THE SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS

MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER



"A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP. A FUTURE OF OPPORTUNITY"

Welcome to the **March 2026 Newsletter** from the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus (**SCLBC**). Discover our latest initiatives, recent legislative efforts, and upcoming events shaping stronger communities across the state.

CHAIRWOMAN'S MESSAGE

March 2026: A Season of Transition and Action

Dear Caucus Members and Constituents,

We find ourselves at a powerful intersection of reflection and renewal. We concluded a vibrant Black History Month, where we honored the ancestors and leaders who paved the way for our current strides toward equity. Then, we turn our focus toward **Women's History Month**, transitioning from the celebration of our shared heritage to the specific recognition of the women who have anchored our families, our movements, and our democracy.

In honoring South Carolina's history, we must mention the late **Lucille Simmons Whipper**. A true pioneer, she was the first African American woman from the tri-county area to serve in the

General Assembly and was instrumental in founding the Avery Institute. Her legacy of service remains a North star for this Caucus as we navigate the complexities of the current legislative session.

Legislative Update:

Your South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus has been working diligently on the floor and in committee. Several key bills have recently cleared the General Assembly and received the **Governor's signature**, moving us closer to a safer and more prosperous state:

- **Act 106 (H. 4343)**: Strengthens our state's stance against exploitation by implementing mandatory human trafficking awareness and prevention training.
- **Act 101 (S. 405)**: Addresses critical justice issues regarding homicide by child abuse.
- **Act 110 (H. 4216)**: Provides significant updates to our income tax code, aimed at providing relief and clarity for South Carolina taxpayers.
- **Act 108 (H. 3831)**: – **The Smart Heart Act:** Ensuring our student-athletes are protected with better emergency response and AED access in schools.

We also continue to monitor the **$15.4 billion state budget** as it moves toward finalization, ensuring that teacher pay raises and infrastructure needs for our underserved communities remain top priorities.

The 2026 Election Cycle

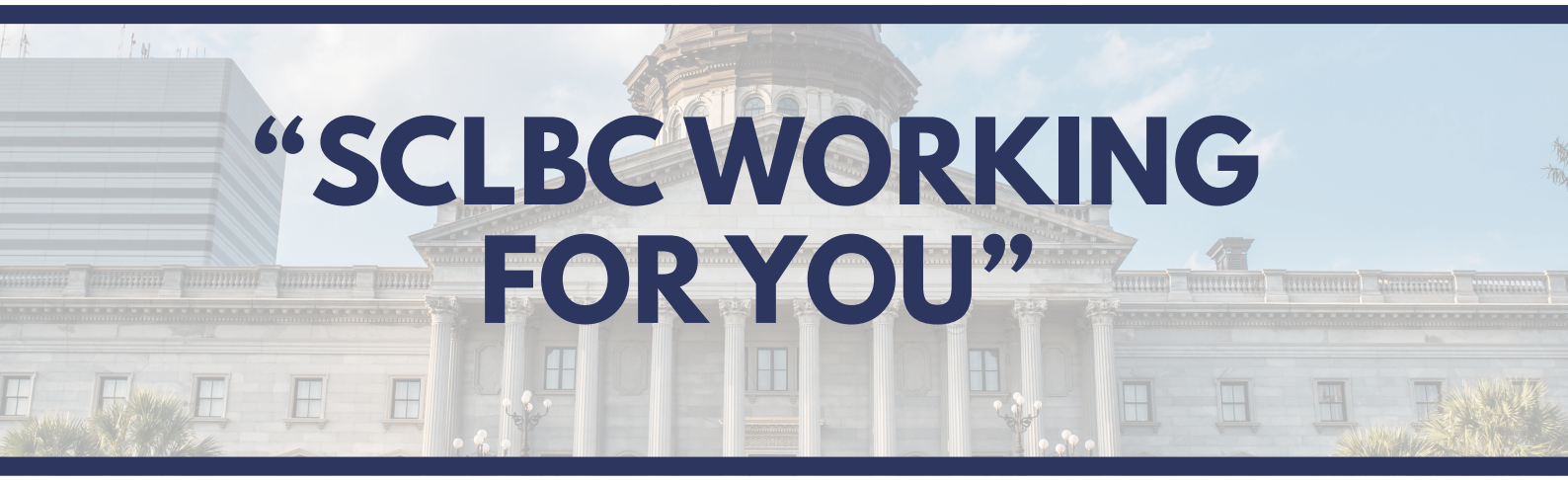
Finally, I want to remind everyone that the democratic process is in full swing. **The partisan candidate filing period** for the 2026 primaries has officially **closed at noon on Monday, March 30**. The South Carolina Democratic Party has announced that the House District 74 candidate filing period will be open from **noon on Wednesday, April 8, until noon on Friday, April 10.**

This is a critical moment for our state's future. Whether you are running for office or supporting those who do, now is the time to ensure our voices are represented at every level of government.

Let us carry the momentum of our history into the work of our future.

In Service,

Representative Annie E McDaniel, Chair
South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus



Click The Link Below For Full Video Message



https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KpxoDeLXsOuyfUZ2QwsN4p1MXmkUoBmn/view?usp=drivesdk



THE MONTH AT A GLANCE





Chairwoman McDaniel and Representative Waters Participate in *The Inquisitor* Panel Discussion

Chairwoman Annie E. McDaniel and Representative Courtney Waters participated in a panel discussion following a special screening of *The Inquisitor*, a documentary directed by Angela Tucker that chronicles the life and legacy of Barbara Jordan, the first Southern Black woman elected to Congress.

The film highlights Jordan's rise from Houston's Fifth Ward to national prominence, her oratorical brilliance, and her moral clarity during the Nixon impeachment hearings, which cemented her status as a civil rights icon. During the discussion, Chairwoman McDaniel and Representative Waters reflected on Jordan's enduring impact and the continued importance of courageous, principled leadership in public service.

Their participation underscored the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus' commitment to honoring trailblazers like Barbara Jordan while continuing the work of advancing equity, representation, and opportunity for all. The perfect finale to Women's History Month!



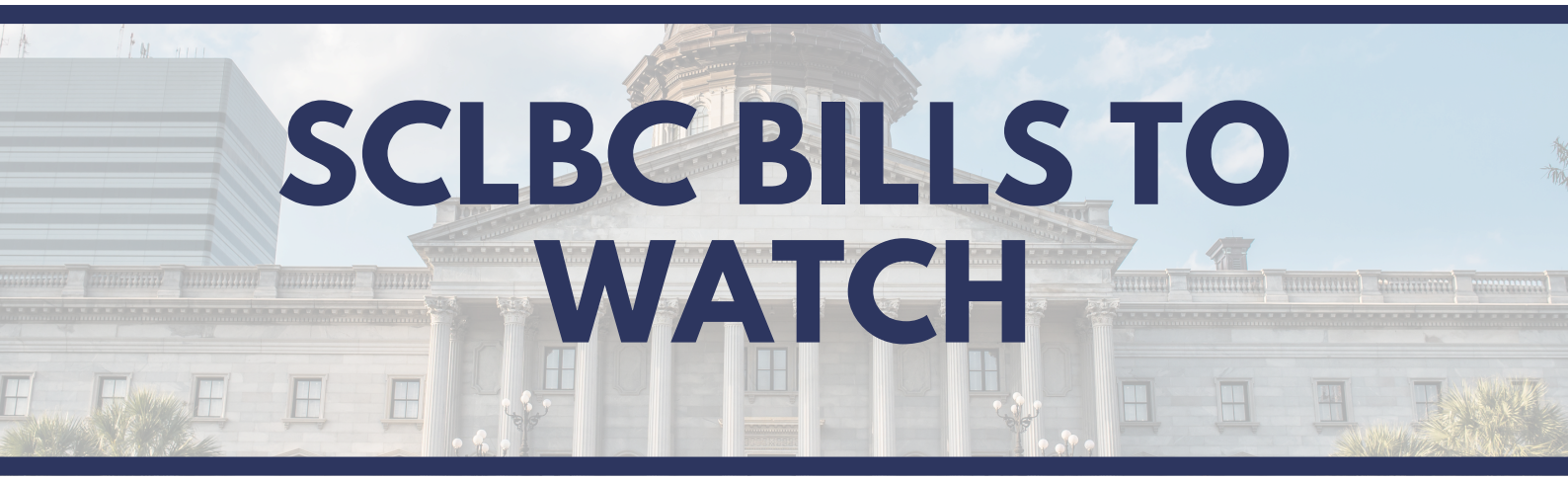
Representative Jermaine Johnson Announces Continued Run for Governor

Representative Jermaine Johnson has declared that he is staying in the race for Governor of South Carolina, underscoring his commitment to listening to the people, and putting their voices at the heart of his campaign.

Representative Johnson emphasized that his decision to continue his run is driven by the grassroots support that he has received from South Carolinians across the state. From working families to community leaders, Representative Johnson noted that South Carolinians are asking to be heard—and his campaign is focused on making sure their concerns guide the path forward.

He highlighted key issues impacting residents, including economic opportunity, education, healthcare access, and public safety, stressing that meaningful solutions begin with listening and engagement. Johnson added that he will continue traveling the state, ensuring the voices of South Carolinians play a direct role in shaping his vision.

His gubernatorial announcement reflects a clear commitment to lead with a people-first approach grounded in listening, understanding, and action.



SCLBC BILLS TO WATCH

I. H. 4662 - Charitable Funds Act: This bill amends the Solicitation of Charitable Funds Act to simplify how small businesses can support, raise funds, and partner with nonprofits. Bill passed the House, currently in the Senate.

https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/bills/4662.htm

II. H. 3924 - Hemp/THC Regulation: This bill creates strict rules on hemp-derived consumable products (like Delta-8, HHC, THC products), including age limits (21+), packaging restrictions, and retail controls. Bill passed both Chambers.

https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/bills/3924.htm

III. H. 3927 - Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity Act: This bill aims to ban all state agencies, public schools, and local governments from using DEI initiatives. It prohibits preferential treatment based on race, gender, or religion in hiring or enrollment, and bars funding for DEI offices. Bill passed the House, currently in the Senate.

https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/bills/3927.htm

IV. H. 4756 - Student Physical Privacy Act: This bill expands restrictions on bathroom and locker room access to higher education institutions, moving beyond K-12. Bill passed the Senate, currently in the House.

https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/bills/4756.htm

V. H. 3034 - Police Dogs and Horses Penalty Act: This bill increases the penalty for taunting, tormenting, or killings police dogs and horses. It also expands the definition of what is considered a violation. Bill passed the House, currently in the Senate.

https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/bills/3034.htm

VI. H. 3039 - Senator Clementa C. Pinckney Hate Crimes Act: This bill enhances the penalty for crimes against a victim related to race, sex, gender, national origin, etc. Bill is currently in the House Judiciary Committee.

https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/bills/3039.htm

VII. H. 5073 - Public School Grading System Act: This bill conditions eligibility for credit recovery and limits the use of certain assessments in calculating final courses grades. To enforce this provision, the bill introduces the withholding of state aid to public classroom funds. Bill passed the House, currently in the Senate.

https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/bills/5073.htm

VIII. S. 454 - Charter School Accountability Act: This bill updates South Carolina's charter school laws by strengthening oversight and accountability for charter schools and their authorizers. It shifts terminology from "sponsor" to "authorizer" and requires greater transparency, including posting annual audits and disclosing education management contracts. Bill passed the Senate, currently in the House.

https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/bills/454.htm

IX. ***S. 831 - SCDOT Modernization Bill:*** This bill restructures major parts of South Carolina's transportation system, including creating a Coordinating Council for Transportation and Mobility and expanding the South Carolina Department of Transportation's authority. It also allows public-private partnerships, tolling changes, and road transfers to local governments. Bill passed the Senate, currently in the House.

https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/bills/831.htm

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **April 14 -** The SCLBC will convene every Tuesday at 10:00 AM in Room 305 of the Blatt Building
- **April 21 -** Sigma Gamma Rho Day at the State Capitol
- **April 21 -** Jack and Jill of America, Inc. Day at the State Capitol

NOTABLE DATES IN APRIL

- **April 1 -** April Fool's Day
- **April 2 -** World Autism Awareness Day
- **April 7 -** World Health Day
- **April 15 -** Tax Day
- **April 18 -** World Heritage Day
- **April 22 -** Earth Day
- **April 24 -** Arbor Day
- **May 5** - SCLBC Fundraising Reception @ Optus Bank

APRIL MEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Senator Deon Tedder
April 26



RESOURCES

South Carolina: Election Tools, Deadlines, Dates, Rules, and Links:

https://www.vote.org/south-carolina/

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/index.php or download the SC State House App

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/

SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS

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Columbia, SC 29201
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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 SPOTLIGHTS

BlueCross BlueShield

BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina is the only major health insurer headquartered in SC. They are a top private employer with thousands of local jobs. BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina champions workforce development and corporate citizenship initiatives.

- **Workforce Development:** Funds nursing scholarships (USC/USC Upstate) and HBCU career pipelines **BlueScholars** to address healthcare worker shortages.
- **Corporate Citizenship:** Employees volunteer **20,000+ hours** and donate millions annually to local nonprofits like Harvest Hope and United Way.

BlueCross BlueShield Foundation

The BlueCross BlueShield Foundation champions access for vulnerable populations and focuses on public health.

- **Access for Vulnerable Populations:** Provides millions in grants to "safety net" clinics to ensure the uninsured have access to medical and dental care.
- **Mental & Oral Health:** Prioritizes funding for school-based mental health services and expanding the mental health professional workforce across the state.

Headquarters

BlueCross BlueShield of South Carolina
I-20 East at Alpine Rd.
Columbia, SC 29219

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.

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Dominion Energy®

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SCR
SOUTH CAROLINA REALTORS®

K12®

SCOPA
South Carolina Optometric Physicians Association

MAYNARDNEXSEN

South Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthesiology
Founded in 1951

South Carolina Association for Justice
Advocates for Fairness Under the Law.
EST. 1958

THE S·C·E·A
The South Carolina Education Association
Your Voice. Our Power. Their Future.

SUPPORT THE 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

A PRINTABLE VERSION IS AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITE