



# DCDP BLUE NOTE

WINTER 2025  
VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

*From the Chair*

## **BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE TOGETHER**

***As we reflect on this past election season, the Dorchester County Democratic Party stands more committed than ever to the work ahead. While the results may not have aligned with our aspirations, the passion, dedication, and resilience shown by our members and supporters inspire hope for a brighter tomorrow.***

This is not the end of our story—it's a new chapter. Every vote cast, every door knocked, every conversation held brought us closer to our goals and reaffirmed the values we hold dear: equity, justice, and opportunity for all. Our work doesn't stop at the ballot box; it begins anew with each step we take together toward positive change in our community.

Moving forward, we have a plan to build on the momentum we've created:

- 1. Strengthening Our Grassroots:** We will expand our outreach efforts to engage and empower more members of our community. This means listening to their concerns and ensuring they feel heard and valued in the political process.
- 2. Developing Future Leaders:** Investing in leadership development programs will prepare the next generation of Democratic candidates and advocates to champion our shared values.

**3. Advancing Key Issues:** We will continue advocating for policies that reflect our commitment to healthcare access, quality education, economic justice, and environmental stewardship.

**4. Fostering Unity and Collaboration:** Together, we are stronger. By working closely with like-minded organizations and community leaders, we can amplify our impact and drive meaningful change.

This year, we invite each of you to be part of this vision. Whether you attend a meeting, volunteer for an event, or simply engage in conversations that matter, your participation will make a difference.

The road ahead may be challenging, but it is also filled with possibility. Together, as one united party, we will continue to advocate, organize, and fight for the values we believe in.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to our shared mission. Let's roll up our sleeves and get to work—because the best is yet to come!

In solidarity,  
*ReZsaun Lewis*  
Chair, Dorchester County Democratic Party

***"Let your anger fuel your action, not deter you from acting."--Senator Cory Booker (D.- NJ)***

## DCDP MEMBERSHIP MEETING

In-Person and Zoom

February 8, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**New Bethel Sounds of Praise**

351 Greyback Rd,  
Summerville, SC 29483

**Guest Speaker: Peter Smith, Jr.**

Candidate for District 1,  
Dorchester County Council.

Please sign up on the website at  
[dorchesterdemocrats.com](http://dorchesterdemocrats.com)

**We meet on the 2nd Saturday  
of each month.**

The next General Meeting will be on April 12.

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

February 20, 7 PM via ZOOM  
Sign up on the [Events](#) page.

### DCDP'S ANNUAL COUNTY CONVENTION

Saturday, March 8

This is where we elect officers and  
representatives to serve for the next two  
years. Check the website for time and  
location. [Dorchesterdemocrats.com](http://Dorchesterdemocrats.com)

### WESTERN DORCHESTER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CLUB MEETING

In-person

4th Mondays: February 24,  
March 24, April 28

Time: 6:30 PM

Open to members and aspiring members.  
Classy Sassy Salon,  
421 N. Parler Ave., St. George

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

## GOTV REPORT FOR 2024 GENERAL ELECTION

We had over 100 volunteers  
Who sent 75k Text messages  
Knocked on 1250 doors  
Wrote 2900 postcards  
Waved signs, reaching hundreds more

The result was a 30% increase in turnout over  
2022.

Please volunteer to help with the campaign of  
the Democratic Primary winner, Peter J. Smith  
Jr, who is running to fill the 1st Seat on the  
Dorchester County Council!! Special Election  
Day is March 25.

Contact *Debra Whitfield*  
DCDP 1st Vice Chair/GOTV Coordinator  
email [debra1whitfield@gmail.com](mailto:debra1whitfield@gmail.com)

### COFFEE TALK

1st Saturday's

Feb 1, March 1, April 5, May 3

2:30 TO 4:00 PM

**Luxe Bar and Bistro**  
**1430 Central Ave**

We had a very exciting 2024 with 187 new  
members reaching out to us and 87 motivated  
new members who attended our Coffee talks.  
They played critical roles in our get out the vote  
efforts for the 2024 election and represent great  
potential for our future. Special thanks go out to  
ReZsaun, Richard and Debra for attending the  
coffee talks to generate the enthusiasm we  
need for our next steps in 2025. Sign up at  
[dorchesterdemocrats.com](http://dorchesterdemocrats.com)

Contact *John Ptolemy*  
New Members Coordinator,  
email [ptolemy@hotmail.com](mailto:ptolemy@hotmail.com)

# DORCHESTER COUNTY DEMOCRATS NEED YOUR HELP NOMINATING OUR NEW SLATE OF OFFICERS

WINTER 2025

Over the next four weeks, the Dorchester County Democratic Party (DCDP) Nomination Committee (Debbie Lodge, Tim Lewis, and Brenson Ravenell) is formally calling for nominations for County party officers (all to two-year terms).

We NEED you to run for these offices! As leaders of our County Party, you will be critical for the successful future of our DCDP and help turn Dorchester County Blue! This committee is accepting nominations for the following County Party officers:

Chair  
First Vice Chair  
Second Vice-Chair  
Third Vice Chair  
State Executive Committeewoman  
Alternate State Executive Committeewoman  
State Executive Committeeman  
Alternate State Executive Committeeman.

Nominations for these positions will be reviewed and considered by the nominating committee, and their recommendations will be presented at our **2025 County Convention on March 8.**

The Nominating Committee's duties include identifying, recruiting, and interviewing candidates for the above-mentioned County Party elected positions. The committee will then select the top candidates and recommend them as a slate to the Party Convention. Additional nominations can be made from the floor at the County Convention on March 8.

If you are interested in running for County office, please contact Committee Chair Debbie Lodge, before Feb 26, at (843)-513-9587, or [debbie.b.lodge@gmail.com](mailto:debbie.b.lodge@gmail.com).

The Nominating Committee will then determine which nominees are most qualified to fill Dorchester County Democratic Party offices. Key criteria include County party experience, energy and leadership ability.

Those running for Chair can also submit recommendations for the other party officers. Anyone can nominate others, not just themselves and a chair candidate. The committee could submit two candidates who both deserve consideration for any office. In accordance with our By Laws, the First Vice Chair must be of a different gender than the Chair; Second Vice Chair must be a different race than the Chair; and the 3rd Vice Chair must be at least 18 years old and shall not have reached 36 years of age.

The Nominating Committee shall provide the names of the slate of candidates to be placed in nomination at the County Party Convention on March 8. Please note that nominations may also be made from the floor at the County Convention meeting.

Chair, Nominating Committee

**This is not a time for silence. Make That Call!  
It's Easier Than You Think**

If you haven't already called the offices of Senators Graham and Scott to prevent them from rubber-stamping Trump's unqualified picks for cabinet secretaries, please do so ASAP! Gabbard, Kennedy, Vought and Patel gotta go! Also, we must express outrage at Musk invading our Treasury department and taking over servers without authorization, thus compromising the private information of All Americans. Get the "[5 Calls](#)" app or click on the link.

Lindsey Graham: 202-224-5972

Tim Scott: 202-224-6121

WINTER 2025



# PETER SMITH JR.

## County Council Seat #1

- Born and raised on a farm in Dorchester, SC
- Married to Evonne Smith for the past 29 years
- 3 Children - Javonne, Peter III, and Shavonne Smith
- 1993 Graduate of Harleyville-Ridgeville High School
- Joined the United States Navy in August 1993
- Graduate of The Navy School of Dental Assistant and Technology
- Attended Long Beach City College
- Graduated from C.R. England Truck Driving School
- Attending Charleston Southern University.
- Worked as a Dental Assistant at the V.A. Hospital in Long Beach, CA and in Atlanta, GA
- Medical Retired from the V.A. Hospital in Charleston, SC
- Founder of the Dorchester Back to School Bash
- Co-founder of the P. Saxmore Foundation
- Co-Founder of the Dorchester Veggie Giveaways
- Owner of Saxmore Farms LLC
- Owner of Saxmore Catering (formerly known as Taste of the South Catering)
- Member of SC Black Farmers out of St. Helena Island, SC
- Member of the Rural Coalition out of Washington, DC which meets each year on Capital Hill to discuss the Farm Bill
- Member of the Woodlands Conservation Advocate for the Center for Heirs' Property Preservation
- Board member of Rural Roots Co-Op, Orangeburg, SC which helps farmers in Orangeburg & surrounding areas
- Member of the Community Advisory Board for SCACED (South Carolina Association for Community Economic Development - helping in rural areas across South Carolina)



PayPal

**Committee to Elect  
Peter Smith Jr.**  
**Scan. Pay. Go.**

**I am asking for your  
vote & support for  
Dorchester County  
Council Seat #1.**

*Please help with donations by  
scanning the QR Code at left.*

**ELECTION DAY is  
March 25th**

Polls will be open from 7  
AM to 7 PM.

Go to [SCvotes.gov](https://SCvotes.gov) to  
check your voter  
registration and polling  
place.

Help Elect a Real  
Democrat to the  
Dorchester County  
Council!!

Website: click [here](#).

To donate to Peter's  
campaign scan the QR  
code, or login to your  
PayPal account and go  
to **"Committee to Elect  
Peter Smith Jr"**

**"My work as a member  
of SC Black Farmers,  
the Rural Coalition, and  
several advisory boards  
and co-ops  
demonstrates my  
dedication to supporting  
rural areas, advocating  
for farmers, and  
preserving local  
resources."**

**--Peter Smith Jr.**

# DORCHESTER DEMS SHOW UP AND SHOW OUT

for Rev. Martin Luther King Commemorations

WINTER 2025

in St. George,  
on January 18th and 19th



NAACP MLK Banquet  
with Representative Jim Clyburn



Annual MLK Parade

THE DORCHESTER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESENTS

## THE CICENIA DINNER

### SAVE THE DATE

### MARCH 1, 2025

**6 O'CLOCK IN  
THE EVENING**

Social hour starting @  
5 o'clock in the evening

**THE KLAUBER  
BUILDING**

225 North Parler Avenue  
Saint George, South Carolina  
29477

**A BLACK TIE  
AFFAIR**

Black or Blue Attire  
Requested

SCAN  
THE QR  
CODE FOR  
TICKETS



FOR THE  
LOVE OF  
**BLUE**

A FUNDRAISER FOR THE DORCHESTER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

### Help Us Celebrate Black History Month

Trump ("Felon 45") has directed the State Dept. to "downplay" **Black History Month**, but we can recognize and celebrate it more than ever by sharing special events, videos, articles and music on the Dorchester Democrats Members page, on Facebook, or send an email to [dordemsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:dordemsnewsletter@gmail.com), put **BHM** in the subject line.

### New Year, New and Old Challenges

Do you know that some residents in Dorchester County don't know there's a Democratic Party here? Our February Executive Committee meeting will seek to address visibility and communication issues and determine focus for 2025.

### Help us by answering this question:

Where do you get your news?

Please be specific. Include TV stations and shows, radio, podcasts, magazines, newspapers, social media, specific people and organizations you follow for political news.

Please send your answers to [dordemsnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:dordemsnewsletter@gmail.com) and put "Survey" in the subject line. **Thank you!**

If ICE comes to your door--know your rights, save lives. **Red Cards** to share with immigrant friends.

**PAID FOR BY THE DORCHESTER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

## SC Pre-filed Bills

There are [153 pre-filed Senate bills](#) and even [more in the House](#), including bad bills concerning school vouchers, criminal law, trans children and women's rights.

### Abortion death penalty

Senators Harris, Magnuson, Chumley, Burns, Long and Kilmartin have reintroduced a bill ([H. 3537](#)) the "SC Prenatal Equal Protection Act." making abortion a crime punishable by the death penalty.

**What you can do:** 1. [Write to the House Judiciary Committee](#) urging them to dismiss this outrageous bill. This is what stopped a similar bill in Louisiana. 2. Support Planned Parenthood South Atlantic.

**Write to Senator Sean Bennett (R-38)**, Chair of the Senate Ethics Committee. Let him know that if he does not stand up to the "performative" politics that is endangering our minds and bodies, he is just as guilty and extreme as the legislators championing these bad bills. Also let him know that you support the pre-filed bills below.

### Good bills we should urge our lawmakers to support:

**S. 3** to amend the law that prohibits a person convicted of a felony from voting and reinstate those rights (Senator Jackson)

**S. 7** to enact the "Red Flags Act" that would allow law enforcement to remove firearms from imminent risk persons (Senator Jackson)

**S. 14** to exempt baby food and baby formula from sales tax (Senators Hutto, Reichenbach and Zell)

**S. 18** to create the offense of criminally negligent storage of a firearm (Senator Hutto)

**S. 25** to raise the legal marriageable age to 18 (Senator Hutto)

**S. 27** to protect the right to abortion and repeal the 6-week ban (Senator Hutto)

## Book Bans

The SC State Board of Education's Regulation 43-170 now solely defines "age appropriate" material to prohibit any description of "sexual conduct."

- The regulation takes the definition of "sexual conduct" in SC law out of context and does not acknowledge that the law only prohibits descriptions that are "patently offensive references, appealing to prurient interest, and lacking literary, artistic, political or scientific value."
- The regulation allows any parent or guardian to challenge a book in a way that it could be banned from every public school in the state—in the most recent case, a Beaufort parent submitted a challenge to 97 books that has resulted in a year-long review.
- So far this year, the Instructional Materials Review Committee has reviewed a challenge to six books and [removed four of them](#) statewide.

What you can do:

1. Join the [Freedom to Read](#) coalition and follow on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for action items.
2. Keep the contact information for the Instructional Materials Review Committee handy:
  - Dr. Christian Hanley [dr\\_hanley@yahoo.com](mailto:dr_hanley@yahoo.com)
  - Ms. Rita Allison [rnrallison@charter.net](mailto:rnrallison@charter.net)
  - Dr. Cheryl Collier [cacollier@bellsouth.net](mailto:cacollier@bellsouth.net)
  - Ms. Joyce Crimminger [crimmingerj@gmail.com](mailto:crimmingerj@gmail.com)
  - Ms. Tammie Shore [tshore@saludaschools.org](mailto:tshore@saludaschools.org)

*Emily Havener*, Communications Committee  
Look for her blogs on the DCDP website, under [Blogs](#).

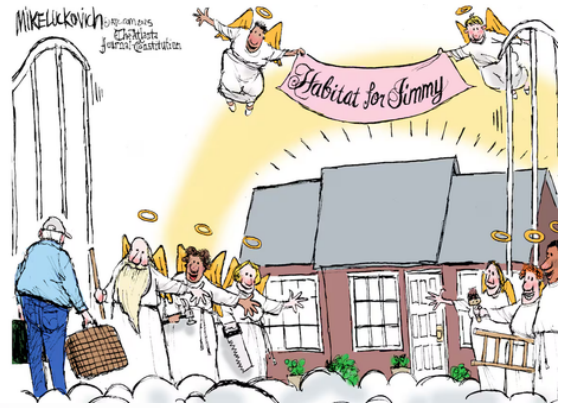
**In a world where fear, misery and animosity are encouraged--love, joy and kindness are acts of defiance.**

BISHOP TAKES KING

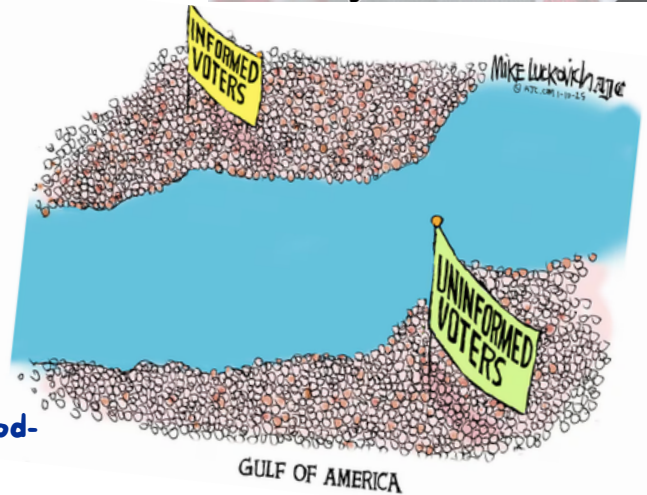


Send a personal **Thank You** to:  
"The Rt. Revd. Marianne E. Budde,  
Episcopal Church House,  
Mount St. Alban,  
Washington, DC 20016-5094

[Trump demands that Bishop apologize for asking for mercy for the marginalized.](#)  
[Click here for article.](#)



**"Thoughtful criticism and close scrutiny of all government officials by the press and the public are an important part of our democratic society."**  
- Jimmy Carter



Newsletter Contributors

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**Donate**

