

FEBRUARY 2022

PLEASE CONTINUE TO JOIN US IN THE FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY



SPARTANBURG COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HONORING THE PAST | MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER
CELEBRATING BLACK RESISTANCE

THE HONORABLE DR. KENNETH MYERS SR. NOVEMBER 16, 1953 — FEBRUARY 5, 2023

Our SPCDP Executive CommitteeMan, Spartanburg District 7 School Board Member and late husband of Representative Rosalyn Henderson-Myers, SPCDP's Executive Committeewoman, passed away this past Sunday at his home.

Kenneth was a staunch advocate for civil rights, public education and supporting youth in our community. He was the first to stand up proudly as a member of the Democratic Party for what is just and right in our community. He was always willing to pick up the phone, talk through issues, ideas and share advice. And that made him an extraordinary resource and friend as an incoming chair.

– Kathryn Harvey



Originally from Barnwell, South Carolina Mr. Myers worked as the registered nurse for Assertive Community Treatment Homeless Program (ACT) with Prisma Healthcare. He had a variety of administrative and clinical positions in a variety of fields, including law enforcement, corrections, public education, nursing and non-profits. He hosted a radio talk show at WASC 1530 AM in Spartanburg and was a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Mr. Myers was an ordained clergyman, held a Masters of Education and an honorary doctorate of ministry from FMI Biblical Studies and Seminary.

He was awarded Prisma Health's 2020 Martin Luther King Award recognizing the state employee who best demonstrates commitment to improving cooperation and fostering mutual respect among people of backgrounds.

We are all truly heart broken and we'll share more details from his family as they are released. For now please hold the Myers' in your prayers.

SPARTANBURG COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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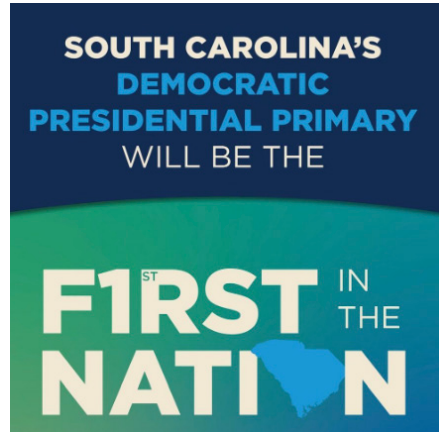
FIRST IN THE NATION DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY FEBRUARY 3, 2023

SC will be first in the nation for Democratic Presidential Primary.

'This is a small state, as early states should be, with strong participation in our primary process. In 2020 SC was roughly 40,400 votes short of surpassing the aggregate number of participants in Iowa, New Hampshire, and Nevada.

Our people are a mix of rural, urban, and suburban residents with a diversity of socio-economic factors. 60% to 65% of Democratic Primary voters live in every county. No candidate can win just one city or one region to carry the day. This state requires a candidate and a campaign to do the real work of relating to people and forces those aspirants to build real organizations to win.

SC is a place where a good organization, not just a rich candidate, can win. To reach every possible voter costs 40% less than in our neighboring states. South Carolina has been home to underdog campaigns in primaries before – Clinton '92, Obama '08 and Biden '20. The Palmetto State's Democrats have a history of picking winners, and our voters take this responsibility seriously.' Trav Robertson, Jr. Chair | South Carolina Democratic Party



FORWARD FUND

Join us in investing in the sustainable and strategic forward movement of the Spartanburg County Democratic Party as we build towards being the first in the nation state for the Democratic Primary in 2024 and beyond. These funds will cover annual expenses needed to operate, communicate, educate and organize throughout Spartanburg County.

Consider a two year recurring donation at <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/spcdpforward>

THE VISIONARY | \$24,000
(\$1000/mo) over the next 24 months

THE ADVOCATE | \$12,000
(\$500/mo) over the next 24 months

THE STRATEGIST | \$6,000
(\$250/mo) over the next 24 months

THE COMMUNITY COLLABORATOR | \$3,000
(\$125/mo) over the next 24 months

THE DEFENDER OF DEMOCRACY | \$2,400
(\$100/mo) over the next 24 months

THE DEMOCRAT | \$1,200
(\$50/mo) over the next 24 months

2024 CLUB | \$576
(\$24/mo over the next 24 months)

WHAT WILL THE FORWARD FUND EMPOWER?

PARTY INFRASTRUCTURE: OPERATING, COMMUNICATION, AND ORGANIZING COUNTYWIDE

- Engagement with residents throughout the county
- Engagement with new residents in Spartanburg
- Engagement in our communities of color

CANDIDATE IDENTIFICATION + TRAINING PIPELINE

- Local efforts to build infrastructure for a candidate pipeline
- Collaborative efforts with educational and training programs
 - Emerge SC
 - Arena Academy
 - Clyburn Fellowship

PROGRAMMING + MOBILIZATION

- Young Democrats of Spartanburg County
- High schools + Higher Ed institutions
- Mentorship CIVICS programs
- Voter education + registration efforts

POLICY + ADVOCACY EFFORTS

- Right to fair and accurate education
- Right to quality and accessible healthcare
- Right to vote without suppression
- Redistricting & Gerrymandering
- Right to safe communities

LEARN MORE AT SPARTANBURGDEMOCRATS.COM/FORWARD-FUND

SPARTANBURG CANDIDATE PIPELINE + REDISTRICTING

The Upstate Action Alliance hosted a Candidate Pipeline Info Session this past month with over 30 folks interested in learning about the more than 65 nonpartisan seats up for election in 2023. Mayor Rice, County Councilman Monier Abusaft and Luke Quillen spoke about running for office locally in Spartanburg County. Learn more about the election process, filing deadlines, and open seats at spartanburgdemocrats.com/election

There was a full house at the school board information session hosted by SIREN and LRAC in January. There are 28 school board seats up for election in 2023 and signatures for candidates must be collected and submitted by July 17. This month maps for School Board District 5 & 7 are being reviewed for redistricting. SIREN is leading the efforts on more equitable representation for both districts. We'll share information on redistricting, issues and upcoming races at spartanburgdemocrats.com/election



COMMUNITY NEWS

We're thrilled for Rep. Rosalyn Henderson-Myers and Former Rep. Brenda Lee Pryce on the groundbreaking of the new Southside Cultural Monument. The walls will have panels depicting Spartanburg's historically Black communities on the city's Southside.



SPCDP HONORS MLK WEEK

The SPCDP were proud sponsors of the 2023 MLK Unity Week and our Exec Committee was out in full force during the MLK Unity Week programming. We attended the kick off with Mayor Rice and a proclamation from the County, enjoyed the Unity Walk Downtown, Volunteered for the MLK Day of Service clean up with the Little Africa Community and Duncan Park, supported our seniors and participated in educational programming on activism at Wofford.



SUPPORTING OUR FORMER TREASURER SEVI ALVAREZ

Late last year our former SPCDP treasurer and community advocate Sevi Alvarez was diagnosed with stage three cancer. He has completed 28 rounds of chemo and is now moving on to aggressive radiation followed by extensive surgery.

He and his family are asking for the community's support during this time. Their needs are outlined on the Caring Bridge website at <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/sevialvarez>.

You can also contribute to their Hub City Delivery Account by calling the office at 864-542-0230 and adding money to account number ending in 2569.

Sevi continues to advocate for our community despite undergoing treatment. Below are his remarks during County Council meeting February 6th.



PUBLIC COMMENTS

Spartanburg County Council Meeting
Monday, February 6, 2023
Sevi Alvarez

First I want to apologize for how I look and sound today. I'm currently battling cancer, and I had my 28th and final radiation treatment only three days ago.

I didn't want to be here today. I'm tired and I don't feel good. I'm supposed to have surgery on Friday. Unfortunately, some members of this delegation have made it impossible for me to pass up the opportunity, and the responsibility, to speak.

At the last delegation meeting, Josiah Magnuson said, and I'm paraphrasing, that we need to do something about childrens' access to pornography. What he really meant is that he wants to remove books that tell LGBTQ stories from our schools and libraries.

Since then, Josh Kimbrell sponsored a bill to prohibit doctors from giving gender affirming care to trans youth. He wants you to think this would only ban surgeries and other irreversible procedures, but this bill would do much more than that. It would also prohibit counseling services for trans children – at least, the kind of counseling that would actually help them.

Elsewhere in our state we have folks who want to classify drag shows as “adult entertainment,” regardless of their actual content. Next thing you know, they'll try to ban dancing, and we'll have to call in Kevin Bacon to save us.

What this all comes down to is a concerted effort by fringe extremist legislators, to demonize LGBTQ folks. They do this because of some misguided version of morality in their own heads that they're trying to shove down everyone else's throats, and it's wrong. I don't see anything immoral about a person wearing a dress, and I see even less wrong with teaching our children to be true to themselves and that they are free to love whomever they like.

SUPPORTING OUR FORMER TREASURER SEVI ALVAREZ

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED

I want to draw attention to a group of House members who call themselves the “Freedom Caucus.” I find that name ironic, because everything they try to do ends up taking freedoms away from innocent people, not preserving them.

The “Freedom Caucus” has about a dozen members in our State House. Three of them are here with us today: Josiah Magnuson, Bill Chumley, and Steven Long. These folks want to ban award winning books from our schools and libraries, they want to outlaw legitimate medical procedures that are approved by the American Medical Association, and they want to overburden our teachers with pointless, intrusive restrictions on what they can and can’t teach in the name of “oversight.”

Since there’s been so much talk of children’s books lately, I decided to bring one with me today. It’s called Cancer Party, by Sara Olsher. Now I know there’s a rainbow pattern on the front, but don’t panic guys, I don’t think our county libraries are carrying it, so you don’t have to ban this one just yet.

I have a two and a half year old son named Ben, and my wife found this book online. It’s a child-friendly way for kids to learn what cancer is and how it affects the people they love.

The book explains that sometimes, in an otherwise healthy body, a cell might forget what it’s supposed to be doing. So instead of doing its job, it decides to start having a party. And it convinces other cells nearby to stop doing their jobs.

This Cancer Party eventually gets big enough that it starts disrupting the functions of the body, and soon the legislators – excuse me, the cells – that are trying to do their jobs, can’t, because the cancer party is too big and getting in the way. If the cancer party isn’t stopped, the body might just stop functioning completely.

I hope you can see where I’m going with this. The “Freedom Caucus” is a Cancer Party in the South Carolina government, and should be treated as such. I don’t care what political party you’re in – Republican, Democrat, Libertarian, Constitution, Green. The Cancer Party, aka the “Freedom Caucus,” must be stopped. It’s going to take courage from the folks already in office to get us through these next two years, and then a concerted effort by voters in our state to expel this cancer from our legislature in 2024.

Run against these people. Whether it’s in a primary or in a general election, we can’t let these folks run unopposed any longer.

And if you can’t run, vote. Get your friends and family registered to vote. It doesn’t take that long.

You can’t fight cancer alone. Everyone has to work together to get rid of it. Remember that, as 2024 inches closer, and do your part to take down the Cancer Party.

Thank you.

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

FEBRUARY 6

MARCH 6

APRIL 3

MAY 1

JUNE 5

NO JULY

AUGUST 7

SEPTEMBER 5

OCTOBER 2

NOVEMBER 6

DECEMBER 4

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



DEM LUNCHES

Join us for our next SPCDP Lunch at Monarch Café on the Northside at Harvest Park from 12-1pm for a community conversation.

LUNCH WITH THE SPCDP

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH, 12-1PM



MONARCH CAFE

498 HOWARD ST
SPARTANBURG, SC 29303

CHAT WITH THE CHAIR STARTING FEBRUARY 9TH

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>



CHATS WITH THE CHAIR

EVERY THURSDAY 12-1PM | 20 MINUTES

STARTING IN FEBRUARY VIA ZOOM

KATHRYN HARVEY

CHAIR, SPARTANBURG COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY



QUESTIONS? CONTACT
SPARTANBURGDEMOCRATS@GMAIL.COM

CANDIDATE TRAINING

If you're a woman interested in running for office this training might be for you. SCWomenLead will host a four week session on Saturday starting Feb 11 at the OneSpartanburg office.

<https://bit.ly/SpringTrainingCmpaignWorkshopSeries>



2023
**SHOULD YOU
(OR A WOMAN YOU KNOW)
BE IN THE STARTING
LINEUP?**

SC LEGISLATURE 101

Curious how laws are made in SC and how to influence the process? Join Women's Rights and Empowerment Network- WREN this Saturday in Greenville at The Warehouse Theatre on for "SC Legislature 101." This workshop will train advocates on how bills become law in South Carolina, strategies and tactics to influence the SC legislature, and writing and delivering testimony.

<https://bit.ly/sclegislature101>

