

BLUE NOTE 2.0



WELCOMING SUMMER

and more freedom to be with our families and friends to celebrate Juneteenth, Father's Day and July 4th!

Our Mission

The mission of the Dorchester County Democratic Party (DCDP) is to encourage voters from diverse backgrounds to participate in governing, to advance democratic principles and candidates, and to advocate for ethical governance, fiscal responsibility, and racial and social justice by engaging Dorchester County neighborhoods precinct by precinct.

JUNE/JULY 2021
VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

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DORCHESTER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY NEWS

JUNE/JULY 2021



Dorchester County Council

Meets every 1st and 3rd Monday, at 6 PM., at 500 North Main St., Summerville.

Summerville Town Council

Meets 2nd Thursday of the month at 6 PM, Summerville Council Chambers, third floor of Summerville Municipal Annex Building, 200 S. Main St., Summerville.

New members and current members who need to update their info:

Go to our website's "[Contact Us](#)" and fill out the form. Or, if you know someone who'd like to participate in DCDP but does not have an email address, have them call 843-560-9210. Our Welcome Committee will contact them by phone. DCDP members please use "Contact Us" to update your information also.

We are a Big Tent and welcome disaffected Republicans and Independents.

"Republicans should listen to some of the voters they've alienated," per Jim Gardner's excellent interview w. Brian Hicks, in **The Post and Courier**, 6/6/21.

DCDP monthly virtual meetings feature inspiring speakers and Q&A!

Our June meeting introduced Upson Brandon, founder of Amplify Action which registered thousands of new Black voters in 2020. "The work to win elections starts with our municipal elections."

The Next DCDP General Meeting July 13, 7 PM Click [Here](#) to sign up.



DorDems Happy Hour

July 6, 7-8:30 PM

DorDems Coffee Talks

July 10 and 17, 10-11 AM

New Members chat with members of the DCDP Welcome Committee.

Invite your friends!

Tim Lewis, the DCDP Chair, will be present at the 7/17 coffee. Bring your favorite drink and your questions and join us virtually on Tuesday or Saturday.

Go to our interactive [Events Calendar](#) to sign up.

Western Dorchester County Democratic Club

WDCDC Meeting will be in person with masks and social distancing, on June 28th, at 7:00 PM, at Classy Sassy, 421 N. Parlor Ave., in St. George, 29477. July 26, will be the same time, same place. Sign up [here](#). For location details, e-mail info@DorchesterDemocrats.com.

Town of St. George's new District 6 Councilman, James Herndon, was sworn in on June 14, 2021.

DCDP Book Club will break for the summer. Leader Sarah Redmond recommends Sen. Elizabeth Warren's new book, **Persist**, as well as these podcasts:

The Art of Power, on NPR.

Bourbon in the Backroom, SC specific.

Civics 101, on basic citizenship

Now and Then, history and current political thought.

SC Lede, from SC Public Radio.

SCDP CONVENTION REPORT

National DNC Chairman Jaime Harrison, "The right of the people to choose their representatives is what this country was built on." We must protect the right to vote!!

Also w Rep. Jim Clyburn, Joe Cunningham, Krystle Matthews (Ladson) and Angela Geter (Spartanburg). Matthews and Geter are competing for Tim Scott's Senate seat in 2022. Cunningham announces "The 46" county competition to register new voters.

Congratulations to our newly elected SCDP officers:

Chair - Trav Robertson

1st Vice Chair - Lessie Price

2nd Vice Chair - Dr. Anthony B. Thompson, Jr.

3rd Vice Chair - Jalen Elrod

Caucus Leaders from Dorchester County:

Chair of Hispanic Caucus--Julio Caceres

Chair of Veterans Caucus--Tim Lewis

JUNE/JULY 2021

Municipal Elections

November 2, 2021

--Town of St. George--

The Mayor of Harleyville is retiring. Do we have a Democratic contender for November? If you're that person, click [here](#) for our help and guidance.

Elections are also for St. George Town Council Districts 2, 4 and 6. The filing period for candidates is 8/4 through 8/18/21.

--Town of Reevesville--

Municipal election is scheduled for November 2, 2021. Registration is open 8/4 through 8/18/21. No online presence.

--Town of Ridgeville--

[Monitor](#). Registration is open 8/4 through 8/18/21.

--Town of Summerville--

Click [here](#) to sign-up for alerts related to Town Council elections, scheduled for November 2, 2021. Registration is open 8/4 through 9/3/21.

--City of North Charleston--

Click [here](#) for information.



DCDP T-shirts are \$20, click to [contact](#) Gail.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

JUNE/JULY 2021

For a follow-up on legislation in the **SC Statehouse**, check ACLU's 2021 Legislative Session, Post Session Report [here](#). Also, check [Legiscan](#), by bill number.

New Hope for Biden's Infrastructure Bill

The accepted "wisdom" in Washington, DC is that raising taxes is political dynamite. But [new polling](#), commissioned by Americans for Tax Fairness, shows that nearly 7 in 10 Americans support raising taxes on the rich and corporations.

Stop Jim Crow 2.0

"Democracy is not a state, it is an act and each generation must do its part."--
John Lewis

S1, For the People Act—National election protections.

HR 4, John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act—Protecting voting rights in every state.

On June 11, Attorney General Merrick Garland addressed the nation amid the fear that the Senate will not pass meaningful voting rights reform and announced that the **DOJ will double its Civil Rights Division's voting rights enforcement staff** within 30 days, to go after voter suppression bills nationwide! He also pledged to work with other agencies to **fight voting-related disinformation**, a hallmark of the previous administration.



Future-Proofing the Presidency

Read this

[6-Part Series](#) by the Editorial staff of the **Boston Globe**

"Donald Trump brought our democracy to the brink and exposed its weak spots. How to thwart the next American tyrant."

The **For the People Act** will
Expand Voting Rights,
End Partisan Gerrymandering,
Ban Dark Money,
Create New Ethics Rules
for Federal Officeholders.

"There are many things that are open to debate in America, but the right of all eligible citizens to vote is not one of them....The right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy, the right from which all other rights ultimately flow."--Merrick Garland, in his address on 6/11/21.

STATE OF THE STATE

JUNE/JULY 2021



FAMILIES SET TO LOSE COVID BENEFITS

Gov McMaster's decision to make SC one of a handful of states to end the Covid state of emergency means that, in addition to the loss of \$300/wk. federal unemployment benefits at the end of June, about 295,000 SC households – representing about 610,000 people—will lose emergency food assistance. Read [more](#)

In the meantime, the **SC House** reveals new list of \$90M in taxpayer funds for lawmakers' pet projects. [Check](#) this article out for the blatant conflicts of interest.

SC to receive **\$8.9 B** in new federal Covid relief. Counties will receive \$1.6 B directly. Accelerate SC is concerned that proper oversight needs to be provided. See [The State](#).

SC CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING PLAN

Plan Dates: Plan TBD

Seats: 7 (projected)

(2 Senators and 5 Legislators)

Institution: Legislature

Plan Status: n/a

Party Control: Republican

Upper House: 16 D, 30 R

Lower House: 43 D, 81 R

Governor: R

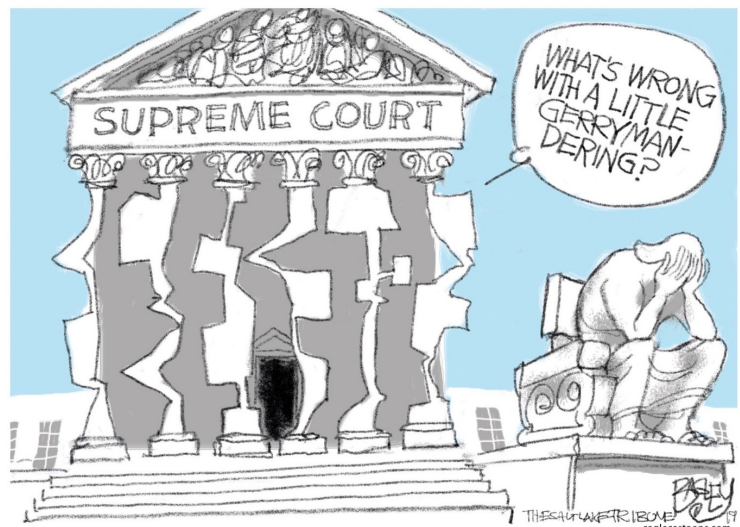
SC DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES FOR 2022

[Joe Cunningham](#) and SC Senator [Mia McLeod](#) are contenders for governor.

SC Rep. [Krystle Matthews](#) and Spartanburg Democratic Party Chair, [Angela Geter](#) are competing for Tim Scott's US Senate seat.

Who will oppose Nancy Mace in the 1st Congressional District? Contact [DCDP](#) for help with your campaign.

Understand SC is a weekly podcast from **The Post and Courier** that explains important issues in our state and the context that gives them meaning. It comes out every Thursday. Go [here](#) for past episodes.



SC REDISTRICTING MAPS

JUNE/JULY 2021

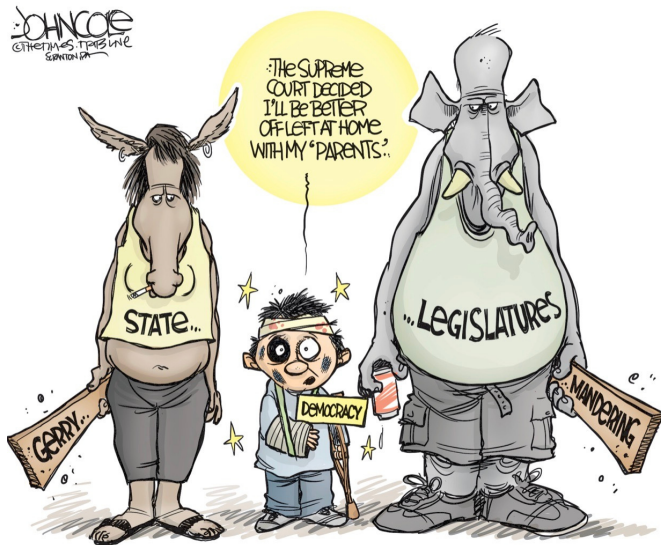
Redistricting will begin sometime after September 30, 2021, when the 2020 Census Data has been delivered to the states. Our November elections will be based on current districts.

Packing and cracking

In the world of gerrymandering, the practice of stuffing the opposition into a few districts and spreading their remaining votes thinly across multiple districts is called "packing and cracking."

While elections are important, drawing district maps is vastly more important because it can potentially determine election outcomes and the laws we live by, for decades!

South Carolina maps are drawn by the State Legislature and likely to be hyper-partisan. Some states have more equitable ways of doing it, like independent commissions. However, "communities of interest" and other organized groups like the [League of Women Voters](#) can oversee this process and challenge maps.



"Congressional districts and government legislative bodies should be apportioned substantially on population. We oppose partisan and racial gerrymandering that strips rights away from voters." LWV

Click [here](#) for a recording from the LWV Good Governance Symposium, Session 2-- Redistricting.

Check out the LWV 's archive of articles at [People Powered Fair Maps](#)

Q. What can I do to protect free and fair elections and stop gerrymandering?

A. Call our Republican senators and demand that they vote "YES" on **S1, For the People.**

Join the [Mobilize](#) phone bank to call West Virginians to persuade Senator Joe Manchin to vote for it.

Support [Let America Vote](#) which is running ads nationwide urging lawmakers to vote "YES" on **S1.**



Read the latest DCDP Blog: Scott, Mace and the "Charleston Loophole," plus a new feature for the 2022 elections. Click on the Donkey.

JUNE/JULY 2021

Bloomberg Philanthropies funds research like "The Economic Cost of Gun Violence in the US"--\$280 B/year! Listen to the [audio](#) from Follow the Data on SoundCloud.

DEMOCRACY REQUIRES AN INFORMED ELECTORATE

You're invited to take this free seminar.

Click on the image to view any of the previous 4 sessions, including the excellent one on redistricting.

This final session will explore how election systems can enhance voter representation. We will start by reviewing South Carolina’s current election systems. We will then examine a number of topics through the lens of Ranked Choice Voting. This includes: open primaries, at-large vs. single member districts, and citizen-led ballot initiatives. For more information and to register [click here](#).

**JUNETEENTH IS NOW
A FEDERAL HOLIDAY!!**

Join us at Exchange Park 6/18 and 19

Celebrating emancipation and the richness of African American culture through music, dancing, and soul food.

DCDP will have a registration table there in partnership w Berkeley County and Charleston County Dems.

Click on the image for details.



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WHY A DONKEY AND AN ELEPHANT?



JUNE/JULY 2021

Check out the awesome activist art from Arizona's Voting Rights Lab.

If this inspires you and you're a local artist who would like to work with Democratic imaging, please contact us.

COVID UPDATE

VP Kamala Harris stopped in Greenville on June 14, to urge SC to trust the vaccine, "love thy neighbor," and get vaccinated. Listen to the SC Lede podcast, 6/15, for more of her speech.

The SC Covid-19 positive rate on June 14, 2021 was 2.2. 39.5% or 1.69 million residents have been fully vaccinated, 46.3% of the state's residents have had at least one dose.

Donate

TO THE DORCHESTER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY



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