



Greenville County Republican Party (GCRP) Special Called Meeting Minutes

Date: February 23, 2026

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST

Location: Hughes Main Library, Greenville, SC

Presiding Officer: Jeff Davis, Chairman

Attendance and Credentialing

Credentialing was conducted by the Credentialing Committee. 78 Executive Committee members were credentialed in total. The required two-thirds quorum of organized precincts (74 needed) was confirmed before proceeding with officer elections.

Call to Order

Chairman opened the meeting after confirming quorum. The meeting was conducted as a hybrid meeting, with members participating both in person and remotely via Zoom, and was simultaneously livestreamed on multiple social-media platforms (YouTube, Rumble, Facebook, Instagram, and X).

Point of Order — Hybrid Meeting Legitimacy: Tigerville Precinct EC raised a point of order contending that GCRP procedure requires meetings to be held in person, and that without explicit bylaw authorization, remote participants should not count toward quorum or have full rights to debate and vote. Chairman Davis ruled that the GCRP falls under the RNC, whose rules (Rule 10, Paragraph E) explicitly permit meetings by telephone conference, electronic platform, or any other method approved by the committee chairman, provided all participants can simultaneously hear each other and have the opportunity for recognition. An appeal of the Chairman's ruling was made by Tigerville Precinct EC. The body voted; the ayes prevailed. The Chairman's ruling was sustained and the meeting continued as a hybrid meeting.

Opening Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Westside Precinct EC delivered the opening prayer, which included a lengthy reflection on the state of the nation, gratitude for founding-era sacrifice, and a call for accountability in government. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited by the assembly.

Agenda

This was a Special Called Meeting. Per GCRP rules, only the five agenda items included in the official call (sent Saturday prior to the meeting) could be considered; the agenda could not be amended.

Election for First Vice Chair

Approval of the 2026 GCRP Budget

Rules Change: Allow electronic/hybrid meetings (Rule 3, Section A — new paragraph)



Rules Change: Strike the 2-of-3 even-year primary voting requirement (Rule 4A7)

Rules Change: Clarify the budget vote deadline (Rule 9C)

Privilege Motion — Hard Adjournment at 8:00 p.m. by Graze Branch EC moved to adjourn the meeting no later than 8:00 p.m. (the library's closing time) so that no one would get in trouble for running over. The motion passed by voice vote.

Item 1: Election for First Vice Chair

Nominations:

Cathleen Griffeth, Tigerville Precinct, EC — nominated by Thornblade EC.

Emerson Cooke, Ashton Lakes Precinct — nominated by Tubbs Mountain EC

Candidate Speeches (three minutes each): Kathleen Griffin stated she was flattered to be nominated, acknowledged uncertainty about her qualifications, and emphasized the importance of understanding the Constitution and the rules. Emerson Cooke spoke about his background: attending Coffee & Politics since his senior year of high school (home-schooled), working on the 2025 New York effort, serving as Vice President of Ashton Lakes Precinct, working on the Trump campaign, and his involvement at Clemson University with Young Americans for Liberty. He stated he was not a politician, that he came to serve, and that he wanted to hear from every EC member about what policies they wanted him to pursue.

Vote Method: Tubbs Mountain EC moved to conduct a roll call vote. The body voted in favor of a roll call vote. Paper ballots were distributed; online participants voted via the Zoom chat, which was recorded on all livestream platforms for auditing. Ballots required name, precinct, and signature.

Vote Result: Emerson Cooke — 70 votes; Kathleen Griffeth — 9 votes. Emerson Cooke was elected First Vice Chair of the Greenville County Republican Party.

Item 2: Approval of the 2026 GCRP Budget

The 2026 budget had been previously approved by the executive board and was presented by Suber Mill EC. The budget is based on 2024 actual figures (2025 was a reorganization year with atypically high membership).

Estimated Income:

General fund donations: \$10,000

Membership donations: \$20,000

Fundraising revenue (gala, Christmas party, baseball auction, etc.): \$10,000

Total estimated income: \$40,000

Estimated Expenses:



Office expenses: \$3,600

General liability insurance: \$900

Headquarters rent and utilities: \$17,400 (\$1,450/month, including \$150/month increase for insurance and taxes)

Party promotion and outreach (door hangers, info handouts, newspaper, meeting/event spaces): \$7,500

Miscellaneous meeting spaces and other expenses: \$1,000

Tech and lawn care: \$6,300

Total estimated expenses: \$36,700

Projected net income: \$3,300. Beginning cash on hand: \$15,852.

Discussion: Vermont EC asked how shared office expenses are divided between the GCRP and the mySCGOP, and how lawn care costs are apportioned given that 1776 Services is the primary renter of the building. The Chair clarified that the GCRP has a sub-lease with 1776 Services and is responsible for 100% of the lawn care cost per the lease agreement. The Chair noted the \$1,450/month rent is well below the building's actual market cost on Wade Hampton Boulevard. Multiple Q&A sessions had previously been held to allow members to ask questions.

Vote: All in favor. Budget approved by voice vote.

Item 3: Rules Change — Allow Electronic/Hybrid Meetings (Rule 3, Section A)

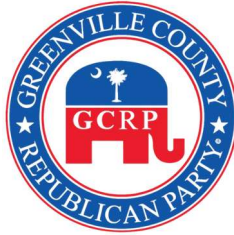
This resolution originated from Ray Sheen's research on Robert's Rules of Order. Greg Peck (Rules Committee Chair) read the resolution. The proposed new language (Rule 3, Meetings, Section A, Regular Meetings — new Paragraph 4) would allow Executive Committee and standing or special committee meetings to be conducted via teleconference, internet web meeting service, in person, or a combination, as designated by the chairman, subject to requirements that the electronic platform support: (1) visible display identifying participants to establish quorum; (2) identification of those seeking recognition to speak; (3) display or retrieval of the text of pending motions; and (4) display of vote results. An anonymous vote conducted through a designated internet media service shall be deemed a valid ballot vote.

Amendments to the Amendment (voted upon in order):

Amendment by Devenger EC: All non-secret ballot votes must be auditable, and ineligible persons must be prevented from casting votes. Passed by voice vote.

Amendment by Baker Creek President: Vote results must be displayed before the meeting continues to the next item of business. Failed by voice vote.

Amendment by Westside EC: An EC member participating online shall not be muted by the meeting administrator before completing two minutes on a recognized question or comment. Passed by voice vote.



Vote counted by the Teller and Credentialing Committee; Ayes: 48. Nays: 11

Rule 3, Section A amended as described above, effective immediately. Note: This does not affect the quarterly in-person business meeting schedule already approved.

Item 4: Rules Change — Strike Rule 4A7 (2-of-3 Primary Voting Requirement)

Current Rule 4A7 text: "A person must have voted in two of the last three even-year Republican primaries in his or her county of residence to be eligible for election or appointment to a Greenville County party office or to being a member of the Greenville County Executive Committee. Younger Republicans who may not have been of legal age for two even primary elections must be confirmed by a majority vote of the Executive Committee at the next regular meeting of the Executive Committee. The election of any county party officer or member of the Executive Committee which does not meet this requirement shall be immediately void. Candidates for county party office or county executive committee member must sign a statement affirming compliance with these requirements when or prior to being nominated. Nothing in this rule shall disqualify an officer or a member of the executive committee who is serving at the time this rule is adopted from completing his or her term or future successive terms."

Rationale for striking: South Carolina has open primaries, meaning Democrats can vote in Republican primaries and could satisfy the 2-of-3 requirement. Conversely, committed Republicans relocating from states with party registration may not have a South Carolina primary voting record and can be blocked from serving despite their documented Republican history.

Discussion:

Tigerville EC — Opposed: The rule is the only safeguard ensuring leaders are proven loyal Republicans. Exceptions already exist for young Republicans. Moving from another state (as he did from Rhode Island) does not preclude bringing one's voting record as evidence.

Timberlake Precinct President — In favor of striking: Demonstrated that a Democrat city councilmember who votes in Republican primaries would qualify, while a committed Republican who moved from California was required to FedEx her out-of-state voting record to qualify.

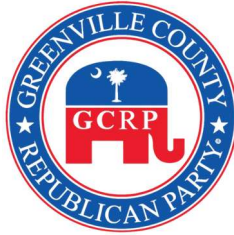
Devenger EC — In favor of striking: Barriers to participation hinder healthy party growth, and many lifelong Republicans from non-registration states cannot prove their affiliation through SC primary records.

Wade Hampton EC — In favor of striking: Many loyal Republicans may have been discouraged from voting in past primaries by poor candidate fields; they would be unfairly excluded from service.

Thornblade EC — Opposed: Concerned that recent party-switchers with unknown Democratic voting histories could gain influence in the GCRP.

Vote counted by the Teller and Credentialing Committee; Ayes: 57. Nays: 20

. Motion carried with more than two-thirds in favor. Rule 4A7 is stricken from the GCRP rules.



Item 5: Rules Change — Budget Vote Deadline Language (Rule 9C)

Current Rule 9C: "An annual budget shall be prepared by the officers and presented to the executive committee for approval no later than February 10th of every year." The current language does not specify when the vote on the budget must occur.

Proposed Rule 9C (amended): "An annual budget shall be prepared by the officers and presented to the executive committee no later than February 10th of every year. A vote on the budget shall be held at a regular or specially called meeting no later than March 10th of every year."

Discussion: Vermont EC noted that AI tools (ChatGPT and Grok) interpreted the current language to require the vote to occur by February 10th and preferred keeping the current wording. Gray's Branch EC called the question.

Vote: Ayes have it. Rule 9C amended as proposed.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Chair and passed without opposition. The meeting adjourned approximately two to three minutes before 8:00 p.m., consistent with the earlier privilege motion setting 8:00 p.m. as the hard stop.

Action Items

Emerson Cooke to begin serving as First Vice Chair of the GCRP immediately upon election.

Operate the GCRP under the 2026 budget as approved (\$40,000 income / \$36,700 expenses / \$3,300 projected net).

Implement amended rules: Rule 3 Section A (hybrid meetings), Rule 4A7 (stricken), and Rule 9C (revised budget vote deadline) pending notification to the next convention.

Members interested in election integrity and process transparency are encouraged to join the Teller or Credentialing Committee.

Bring proposed rule additions (e.g., muting policy, vote-display timing) to the Rules Committee for future agenda consideration.

Minutes Prepared By: Secretary Scott Geer leveraging AI transcription and summarization tools.

Note: These minutes summarize key discussions and actions from the AI-generated transcript. If corrections are needed, please contact the PRIOR to the next meeting Recording Secretary.

Link to the meeting: <https://youtube.com/live/7ZNWu1BUWqQ>