



October 2025 EDITION SCLBC NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the **October 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

Standing Vigilant and United for A Better South Carolina

Fellow South Carolinians,

As the leaves change and we move into the end of the year, we greet you. This past month has been marked by significant challenges and continued advocacy at both the state and national levels. The South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus remains steadfast in our commitment to fighting for quality education, accessible healthcare, economic opportunity, and fundamental justice for all Black

South Carolinians.

Here are the key issues we have been tracking this month:

1. State of the Hate Crimes Bill and Local Ordinances

South Carolina remains one of only two states in the nation without a statewide hate crimes law, a fact the Caucus continues to work tirelessly to change.

* **State Bill Status:** Hate crimes legislation has passed the House of Representatives in multiple sessions but has repeatedly been stalled and denied a vote in the State Senate. We continue to push for the Senate to give this critical legislation a fair hearing and vote when the General Assembly reconvenes in January.

* **Local Ordinances Under Fire:** In the absence of state action, over two dozen cities and counties, <https://www.masc.sc/local-hate-crime-ordinances>, have passed their own local hate crime ordinances. However, the State Attorney General's Office recently issued a non-binding opinion challenging the constitutionality of these local ordinances, arguing that municipalities cannot create new criminal offenses that exceed state law. The Caucus supports the local governments that have taken the initiative to protect their citizens and will continue to advocate against any action that weakens these critical local protections. It is important to emphasize that the recent opinion issued by **the Attorney General is non-binding and advisory**; it does not carry the force of law. Since we are in election season, the timing of the opinion introduces a political dimension to the debate. Only the state's judicial system (the courts) has the authority to issue a definitive binding ruling on the constitutionality or

courts) has the authority to issue a definitive, binding ruling on the constitutionality or legality of local hate crime ordinances. While the Attorney General's opinion may prompt legal challenges or encourage municipalities to reconsider their ordinances, **the laws currently on the books remain in effect unless a court formally invalidates them.**

2. The Federal Government Shutdown's Ongoing and Difficult Challenges

October began the start of the Federal Government Shutdown, an event that has placed immediate and unnecessary burdens on South Carolinians, particularly those who rely on federal services.

*** Impact on SC Families:** Beyond the direct impact on federal employees, the shutdown deals a blow to our state's economy, where each federal dollar typically generates additional dollars in economic activity. The shutdown directly impacts federal employees in our state, including many Black South Carolinians, facing furloughs or working without pay. Furthermore, essential federal programs that impact health, food security (SNAP), and housing assistance face disruption, disproportionately affecting vulnerable communities already struggling with a rising cost of living.

*** Overall Annual Economic Impact to South Carolina:** SC stands to lose more than **\$2.2B** of federal funding in the form of expired tax credits (dollars coming into the state in the form of subsidies for Marketplace coverage, all of which would be lost upon expiration): **\$2,214,173,346**

*** SCLBC Response:** We are monitoring the local impact and stand ready to support state-level efforts to mitigate the harm caused by this political gridlock in Washington, D.C.

Additional key issues can be found throughout this newsletter.

As always, we thank you for your continued engagement. Your support strengthens our efforts to secure justice, equality, and opportunity for every person in South Carolina.

In Service and Solidarity,

Rep. Annie E McDaniel

The South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus Chair

ADDITIONAL ISSUES WE HAVE BEEN TRACKING

Congressional Reconciliation Bill

The ongoing debate over the ***Congressional Reconciliation Bill*** (sometimes referred to as the ***Budget Reconciliation Bill***) in Washington carries profound implications for the citizens of South Carolina.

* **Threats to Vulnerable Populations:** Based on current projections, the bill contains measures that could lead to significant cuts in critical social programs. Notably, proposed changes to Medicaid—including new work requirements and shortened presumptive eligibility—are projected to cause a massive increase in the number of uninsured individuals across the nation, severely impacting low-income families and those in rural areas of South Carolina.

* **Food Security Concerns:** The Caucus is alarmed by provisions that seek to alter the funding structure for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and expand harsh time limits and work requirements. These changes risk increasing hunger and pushing more families, especially single parents and those in poverty, into deeper financial distress.

No Kings Protests in South Carolina

The month of October also saw South Carolina participate in the nationwide "No Kings" protests, a non-violent movement opposing what many see as threats to democracy and abuses of power from the current administration.

* **Local Engagement:** Citizens in Columbia and other communities across our state took to the streets to express their commitment to the principles of rule of law and democratic accountability.

* **SCLBC Stance:** The Caucus commends the engagement of citizens across all demographics who are peacefully exercising their First Amendment rights and standing up for democratic institutions. We are a body dedicated to upholding the voices of the people, not the will of a single individual or party.

ADDITIONAL ISSUES (Cont).

Other Current Events Impacting Black South Carolinians

* **Education Gap:** We continue to advocate for stronger policy and funding measures to close the education gap between the state's poorest students and the national average, a core priority for the SCLBC.

* **Redistricting Updates:** The Caucus remains vigilant regarding ongoing legal challenges and legislative discussions around redistricting, ensuring fair and equitable representation that respects the voting rights of our communities.

Voting Rights Act of 1965

In pursuit of unchecked presidential power, SCOTUS could upend one of the last remaining tools available to protect the right to vote for Black people and other historically disenfranchised Americans.

Eliminating Section 2 of the VRA, which prohibits racially discriminatory voting practices, would wipe out minority representation and lead to the resegregation of city councils, school boards, and legislatures across the country.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SC BLACK CAUCUS: END SHUTDOWN NOW TO AVERT NOVEMBER FOOD CRISIS FOR 560,000 SOUTH CAROLINIANS

COLUMBIA, SC – October 23, 2025 – The South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus (SCLBC) today issued an urgent and powerful condemnation of the federal government shutdown, which now directly threatens the **November SNAP benefits** (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) for over **260,000 households** in South Carolina. The South Carolina Department of Social Services (SCDSS) has confirmed that without an immediate resolution in Congress, the federally-funded SNAP lifeline for nearly **560,000 South Carolinians**, including thousands of seniors and children, **will not be issued** for November.

A Moral Failure with Catastrophic Consequences

"This is not a budget dispute; this is a **moral failure** with catastrophic human consequences," stated the Chair of the SCLBC. "SNAP is the only defense against hunger for our most vulnerable citizens. To abruptly cut off an average of nearly **\$400 in food assistance** per household just as the holiday season begins is **unconscionable**."

The Caucus warns that the loss of these funds will:

- Immediately cause **widespread hunger** and food insecurity.
- Overwhelm local food banks and non-profits, pushing them past their limits.
- Deliver a severe **economic blow** to local grocery stores and retailers.

Demand for Immediate Action

The SCLBC demands that Washington leadership rise above partisan gridlock and take swift, decisive action.

"We demand that the federal government immediately pass a **clean funding resolution** to reopen and fully fund the government, ensuring that the November SNAP benefits are issued on time," the Chair added. "**The food on our citizens' tables is not a bargaining chip**."

We call on all South Carolinians to contact their federal delegation and the White House to demand an immediate end to this shutdown.

South Carolina leadership, it's time to act: we must **protect our most vulnerable** from the threat of widespread hunger and food insecurity.



Please Share:

We invite you to join the SC Legislative Black Caucus in a moment of global prayer. Let us pray for strength and endurance for every individual facing trials that only God can manage. Use this time to praise God and affirm the depth of your faith and reliance on Him.

2 Chronicles 7:14

New International Version

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

STATE



GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

What Happens If People Lose Their SNAP Benefits?

Listen to SCLBC Chair, Rep. Annie E. McDaniel and other panelists as they discuss the effect of people losing their SNAP Benefits, especially in South Carolina, on *OnPoint!* with Cynthia Hardy.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1CbDnWbxe8/>

LIST OF FOOD BANKS IN SOUTH CAROLINA BY COUNTY

<https://food.uslowcosthousing.com/food-bank-list/state/>

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!



Most Municipal Elections are on November 4th,

Your vote is a powerful tool for shaping society and your own life. It affects public policy, holds leaders accountable, and upholds the democratic process.

Do your research on the candidates so that you can cast an "informed vote." Make sure that the candidates are closely aligned with your values and beliefs.

Election Dates

Spread the Word!

Local elections take place throughout the year. To find information about local elections in your community, please consult *South Carolina's 2025 Election Calendar* for the most up-to-date details.

The next election dates can be found here. <https://www.vote411.org/south-carolina>

Contact your local **Board of Elections** for more information.

Check the status of your voter registration, get a sample ballot, find your polling place, and to view your voting history log on to *MyscVOTES*

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.

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



SC@Work: Career & Resource Fair

SC@WORK:
RURAL CONNECTIONS

**NEED HELP
FINDING A JOB?**

Career and Resource Fair

Wednesday
November 19, 2025
10:00AM - 1:00PM
Ridgeway Recreation
Center
1900 US-21,
Ridgeway, SC 29130

The Rural Outreach Team will be in your area.

Please scan the QR code or click the link for driving directions, more information and a list of participating vendors.

SCAN ME

<https://tinyurl.com/4z98yfem>

All our services are provided at no cost to you.

For more information about SC@Work: Rural Connections, visit the website at: scworks.org/connections

JOIN US!

The Rural Outreach Team has partnered with Love Never Fails for this free event.

SC WORKS
South Carolina Department of
Employment and Workforce

An equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. For program funding details in compliance with the Stimulus Amendment, please visit www.dhs.sc.gov/funding

ANNUAL YOUTH LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT

OUR FUTURE POLICY MAKERS

The 2025 SC Legislative Black Caucus Annual Youth Summit was a resounding success, setting a new benchmark for high school student engagement across South Carolina.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/17FCQue1iH>



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



**The South Carolina
Legislative Black Caucus**



**R.S.V.P. For Both
Events By**

October 28, 2025

E-Mail:

SCLBC2025@gmail.com

***The State of Elected
Officials Summit***

November 6, 2025

10:00 A.M.- 2:00 P.M.

**Most Worshipful Prince Hall
Grand Lodge of South Carolina
2324 Gervais Street
Columbia, SC 29204**



WELCOME RECEPTION

November 5, 2025

6:00 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

***Hilton Garden Inn
Columbia Downtown
12 N Parkers Street
Columbia, SC 29201**

***Host Hotel**

- **November 6 @ 10:00 A.M. - South Carolina Elected Officials Summit @ Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of South Carolina, Columbia, SC**
- **Health Summit -November 14**
- **Engaging With The Clergy Summit - November 22**

DECEMBER

- **SCLBC Annual Retreat - Greenville, SC - December 5-6, 2025**
- **NBSCL Annual Legislative Conference - Biloxi, Mississippi - December 7-12, 2025**

November is Men's Health Awareness Month, American Diabetes Month, and Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

NOTABLE DATES

November 4, 1879

Thomas Elkins patents refrigerator apparatus.

November 6, 1900

James Weldon Johnson and J. Rosamond Johnson composed "*Lift Every Voice and Sing*."

November 7, 1876

Meharry Medical College founded at Central Tennessee College

November 9, 1868

Howard University Medical School opens.

November 17, 1911

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated is founded on the campus of Howard University.

November 27, 1957

Dorothy Height was elected as the 4th President of the National Council of Negro Women. A position she held for 40 years.

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://vremis.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>

National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL)

Empowers Black Women legislators with world-class leadership development.

<https://www.nobelwomen.org/>

National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL)

Dedicated to promoting educational, research, and training initiatives that assist its members to make informed decisions.

<https://nbcsl.org/about/>

Congressional Black Caucus Foundation

Dedicated to promoting educational, research, and training initiatives that assist its members to make informed decisions.

<https://www.cbefinc.org/>

SPOTLIGHT ON CORPORATE ROUNDTABLE PARTNER

PRISMA HEALTH SM



About Prisma Health

<https://prismahealth.org/about-prisma-health>

Prisma Health Unveils \$128 Million Northeast Medical Park

<https://prismahealth.org/patients-and-guests/news/prisma-health-opens-128m-medical-park-in-northeast-columbia>

SCLBC MEMBERS BIRTHDAY RECOGNITION

NOVEMBER

Nov 13

Rep. Robert T. Reese

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



BlueCross
BlueShield



**Dominion
Energy**



**DUKE
ENERGY**



Municipal Association
of South Carolina



S.C.A.N.A.
South Carolina Association of
Nurse Anesthetists



ENVIRO
AgScience, Inc.



McGuireWoods



**SOLVENT
NETWORKS**
For the health of your business.



AT&T



**SOUTH CAROLINA
DENTAL ASSOCIATION**

ADA

CenturyALUMINUM



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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