THE SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



"A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP. A FUTURE OF OPPORTUNITY"

Welcome to the **February 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

A Legacy of Hope and a Future of Justice

A Message from the Chair:

As we have the shortest month of the year, we find ourselves at a profound intersection of history.

During February we shared the history of the SC Legislative Black Caucus and honor the giants upon whose shoulders we stand, but this year, that duty feels particularly poignant. As we celebrate Black History Month, we do so with heavy hearts yet renewed resolve following the recent passing of a true South Carolina son and global icon, Reverend Jesse L. Jackson Sr.

Reverend Jackson, born in Greenville, taught us that we are “Somebody.” He proved that a young man from the segregated South could shift the bedrock of American politics and expand the boundaries of the “Rainbow” of our democracy. As we move forward, we carry his mission—and the mission of all our ancestors—into the halls of the State House.

Early in February, as the nation observed Groundhog Day, many looked for a sign of an early spring. In the SCLBC, we know that progress does not depend on a shadow; it depends on our collective will. Whether the season is long or short, we remain a steadfast voice for progress. We do not wait for the sun to come out; we work to create the light our communities deserve.

February was a month of intense debate in Columbia. While the SCLBC remains focused on equity and access, the legislative supermajority moved forward with several high-profile measures that we continue to monitor and, in several cases, vigorously contest.

Key Bills & Actions:

- ***H.4762*** - Education & Public Spaces: The House passed a controversial bill (84–31) requiring the display of the Ten Commandments in all K–12 public school and college classrooms. While proponents frame this as historical, your Caucus remains concerned about religious neutrality and the prioritization of culture-war issues over classroom funding.
- Judicial Reform (Act 95): Effective February 5, new standards for Judicial Elections were signed into law. We are watching closely to ensure these changes do not dilute the diversity of our bench or the fairness of our courts. Election to be held March 4, 2026.
- ***H. 3431*** - Social Media Regulation (Act 96): Legislation was ratified to regulate social media platforms for youth safety. While we support protecting our children, we are working to ensure these regulations do not unfairly impact digital access in minority communities.
- ***H. 4763*** - Public Safety & Health: We saw movement on the “HALO Act” (Helping Alleviate Lawful Obstruction) and continued debate over the “South Carolina Prenatal Equal Protection Act, "which we are monitoring for its potential impact on reproductive healthcare.

Visit the SC Legislature app or online for more information.

March Outlook: The Path Ahead

As we transition into March, the pace of the legislative session quickens. March is a “crossover” month—the critical period where bills must move from one chamber to the other to remain viable for the year.

What to expect in March:

1. Women’s History Month: We will be highlighting the incredible Black women leading our communities and serving in the

General Assembly.

2. Budget Debates: The House will begin intensive deliberations on the state budget. We are fighting to ensure your tax dollars

are reinvested into infrastructure, teacher raises, and community safety.

3. The “March to the Polls” With primary season approaching, we will be launching “Know Your

Ballot and Get Out The Vote” initiatives across the state.

How to Stay Involved

History is being made every day in the South Carolina General Assembly. We encourage you to:

- Contact Your Representative: Your voice is our greatest leverage during floor debates.
- Attend a Town Hall: We will be hosting virtual and in-person sessions throughout March.
- Register to Vote: Ensure your registration is up to date before the spring deadlines. Also, ensure that your voter registration is active.

In closing, “I am somebody. I may be poor, but I am somebody! I may be on welfare, but I am somebody! I may be in jail, but I am somebody! I am... God’s child!” — Rev. Jesse Jackson

In Solidarity,

Annie E. McDaniel
Chairwoman
The South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus



USDA and Council of 1890 Universities Sign Landmark Agreement to Advance Agricultural Excellence and Federal Equity

On March 5, 2026, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Council of 1890 University Presidents to strengthen federal collaboration with the nation's 19 historically Black land-grant universities.

Aligned with Executive Order 14283 and the White House Initiative to Promote Excellence and Innovation at HBCUs, the agreement aims to expand access to federal programs and funding, support agricultural workforce development, and enhance research, outreach, and institutional capacity at 1890 institutions.

The MOU also creates a joint USDA–1890 Task Force that will meet regularly to implement these goals and strengthen the role of these universities in U.S. agriculture, food security, and rural development.

Read the full article here: https://us8.campaign-archive.com/?e=4b64336b7b&u=7127cd67271b6069d5b5fe6ae&id=90b4145b29

Sharing Our History Within the House Chamber

Throughout February, members of the SCLBC delivered weekly Black History presentations from the Well of the South Carolina House of Representatives. Legislators recognized influential leaders such as civil rights icon Jesse Jackson and Reconstruction-era hero Robert Smalls. These tributes served as powerful reminders that Black history is American history and that the pursuit of justice and equality continues today.

HBCU Day: Investing in South Carolina's Historic Institutions

During HBCU Day at the South Carolina State House, Caucus members met with students, administrators, and leaders representing the state's eight Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Discussions focused on advancing funding equity, modernizing campus infrastructure, expanding workforce partnerships, and strengthening pipelines between HBCUs and state government to support future generations of leaders.



A Historic Tribute: Honoring Reverend Jesse Jackson

Members of the SCLBC supported ceremonial services at the South Carolina State House when civil rights leader Jesse Jackson lay in state. Working alongside legislative and community partners, the Caucus helped ensure the tribute reflected the dignity and reverence befitting a global champion for civil rights, honoring a legacy rooted in justice, equality, and service.





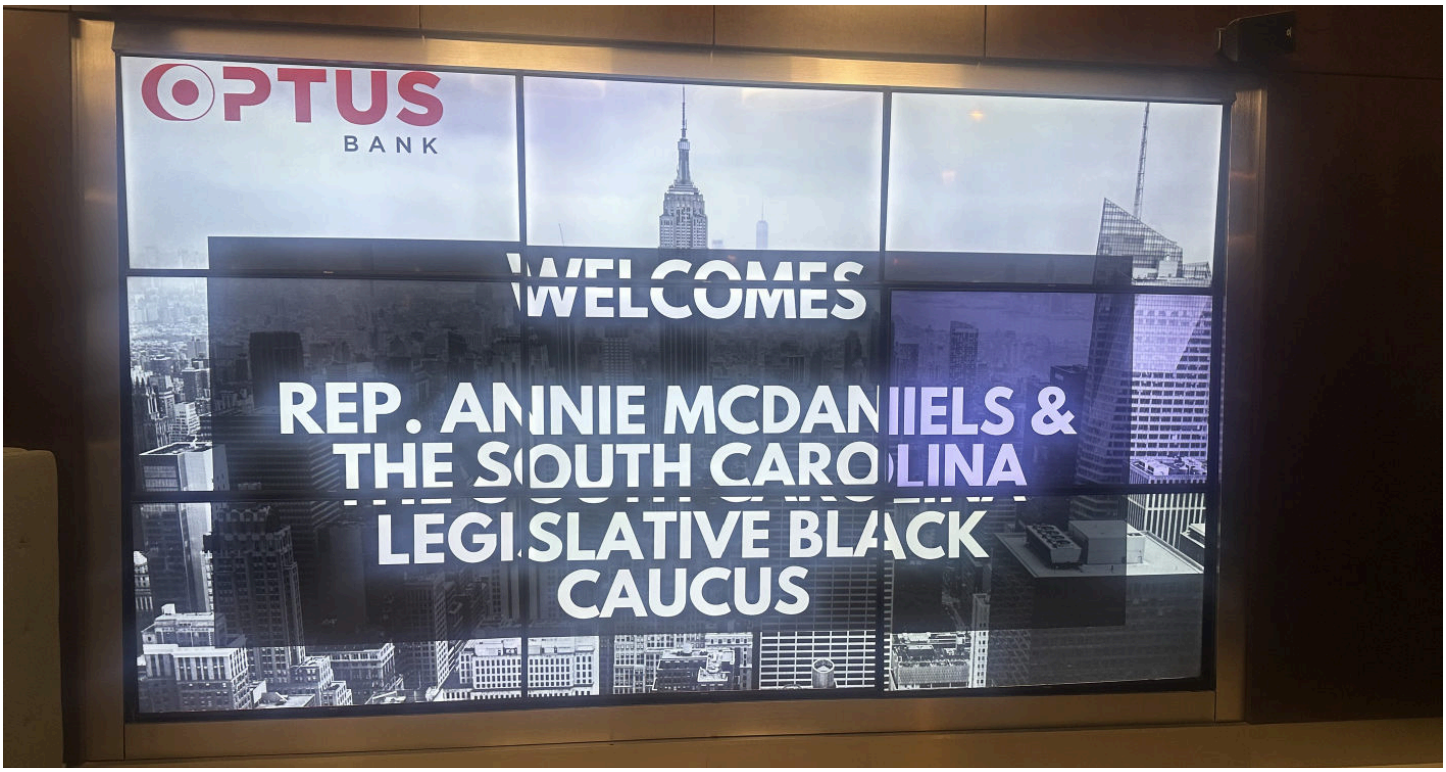
Annual Black History Month Reception

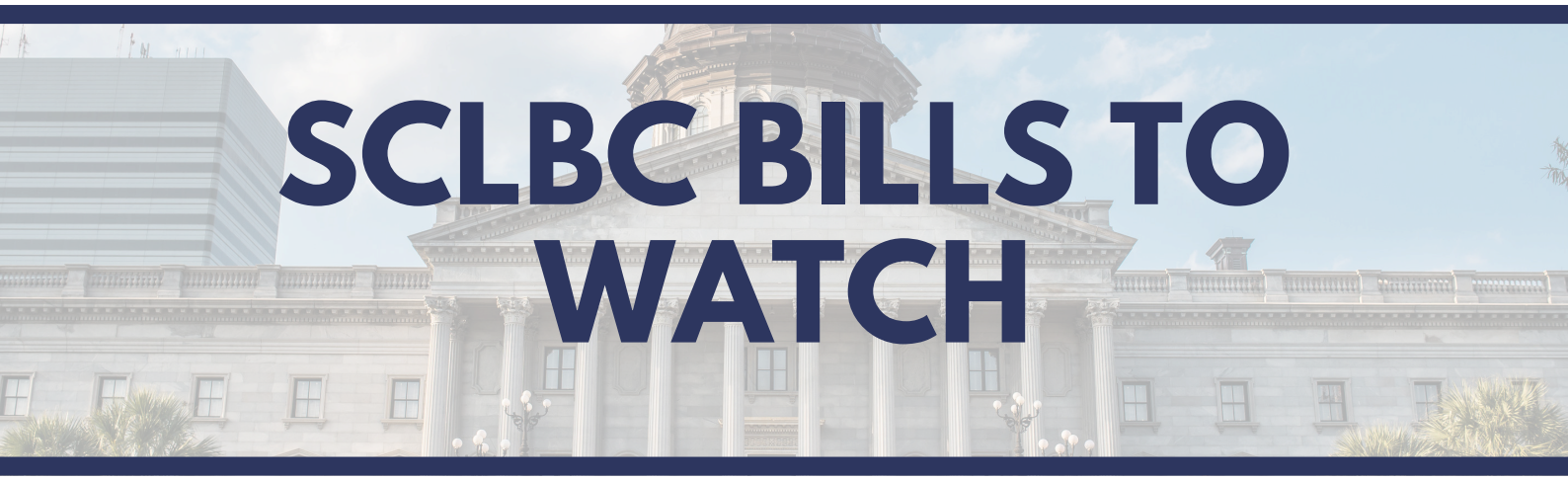
The South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus hosted its Annual Black History Month Reception at Optus Bank, one of the nation's oldest Black-owned financial institutions. The event brought together legislators, business leaders, clergy, educators, and community advocates for an evening celebrating Black history, leadership, and community impact.

Distinguished attorney and civil rights advocate I.S. Leevy Johnson delivered remarks reflecting on his lifelong commitment to justice and equality, inspiring attendees to continue advancing opportunity and equity across South Carolina.

Hosting the reception at Optus Bank highlighted the vital role Black-owned institutions play in

strengthening communities and promoting economic empowerment. Chairwoman Annie E. McDaniel noted that the location was intentional, underscoring the importance of supporting Black-owned businesses and financial institutions as engines of opportunity.





I. H. 5126 - Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget: Introduced and read for the first time on March 3, 2026, this bill covers appropriations and revenue for the state government, setting the fiscal agenda for the coming year.

https://www.scstatehouse.gov/query.php?search=DOC&searchtext=5126&category=LEGISLATION&session=126&conid=76676179&result_pos=0&keyval=1265126&numrows=10

II. H. 5121 - Juvenile Justice Intervention: This bill aims to support local, community-based interventions to keep children out of the S.C. Department of Juvenile Justice. It has received a favorable committee report and is eligible for House floor debate.

https://www.scstatehouse.gov/query.php?search=DOC&searchtext=5121&category=LEGISLATION&session=126&conid=76676205&result_pos=0&keyval=1265121&numrows=10

III. H. 4762 - Ten Commandments Display: Passed a third reading in the House on March 3, 2026. This bill requires the display of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms by January 1, 2027.

https://www.scstatehouse.gov/query.php?search=DOC&searchtext=4762&category=LEGISLATION&session=126&conid=76676206&result_pos=0&keyval=1264762&numrows=10

IV.H. 3858 - Watercraft Titling and Taxation: Set for special order on March 3, 2026, this bill proposes changes to boat/motor titling, removes the requirement to title outboard motors, and provides a 50% property tax exemption for the fair market value of watercraft.

https://www.scstatehouse.gov/query.php?search=DOC&searchtext=3858&category=LEGISLATION&session=126&conid=76676207&result_pos=0&keyval=1263858&numrows=10

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- **March 3** - The SCLBC will convene every Tuesday at 10:00 AM in Room 305 of the Blatt Building
- **March 4** - Links Day at the State Capitol
- **March 24** - Jack and Jill of America, Inc. Day at the State Capitol
- **March 25** - The South Carolina Education Association - Retired Lobby
- **April 21 –** Sigma Gamma Rho Day at the State Capitol

NOTABLE DATES IN MARCH

- **March 1-31** - Women's History Month
- **March 8** - International Women's Day
- **March 16** - Black Press Day
- **March 17** - St. Patrick's Day
- **March 20** - Spring Equinox

MARCH MEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Representative JA Moore
March 6



Representative Justin Bamberg
March 7



Representative Chandra Dillard
March 10



Representative Wendell Jones
March 12



Representative Jerry Govan
March 17



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

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 SPOTLIGHTS

Duke Energy

For more than a century, Duke energy has supported the communities it serves through charitable giving and employee volunteerism. The company recognizes that the decisions made today play an important role in shaping its long-term future. By investing in community resources and support systems, Duke Energy continues to help ensure communities have the tools they need to grow and thrive for years to come.

Duke Energy Foundation

Duke Energy Foundation powers the vitality of the communities they serve by building vibrant economies; strengthening local resiliency; and promoting community opportunity. More than $30 million in charitable grants each year drives impact and improvements in their communities. Additionally, Duke Energy volunteers donate nearly $4 million worth of their time in nonprofit service.

- **Headquarters**

525 S. Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28202

- **Mailing Address**

PO Box 1094, Charlotte, NC 28201

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.

DUKE ENERGY®

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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