



December 2025 EDITION SCLBC NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the **December 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.



Dear Members and Friends,

As we approach the close of 2025, I want to take a moment to reflect on the significance of this season—both in our lives and in our work. Christmas is a time of joy, hope, and reflection, and it is a beautiful reminder of Jesus as the reason for the season. His message of love, compassion, and service to others is at the heart of our mission within the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus.

This December, we had the privilege of hosting our SC Legislative Black Caucus Retreat in Greenville, a change from last year's venue in Charleston. This move symbolizes not just a shift in location, but a renewed commitment to engaging with our communities throughout the state. Greenville welcomed us with open arms, providing a wonderful opportunity to connect, reflect, and strategize as we prepare for the challenges ahead.

One of the highlights of our Retreat was learning about the rich history and involvement of Black South Carolinians in the development of downtown Greenville. We extend special thanks to the following people:

- Mayor Knox White and his Executive Assistant, Ms. Kendra Williams, for their presentations.
- Mr. Brandon Madden for the tour of Unity Park.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Lillian Brock Flemming and the City of Greenville for presenting the Caucus with a proclamation during our Inaugural Town Hall.
- Laurie Franklin, Phyllis Wheatley Community Center.
- Mrs. Shannon Lavrin, Greenville City Manager.
- Haley Farmer, Homewood Suites Greenville.
- The Greenville Delegation: Senator Karl Allen, Representative Wendell Jones, and Retreat Chair, Rep. Chandra Dillard.
- Community Leader, Lisa Sweeney (representing former members Leila Robinson and Fletcher Smith) for exceptional planning and hospitality.

The planning sessions held during the retreat have set a strong foundation for 2026. We also thank our Retreat sponsor, the Independent Consumer Finance Association (ICFA).

During the SC Legislative Black Caucus Clergy Summit, we focused on the evolution of the Caucus and the clergy's rightful place in the legislative process. We engaged in meaningful discussions regarding civic engagement and the current state of South Carolina. As we look toward the future, we must address the "backwards push" of divisive legislation with resolve and unity.

Thank you to those who contributed to the success of the Clergy Summit, including Representative Jerry Govan, Representative Michael Rivers (Chair-Elect), Annette McCoy, PhD, Paulette Goodwin, Morgan Ginyard, Banister Catering of Winnsboro, and all the members of the Caucus.

Our call to action is clear: we must elect those who share our ideals and values—leaders who care enough to ensure that South Carolina focuses on the needs of its citizens rather than agendas that overlook our concerns. It is time to mobilize our communities, advocate for our rights, and ensure our collective power is anchored for the greater good.

As we celebrate this holiday season, let us remember the spirit of giving and service that Jesus exemplified. Let us carry that spirit into our work, fostering hope and resilience. Together, we can make a lasting impact in the lives of those we represent.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Let us enter 2026 with renewed faith, purpose, and determination to uplift our communities and advocate for justice and equity.

In service and solidarity,

Representative Annie E. McDaniel, Chair

South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus

SCLBC ANNUAL RETREAT

December 5-7, 2025

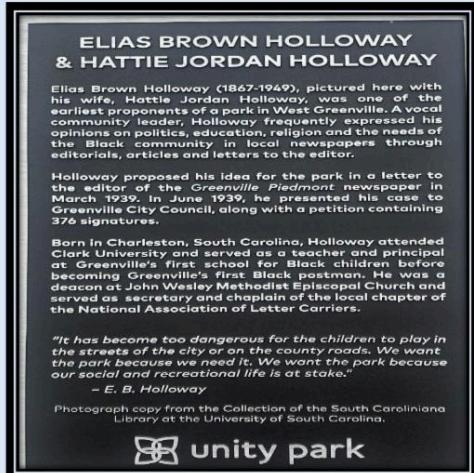
The South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus held its Annual Retreat in Greenville, South Carolina, December 5-7, 2025. In addition to just networking and listening to presentations, we were able to help make a positive impact on the community by assisting some homeless shelters in the upstate.

Thank you to our Corporate Sponsors, our Host Delegation (*The Greenville Delegation*), and to Lisa Sweeny for making this conference a success.

SCLBC Annual Retreat



Annual Retreat (Cont.)



SCLBC PRE-FILED AND 2025 LEGISLATION AND PRIORITIES FOR THE 2026 LEGISLATIVE YEAR

As we approach the second year of the 126th South Carolina General Assembly, the mission to protect the rights, history, and economic future of Black South Carolinians remains our highest priority. The upcoming 2026 legislative session represents a critical juncture for both long-delayed justice and the defense of educational integrity.

A. I. Closing the Gap on Justice: The Clementa C. Pinckney Hate Crimes Act

South Carolina remains one of only two states in the nation without a statewide hate crime law. We call for the immediate passage of the Senator Clementa C. Pinckney Hate Crimes Act (S. 247/H. 3039).

The Mandate: This legislation is not merely a legal enhancement; it is a moral necessity. By providing penalty enhancements for crimes motivated by race, religion, or identity, South Carolina can finally declare that hate has no sanctuary within our borders.

Status: Despite repeated passage in the House in previous sessions, this bill awaits Senate action. We demand the Senate leadership prioritize the safety of our communities by bringing this bill to a vote in **2026**.

B. II. Educational Empowerment: Cursive Writing and Literacy

The SCLBC continues to support **H. 3578**, which aims to strengthen the state's cursive writing requirements in public elementary schools.

The Impact: Literacy is the bedrock of civic participation. By ensuring instruction begins in second grade and continues through fifth grade, we empower students with the skills to read historical documents, sign legal papers, and master fine motor skills essential for early development.

Status: Having passed the House with overwhelming support, we urge the Senate Education Committee to move this bill forward to ensure no child is left without these fundamental tools of communication.

C. III. Addressing Unfinished Business: Defending Equity and Opportunity

The **2025** legislative year left several critical issues unresolved and additional legislation has been filed for the **2026** Legislative year. We remain steadfast in our opposition to measures that seek to erase Black History and diminish economic opportunities:

Conclusion: A Call to Civic Action

Our work in the State House is only as strong as the voices of the people we serve. We urge our churches, community leaders, and constituents to join us in this fight. We will not allow the progress of the **20th** century to be dismantled in the **21st** century. ***"The struggle for justice is never finished, but in 2026, we have the opportunity to move the needle closer to equity for all South Carolinians."***

CLERGY SUMMIT

The South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus (SCLBC) hosted a landmark Clergy Summit, convening a statewide delegation of approximately 70 ministers across 30 denominations. The Summit offered a deep dive into the evolution of the Legislative Black Caucus, highlighting its pivotal role in the political process and its historical service to the Black community. Attendees were moved by "live history" presentations from Former Representatives Jim Felder and I. S. Leevy Johnson. Highlights included:

- **Historical Perspective:** The program featured foundational history provided by distinguished former legislators Jim Felder and I.S. Leevy Johnson, who detailed the SCLBC's legacy of legislative service.
- **Economic Empowerment:** In a commitment to economic development, the State Commission on Community Engagement presented on state contract certification for minority-owned enterprises.
- **Civic Mobilization:** The Summit concluded with a strategic call to action for increased ecclesiastical involvement in the political process and civic engagement.

Following the event's success, the SCLBC has committed to a series of regional meetings to sustain this vital dialogue.

NATIONAL BLACK CAUCUS OF STATE LEGISLATORS



The National Black Caucus of State Legislators Annual Conference was held in Biloxi, Mississippi. Several members of the SCLBC attended. Chair, Rep. Annie E McDaniel was sworn in as Corresponding Secretary and Rep. Rosalyn Henderson-Myers was sworn in as Recording Secretary.



CLERGY SUMMIT

December 15, 2025



CLERGY SUMMIT (Cont.)



Seasons Greetings

*The South Carolina
Legislative Black Caucus*



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- **January 13** - The 2026 Legislative Session Begins
- **January 13** - Hands around the Capitol, Prayer, and Lawmakers Visits
- **January 13** - @ 10:00 A.M. and each Tuesday thereafter - SC Legislative Black Caucus Meeting in the Solomon Blatt Building Room #112 - 1105 Pendleton Street Columbia, SC 29201

IMPORTANT DATES IN JANUARY

January is National Blood Doner Month, National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, National Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, National Glaucoma Awareness Month, and National Birth Defects Awareness Month.

NOTABLE DATES IN JANUARY

January 1 - New Years Day

January 1, 1831 - William Lloyd Garrison publishes first issue of The Liberator, an abolitionist journal that was considered the most widely circulated anti-slavery newspaper during the antebellum period and throughout the Civil War.

January 13, 1850 - Charlotte E. Ray, first Black woman to practice law in the U.S., is born.

January 19, 2026 - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 20, 2009 -Barack Obama was Inaugurated as the first Official Black U.S. President

January 23, 1964 - The 24th Amendment forbade the use of the poll tax to prevent voting.

January 28, 1787 - The Free African Society was founded.

January 31, 1865 - The 13th Amendment passed, formally abolishing slavery.

JANUARY BIRTHDAY



Rep. Terry Alexander
January 23rd

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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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://schizdev.sccommerce.com/#StartYourBusiness>

MyscVOTES

Register to vote online.
<https://vrems.scvotes.sc.gov/our/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%20Business%20Development%20Grant%20money,Check%20eligible%20areas.>

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/>

RESOURCES (Cont.)

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.cbcfinc.org/>



SC Legislative Black Caucus

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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



SUPPORT SCLBC BY JOINING THE CORPORATE ROUNDTABLE

Please contact sclbc2025@gmail.com for information to become a
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