

BLUE NOTE 2.0

SPRING 2023
VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2



DORCHESTER DEMOCRATS ENJOY TEAM
FELLOWSHIP
AS WE SERVE OUR COMMUNITIES

Harleyville Community Outreach Food Distribution

Dates: Thursday, April 13, May 11, and June 8

Time: 9:30AM-2:00PM

Location: Elem Missionary Baptist Church,
228 Two Churches Rd., Harleyville

St. George Community Outreach Food Distribution

Dates: Saturday, April 22, May 20, and June 17

Time: Two shifts -- 8:30AM-11:30AM and 11:00AM-2:00PM

Setup is 8:30-10:00 and food distribution is 10:00-2:00

Location: Lovely Hill Convention Center,
5905 W. Jim Bilton Blvd, St. George

Please contact either:

Richard Hayes at rhayes73@aol.com

or Tim Lewis at timlewis75@gmail.com

Note: Food distributions will be in Harleyville on the second Thursday of each month, and in St. George on the 4th Saturday of each month--mark your calendars.

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The Dorchester County Democratic Party is off to a great start this Spring! I want to thank all the leaders who have helped us toward our 2023 goals of "Growing the Party" and "Candidate Recruitment." The Communications Team is off and running thanks to their leader David Rubin with help from Pat Tyre, Wendy May, Sally Hebert, Aniya Cohen, Alexia Niketas and Linda Behling.

Our GOTV Team is also off and running with Debra Whitfield and her Power Squadron: currently Barbara Felder and Rosie Holman. And Gwen Greenwalt is working diligently on training new precinct leaders! Tim Lewis is doing double duty, by leading the Western Dorchester Club, and helping me lead our major community outreach project -- Food Distributions in both St. George and Harleyville.

Our Party has been able to reach thousands of voters in our community!!! And it was great to have the Honorable State Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter at our last St. George food distribution!! I want to thank Martha Sue Hope and Ann Marie Finn for keeping us up on the Issues -- we have made our presence known at both DD2 School Board and Dorchester County Council meetings. The results of this increased visibility are new members -- we are growing!

Next up is the State Convention on April 29th at the State Fairgrounds in Columbia. At this convention our County Delegates will be voting on a new SCDP leadership team. I highly recommend you go, even if you are not a delegate. Remember, South Carolina will be the first primary state in the nation, and the planning begins at this Convention!

Finally, please keep your eyes and ears open to help us find great candidates for this year's local general elections and for SC state representative and senator races in 2024 -- **we want Democrats to run in every election!!**

RICHARD HAYES, Chair



Upcoming DCDP General

Monthly Meetings

In-person or virtual

Speakers: Details to follow

Dates: Thursdays, May 11 and June 8

Time: 7:00PM-8:30PM

Open to members and aspiring members. Please bring: A few items for the church's food bank.

Location: Knightsville United Methodist Church, 1505 Central Ave., Summerville

Check our website to signup.

<https://DorchesterDemocrats.com>



WDCDC

Monthly Meetings

In-person

Dates: Mondays, April 24, May 22 and June 26

Time: 6:30PM

Open to members and aspiring members.

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

TOWN ELECTIONS ON 11/7/2023

Will be held in Harleyville, North Charleston, Reevesville, Ridgeville, Summerville and St. George. As more information comes in for the individual towns, it will be posted on our website.



Summerville: Mayor* and three Town Council seats (Districts 2, 4 and 6).

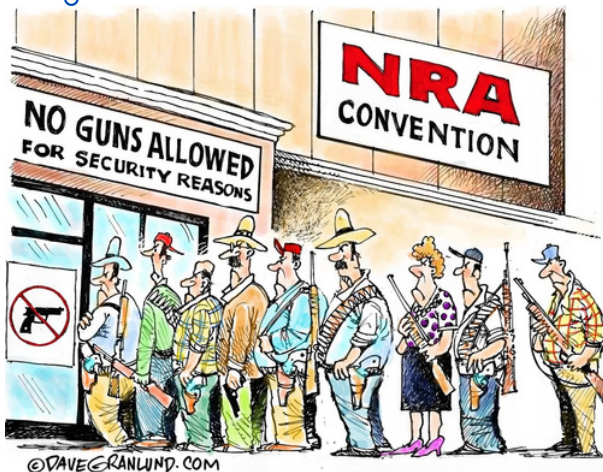
While these races are non-partisan, in this time of hyper-partisanship, we can expect party politics will play a role in our town elections too! Democrats are needed in these positions!

Filing for Mayor and Town Council opens in August. But it's never too early to start fundraising and organizing your team. DCDP is here to help!

If you are not sure of your council district, and for details for the other towns, click [here](#), or visit scvotes.gov/voters. Click "Check Your Voter Registration."

Summerville Town Council meets at 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month, 200 South Main St.

*Summerville Mayor Ricky Waring said he is not running for re-election.



PAID FOR BY THE DORCHESTER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

SPRING 2023



SEEKING SOLUTIONS FOR GUN VIOLENCE

On Sunday April 2nd, Palmetto Hope Network and the Tri-County Gun Violence Coordinating Council held it's **Phase III** Forum with gun owners, at West Ashley High School, in Charleston. (Previous Forums heard from panelists in mental health, medicine, law enforcement and government.)

The consensus among the gun owners on this panel was that **guns are not the problem**. They blamed lack of training and failure to lock guns in cars or home safes; and social, economic and psychological problems. Several observed a malignant lack of compassion and the need to "heal hearts."

IN THE US, THIS YEAR (UP TO 4/2/23)

- 10,566 gun deaths
- 10,000 suicides
- 4,500 homicides
- 8,000 injuries
- 130 shootings

SC is 5th highest in gun deaths in US. The 2017 cost was estimated at \$4.3B.

In the final Forum, **Phase IV**, on May 7, they will present their findings to the community in hopes that participants will implement them in their own respective communities. Due to space limitation, new participants cannot be accepted, but findings and recommendations will be reported to communities for consideration.

DCDP will have a voter registration table at the May 7th Forum, at the College of Charleston.

ENTERS FINAL DESIGN STAGE

from the [Charleston City Paper](#) 3/23/2023

LCRT, the biggest overhaul to public transportation that the state has ever seen, has entered its final phase before construction. Planning for the 23-mile long corridor (in development since 2016) is a cooperative project led by a Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments, that will link the fairgrounds in North Charleston to the hospital district in Charleston. A fleet of electric powered buses will serve the area.

After a visit from US Representative Jim Clyburn and Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg last fall, an additional \$100 million was listed on Biden's budget for the project earlier this year. (In all, SC is to receive more than \$1.2 Billion in Build Back Better Infrastructure funds for ports, planes, trains, and automobiles.)

Work is expected to begin as early as 2026. Once they get closer to the final design there will be another round of community engagement. Per the article, a Washington study projected that, in the beginning, the ridership from Summerville would be insufficient to warrant extending the line from the State Fairgrounds north.

VOTING IN SC

Go to [SCvotes.gov](#) to Register to vote, check your registration, update your address, look up upcoming elections and check election results.

The **2022 Annual Report**, by the SC Election Commission, is available. To get a pdf of the full 35-page report, with county-by-county data on SC Voting in 2022, click [here](#).

Check out SC Voting Rights Laws and new Bills at [Voting Rights Lab](#). Sign up for email updates. Click [here](#).

UPDATE ON STATEHOUSE BILLS

April 10 was crossover, the deadline by which a bill must be passed in one chamber in order cross to the other. A delayed bill can crossover, with a 2/3 vote from its chamber. Click [here](#) for the bills that made it.

Some that have crossed over are Paid Parental Leave for school employees, School Vaucher, a bill that would streamline the state's adoption process, one that waives the state sales tax on feminine hygiene products, the Hate Crimes bill, and Bond Reform. A couple Fentanyl bills have passed both chambers and are in subcommittees.

The SC Compassionate Care Act, bills to ban books and CRT, and the Senate's Medical Marijuana bill did not cross; nor did any Anti-Trans bills, but one still could, per Mayaan Schechter, politics reporter for **The State**. Listen to her interview with Gavin Jackson, on the [SC Lede](#) podcast, 4/15/23. Understand these bills and Support Transgender Youth [here](#).

Because this is the first year of the 125th Legislative Session (2023-2024), a bill that doesn't pass this year will have a chance to do so next year. This year *Sine Die*, legislative adjournment, is May 11.

Note that, despite GOP infighting, [8 bills](#) have become law this year; two of them received bipartisan support and concern Dorchester County school districts: H 3254, the repeal of restrictions on cash reserves that may be held by DD2 and DD4; and H 3961*, to change the method of electing board of education members for DD2, from members-at-large to single-member districts.

*Though Democrats support H 3961, the Republicans' goal is to radicalize the DD2 school board, per the Moms for Liberty playbook. (See "Resist Book Banning" next page.)

Notably, the SC House and Senate have not come up with an Abortion Bill their members can agree upon, so the 20-week Abortion Law is still operative in the state. The most extreme House version, supported by 21 Republicans, would make abortion from conception a capital crime--a woman could be charged with murder and punished accordingly! Read or listen to the Washington Post Opinion by Kathleen Parker, on 3/31/2023. Click [here](#).

Stuck in Committee in the House

The SC [Prenatal Equal Protection](#) Act of 2023, has not made it out of the House Committee--this would give an 'unborn child' equal protection against assault, decoded, it would establish 'fetal personhood,' which extremists want in order to charge a mother with homicide in cases of abortion, or other injury to the fetus.

RESIST BOOK BANNING

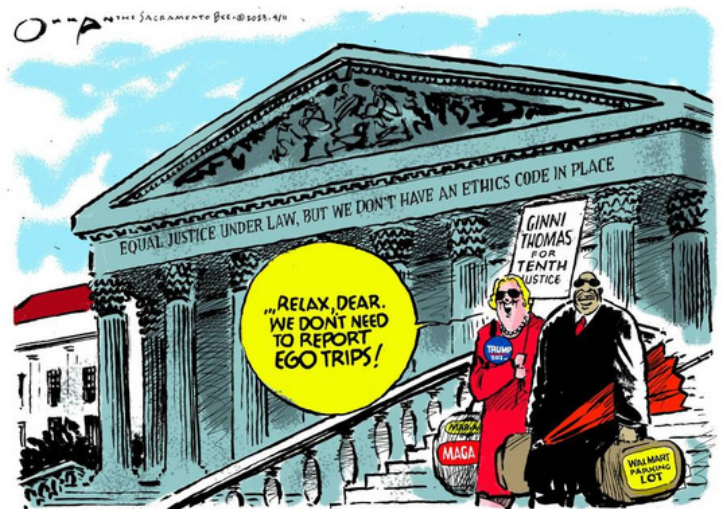
[Moms for Liberty](#), a far right parents' rights group, that wants to ban CRT, Black history and LGBTQ books, recently flipped the Charleston County school board, and has zeroed in on Dorchester District 2. We must prevent this and all it entails. Get involved, come to the school board meeting, on Monday, April 24, 6 PM (get there by 5:30 PM), to stand with concerned parents and friends of DD2, who are fighting back for the right for our children to read. The Board of Education building is at 815 South Main St., Summerville.

Other Allies: ACLU SC's "Freedom to Read Coalition" [here](#). Follow this issue with its 'bad bills,' hearings and events, on Facebook at "Freedom to Read SC," or click [here](#). Buxton Books, on King Street, Charleston, has more organization links on their website [here](#).

ETHICS CRISIS IN THE HIGH COURT

The Supreme Court of the US would like us to believe that justices are above reproach and have no need for ethics rules, but recent disclosures of lavish gifts (totaling in the millions) from a wealthy Republican donor to Judge Clarence Thomas over the past 20 years are raising doubts. Read the ProPublica Report [here](#).

"Every second on the yacht I wished I were in a Walmart parking lot." Read satire opinion piece from the Washington Post [here](#).



NEW SCOTUS ETHICS RULE

Before the above story broke. on 4/6/23, another group of judges, the Judicial Conference, forced this through. Supreme Court justices are under new ethics disclosures on trips, other gifts. SCOTUS justices and all federal judges must provide a fuller public accounting of free trips, meals and other gifts they accept from corporations or other organizations, per these revised regulations quietly adopted on 3/28/23. Watch the Lawrence O'Donnell interview with Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), a longtime crusader for SCOTUS reform, [here](#).

For more details, read this article from [Reuters](#) and another by Heather Cox Richardson [here](#).

More Abortion Chaos

A far right, Trump-appointed Federal Judge, in Texas, has banned top abortion drug, mifepristone nationwide, on grounds that FDA used a faulty approval process in 2000. This drug has been in use for 23 years and has proven to be safer than Tylenol or viagra! The Biden administration appealed to the conservative Fifth District Court of Appeals which upheld the TX ruling.

SCOTUS's Samuel Alito issued a partial stay for the TX ruling. Will the high court take its previous stance that the states should decide abortion matters? If this ruling is upheld, it will undermine FDA's authority to regulate drugs; even pharmaceutical companies are also opposed to this. Note: at least 53% of citizens polled believe that medication abortions should be legal.

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES

Dominion Voting Systems vs Fox News

On 3/31/23, Delaware Superior Court Judge Eric Davis ruled in favor of Dominion Voting Systems in a key point of the company's lawsuit against the Fox News Corporation for defamation. Davis wrote, "The evidence developed in this civil proceeding demonstrates that [it] is CRYSTAL clear that none of the Statements relating to Dominion about the 2020 election are true."

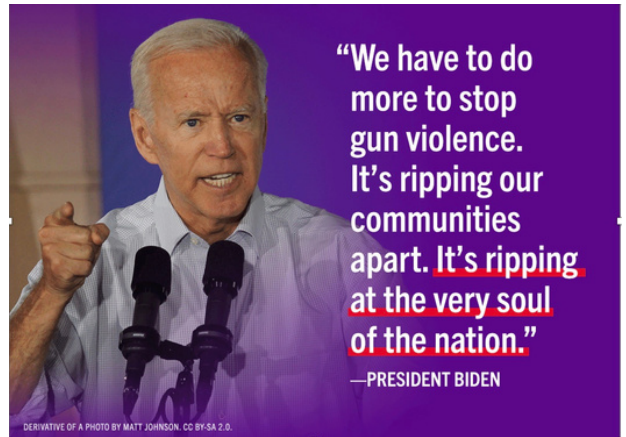
Rather than go to trial, Fox abruptly settled out of court for a whopping \$787.5 million! This was big news on all the networks, except Fox. See NBC article here. Fox still faces a \$2.7B defamation lawsuit from Smartmatic.

Rebuffing Liars

US Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD), "Our Entire System is based upon the ability to tell the difference between the Truth and Lies!!!" Watch the video here. (9 minutes)

MAGA floor speeches BACKFIRE

when Dems turn up the HEAT. Meidas Touch videos with Jamie Raskin, Hakeem Jeffries and others taking down MAGA nonsense in the US House. Click here.



PRESIDENT BIDEN'S EXECUTIVE ORDER TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE

With continuing mass shootings calling for some kind of national response, Biden's new directive largely aims to enforce last year's Bipartisan Safer Communities Act and to encourage more background checks. Read the Fact Sheet here.

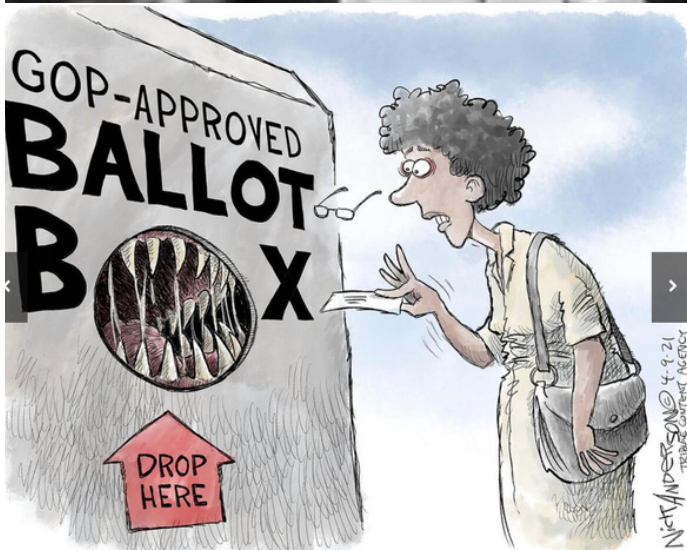
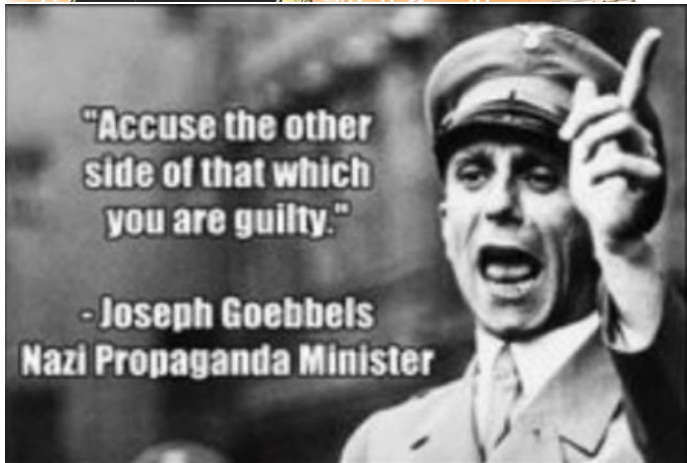
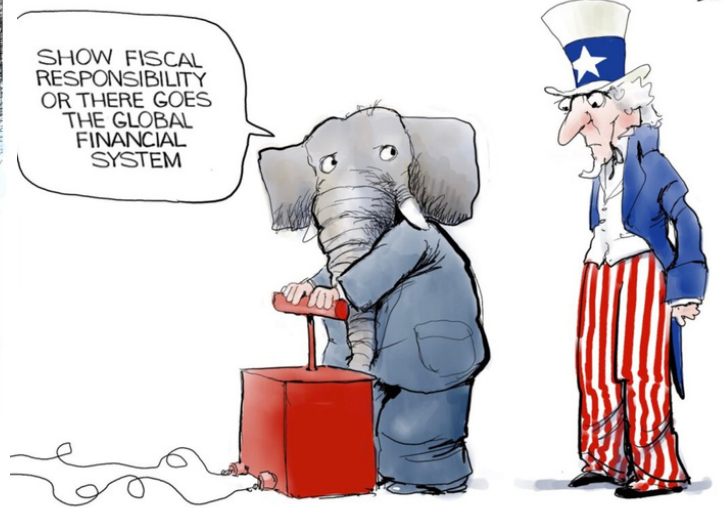
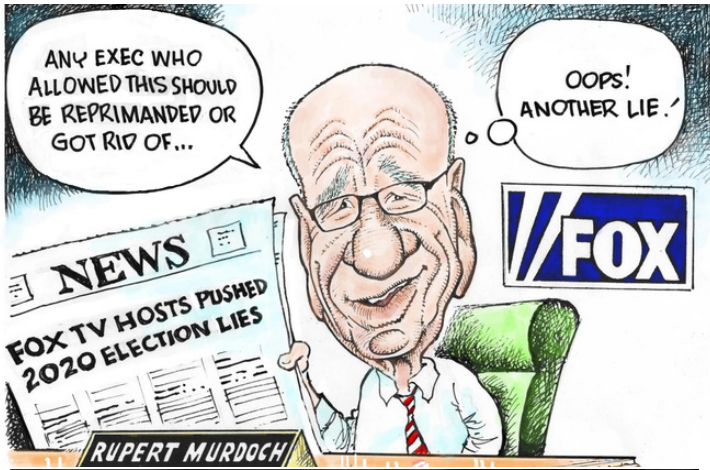


Trump's First Indictment

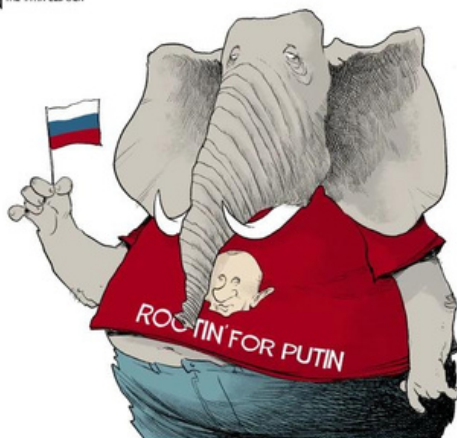
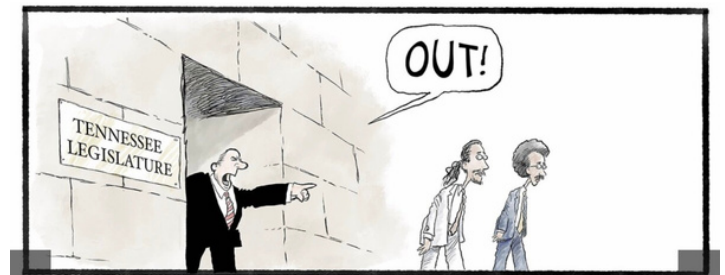
In a Tweet, MSNBC's Medhi Hassan gives us some perspective, "what's remarkable isn't that Trump has been arraigned in Manhattan, on charges of Election campaign fraud in the hush money case, but that after 5 decades of being a one-man crime wave, he's finally going to have his day in court!" The trial is scheduled for this October.

A Nightmare for Trump

On another front, E. Jean Carroll's civil assault and defamation case goes to trial on April 25th, in New York, enabled by NY's (new) Adult Survivor's Act, which allows adult victims of sexual assault to bring civil claims years after an attack. Click here for the article.



"If you have to make laws to hurt a group of people just to prove your morals and faith, then you have no true morals or faith to prove."



"IS SIDING WITH A HOSTILE FOREIGN POWER OVER OUR ALLIES UNAMERICAN? I SAY NYET."

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO OUR

SPRING 2023



AAPI Heritage Month

Since 1990, the U.S. government has designated the month of May as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, celebrating the achievements and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) in the United States. The theme this year is "Advancing Leaders Through Opportunity." To learn more click [here](#).

Equal Rights Amendment

The ERA will update the US Constitution to protect the equality of rights under the law regardless of sex. The ERA has met all ratification requirements, and now we are urging Congress to act to ensure that the ERA is published.

Inequality hurts everyone. Urge Congress to act now to assert that the ERA is part of the Constitution!

Click [here](#) to send the League of Women Voters' pre-written emails to our representatives in Washington.

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"[W]e stand for our democracy. And we stand for foundational and fundamental principles that have everything to do with freedom, liberty, and equality for all people."

--Vice President [Kamala Harris](#), 4/15/23, at a reproductive rights rally, in Los Angeles.

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