SCLBC

THE SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS

JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER



"YOUR VOICE IS YOUR POWER"

Welcome to the **July 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

Looking Back on July & Welcoming August 2026

Dear Fellow South Carolinians,

As we conclude an event-filled July and usher in the month of August, the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus (SCLBC) remains steadfast in our commitment to justice, equity, economic fairness, and uplifting every community across our great state. July brought moments of solemn reflection, critical civil rights reminders, and evolving community conversations that will shape our legislative priorities as we look ahead.

Reflecting on Service & Extending Our Condolences

We extend our deepest condolences and heartfelt prayers to the family, friends, and colleagues of United States Senator Lindsey Graham following his sudden passing in July. Senator Graham dedicated nearly three decades to public service representing South Carolina in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. We send our continuous thoughts of comfort to his sister, State Senator Darline Graham, and his loved ones during this time of mourning.

Federal Hate Crime Conviction & The Urgent Need for SC Action

In July, our state was reminded once again of the ongoing fight against racially motivated violence with the federal hate crime conviction of a South Carolina offender. While federal prosecution ensures accountability in this instance, it highlights a stark reality: South Carolina remains one of only two states without a state-level hate crimes statute.

The SCLBC has long championed the **Senator Clementa C. Pinckney Hate Crimes Act**. Hate-fueled acts target not just individuals, but whole communities, creating fear and intimidation. We cannot rely solely on federal intervention to deliver justice in our own backyard. Passing a comprehensive state hate crimes bill remains a non-negotiable priority for our caucus when the General Assembly reconvenes.

Economic Growth, Environmental Justice & County Data Center Moratoriums

Across South Carolina, local communities are raising vital questions regarding rapid industrial and technological growth. In July, several county councils—including Chester, York, and Spartanburg—enacted or began evaluating temporary moratoriums on new data center developments.

While economic investment is crucial, there are concerns that high-density data centers place unprecedented demands on our rural land, local power grids, and precious water resources. The SCLBC supports our county leaders and residents taking a measured approach to ensure development does not displace rural neighborhoods, strain public utilities, or compromise environmental safety. Growth must be sustainable, transparent, and equitable for all residents.

Back to School: Investing in Our Youth & Educators

As August begins, thousands of students, educators, and support staff across South Carolina are preparing to return to the classroom for the 2026–2027 school year.

Education is the bedrock of civic progress and economic mobility. The SCLBC extends its best wishes to our students for a safe, inspiring, and successful academic year. We reaffirm our commitment to fully funding public education, addressing teacher shortages, expanding access to early childhood education, and ensuring equitable infrastructure in every school district—rural, suburban, and urban alike.

Civic Engagement & Preparing for the November 2026 General Elections

With the **November 2026 General Elections** quickly approaching, August serves as a pivotal month for civic preparation and community action. The decisions made at the ballot box this fall will directly influence housing affordability, public health, criminal justice reform, education funding, and voting rights in South Carolina.

We encourage every organization, faith community, and neighborhood association to active civic engagement:

- **Check Your Voter Registration:** Ensure your address and contact details are up to date with your local county voter registration office.
- **Mobilize Young Voters:** Engage high school seniors and college students returning to campuses to ensure they are registered and prepared to vote.
- **Educate Your Community:** Organize non-partisan candidate forums and voter education sessions on upcoming ballot measures and key local races.
- **Start a Civic Engagement Ministry:** Appoint a civic engagement ministry to attend meetings of elected officials and educate citizens of the candidates the roles to the positions on the ballot and important election dates.

Your voice is your power, and your vote is your standard.

In Unity and Service,

Annie E McDaniel, Chair

The South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus

AUGUST 11: SC GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

The South Carolina General Assembly reconvenes on August 11th

As South Carolina entered the new fiscal year on July 1 without a finalized state budget, lawmakers passed a **continuing resolution** to maintain government operations at current funding levels. Budget conference negotiators remain at an impasse over key competing priorities—most notably the Senate's proposal for roughly $308 million in income tax relief versus the House's defense of more than $300 million in district earmarks. Other critical items awaiting resolution include teacher and state employee pay raises, liquor liability insurance reform, and funding tied to Scout Motors.

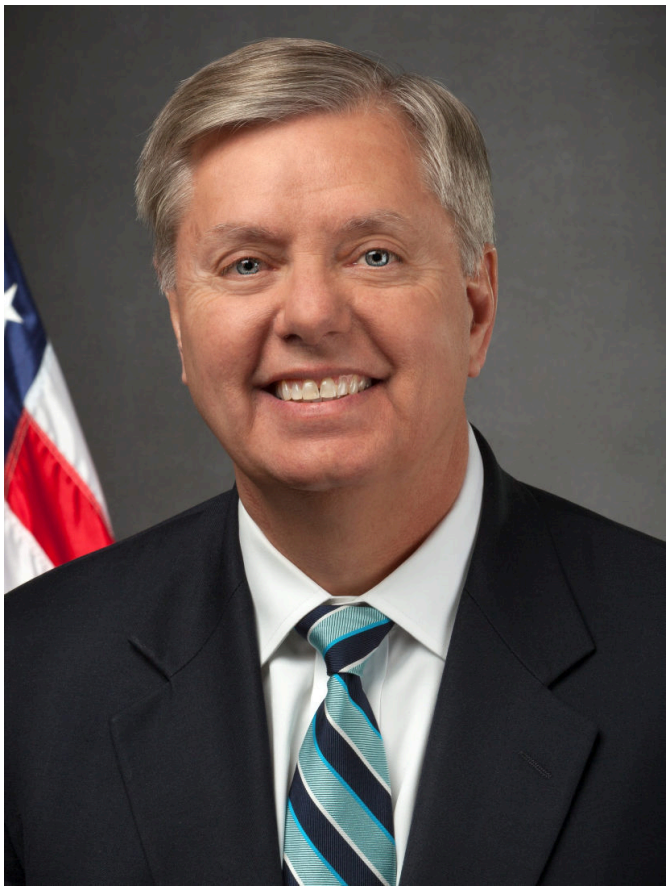
With negotiations continuing throughout July, the South Carolina General Assembly is officially scheduled to reconvene on **August 11, 2026, at 12:00 PM**, to address the final budget compromise before sending it to Governor Henry McMaster.

The South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus continues to closely monitor these negotiations, firmly committed to ensuring the final budget prioritizes meaningful investments in underserved communities and addresses the vital needs of all our constituents across the state.



The South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus

Reflecting on Senator Lindsey Graham's Service to South Carolina



Senator Lindsey Graham

The South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus extends its condolences following the passing of United States Senator Lindsey Graham, who represented South Carolina in the United States Senate for over two decades. His decades of public service leave an undeniable mark on our state's political history, and we honor his long-standing dedication to representing South Carolinians on the national stage. Senator Graham passed on July 11th, 2026, in Washington, D.C.

The South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus also extends our thoughts to his sister, Darline Graham Nordone, whose lifelong bond with her brother was central to his personal journey and public life. Following Senator Lindsey Graham's passing, Governor Henry McMaster appointed Ms. Darline Graham Nordone to serve the remainder of Senator Lindsey Graham's Senate term. **We recognize her continued public service to South Carolina during this difficult period of transition.**

SC REPUBLICAN SENATE PRIMARY ELECTION

South Carolina Republican Senate 2026 Primary Election: A Competitive Race



The South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus now looks ahead to the **upcoming special Republican primary** on August 11, 2026, triggered by Senator Lindsey Graham's passing to determine the Republican nominee for the United States Senate seat. As candidate choices shape the future of South Carolina's representation in Washington, **the South Carolina Legislative Black Caucus encourages all South Carolinians to stay informed on the candidates**, remain actively engaged in the political process, and make their voices heard at the ballot box.

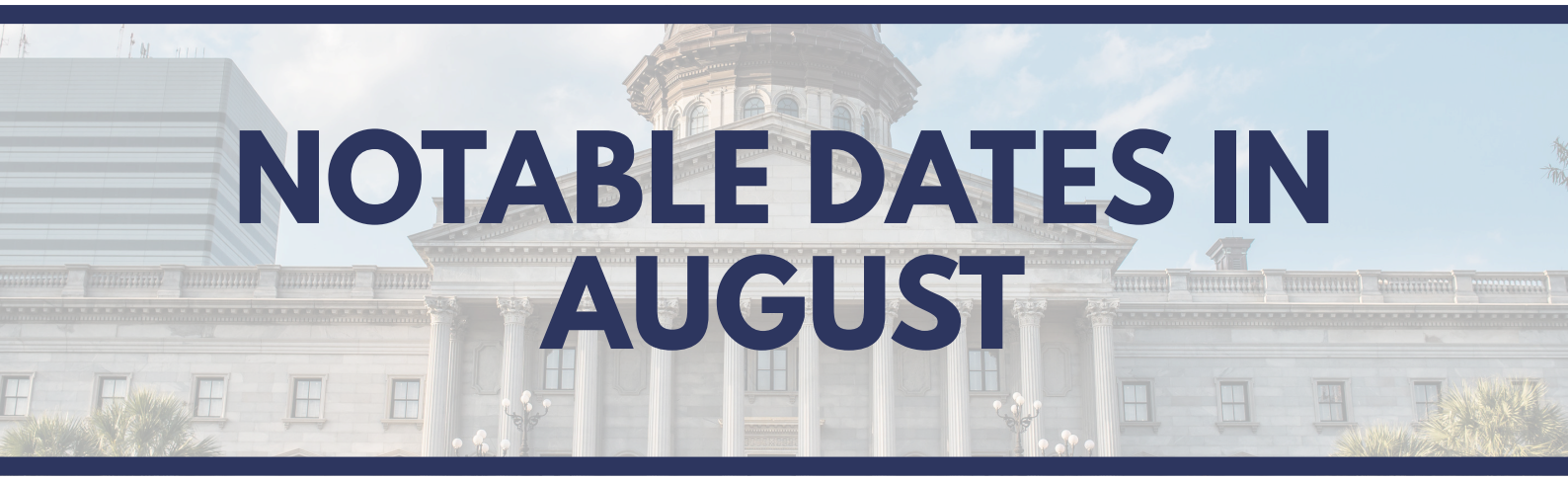
The SC Republican Senate nominee will face Dr. Annie Andrews, the SC Democratic Senate nominee in November.



- **August 11 -** South Carolina General Assembly reconvenes in Columbia, SC at 12:00 PM

- **September 16-20 -** Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's (CBCF) 55th Annual Legislative Conference

- **December 8-12 -** National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) 50th Annual Legislative Conference



NOTABLE DATES IN AUGUST

- **August 1 – Birth of Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays (1894)**

Honors the Epworth, South Carolina native, renowned educator, civil rights activist, President of Morehouse College, and mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

- **August 6 – Voting Rights Act of 1965 Signed (1965)**

Marks President Lyndon B. Johnson's signing of landmark federal legislation outlawing racial discrimination in voting. It banned literacy tests and provided federal oversight of voter registration, dramatically expanding Black political participation across the South.

- **August 21 – Nat Turner's Rebellion (1831)**

Recognizes the historically significant slave uprising in Virginia led by Nat Turner, an enslaved preacher. The revolt reshaped anti-slavery organizing and accelerated the national debate over the abolition of slavery across the American South.

- **August 28 – March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom (1963)**

Honors the iconic gathering of over 250,000 civil rights advocates at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his historic "I Have a Dream" speech.

- **August 28 – Emmett Till Remembered (1955)**

Marks the brutal murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till in Mississippi. His mother Mamie Till-Mobley's decision to hold an open-casket funeral galvanized the national Civil Rights Movement and exposed systemic racial violence to the world.



AUGUST MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

There are no SCLBC Member Birthday's for the month of August.



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/

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2025-2026 SCLBC Executive Committee

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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

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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 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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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.

THE SCEA 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