



## BLUE NOTE

WINTER 2026  
VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

*To my fellow Democrats and  
the Lowcountry community,*

*Regardless of the final outcome of the District 98 Special Election, one thing is certain: you showed up, you showed out, and you showed the State that there are no "safe red districts" when we organize and work together.*

I want to start by recognizing the tireless work and outstanding effort of Dr. Sonja Ogletree Satani and her campaign team; there's no race to be won without you stepping up and answering the call to serve once again. To our Dorchester County precinct leaders, our partners in Charleston and the Peninsula, Jeni Atchley and the House Caucus, and my fellow Chairs and volunteers across the South Carolina Democratic Party—thank you. But a special point of pride goes to our own **Team Take 98**, led by Rita Adkins and Gray Somerville. For 90 days, you didn't just volunteer; you took ownership of this mission. Whether you sent a single postcard or led our strategy sessions, you are the reason we are standing where we are tonight.

When I was elected Chair, I promised a "we, not me" philosophy. What WE have built over the last nine months is nothing short of phenomenal. Your efforts and dedication have helped make a 10 percentage point race a 21-vote mandatory recount. You have proven that our values can persevere over gerrymandering, voter suppression, and the weight of decades of voter disillusionment.

Look at the math: In District 98, we are currently just one vote (21) per precinct (22) away from a different reality. That is not a gap; it's a bridge.

We don't need to manufacture election integrity crises or point fingers when things get hard. We do the work. We run on platforms of real policy—schools that thrive, healthcare that's accessible, and a government that works for people, not just large donors and corporations.

To everyone who has been watching this race across South Carolina and especially here in the Lowcountry: March is coming. Between now and the March filing deadline, we have a historic opportunity to change the landscape of our state. If you have ever felt the call to serve your community as an elected leader, the time to run is now. We have the infrastructure. We have the momentum and we have the organizational effectiveness to help you win.

For those for whom running for office is either not your calling, or not in the cards this cycle, we need your time, your talent, and your support just as urgently. Twenty-one votes is the difference of 1 extra door knocked, call answered, or hand shaken in each precinct, and that isn't any single person's problem, it's all of ours. We own the outcome of every race collectively.

We can't afford to ignore the opportunity and momentum we have. We need all of you! Whether it's as a candidate, a volunteer, a donor, or a voter, your efforts make the difference between rhetoric and results.

With gratitude and immense appreciation,  
Michael Fronk  
Chair, Dorchester County  
South Carolina Democratic Party

## DCDP MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

**February 14 and March 14  
10 AM to 12 PM**

This meeting is in-person and  
online via **Zoom**

New Bethel Sounds of Praise Church  
351 Greyback Rd., Summerville

This meeting is open to ALL members of the  
Dorchester County Democratic Party.  
Please register on the website, or click [here](#).

## WESTERN DORCHESTER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CLUB (WDCDC) MEETINGS

In-person, 4th Mondays

**January 26,  
6:30 to 7:30 PM**

Open to members and aspiring members.

**Guest Speaker**

**Councilman Peter Smith, Jr.**

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

Contact Tim Lewis for scheduled speakers,  
at [timlewis75@gmail.com](mailto:timlewis75@gmail.com)

The next meeting dates are  
February 23 and March 23.

## Democracy in Action

Date: Saturday, January 24

Time: 1:00PM-3:00PM

Location: Brittlebank Park, 185 Lockwood Dr.,  
Charleston

Sponsor: The Resistance Coalition

Needed: A couple of DCDP members to man a  
DCDP table. Contact: Alexia K. Niketas, DCDP  
1st Vice Chair (404) 932-4861.

The pro-democracy organizations attending will  
talk about what they do.

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## The final RECOUNT stats for the District 98 Special Election:

Number of Registered voters: 24,408  
Votes cast: 3,440  
Republican: 1,728  
Democrat: 1,707  
Write-in: 5

This is a perfect example of the importance of  
voting in every election. In District 98, there are  
22 precincts, so all we needed was one or two  
more Democratic votes in each precinct!

A new motto for Democrats,  
“IF I VOTE, WE CAN WIN!”

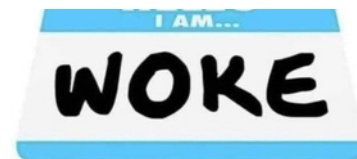
## More Elections this Year!!

Voters in Dorchester County will have another  
opportunity to flip a seat in March, in the  
Special Election for County Council District 6,  
currently held by Bill Hearn (R).

Check [DorchesterDemocrats.com](http://DorchesterDemocrats.com) for more  
information, as it's made available.

June Primaries and Fall Elections for:  
SC Governor

US Senator--(Lindsey Graham)  
1st Congressional District--(Nancy Mace)  
4 other Dorchester County Council seats  
(All of these positions are currently held by  
Republicans.)



**Woke means**  
*awakened to the needs of others.  
To be well informed, thoughtful,  
compassionate, humble, and kind.  
Eager to make the world a better  
place for all people.*

# DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS

WINTER 2026



Click on the [link](#) for the speech MLK delivered (4/4/1967, Riverside Church, NY, NY) on the US's "disgraceful commitment" in Vietnam, "the deeper malady within the American spirit," and the need for "a revolution of values." He was assassinated, in Memphis, TN, exactly 1 year later .

## Upper Dorchester MLK Day Parade

Date: Sunday, January 18

Time: 1:00 PM line up; 2:30PM parade begins

Location: 9221 Charleston Hwy, St. George

POC: Tim Lewis, 843-560-9210 for meeting directions and meeting location to line up.

## MLK Freedom Fund and Scholarship Banquet

Guest Speaker: State Senator Margie Bright Matthews

Date: Saturday, January 17

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Shady Grove Family Life Center, 9140 Charleston Hwy, St. George

Sponsored by: the St. George Branch of the NAACP

Tickets \$45 for an individual, and \$160 for a table.

POC: Dr. Joyce W. Davis, 843-636-4031 or Ms.

Rosa Brown 843-701-2062

## Annual MLK Day Community Breakfast

(Open to the public - just show up for fellowship)

Date: Monday, January 19

Time: 9:00 AM

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

Sponsored / Hosted by Ms. Betty Carn

POC: Betty Carn: 862-324-2100,

[bhcarn@gmail.com](mailto:bhcarn@gmail.com)



**NDTC Trainings are Free. Here are some ways you can take action:**

**Mon, Jan 12 @ 7pm**

Three Steps to Establishing Your Campaign ›

**Tue, Jan 13 @ 1pm**

Calculating Your Vote Goal ›

**Wed, Jan 14 @ 1pm**

Using Power Mapping to Target Key Community Stakeholders ›

**Wed, Jan 21 @ 1pm**

Developing Your Local Democratic Party's Structure and Priorities ›

**Thu, Jan 22 @ 1pm**

Planning Your Fundraising Strategy ›

**Mon, Jan 26 @ 1pm**

Field Tactics 101 ›

Volunteer Opportunities, Events, and Petitions Near Me • NDTC on Mobilize

Find events, petitions, volunteer opportunities, fundraisers and more with NDTC.

 Mobilize

All times Eastern

To sign up, go to <https://www.mobilize.us/ndtc/> or click [here](#).

## Pre-filed Bills: SAME OLD GRANDSTANDING, BUT NOT ENTIRELY by David Rubin

The super-majority Republican legislature will reconvene in Columbia on January 13. The 327 pieces of legislation filed so far, with hundreds more to come, provide clues about the typically wild ride ahead. Here is a preview.

Not surprisingly, Republicans will continue to duck difficult meat and potatoes issues that could make South Carolina a better state. Don't expect meaningful action to modernize the transportation infrastructure, improve K-12 education, expand access to health care, or address affordability issues.

Divisive cultural issues will provide grandstanding Republicans with their most comfortable platform. These include reproductive rights, DEI, and gender. (Gun rights should get a legislative rest since South Carolina already has few limits on its expansive interpretation of the Second Amendment.)

Medical abortion will be under attack as legislators seek to limit access to mifepristone and misoprostol.

To further protect the "rights" of the unborn, legislators will propose the option of wrongful death civil actions, with either the mother or father of the unborn as plaintiff. The intent is to frighten anyone--a medical care provider, spouse, relative, friend--from in any way encouraging or facilitating an abortion. All could end up as defendants in these civil actions.

On DEI, the Legislature will follow the edict of Governor McMaster and cease considering issues of race or gender in awarding state contracts. The Legislature will try to erase all traces of affirmative action from state statutes.

"While I Breathe, I Hope," is the South Carolina state motto. ["While I Breathe,"](#) is the SC ACLU's Podcast, that features interviews with people living and working through the most important civil liberties battles of our time. Episode 18, is the 2025 Legislative Year in review; Episode 17, A Total Abortion Ban; Episodes 15 and 16 are about ICE in SC. Click on the link to listen and learn.

On gender, legislation will decide which bathroom individuals can use in schools or public facilities. The gender recorded at birth will dictate whether it's the men's or women's room.

Cultural issues aside, a few positive achievements could come out of the 2026 session. The Legislature might finally fix the manner in which judges are selected in South Carolina and end the practice of lawyer/legislators choosing the very judges in front of whom they argue cases. The Legislature might adopt "concurrency" as a mandate to developers and local governments. This means the explosive development in housing would have to be matched by a similar and concurrent development of the roads, schools, water and sewer systems to support it. No longer would infrastructure be an afterthought.

The Legislature might revise the state income tax rate, but this time around, not do it in a manner that raises taxes on the poor and lowers them on the rich. Sound familiar?

As Jack O'Toole suggested in The Statehouse Report, Democrats ought not expect any action to close the Charleston loophole on background checks for gun ownership, or passage of a state-wide hate crimes bill.

To address those issues, and many others of consequence, Democrats need more members in the chamber. That means more good candidates, more motivated Democratic voters, and some wins.

David M. Rubin is a retired educator and frequent contributor to "Speaking Freely," on the [DorchesterDemocrats.com](https://www.dorchesterdemocrats.com) Blog page, or click on the link.

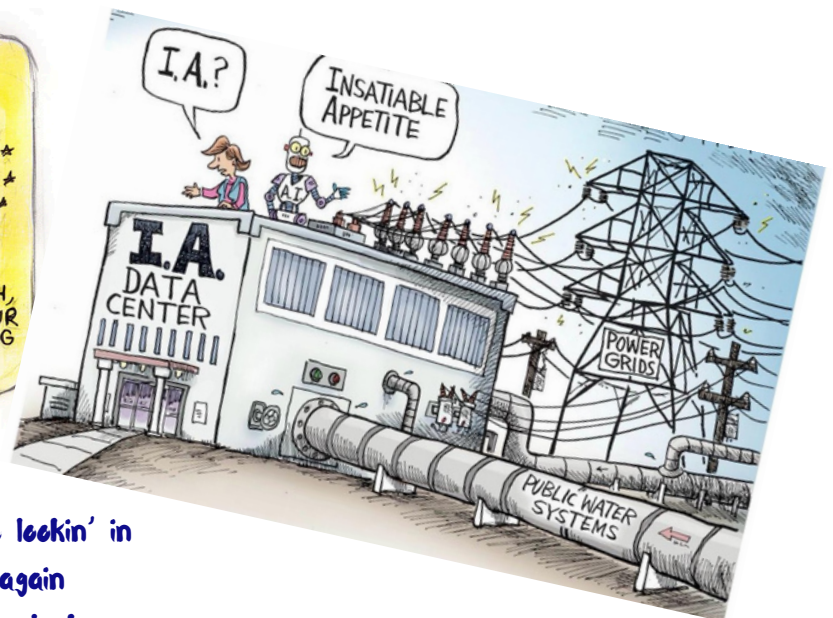
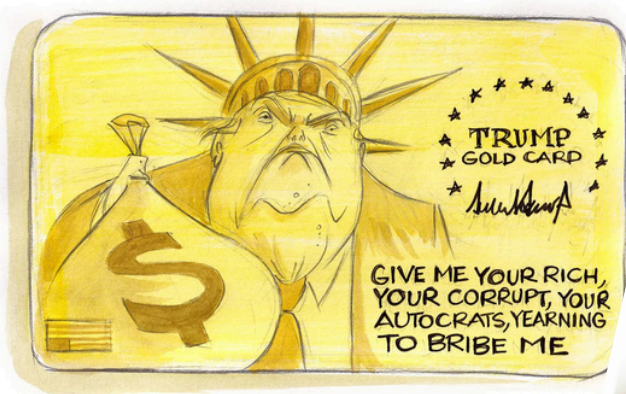
## PARTING SHOTS

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A British doctor says: "In Britain, medicine is so advanced that we cut off a man's liver, put it in another man and in 6 wks, he's looking for a job."

The German doctor says: "That's nothing, in Germany we took part of a brain, put it in another man and in 4 wks he is looking for a job."

The American doctor laughs: "You are all behind us. A few months ago, we took a man with no brain, no heart and no liver and made him President. Now the whole country is looking for a job!"



"You don't change a party from the outside lookin' in  
You don't win a war just complainin' again  
They took the house by the keys and the locks  
While we were shoutin', they were claimin' the  
blocks

If you wanna turn the tide, if you wanna redeem it  
It's precinct by precinct  
Or you don't mean it."

— from Louise's Daily Song "Precinct by Precinct"

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# Donate



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