



## September 2025 EDITION SCLBC NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the **September 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.



### **A Message from the Chair**

#### ***Hope, Determination, and the Road to Justice***

##### ***Dear Friends and Supporters:***

As the month of October dawns, I am filled with hope and fierce determination as we reflect on our shared journey toward justice, equality, and empowerment for all communities in South Carolina. Our solidarity was on full display this month as we stood with our brothers and sisters nationwide, supporting the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference (CBC ALC), [www.cbcfinc.org](http://www.cbcfinc.org), a place you can network and get model ideas. This vital gathering serves as an indispensable platform for us to unite our voices, share our experiences, and

strategize on the most pressing issues facing our communities today. Please visit our website soon for updates and key takeaways once the official conference information is posted. We are currently witnessing intense national attention on the fundamental right of free speech. In a functioning democracy, the ability to express our thoughts and opinions without fear of retribution is essential. It is our collective responsibility to protect this right for everyone, ensuring that all voices are heard and respected; however, history reminds us that true leadership and affluence once carried an expectation of respect for others. The current times have made one thing abundantly clear: while free speech is a fundamental right, the consequences of free speech are very real. Moreover, I want to take this opportunity to reaffirm our unwavering commitment to passing the hate crimes bill. Hate and discrimination have absolutely no place in our society. The passage of this crucial legislation is vital in ensuring that all individuals—regardless of their race, religion, or background—can live without fear of violence or prejudice. Thank you for your continued dedication and support of our mission. Let us move forward together, inspired by our shared vision of equality and justice for a stronger, more inclusive South Carolina.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our community.

**Warm regards,**

**Representative Annie E McDaniel, Chair**  
**SCLBC**

## **BILLS THAT IMPACT US**

### ***Hate Crimes Bill Still Warranted In SC***

Thank you to county councils and city councils, which have adopted Hate Crimes Ordinances. We also encourage school districts to enact Hate Crime Policies. 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 protection 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](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/bills/3039.htm)

### **HATE CRIME BILL MEDIA MESSAGE**

***Watch this message from Representative Wendall Gillard:***

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BttvnxJiELvuSTshBnf3bUeH6uPbGft/view?usp=sharing>

### **HATE CRIME ORDINANCES IN SOUTH CAROLINA**

#### ***Municipal Association Establishes List of Hate Crimes Ordinances***

A growing number of cities and towns in South Carolina have responded to the General Assembly's lack of action in passing hate crimes legislation by passing their own hate crimes ordinances, which the Municipal Association of SC has compiled a list.

<https://www.masc.sc/local-hate-crime-ordinances>

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## **Unborn Child Protection Act**

### **Senate Bill 323**

As of September 2025, the most significant abortion bill currently under consideration by the South Carolina Senate is Senate Bill 323 (S.323), the "Unborn Child Protection Act." It is scheduled for a hearing before the Senate Medical Affairs Subcommittee on **October 1, 2025**. The bill would implement a near-total ban on abortions in the state and expand existing restrictions.

#### **Key provisions of S. 323**

If passed, S. 323 would:

- **Create a near-total ban.** It prohibits abortion from the moment of conception by equating it with homicide, effectively eliminating the current six-week "fetal heartbeat" cutoff.

- **Eliminate exceptions.** It removes the exceptions for rape, incest, and fatal fetal anomalies that were included in the current six-week ban.
- **Criminalize providing information.** It would be a felony to provide information about obtaining an abortion, including by phone or online.
- **Restrict birth control and IVF.** It would define a "human embryo" as a fertilized egg and alter the definition of a legal contraceptive, potentially leading to restrictions on some forms of birth control and in vitro fertilization (IVF).
- **Mandate propaganda in schools.** The bill would require public schools to show students a video called *"Meet Baby Olivia."*



# NATIONAL LEADERSHIP



We are thrilled to celebrate the recent national recognition of two of our accomplished South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus Members!

During the **National Organization of Black Elected Women (NOBEL)** Annual Legislative Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, our colleagues were elected to key leadership positions:

- **Representative Annie E. McDaniel was elected Corresponding Secretary.**
- **Representative Rosalyn Henderson-Myers, Ph.D., was elected Recording Secretary.**

This achievement highlights the talent and commitment within the SC Legislative Black Caucus and further strengthens our influence on national policy discussions. Please join us in congratulating Representatives McDaniel and Henderson Myers

# SOCIAL ACTION

## *Protect Freedom of Speech*



Rep. Robert Reese, as the co-chair of the Rural Caucus, reestablished by Representative Annie E. McDaniel, was the guest speaker at Benedict College for Constitution Day. He implored the audience to utilize their **FREEDOM OF SPEECH** right to hold government officials (including himself) accountable. He said this was the reason why the Founding Fathers included the **FIRST AMENDMENT** to our founding principles.

[Click Link Here: Representative Robert Reese Facebook Post on Free Speech](#)

***Rep. Leon Howard Receives the Columbia Branch NAACP  
Dr. Lonnie Randolph Jr. Distinguished Service Award***



**[Click Link Here: Columbia Branch NAACP Award Program Booklet](#)**

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**YOUR VOTE COUNTS!  
Most Municipal Elections are on  
November 4, 2025**

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.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Landowner Symposium



### *10th Annual* **Landowner Symposium** *Our Land, Our Future*

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

**FREE  
ENTRY**

**REGISTER NOW** →

For More Information  
[www.heirsproperty.org](http://www.heirsproperty.org)



# SC@Work: Career & Resource Fair



**SC@WORK:**  
RURAL CONNECTIONS

**NEED HELP  
FINDING A JOB?**

**JOIN US!**

**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/4298yfem>

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](http://scworks.org/connections).

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



**SC WORKS**  
Official agency of the 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 Stevens Amendment, please visit [www.dew.sc.gov/funding](http://www.dew.sc.gov/funding)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### OCTOBER

Minority Health Summit  
Annual Youth Legislative Summit

#### NOVEMBER

South Carolina Elected Officials Summit  
Engaging With The Clergy Summit



## **UPCOMING EVENTS (Cont.)**

### **DECEMBER** **SCLBC Annual Retreat** **Greenville, SC**

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## **October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

### **ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY**

#### **NOTABLE DATES**

##### **October 2, 1967**

Thurgood Marshall made history as the first Black Supreme Court Justice to be sworn in.

##### **October 3, 1904**

Mary McLeod Bethune opened the Daytona Normal and Industrial School in Daytona Beach, Florida.

##### **October 9, 2009**

President Barack Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize for "his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples."

##### **October 13, 1914**

Inventor Garrett T. Morgan patented the gas mask.

##### **October 22, 1955**

The first Black post office opened in Atlanta, GA.

##### **October 25, 1940**

Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. made history as the first Black General in the U.S. Army.

# SPOTLIGHT ON CORPORATE ROUNDTABLE PARTNERS

The South Carolina Independent Consumer Finance Association  
The South Carolina Farm Bureau  
The SC Association for Justice



## SC State University Receives \$11,000 Scholarship Gift Honoring The Late Sen. John L. Scott Jr.'s Legacy of Education and Public Service

[https://www.lowcountrypanorama.com/hbcus/sc-state-receives-11-000-scholarship-gift-honoring-late-sen-john-l-scott-jrs/article\\_94064026-d73b-4cfb-ad19-95bd19bb0fca.html](https://www.lowcountrypanorama.com/hbcus/sc-state-receives-11-000-scholarship-gift-honoring-late-sen-john-l-scott-jrs/article_94064026-d73b-4cfb-ad19-95bd19bb0fca.html)



*We're a statewide organization that brings together farmers, ranchers, entrepreneurs, agribusiness professionals and food enthusiasts to strengthen the future of agriculture in South Carolina. We inform lawmakers about the impact of policies, train young farmers about getting started and help educate teachers and students about agriculture.*

*The mission of SC Farm Bureau is to promote agriculture interests in the state of South Carolina and optimize the lives of those involved in agriculture while being respectful to the needs and concerns of all citizens of our state.*



**South Carolina  
Association  
for Justice**  
Advocates for Fairness Under the Law

Our motto is simple: "Advocates for Fairness Under the Law." The South Carolina Association for Justice (SCAJ) was founded over 50 years ago by a small group of trial lawyers. Since then, our mission has been to serve our members and those we are sworn to protect.

# 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://vremms.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 (NBCS)**

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.cbcfinc.org/>



# **SCLBC MEMBERS BIRTHDAY RECOGNITION**

## **OCTOBER**

**Oct. 2**

**Rep. Kambrell H. Garvin**

**Oct. 10**

**Rep. Todd J. Rutherford**

**Oct. 13**

**Sen. Karl B. Allen**

**Oct. 16**

**Rep. Michael F. Rivers**

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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, 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

THE  
S.C.E.A.  
South Carolina Election Administration



**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®

**P/RMA**  
AMERICA'S BIOPHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES



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



**AT&T**



**CVSC**  
CONSERVATION VOTERS  
OF SOUTH CAROLINA

**Charter**  
COMMUNICATIONS



**SCOOPA**  
South Carolina Optometric  
Physicians Association



**Century**ALUMINUM



**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
DENTAL ASSOCIATION

**ADA.**

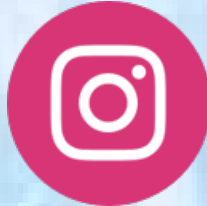
**icfa**

Independent  
Consumer Finance  
Association of  
South Carolina



## **SUPPORT THE SCLBC BY JOINING THE CORPORATE ROUNDTABLE**

**Please contact [sclbc2025@gmail.com](mailto:sclbc2025@gmail.com) for information to become a  
2025 SCLBC Corporate Roundtable Partner.**



**SC Legislative Black Caucus  
1105 Pendleton Street  
Suite 207  
Columbia, SC 29201 US**