BOOZER (COMPTROLLER GENERAL)

Tiffany Boozer is a small business owner and civic advocate running for Comptroller General to promote fiscal accountability, strengthen oversight of state spending, and ensure transparent and efficient management of South Carolina's finances. Learn more at boozerforsc.com.



DESHAWN BLANDING (COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE)

DeShawn Blanding is a South Carolina agriculture advocate and grandson of a fourth-generation farmer running for Commissioner of Agriculture to support family farms, strengthen the food supply chain, protect farmland, and build a more resilient agricultural future for farmers, families, and rural communities. Learn more at blandingforsc.com.



U.S. House Candidates



COURTNEY MCCLAIN – SOUTH CAROLINA’S 4TH DISTRICT (SC-04)

Spartanburg native and communications professional Courtney McClain is running in SC-04 to deliver fresh, local leadership in Washington and to make government work for everyday South Carolinians. Learn more at mcclainforsc.com.



MALLORY DITTMER – SOUTH CAROLINA’S 5TH DISTRICT (SC-05)

Brand strategist and small-business champion Mallory Dittmer is running in SC-05 to lower the temperature in politics and unite Democrats, Republicans, and independents around common-sense solutions. Learn more at dittmerforcongress.com.



South Carolina House Candidates



MARINA FRANCO

Candidate for SC House District 29



SAVILLE WILLIAMS

Candidate for SC House District 34



STEPHANIE HOLSTEIN

Candidate for SC House District 30



TATIANA SKIPPER

Candidate for SC House District 35



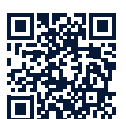
ROSALYN HENDERSON-MYERS

Candidate for SC House District 31



VIRGINIA MCLEAN

Candidate for SC House District 36



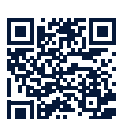
IRENE BENSON

Candidate for SC House District 32



SETH SAUER-HART

Candidate for SC House District 37



CLEMSON TURREGANO

Candidate for SC House District 33



TAMMY HAHN

Candidate for SC House District 38



Spartanburg County Council Candidates



LEKESA WHITNER

Candidate for County Council Chair



GARRETT GIBSON

Candidate for County Council District 5



FRANKLAND WATTS

Candidate for County Council District 6



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
(864) 978-9522
leebright@sensenate.gov

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.



2026 Democratic Primary Results

Momentum is building in Spartanburg

The 2026 Democratic Primary showed clear signs of momentum in Spartanburg County and across South Carolina. More voters participated, more candidates stepped forward, and our local organizing work helped connect thousands of Democratic voters with the information they needed to cast their ballots.

GOTV Efforts

Ahead of the primary, SPCDP invested in voter outreach across the county to help inform and mobilize Democratic voters.

- \$1,000 texting campaign reaching more than 13,000 Democratic voters in Spartanburg County
- Social media promotion
- Flyers and printed materials
- Tabling and in-person voter engagement
- Promotion of candidate events and forums

Primary Election Results

Spartanburg County Democrats had several important races on the ballot in June, including key local and legislative contests.

- **House District 31:** Rep. Rosalyn Henderson Myers
- **County Council Chair:** Lekesa Whitner

These races helped drive Democratic turnout and gave voters the opportunity to support candidates focused on accountability, opportunity, and stronger representation for Spartanburg County.

Voter Engagement in the 2026 Primary

Democratic participation in Spartanburg County increased significantly compared to the last midterm primary cycle. Three times more voters cast ballots on the Democratic ticket in the 2026 primary than in 2022.

- Nearly 47,000 votes were cast in Spartanburg County out of 213,309 registered voters countywide.
- Spartanburg County saw a two-to-one Republican-to-Democratic primary ratio: 15,695 Democratic voters and 31,733 Republican voters.
- In House District 31, there are 43,219 residents, including 19,251 active registered voters. In this district, 3,065 Democrats voted on June 9, representing 15.92% turnout among active registered voters.
- Almost every county in South Carolina had more than 20% voter turnout. Spartanburg County turnout reached 22%.
- More than 370,000 voters cast ballots in the Democratic Primary statewide, more than double the Democratic primary vote in 2022.
- Statewide, approximately 899,000 voters, or 25% of registered voters, participated in the 2026 primary.
- More than 300,000 additional voters participated statewide compared to 2022.

A New Generation of Democratic Leadership

The 2026 Democratic ticket also reflects a new generation of leadership in South Carolina. Everyone but one candidate on the statewide Democratic ticket is between the ages of 25 and 49.

That generational shift matters. It shows that younger leaders are stepping forward to run for office, organize in their communities, and offer a new vision for South Carolina's future.

Looking Ahead to November

Our goal is to help drive voter turnout to 60% by November 3. That will take sustained organizing, voter contact, candidate support, and continued engagement in every part of Spartanburg County.

Every time a Democrat challenges a Republican incumbent in South Carolina, voter turnout increases by approximately 2.5%. Competitive races matter, and our work now will help shape what is possible in November.

Calendar of Events



JULY 7 & 14	Phone Bank with Courtney McClain SPCDP HQ 6-7:30pm
JULY 9	Car Canvassing with Saville Williams HD 34 & Virginia McClean HD 36 at 10:00am
JULY 11	Summer Block Party with Courtney McClain 10am - 2pm Botanical Brew 2430 Reidville Road
JULY 11	Meet & Greet with Garret Gibson for County Council Maker's Market Inman
JULY 16	Virtual Phone Bank Training at 6pm (https://www.mobilize.us/dashboard/spcdp/event/804352/)
JULY 21 & 27	Phone Bank with Courtney McClain SPCDP HQ 6-7:30pm
JULY 23	Poll Watcher Training at 6pm (https://www.mobilize.us/dashboard/spcdp/event/804360/)
JULY 30	Car Canvassing with Saville Williams HD 34 & Virginia McClean HD 36 at 10:00am
AUGUST 3	SPCDP Meeting 6pm TK Gregg Center: Youth Voices Panel
AUGUST 20	Meet the Dem Women Running in 2026 SPCDP HQ 6-7:30pm SPCDP HQ
SEPTEMBER 14	SPCDP Meeting 6pm TK Gregg Center: Dr. Jermaine Johnson

Monthly Meeting



WITH SPECIAL GUEST

Dr. Jermaine Johnson
DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE FOR GOVERNOR

September 14
6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

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

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

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