

BLUE NOTE 2.0

SPRING 2024

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

FROM OUR NEW COUNTY CHAIR, REZSAUN LEWIS



Dear Members,

I am deeply honored and grateful to have been elected as the Chair of the Dorchester County Democratic Party. As I familiarize myself with my new role, I am eager to share my vision for the year ahead.

To move forward together, we must unify the district. To achieve this, we must ensure that all portions of Dorchester County feel valued and included in our party. This will necessitate a concerted effort to make meetings and events accessible to all county members, and we are actively working towards this objective.

The second objective is to rebuild our party leadership. We recognize that this is a daunting task and requires the collective effort of many individuals. Our goal is to reinvigorate the party from the ground up by starting at the precinct level, and we would like to extend an invitation to those who are interested in serving to join us in this endeavor. I am looking for individuals who possess a "can do" attitude and are enthusiastic about bringing new ideas and approaches to the table. If you have innovative ideas and are willing to put in the work, I would be more than happy to listen to what you have to say. You can rest assured that you will not be dismissed without being given a fair chance to express yourself.

Third, it is essential that we engage, energize, and empower voters. We must reach out to those unfamiliar with our party because people need to know us to support us. We must go out and meet them on their terms.

Finally, we must identify and support quality candidates. There is an abundance of untapped talent waiting to be developed, but first, we must ensure that we have an infrastructure ready to support candidates willing to run.

I am confident that these priority areas are key to our party's success. Together, we can reshape the landscape of Dorchester County. However, this journey requires your support. I am excited to serve alongside you and work together to achieve our shared goals.

Thank you.

REZSAUN LEWIS



ReZsaun believes in community service and prides himself on being able to work with anyone.

You can follow his updates and videos on the Dorchester County Democratic Party Members page on Facebook. or click [here](https://www.facebook.com/groups/dorchesterdemocrats). Not a member? Go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/dorchesterdemocrats> and JOIN!

PAID FOR BY THE DORCHESTER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

INTRODUCING OUR NEW DCDP LEADERSHIP TEAM

Chair, ReZsaun Lewis
1st Vice-Chair, Debra Whitfield
2nd Vice-Chair, Richard Hayes
Secretary, Sara Geller
Treasurer, Jeni Atchley

We still need a 3rd Vice-Chair (must be under 35). If you are interested in the position, please go to the [website](#) to check the duties, before contacting ReZsaun Lewis at rezsaulewisforsc@gmail.com. Please put the name of the position you seek in the subject line. Thank you!

For photos of team members, click on "Leadership" at [DorchesterDemocrats.com](#) or click [here](#).

GET OUT THE VOTE REPORT

from Debra Whitfield, First Vice-Chair

A Big Thank You to All Volunteers who reported for **phone banking** in January!! We made 2008 phone calls and contacted 1057 eligible voters in Dorchester County--53% of the goal! Dorchester was one of only 10 SC counties that beat their 2020 early vote numbers!!

Message from Crystale Spain, SCDP Chair: "You increased the percentage of voter turnout significantly. You have your lists up to date and people motivated."



JANUARY PHONE BANKING AT PERKINS.

GOTV RAMPING UP

The GOTV efforts are ramping up with the organization of the precincts by the leaders and the executive committee members.

We look forward to our first social event on June 22 (details forthcoming) where we will come together and meet new volunteers and members willing to go the extra mile to get our candidates elected.

GOTV activities will start to kick off this summer and really be full force after Labor Day.

If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Debra Whitfield at debra1whitfield@gmail.com



April is National School Library month--thank a librarian!

UPCOMING DCDP GENERAL MONTHLY MEETINGS

By Zoom, until notified

**Dates: Thursdays
May 9 and June 13**
(no July meeting)
Time: 7 to 8:30 PM.

Open to members and aspiring members. Please go to DorchesterDemocrats.com to sign-up or click [here](#).

Western Dorchester County Democratic Club (WDCDC)
Monthly Meetings, In-person
Monday, April 22, Tuesday, May 28 and Monday, June 24
Time: 6:30PM

Open to members and aspiring members. Masks are welcome.

Location: Classy Sassy Salon, 421 N. Parler Ave., St. George

Contact Tim Lewis for scheduled speakers, at timlewis75@gmail.com

Dorchester Dems will register voters at Edisto Natchez-Kusso Tribe's Annual Pow-Wow on April 27.



LOCATION: 964 US-78, RIDGEVILLE, SC 29472

SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY APRIL 26, 2024 4 PM - 8 PM	SATURDAY APRIL 27, 2024 12 PM - 8 PM
• GRAND ENTRY 6 PM	• GRAND ENTRY 1 PM & 5 PM

Native American Dancers,
Singers, Drummers
& Craftsmen!

Drum & Dance Contest

Over \$4000 in cash prizes!
Drum & Dance contestants must be present both days to receive prize money.

Please bring your own chairs.
This is a pet/drug/alcohol free family oriented event.

NO COOLERS OR OUTSIDE DRINKS!

ENTRANCE FEE

- 0-5 yrs - Free
- 6-64 yrs - \$10
- 65 & over - Free

*With ENKT Card - \$8

Drums
1st - \$777?
2nd - \$777?
3rd - \$777?

OR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
edistonatchezkussotribe@gmail.com

VENDOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
Michael Muckelvaney
ndnmike82@gmail.com

Coffee Talks

(for New and Old members)

These monthly meetings are going well; over the last quarter there were 19 new Dems invited and 12 joined us at **Luxe Espresso and Wine Bar** (they serve great coffee in a fun setting and the owners are Democrats). New members get to meet and talk with our Dorchester Dem leaders, like Richard Hayes, ReZsaun Lewis, David Rubin and Debra Whitfield.

Often we will have surprise guests; this month Dr Sonia Ogletree Santini, who is running for district 98, Charles Frederick, who is running for Sheriff, and David Pascoe, who is running to retain his position as Solicitor in the First Judicial Circuit, all joined us to answer questions and chat.

Recently a representative from the German Public Radio network joined us to get a better understanding of our political system and the upcoming elections, to share with the German public!

We enjoy very lively discussions. If you know any Democrats in our county, who aren't yet involved with DCDP, please encourage them to come to our monthly Coffee Talk.

First Saturdays

May 4 and June 1

Time: 10 AM

Location: Luxe Espresso and Wine Bar, 1430 Central Ave., Summerville.

The coffee is on us!

Current members are invited as well!
Sign up on the Events [page online](#), or contact **John Ptolemy--** ptolemy@hotmail.com

Every day should be Earth Day
but April 22nd is designated.
See Greenpeace message.



May 14--DD2 residents will vote on \$200 million for new DD2 schools and upgrades. The District is already over capacity in some of its schools. With over 17,000 new residents expected in the next 10 yrs, Dr. Shane Robbins says Dorchester District 2 needs to be prepared.

The bond will NOT increase your taxes!!

The district hasn't had a bond referendum in 12 yrs and debt restructuring makes it possible--the district is retiring old debt and using that money to pay this. Click [here](#) for more.

Early voting is from 8:30 AM to 5 PM Monday -- Friday, April 29 through May 10, at the Marcia O'Brien Conference Center, 200 Stadium Circle, Summerville.

Democratic Primary Elections on June 11

(early voting May 28--June 7)

Democratic Candidates are listed alphabetically (incumbents in **bold**)

- **US House District 1**--Mac [Deford](#) v Michael B. [Moore](#). (The winner will run against **Nancy Mace**, or winner of Republican Primary.)
- **Solicitor Circuit 1**--Austin Drake Nichols v **David Pascoe**.
- **State Senate District 42**--Kim [Greene](#) v **Deon Tedder**.
- **State House District 102**--Collin [Holloway](#) v **Joe Jefferson**.
- **State House District 109**--Jessica Bright v **Tiffany Spann-Wilder**.
- **Sheriff Dorchester County**--Charles T. [Frederick III](#) v Trumaine [Moorer](#).

Democratic Women Are Winning!!

Dr. Charmaine Palmer-Roberts is the new council woman for City of North Charleston District 4; she does a quarterly newsletter. Click [here](#) for her Facebook page.

Tiffany Spann-Wilder won the Special Election for SC House District 109.

Statehouse Watch--Legislation

With their super-majority in both the Senate and the Assembly, SC Republicans have used the first portion of the 2024 legislative session to see just how much worse they can make conditions for the residents of South Carolina.

Here is a selected listing of the legislative damage they have wrought:

On **GUNS** it is now state law that residents 18 years of age and older can carry a handgun in most places without a permit or training. Most law enforcement personnel opposed this expansion of gun "rights," to no avail.

On **SCHOOL CHOICE**, the Assembly passed a bill that would remove all limits on the number of parents eligible to receive \$6000 state stipends to move their children out of public schools and into charter and private schools. The Assembly's bill will make the SC program "universal" in its availability, before a more limited pilot program aimed at the poorest families has even started or been assessed!

On **THE ACQUISITION OF LIBRARY BOOKS**, the State Board of Education's controversial "Rule 43-170" which would give Ellen Weaver's office the power to choose what books are appropriate for students in public schools, appears to be stuck in committee in the Statehouse. It's unclear if a provision for automatic adoption will go into effect in June, or if the legislature will amend it. If the state ends up curating book collections, it will amount to mass censorship of books in classrooms and school libraries--books on social justice, race, slavery, and sexuality will all face long odds. This is being promoted by extremist groups like Moms for Liberty.

Continued next page...

SUMMERVILLE BRANCH NAACP IN
COLLABORATION WITH SUMMERVILLE ALUMNAE
DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC PRESENTS

PRESERVING OUR LEGACY THROUGH VOTING

VOTER REGISTRATION, EDUCATION AND
ENGAGEMENT



SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024
3:00 PM

• Special Guest Speaker Former
Senator Dr. Maggie Wallace
Glover

Brownsville Community Church Of God
Family Life Center
920 West 1st North Street
Summerville, SC 29483

CALLING ALL CHURCHES, DIVINE 9, AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS!
FOOD TRUCKS WILL BE AVAILABLE!

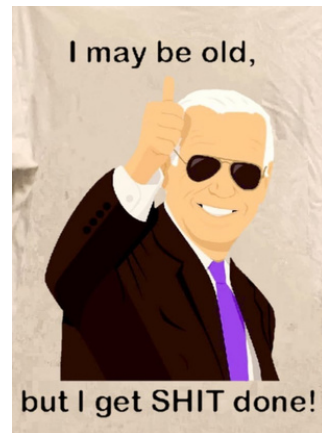
Statehouse Watch

On **THE SELECTION OF JUDGES**, the legislature is moving very slowly to reform a corrupt process in which lawyer-legislators in the Assembly and Senate choose the very judges in front of whom they argue cases. It appears that the Governor will have some role in nominating judges for consideration; that the panel selecting judges for consideration will be broadened; and the role of lawyer-legislators may be limited (despite ferocious lobbying against it).

On **ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION**, the Assembly has advanced a radical bill that gives Dominion and Santee Cooper the right to build a new natural gas-fired plant and avoid most of the controls established to protect the rights of the rate-payers (that is, us) in the process. The Assembly bill would gut a healthy Public Service Commission and make it much harder to regulate the activities of the two utilities.

On **A HATE CRIMES BILL**, nothing, still. The Senate refuses to take up the Assembly's ancient bill, leaving South Carolina as one of only two states without a hate crimes statute (Wyoming being the other). *FYI Cities around the state are passing their own Hate Crimes laws. Summerville is considering one now.*

David M. Rubin
April 11, 2024



Newsletter Contributors

ReZsaun Lewis, DCDP Chair
Debra Whitfield
David Rubin
John Ptolemy
Gwen Greenwalt
Aniya Cohen, editor

"When you (Democrats) start winning elections, you can stop whining."--SC Republican Senate leader Shane Massey to Sen. Deon Tedder. In response, Tedder and David Pascoe will join forces to get Democrats elected statewide. Let's make it a movement!

Donate

