



Greenville County Republican Party (GCRP) Business Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, April 13, 2026
Time: Approximately 7:00 PM EST
Location: Greenville Tech Student Success Center Auditorium
506 S. Pleasantburge Drive
Greenville, SC 29607
Presiding Officer: Jeff Davis, Greenville County Republican Party Chairman
Recording Secretary: Scott Geer

Attendance and Credentialing

64 Precincts Credentialed and Represented. The Credentialing Committee report was provided by Joe McLaughlin, CC Chair (Westside, EC).

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Davis, President/Chairman of the Greenville County Republican Party. The proceedings were conducted at the Greenville Tech Student Success Center Auditorium, 506 S. Pleasantburge Drive, Greenville, SC 29607.

Opening Ceremonies

Invocation / Prayer

Led by Kyle Long, BridgeFork President (running for County Council District 28). The prayer included thanksgiving for God's provision and protection, specific intercession for deployed U.S. military personnel, and scripture readings from Proverbs 3:5-7 and Romans 15:13, emphasizing trust in the Lord, discernment, and overflowing hope through the Holy Spirit for the Party and elections.

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by John Ehlers, Jennings Mill President / Greenville County Council District 17 Candidate. Prior to leading, Mr. Ehlers shared personal reflections on how rehearsing the Pledge had deepened its meaning for him—particularly its affirmation of a republic (not a democracy) and the inspiration drawn from its words. He encouraged attendees to repeat it thoughtfully to internalize its significance.

South Carolina Republican Creed

Read by Deborah Manning (Poinsett EC; Vice Chairman, Greenville County Planning Commission). The Creed was delivered in full, concluding with the emphatic close: "Fight, fight, fight." Ms. Manning noted the timeliness of the Creed's themes of individual liberty, calculated risk, and resistance to overreach in light of upcoming Planning Commission actions on the Enabling Act to restore local control.

Welcome, Recognitions & Candidate Introductions

Veterans in attendance were recognized and thanked for their service. Jeff Davis noted the ongoing creation of new veterans through current global engagements.

Candidates running for office (June 9 primary and others) were invited to introduce themselves from the floor microphone:

- David Atchley — U.S. Congress, District 4
- Danny Ford II — Commissioner of Agriculture
- Joe Dill — Greenville County Council, District 17
- John Ehlers — Greenville County Council, District 17
- Paul Wickensimer — South Carolina House, District 22 (re-election)
- Allen Kellett — Greenville County Council, District 28
- Kyle Long — Greenville County Council, District 28

In Memoriam — Jo Jones

A moment of remembrance was observed for Jo Jones (Greenville 3 precinct), a dedicated and active Party member who passed away March 18 following a rapid cancer diagnosis. A brief video tribute compiled by Olga was presented. Memorial service details will be shared with interested members once finalized.

Meeting Calendar & Upcoming Events



- **Coffee & Politics:** Every Friday, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM at Party headquarters. Chairman Benton Blunt scheduled for May 1.
- **Legislative Committee** (Frank Gunther): Second Tuesday of each month at headquarters.
- **Pro-Life Committee Educational Series:** Monthly at Denny's (back room). May 11 — Assisted Suicide; June 8 — Theology of the Body; July 20 — Mortality & Ethics. Eat at 5:30 PM; program at 6:30 PM.
- **Greenville Drive Baseball Outing:** Highly anticipated annual event. \$32 includes game ticket + buffet; separate area for candidate remarks and networking with ~6,000 attendees.
- **Precinct Meetups:** April 27 (6:30 PM, Topsy Taco, northern county / Travelers Rest area); May 4 (Simpsonville, Carolina Fine Foods). Candidate speakers to be announced.

Guest Speaker Presentations

Curtis Loftis — South Carolina State Treasurer

Treasurer Loftis delivered an extended and candid address covering both the operational successes of his office and the extraordinary political challenges he has faced. Key points included:

Office Operations & Public Programs: Oversight of \$46+ billion in state assets with full transparency and accountability. Promotion of the 529 College Savings Program (\$8.5 billion AUM; tax-advantaged for K-12 private tuition/books/computers as well). The Palmetto Able program (newer, modeled on 529/IRA) allows individuals with pre-46 disabilities to save tax-free without jeopardizing federal benefits. Unclaimed Property program holds over \$1 billion belonging to South Carolinians; public searchable database urged.

Political Battle with the State Senate: Detailed account of what he termed the "great unpleasantness"—a sustained effort by certain Senate leaders (primarily Sen. Stephen Goldfinch and Sen. Larry Grooms) to remove him from office following his victory over their preferred candidate. He characterized the process as lacking any meaningful due process. The core issue was control of the state's financial apparatus (\$46B+ in assets). The Senate's actions have blocked the state's ability to issue proper long-term General Obligation debt, forcing costly short-term bank borrowing (~\$300M annually). Multiple investigations have cost taxpayers millions.

During Q&A, Treasurer Loftis addressed road maintenance (primarily a DOT systemic issue) and strategies for countering entrenched power (local organization, holding legislators accountable).

Paul Dans — Former Candidate, U.S. Senate

Mr. Dans appeared to update the body on his decision, filed on the final day, to remove his name from the U.S. Senate primary ballot. He explained the choice was driven by resource constraints and a desire to avoid dividing the anti-incumbent (Lindsey Graham) vote. He explicitly endorsed Mark Lynch as the candidate best positioned to consolidate support and defeat Graham in the primary. He reaffirmed his commitment to the America First movement and stated he would remain active in the fight. Personal background: father of five (including a newborn), married to a former New York City Ballet dancer / Natalie Portman trainer, MIT-educated, military family heritage, committed Christian, and "pure-blooded deplorable" Trump supporter from the outset. He invoked Revolutionary War patriots (Pickens, Marion, Sumter) as models of unity against a common foe rather than internal division.

Chairman Davis expressed disappointment at the funding realities that forced the withdrawal but praised Mr. Dans' character and urged continued support for unified opposition to Graham.

Danny Ford II — Candidate, Commissioner of Agriculture

Mr. Ford, a working farmer with "dirt under his fingernails," presented a sobering assessment of South Carolina agriculture's structural crisis and his vision for the office. Core themes included livestock & environmental crisis (personal experience losing 24 cows to blue-green algae blooms after 2024 hurricane disruptions; state failing farmers on water quality and emergency response), infrastructure & processing failures (SC lacks sufficient USDA graders, local processing capacity, fair power rates; most chicken houses operate as contract labor for out-of-state giants; value and tax revenue leave the state; loggers have lost 13 mills in 13 months), and generational & national security angle (average SC farmer age is 60; only 9% are 35 or under; food production is national security). He proposed an app/platform for real-time producer inventory matching consumer demand, investment in local infrastructure, off-peak power rates, and keeping processing/tax base in-state. He positioned himself as a fighter who understands the daily realities versus career politicians or CEOs.

David Atchley — Candidate, U.S. Congress, District 4

Mr. Atchley, a 45-year business builder (sold 911/law enforcement systems company to Motorola; higher education development at Wofford & Mary Baldwin; ran Buzz Aldrin's foundation for seven years), emphasized he is not a career politician or lawyer. He cited a personal charge from Strom Thurmond (as a Senate page in the early 1980s) to eventually run for public office. Key platform elements: District-First Philosophy (show up, listen, deliver solutions; protect and right-size growth; combine Spartanburg + Greenville MSAs to unlock significantly more federal infrastructure dollars); Agriculture & Land (farming roots; alarm over foreign acquisition of distressed U.S. farmland); Workforce & Education (retain Clemson, Wofford, and Presbyterian College graduates by recruiting high-wage industry; invest in technical colleges); Artificial Intelligence (AI is inevitable but requires strict boundaries in DC to prevent misuse); Term Limits & Integrity (supports reasonable caps). "District first, not DC."



Approval of Agenda

The agenda was distributed in advance via email. Motion to approve (Steve Hudson, Piedmont; second). Carried unanimously.

Reports

State Executive Committee (EC) Report — Yvonne Julian

State EC updates focused on primary season priorities (voter registration, education, and turnout), gubernatorial debate schedule (public on Facebook), and internal SCGOP mechanics. Notable items: new-mover data shows ~62% identifying as Republican; closed-primaries legislation failed again amid legislative process disputes; rules committee grappling with proxy qualification issues in rural counties with low attendance; operations budget ~\$1.8M with 7.5 staff; candidate fundraising remains opaque. A motion for equal treatment of all ECs and chairs regarding training/communication emails passed unanimously after reports that ~17 members (including some chairs) were not receiving notices. Persistent distribution problems remain. A moment of silence was observed for the young woman recently murdered in Charlotte whose accused perpetrator was deemed incompetent to stand trial.

Chairman's Report — Jeff Davis

Primary Election Update: 57 days until the June 9, 2026 primaries (early voting begins approximately 14 days prior). Expect a runoff in at least one contested race. Nearly every Republican candidate has Democratic opposition in November; turnout in the primary is critical.

Major New Voter Outreach Initiative: The Party has printed 10,000 copies of a special primary-focused "newspaper" for precinct-level literature drops across all 151 precincts. Goal: drive June 9 turnout and give voters concrete information on races and candidates. Precinct leaders are asked to map their precincts, determine optimal drop routes, and handle distribution (door drops or mailed where neighborhoods are large). A second edition is already in production for release around May 22, to include a voter guide section with candidate positions and (potentially) balanced considerations or recommendations. A special meeting will be scheduled soon to build consensus on the voter guide content and approach. Custom one-pagers introducing precinct leadership or highlighting local issues can be inserted into the bags. Data assistance for targeted outreach will be provided where available.

Chairman Davis stressed that low turnout (~15% in Greenville area historically) and voter uncertainty about "who to vote for" are addressable problems. He urged members to volunteer for campaigns, door-knock, have conversations, and use the new materials to educate neighbors. In the 4th Congressional District, candidates include incumbent William Timmons (Trump-endorsed), David Atchley, and Robert E. Lee. Broader discussion touched on the need to stop intra-Republican infighting, focus on defeating Lindsey Graham-style incumbents and the left, and improve legislation through better voter information and higher conservative turnout.

Treasurer's Report — Mary Wheeler

Financial report for the period was presented (full details available online at greenvillegop.com/reports). Key figures:

Beginning Balance	\$7,482.41
General Donations	\$20.00
Membership Dues (Anadot + check)	\$570.40
Fundraising (Greenville Drive game)	\$537.00
Spartanburg Gala (net back)	\$400.00*
Total Income	\$1,527.40
Expenses (rent/utilities, outreach, printing, website)	\$1,789.23
Ending Balance	\$7,220.58

* \$800 received back from \$1,000 table purchase at Spartanburg Gala produced goodwill and near-full recovery. Expenses slightly exceeded income for the period. Basket collection for voluntary donations was conducted at meeting conclusion.

Full current and past Treasurer's Reports are available at greenvillegop.com/reports.

Approval of Prior Minutes

- **January 12, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes** — Motion (Jim Wickes, Asheton Lakes; second Steve Boehm, Gowensville). Approved unanimously.
- **February 23, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes** (election of new First Vice Chair) — Motion (Dillon Peters, Wade Hampton; second Daniel Gamble, Donaldson). Approved unanimously.



Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Deborah McLemore (Saluda Precinct; noted as relocating to Anderson) and seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned following a final collection of voluntary donations via passing baskets.

Special thanks were extended to Andrew Mullinax for providing professional video recording/filming of the proceedings, to all candidates and guest speakers for their time and candor, and to every volunteer who helped make the evening possible.

These minutes constitute a summary record of the proceedings, decisions, and action items. They are prepared from the official meeting recording and notes. A full verbatim transcript is available upon request through Party leadership. Minutes are subject to correction and approval at the next regular meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Geer

Recording Secretary

Greenville County Republican Party

Prepared: July 01, 2026

DRAFT