AUGUST 2025 EDITION SCLBC NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the **August 2025** newsletter from the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus (SCLBC). This issue provides an overview of our recent activities and upcoming events, highlighting our continued work on legislative initiatives and community engagement.

MESSAGE FROM THE SCLBC CHAIR

Dear SCLBC Members, Friends and Fellow South Carolinians,

Welcome to our August newsletter!

As the summer season concludes, the work of the SC Legislative Black Caucus continues with vigor. While we prepare for the Fall Legislative Session, we are focused on the significant challenges presented by the current White House administration, including issues of fair representation through **redistricting**, due process in **deportation without due process**, and economic pressures on families. On the state level, we are addressing the effects of federal legislation.

We are actively encouraging municipalities and counties to adopt **"Hate *Crimes"*** ordinances to ensure all individuals are protected and those who commit these acts face consequences. We thank all who have passed these ordinances and urge you to contact your state Senators to pass this vital legislation. We request that all counties and municipalities adopt a hate crimes bill.

August is a time of transition, a quiet period before the busy legislative session, but the political landscape remains active. The Caucus is energized and ready to address the important issues ahead, and your support is essential. We are grateful for your partnership as we champion change for our communities.

The challenges of the current White House administration also serve as a ***"Call to Action."*** The upcoming election is an opportunity for a new direction and meaningful change. We are prepared to fight for a future where justice, equity, and opportunity are a reality for all South Carolinians.

We thank everyone who attended or viewed the livestream of ***"The State of Black South Carolina: Economic Development & Outlook for Minority-Owned Businesses."*** The Summit can be viewed at: ***https://www.youtube.com/live/NGMgxJeLhhcsi=gEkwBpNJ-EN4j5c8***.

We have received requests to take the Summit on the road and host a Part II, so stay tuned for more information. Also, remember to download the SC Legislature App so that you can keep the SC General Assembly with you. ***https://www.scstatehouse.gov/mobileappinfo.php***

On a lighter note, let's channel the passion and team spirit we feel for the new college football season into our work for the betterment of our state.

We hope you are enjoying the final weeks of Summer with your loved ones.

A special thank you to Phil Ford for his sponsorship donation. Thank you for your continued support and for standing with us.

Committed to Justice and Service,
Rep. Annie E. McDaniel, Chair
South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus

BILLS THAT IMPACT US

Please note the SC Hands Free Driving Bill began September 1, 2025.
H.3276 ***https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/bills/3276.htm***

Hate Crime Law Still Warranted In SC

Thank you to local governments which have adopted Hate Crime Ordinances all others to include school districts are encouraged to adopt Hate Crime Ordinances or Policies.

Hate crime ordinances, at both state and local levels, typically aim to provide enhanced penalties for crimes motivated by bias against a victim's race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, disability, or other protected characteristics. These laws acknowledge that crimes driven by prejudice inflict a deeper societal harm beyond the immediate offense, often terrorizing entire communities and undermining social cohesion. By recognizing and punishing such bias, these ordinances seek to deter acts of hate, promote equality, and send a clear message that discrimination-motivated violence will not be tolerated within a jurisdiction. They often work by allowing judges to impose longer sentences or higher fines when a perpetrator's intent to target a victim based on these characteristics is proven.

Despite the prevalence of hate crime legislation in many states, South Carolina remains one of the few without a statewide hate crime law. While federal hate crime statutes can be applied in certain cases, their scope is limited, and they do not cover all bias-motivated crimes that might occur within the state. This absence means that individuals who commit crimes motivated by hate in South Carolina may not face the same enhanced penalties as they would in jurisdictions with such laws. Advocates for a state-level hate crime law argue that its implementation would provide stronger protections for vulnerable communities, deter bias-motivated violence more effectively, and align South Carolina with the majority of other states that have adopted similar legislation. Click below to read the entire bill *https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/bills/3039.htm:*

H 3578 Cursive Writing Bill - A BILL TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY AMENDING SECTION 59-29-15, RELATING TO THE REQUIREMENT THAT CURSIVE WRITING BE TAUGHT IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, SO AS TO SPECIFY THAT THE CURSIVE WRITING INSTRUCTION MUST BEGIN IN SECOND GRADE AND CONTINUE IN EACH GRADE THROUGH FIFTH GRADE. This Bill unanimously passed the House. and it was sent to the Senate. The Senate referred it to their Education Committee.
https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/bills/3578.htm

HONORING A SCLBC TRAILBLAZER

WIS 10
YOUR FIRST ALERT
WISTV.COM
STATUE TO HONOR FORMER SOUTH CAROLINA CHIEF SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

STATUE TO HONOR FORMER SOUTH CAROLINA CHIEF SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

"We need to have opportunities to see where we've come from and to see the people that brought us there. The history, the legacy of the first Black Chief Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court is a phenomenal story," said Ernest "Chip" Finney III.
https://www.wistv.com/2025/08/21/statue-honor-former-south-carolina-chief-supreme-court-justice/

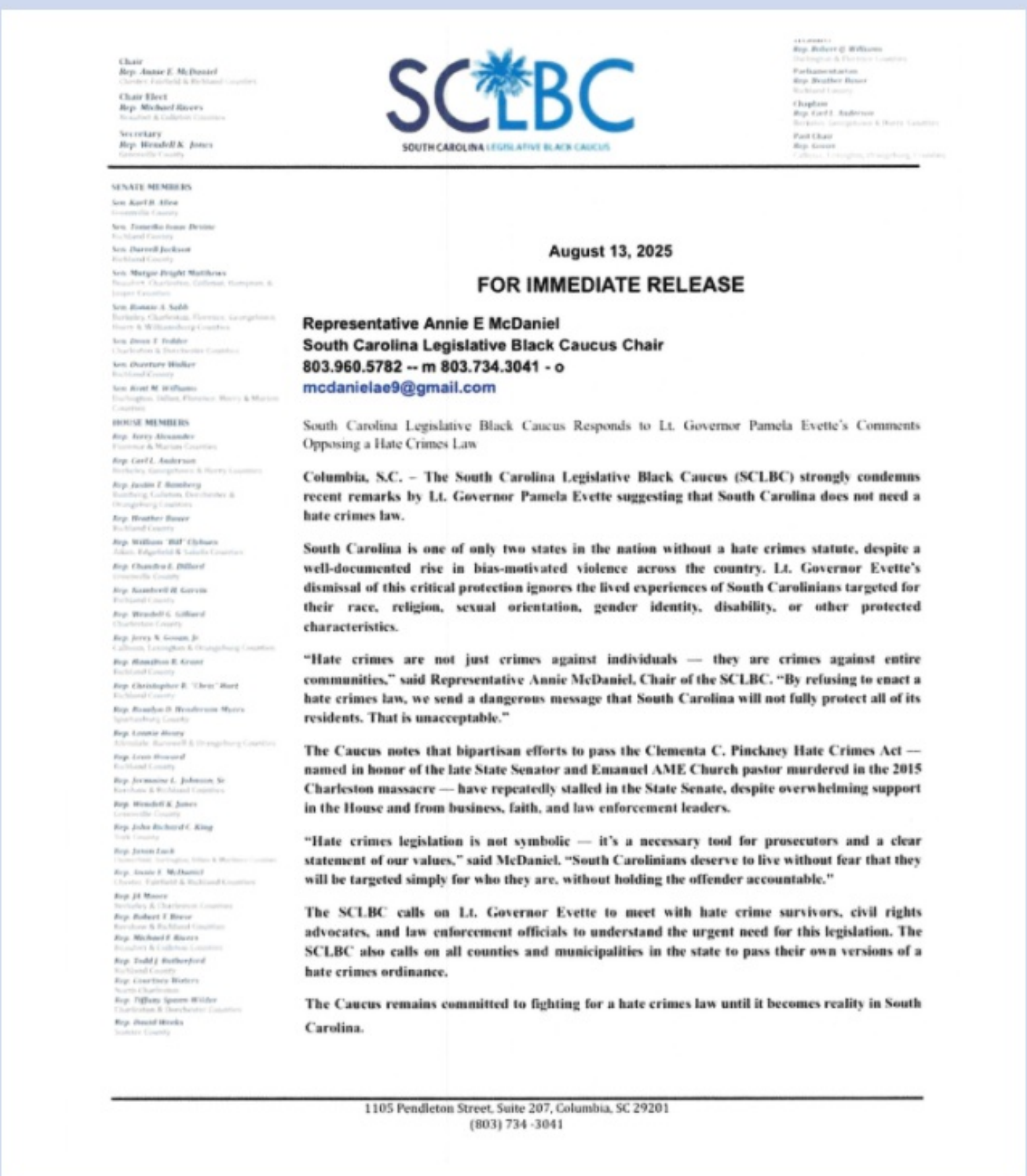
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

THE STATE OF BLACK SOUTH CAROLINA: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & OUTLOOK FOR MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES

The South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus (SCLBC), under the leadership of Chair Representative Annie E. McDaniel, convened a powerful gathering at Chayz Lounge, a thriving Black woman–owned business in West Columbia. The evening, themed "The State of Black South Carolina: Economic Development & Outlook for Minority-Owned Businesses," brought together lawmakers, business leaders, and community advocates to chart new strategies for economic sustainability and growth across the state.

Click here for more information.

PRESS RELEASE



August 13, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Representative Annie E McDaniel
South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus Chair
803.960.5782 -- m 803.734.3041 - o
mcdanielae9@gmail.com

South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus Responds to Lt. Governor Pamela Evette's Comments Opposing a Hate Crimes Law

Columbia, S.C. – The South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus (SCLBC) strongly condemns recent remarks by Lt. Governor Pamela Evette suggesting that South Carolina does not need a hate crimes law.

South Carolina is one of only two states in the nation without a hate crimes statute, despite a well-documented rise in bias-motivated violence across the country. Lt. Governor Evette's dismissal of this critical protection ignores the lived experiences of South Carolinians targeted for their race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or other protected characteristics.

"Hate crimes are not just crimes against individuals — they are crimes against entire communities," said Representative Annie McDaniel, Chair of the SCLBC. "By refusing to enact a hate crimes law, we send a dangerous message that South Carolina will not fully protect all of its residents. That is unacceptable."

The Caucus notes that bipartisan efforts to pass the Clementa C. Pinckney Hate Crimes Act — named in honor of the late State Senator and Emanuel AME Church pastor murdered in the 2015 Charleston massacre — have repeatedly stalled in the State Senate, despite overwhelming support in the House and from business, faith, and law enforcement leaders.

"Hate crimes legislation is not symbolic — it's a necessary tool for prosecutors and a clear statement of our values," said McDaniel. "South Carolinians deserve to live without fear that they will be targeted simply for who they are, without holding the offender accountable."

The SCLBC calls on Lt. Governor Evette to meet with hate crime survivors, civil rights advocates, and law enforcement officials to understand the urgent need for this legislation. The SCLBC also calls on all counties and municipalities in the state to pass their own versions of a hate crimes ordinance.

The Caucus remains committed to fighting for a hate crimes law until it becomes reality in South Carolina.

1105 Pendleton Street, Suite 207, Columbia, SC 29201
(803) 734-3041

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The SC Legislative Black Caucus has launched its updated website at **https://www.sclegislativebc.org/**

The SC Legislative Black Caucus will be hosting summits addressing concerns shared by you.

SEPTEMBER
SC Black Elected Officials Summit

OCTOBER
Minority Health Summit
Annual Youth Legislative Summit

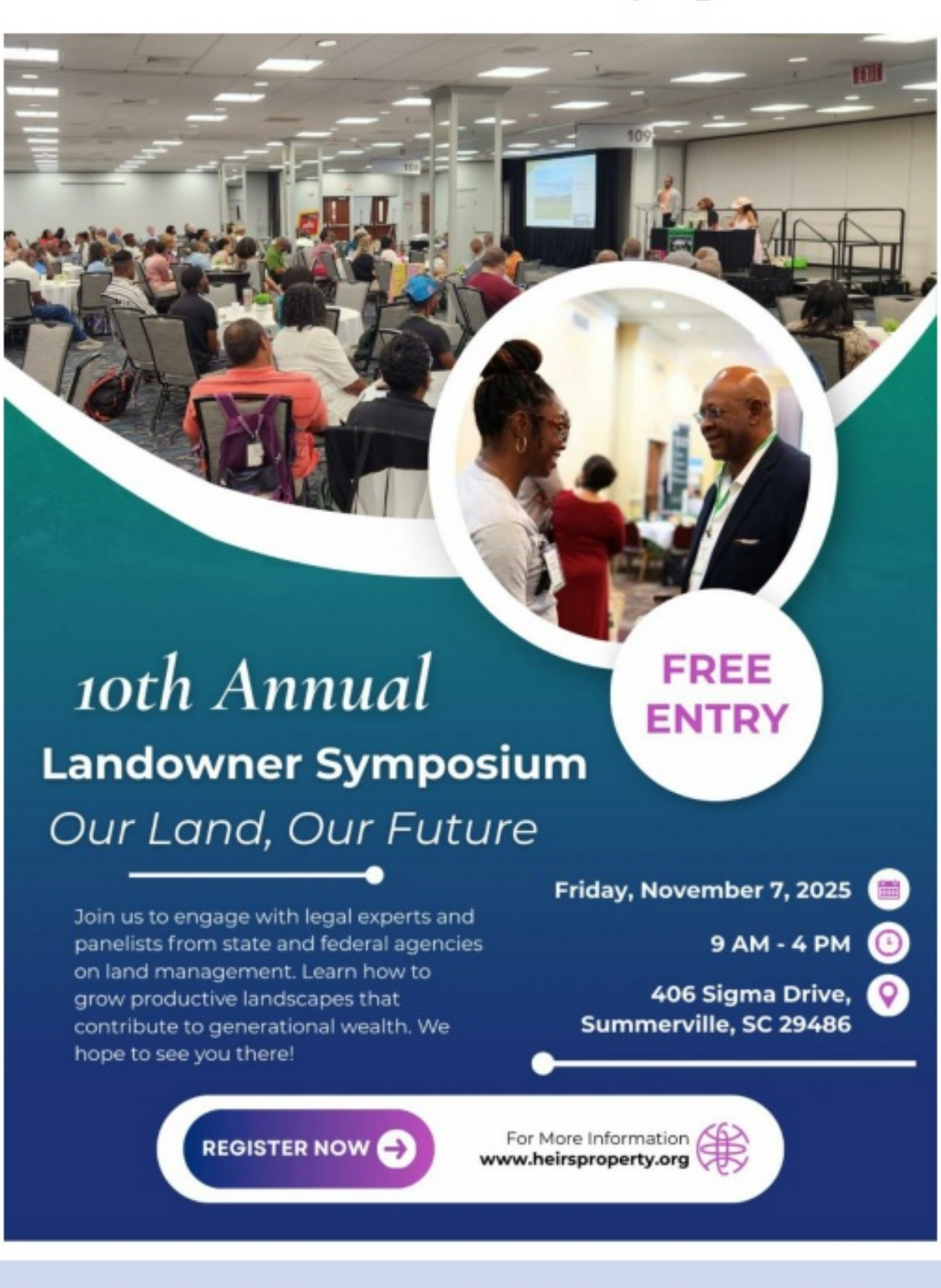
NOVEMBER
Engaging with the Clergy Summit

DECEMBER
SCLBC Annual Retreat - Greenville, SC

We invite all businesses across South Carolina that share our values and are committed to driving real change to join our Corporate Roundtable.

Your voice is crucial in helping us create an inclusive, forward-thinking, and business-friendly economic environment. To learn more or to join the Corporate Roundtable, please contact us at **803-734-3041** or via email at **SCLBC2025@gmail.com** We look forward to hearing from you.

10th Annual Landowner Symposium


10th Annual
Landowner Symposium
Our Land, Our Future
FREE ENTRY
Join us to engage with legal experts and panelists from state and federal agencies on land management. Learn how to grow productive landscapes that contribute to generational wealth. We hope to see you there!
Friday, November 7, 2025
9 AM - 4 PM
406 Sigma Drive, Summerville, SC 29486
REGISTER NOW
For More Information
www.heirsproperty.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SOUTH CAROLINA RURAL CAUCUS ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

You are cordially invited to attend the organizational meeting for the South Carolina Rural Caucus on **Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 10:00 A.M.** The purpose of this inaugural meeting is to establish a bipartisan legislative caucus focused on addressing the unique challenges and opportunities facing South Carolina's rural communities. By working together, we can amplify the voices of our rural constituents and champion policies that promote economic development, improve healthcare access, and enhance educational outcomes across the state.

This will be a hybrid meeting, with options for both in-person (Blatt Room 110) and virtual attendance to ensure maximum participation. We will be discussing the caucus's mission, goals, and organizational structure, as well as outlining a legislative agenda for the upcoming session. Your presence and input are crucial to the success of this important initiative.

Please let us know if you plan to attend in person or virtually by e-mailing us at **SCLBC2025@gmail.com** A meeting link for virtual participants will be sent out closer to the date.

We look forward to collaborating with you to build a stronger future for all of South Carolina.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER
South Carolina Elected Officials Summit

OCTOBER
Minority Health Summit

OCTOBER
Annual Youth Legislative Summit

NOVEMBER
Engaging With The Clergy Summit

DECEMBER
SCLBC Annual Retreat
Greenville, SC

September is National Sickle Cell Awareness Month.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY
On **September 11, 1895**, South Carolina officials met to rewrite the state constitution with the express purpose of disenfranchising the state's African American voters and restoring white supremacy in all matters political.

NOTABLE DATES

September
National Blood Cancer Awareness Month
September
Lupus Awareness Month
September 1
Labor Day
September 8
International Literacy Day
September 10
World Suicide Prevention Day
September 21
World Alzheimer's Day

SPOTLIGHT ON CORPORATE ROUNDTABLE PARTNER

DOMINION ENERGY

Dominion Energy Internship Defines Career Path for South Carolina Native

When Jerico Arambulo began a summer internship at Dominion Energy last year, he did not know what career path he would take after college. He was on the road to success just one year later.

Click here for more information.

Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation's Fall Grant Cycle Now Open

Nonprofit organizations in South Carolina can now apply for grants from the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation.

Click here for more information.

RESOURCES

South Carolina State House
Learn how to contact your state representative, keep up with legislative bills, view the Senate and House when they are in session, find out committee meeting schedules...
https://www.scstatehouse.gov/ or download the SC State House App at https://www.scstatehouse.gov/mobileappinfo.php

South Carolina Legislative Manual
Access the SC Legislative Manual online and learn about the state.
https://www.scstatehouse.gov/man24/manual24.php

Energy Assistance & Rebate Programs
Find energy assistance programs for your home.
https://energy.sc.gov/home/ebill

South Carolina Education Association
Find learning resources for your child.
https://www.thescea.org/student-success

South Carolina Commission for Minority Affairs
Provides certification for minority businesses.
https://cma.sc.gov/small-business-resources

South Carolina Department of Commerce
Start your own business.
https://scbizdev.sccommerce.com/#StartYourBusiness

MyscVOTES
Register to vote online.
https://vrems.scvotes.sc.gov/ovr/start

National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition
Learn how your small business can be brought to the table that is dominated by big businesses.
https://sustainableagriculture.net/our-work/issues/rural-economic-development/

USDA Rural Development
Find out how to access loans and grants for home, businesses, communities, etc.
https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/business-programs/rural-business-development-grants-21#:~:text=Rural Business Development Grant money,Check eligible areas.

South Carolina Association for Rural Economic Development
Learn how to get grants for community development initiatives.
https://www.scaced.org/rural-resource-coalition-of-sc

SCLBC MEMBERS BIRTHDAY RECOGNITION

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 2
Sen. Ronnie Sabb
Sept. 3
Rep. Rosalyn Henderson-Myers
Sept. 15
Sen. Kent M. Williams
Sept. 19
Rep. Courtney Waters
Sept. 22
Rep. Christopher "Chris" Hart
Sept. 24
Rep. David Weeks
Sept. 30
Sen. Overture Walker

Stay connected with the SCLBC as we lead with purpose, advocate for change, and build a stronger, more inclusive South Carolina and follow your legislators.

https://www.scstatehouse.gov/index.php

SC Legislative Black Caucus
Solomon Blatt Building Suite 207
Office Hours Tues – Thurs 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
803-734-3041
sclbc2025@gmail.com

2025-2026 SCLBC Executive Committee

Chair
Representative Annie E. McDaniel
District 41 - Chester, Fairfield & Richland Counties

Chair-Elect
Representative Michael Rivers
District 121 – Beaufort & Colleton Counties

Secretary
Representative Wendell Jones
District 25 – Greenville County

Treasurer
Representative Robert Williams
District 62 – Darlington & Florence Counties

Parliamentarian
Representative Heather Bauer
District 25 – Richland County

Chaplain
Representative Carl Anderson
District 103 – Berkeley, Georgetown & Horry Counties

SCLBC Corporate Roundtable Partners

The South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus (SCLBC) acknowledges the invaluable contributions of our Corporate Roundtable Partners, whose active participation and generous support have been instrumental to our success. SCLBC is set apart from other political-based caucuses because of its status as a non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)(4) advocacy organization. The SCLBC purpose focuses on addressing critical issues and providing impactful services, and providing public policy solutions to challenges and issues facing Black and minority communities in South Carolina. We are deeply grateful for the support of our Corporate Roundtable Partners, who play a vital role in helping us achieve our shared vision of advancing equitable policies and empowering communities across South Carolina. Together, we are making a lasting impact.

CORPORATE ROUNDTABLE PARTNERS

MAYNARDNEXSEN
South Carolina Beer Wholesalers Association
BlueCross BlueShield
THE S·C·E·A
Dominion Energy
DUKE ENERGY
Municipal Association of South Carolina
S.C.A.N.A. South Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists
ENVIRO AgScience, Inc.
Zillow
McGuireWoods
SCR SOUTH CAROLINA REALTORS
PhRMA
SOLVENT NETWORKS For the health of your business.
AT&T
CVSC CONSERVATION VOTERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA
Charter COMMUNICATIONS
SCOPA South Carolina Optometric Physicians Association
BOEING
SOUTH CAROLINA FARM BUREAU
SOUTH CAROLINA DENTAL ASSOCIATION | ADA
Century ALUMINUM
icfa Independent Consumer Finance Association of South Carolina

SUPPORT SCLBC BY JOINING THE CORPORATE ROUNDTABLE

Please contact sclbc2025@gmail.com for information to become a 2025 SCLBC Corporate Roundtable Partner.

SC Legislative Black Caucus | 1105 Pendleton St Suite 207 | Columbia, SC 29201 US

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