

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



Welcome to the **January 2026 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.

Chairwoman's Message



Dear Friends, Colleagues, and Supporters,

Happy New Year. As we begin 2026, I am honored to send greetings on behalf of the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus. The start of 2026 has been a time of action, reflection, and community — and I'm encouraged by the energy I've seen across our state: from the Statehouse to neighborhood service projects to well attended Town Hall meetings, from hearings on important legislation to assemblies honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Thank you to the Members of the Caucus who participated in city and county MLK commemorations across the state, including keynote addresses, volunteer service projects, and youth-focused programs that emphasize nonviolence, civic engagement, and voting.

The Caucus will continue to focus on:

- Strengthening public education and expanding early childhood opportunity.
- Promoting equitable economic development and support for minority-owned businesses.
- Revitalizing rural communities, addressing local challenges and accelerating broadband access.
- Advancing criminal justice reforms that focus on rehabilitation and fairness.
- Protecting voting rights and expanding civic participation.
- Improving community safety through investments in prevention and youth services.

How you can stay involved:

- Attend local town halls and legislative briefings — we welcome your questions and your voice.
- Volunteer at community events and serve with civic and faith-based partners.
- Sign up for our alerts and updates by emailing sclbc2025@gmail.com or leaving a message at 803.734.3041 so you can track bills and events as they move forward.
- Reach out to your legislators — personal stories and constituent engagement matters when we are asking for change, and when bills are up for debate.

In his response to Governor Henry McMaster's final State of the State address on **January 28, 2026**, Caucus member and Representative Jermaine Johnson offered a pointed "reality check" to the Governor's optimistic "Victory Lap." As a Richland County Democrat and current gubernatorial candidate, Johnson's remarks focused on shifting the narrative from high-level economic statistics to the daily struggles of South Carolinians.

LegiScan launched to support the release of the national LegiScan data service, providing the nation's first impartial real-time legislative tracking service designed for both public citizens and government affairs professionals across all sectors in organizations large and small. Utilizing the LegiScan API, having over 20 years of development maturity, allows us to provide monitoring of every bill in the 50 states and Congress.

LegiScan Mission: Bringing People To The Process without bias or conflict; we believe that each individual in a democracy has a voice, and it is through increased awareness and engagement that you facilitate that voice, enabled by the data and tools provided LegiScan.

<https://legiscan.com/SC#:~:text=South%20Carolina%20Legislature%20%7C%202025%2D2026,%7C%20126th%20General%20Assembly>

In honor of **Black History Month**, the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus (SCLBC) will spotlight pivotal moments in our heritage throughout February. Our series begins on **February 3rd** and will continue through **February 26th** with a special tribute to the history of our own Caucus and trailblazers whose legacies continue to guide us today.

In observance of Black History Month, the SCLBC encourages all South Carolinians to participate in the storytelling of our heritage. Whether it is the widely celebrated pioneers or the overlooked heroes of our rural counties, every story matters. We invite you to share these legacies and join us in attending celebrations to honor the revolutionary spirit that defines our state.

You are cordially invited to the **Annual SCLBC Reception and Fundraiser** which will be held **February 25, 2026**, at the historic **Optus Bank's 1241 Main Street Location** from 5:00pm - 7:00pm.

In service,

Annie E McDaniel, Chair, South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus

South Carolina State University Capitol Flag Raising

The South Carolina State University Flag Raising occurred on January 19, 2026 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day) to celebrate their football team's championship win. This marks the first time in history that an HBCU Flag has flown above the South Carolina state capitol building.



HBCU Flag Raising at South Carolina State Capitol Building (Pictured)

Thanks to South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus Members Senator Tedder and Representative Grant for making this event possible.

SCLBC Bills To Watch

SCLBC Priority Bills:

I. The Clementa C. Pinckney Hate Crimes Act ([H.3039](#))

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).

- Purpose: Provides 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.

II. Cursive Writing and Literacy ([H. 3578](#))

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.

III. The DOT Modernization Bill ([H. 5071](#))

IV. Taxes and Spending Bills

- **Income Tax ([H.4216](#))** – Establishes two new tax brackets (1.99% up to \$30,000 and 5.39% for anything above), eliminates all standard and itemized deductions, adds a graduated deduction of up to \$30,000 for those earning under \$110,000, and conditionally lowers the top marginal tax rate by 1% until it reaches 1.99%. This bill is currently on the Senate floor.
- **Homestead exemption ([S.768](#))** – Raises the homestead exemption to \$150,000 and adds a five-year state residency requirement. Taxpayers currently exempt will be grandfathered in. This bill is on the Senate floor.
- **Unemployment tax code ([S.688](#))** – Increases the period for calculating an employer's unemployment insurance rate from 12 month to 20 months by 2028. This bill also increases funding to state unemployment insurance by creating a new "solvency surcharge" tax and removing the caps on several insurance penalties.
- **Film industry handouts ([H.3832](#))** – Allocates rebates amounting to 30% of an annual production budget to film producers that spend over \$250,000 and heightens that budget limit to \$2 million annually. This bill also heightens the cap for tax incentives from \$10 million to \$30 million while allowing unused portions of that cap to carry over for up to three years. Last week, the House recommitted this bill to the Ways and Means Committee.
- **Small business tax cuts ([H.5006](#))** – Provides tax exemptions on the first \$10,000 of net depreciated value of business personal property owned by a small business. This bill also allows SC-based corporations to exclude up to \$50 million in equity contributions from license tax calculations under specific conditions. A House Ways and Means legislative subcommittee is scheduled to hear this bill on Thursday, Jan. 29 at 9am. **Update:** *This bill has advanced to the full House Ways and Means Committee.*

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

[Senate Committee Meeting Schedule](#)

[House Committee Meeting Schedule](#)

Full House Ways and Means Committee

Blatt Room 521 - Tuesday, February 3rd, 11:30 AM [**Agenda Available**](#)
[**Live Broadcast**](#)

SNAP Work Requirement Changes (Effective Feb 1, 2026)

The federal "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (OBBBA) has expanded the rules for who must work to keep their benefits.

- **New Age Range:** Adults aged **18 to 64** are now subject to work requirements (previously, this ended at age 54).
- **The 80-Hour Rule:** If you do not have a disability or a dependent under age 14, you must work, volunteer, or attend a job training program for at least **80 hours per month**.
- **The 3-Month Limit:** If you don't meet these hours, you can only receive SNAP for **3 months** every three years.
- **Dependency Change:** You are only exempt from these rules if you have a child **under age 14** in your home (previously under age 18).

Air Travel Changes Update

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will refer passengers to the fee-based ConfirmID payment option if they do not present a valid, acceptable ID at checkpoints. Travelers will be able to pay \$45 to use TSA ConfirmID for a 10-day travel period.

<https://www.tsa.gov/news/press/releases/2026/01/15/45-fee-option-for-air-travelers-without-real-id-begins-february-1>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- **FEBRUARY 3** - The SCLBC will convene every Tuesday at 10:00 AM in Room 305 of the Blatt Building
- **FEBRUARY 11** - Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Reception (SCLBC Members)
- **FEBRUARY 12** - AKA Day at the State Capitol
- **FEBRUARY 17** - HBCU Day
- **FEBRUARY 25** - SCLBC Black History Month Reception, Optus Bank Columbia 1421 Main Street Location

NOTABLE DATES IN FEBRUARY

- **FEBRUARY 1** - Black History Month Begins
- **FEBRUARY 2** - Groundhog Day
- **FEBRUARY 3** - Ratification of 15th Amendment
- **FEBRUARY 4** - World Cancer Day
- **FEBRUARY 6** - National Wear Red Day
- **FEBRUARY 8** - Super Bowl LX
- **FEBRUARY 12** - Founding of NAACP in 1909
 - Abraham's Lincoln's Birthday in 1809
 - Rock Hill, SC Sit-In in 1960
- **FEBRUARY 14** - Valentine's Day
- **FEBRUARY 16** - President's Day
- **FEBRUARY 21** - Assassination of Malcolm X

FEBRUARY MEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

Senator. Darrell Jackson



February 1st

Senator. Margie Bright Matthews



February 10th

Representative. Carl Anderson



February 10th

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>

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.cbcfinc.org/>



Solomon Blatt Building – Suite 207

Columbia, SC 29201

Office Hours: Tues – Thurs 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

sclbc2025@gmail.com

2025-2026 SCLBC Executive Committee

Chairwoman

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

CORPORATE ROUNDTABLE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Dominion Energy®

Dominion Energy South Carolina (DESC)

[Dominion Energy](#) provides regulated electricity and natural gas to millions of customers across South Carolina, focusing on reliable, affordable, and increasingly clean energy, investing in grid security, infrastructure, and renewable sources like solar and offshore wind, while supporting economic growth in the state.

Dominion's "Weatherization" Program

More than 2,200 Dominion Energy customers in Columbia, SC communities are eligible for free energy-saving products and services. Dominion Energy recently hosted a kickoff event to introduce qualifying residents to the [Neighborhood Energy Efficiency Program](#) (NEEP), which offers free home energy efficiency assessments and improvements to income-eligible customers.

- **Headquarters**

400 Otarre Parkway, Cayce, SC 29033

- **Mailing Address**

PO Box 100255, Columbia, SC 29202

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.



SUPPORT SCLBC BY JOINING THE CORPORATE ROUNDTABLE

Please email sclbc2025@gmail.com for information on how to become a 2026 SCLBC Corporate Roundtable Partner.



[SCLBC WEBSITE](https://www.sclbc.org)