



Greenville County Republican Party (GCRP) Business Meeting Minutes

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

Attendance and Credentialing

67 Precincts / Executive Committee members Credentialed and Represented. The Credentialing Committee report was provided in the absence of Joe McLaughlin, Credentialing Chair, by Tom Marraffa, President of Saluda Precinct. Quorum (25) was more than triple the requirement and was confirmed.

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Jeff Davis, Chairman of the Greenville County Republican Party. The proceedings were conducted as a quarterly business meeting of the body.

Opening Ceremonies

Invocation / Prayer

Led by Charlene Means. The prayer included confession and request for cleansing of hearts, thanksgiving for South Carolina, Greenville County, and the United States, intercession for the Graham family in their time of loss, protection for President Trump, Vice President Vance and the Cabinet, blessing on Greenville County leaders, and that all discussion and decisions would honor God and advance the work of the GCRP.

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Liz Gunther, President of Graze Branch. The full Pledge was recited by the body.

South Carolina Republican Creed

Read by Emerson Cook, First Vice Chairman. The Creed was delivered in full, affirming the right to be uncommon, to take calculated risk, to prefer the challenges of life to guaranteed security, and to stand erect, proud and unafraid before God alone.

Welcome, Recognitions & Candidate Introductions

Veterans in attendance were recognized and thanked for their service.

Chairman Davis noted that Democrats are running against nearly every Republican nominee in the November general election and stressed the necessity of unity. Representative Paul Wickensimer (South Carolina House, District 22) was recognized; the Democrat opposing him is the attorney representing the accused in the Charlotte murder case that has drawn national attention.

In Memoriam — Senator Lindsey Graham

A moment of silence was observed for United States Senator Lindsey Graham, who passed away over the preceding weekend. Chairman Davis acknowledged that the Greenville County Republican Party had previously censured Senator Graham twice, yet also recognized his support for President Trump's agenda and his role in advancing key legislation, including the "Big Beautiful Bill." Governor McMaster appointed Senator Graham's sister as temporary placeholder for the Senate seat (to be sworn in the following Wednesday). She is not expected to seek the seat in the special election. Discussion also noted ongoing frustrations with the Senate Parliamentarian's influence over reconciliation and other measures.

Meeting Calendar & Upcoming Events

- **Coffee & Politics:** Every Friday, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM at Party headquarters (casual open forum; candidates and officeholders welcome).
- **Legislative Committee (Frank Gunther):** Second Thursday of each month at headquarters. The committee is actively shaping the 2027 legislative agenda (pro-life, Second Amendment, school choice, and related priorities). Members were strongly encouraged to participate beginning in August.

- **Pro-Life Committee:** Educational and business meetings continue. July 20 — Mortality & Ethics (Denny's); August 3 — Business meeting (Denny's); August 10 — Spiritual Warfare education + Pro-Life Parade (Christ the King, Father Longnecker speaking); August 31 — Business meeting (Denny's). Eat 5:30 PM / Program 6:30 PM for educational sessions.
- **Precinct Reorganization (Reorg) 2027:** Official date set for Monday, March 1, 2027 at 7:00 PM (makeup Saturday, March 6 at 10:00 AM). Niki Peters (Third Vice Chair) is leading planning. Precincts may secure their own locations (deadline ~6 weeks prior) or request regional hub locations (target 10–12 hubs). QR code circulated for updated contact information. Youth, high-school service-hour students, and college volunteers will be recruited. Goal: 100 % of 151 precincts organized; currently ~20 remain unorganized. Tradition of single-night county-wide reorg will be preserved; no secret or unposted meetings will be certified.
- **Poll Watcher Training:** Saturday, August 22 (jump-start in anticipation of the special U.S. Senate primary).
- **Next Quarterly Business Meeting:** October 5, 2026 (larger program with multiple speakers, including Mike Burkhold).
- **RNC Recalled Convention:** Dallas, Texas, September 8–10, 2026 (no formal business; celebration of Trump Administration achievements and mobilization for November).

Officer & Member Updates / Open Forum

Emerson Cook — First Vice Chairman / Clemson College Republicans

Mr. Cook reported on ongoing campus outreach. He serves on the Clemson College Republicans board (Outreach) and is helping launch the "Sentinel Society," a student think-tank / publication whose first papers are scheduled for release this month (one piece already accepted in an academic journal). Goals include expanding age-diverse involvement, policy writing, and strong turnout for Reorg 2027. Discussion followed regarding the presence of a Democratic Socialists of America chapter at Clemson, campus reactions to the assassination of Charlie Kirk, and the recent selection of a new university president viewed as more favorable. Emphasis was placed on converting campus energy into precinct organization and November turnout. Work continues with Young Americans for Liberty and efforts toward an Upstate (and eventual statewide) federation of college Republican chapters.

Youth Involvement, Trades & America First Economic Opportunity

Extended floor discussion addressed the need to reach younger voters, the appeal of democratic-socialist messaging rooted in economic frustration (H-1B visas, outsourcing, AI displacement of entry-level professional work, housing costs), and the counter-message of skilled trades, hard work, and genuine opportunity. Several members offered concrete pathways (electrical, HVAC, maintenance, welding). The body affirmed that America First must mean prioritizing American youth for jobs and futures. Pat Buchanan-style critiques of past trade and immigration policy were referenced as newly relevant to younger generations.

Rules Committee

Greg Peck and the Rules Committee continue incremental review so that proposed changes are presented gradually rather than as a large package at the next convention. The body was reminded that reforming the existing Republican Party through Reorg is far more effective than third-party efforts.

Events / Convention Venue

Terri Wicker, Events Chair, and leadership are actively seeking lower-cost facilities for the next county convention. The previous convention at the TV Convention Center cost approximately \$14,000 for capacity supporting ~2,300 delegates. Churches and other large venues (including facilities at Bob Jones University) are being explored. Members with connections were asked to assist.

Niki Peters — Third Vice Chair (Reorg)

Ms. Peters reiterated the March 1, 2027 date and circulated a QR code for contact updates. Planning emphasizes advance notice of locations, regional hubs for precincts that do not secure their own space, and involvement of college and high-school volunteers. Other counties are being assisted with their own reorg preparation, and reciprocal help is expected for Greenville's large effort.

Scott Geer — Recording Secretary / AI Infrastructure Update

Mr. Geer presented the current state of local AI tools developed for GCRP use:

- **Pandora AI (Legislation):** Closed-domain RAG system running on local servers. Ingests South Carolina bills; produces plain-English summaries and keyword-highlighted views (e.g., 35+ abortion-related bills currently tracked). No external internet access; guard-railed to supplied data only.
- **Meeting Transcription Pipeline:** MP4 recordings dropped into a watched folder undergo diarization and transcription; the resulting speaker-labeled text is then processed with Grok to produce draft minutes. Final human review corrects names, precincts, and spellings. This process produced the present minutes.
- **Document Library / Micro-NAS:** Centralized, backed-up repository of minutes, reports, and party records (physically visible as the "fishbowl" unit near the Chairman during interviews).
- **Future Unified Knowledge Base:** Planned ingestion of South Carolina statutes, Robert's Rules, SCGOP and GCRP rules, and relevant local ordinances for natural-language query.

Mr. Geer framed the broader purpose of local AI as eliminating dependence on cheap foreign labor (H-1B) by making high-quality automation available on-premises. Three inference servers are already operating at headquarters.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was presented with the addition of first reading of the McGahhey censure resolution. Motion to approve carried unanimously by voice vote.

Treasurer's Report — Mary Wheeler

Full current and past Treasurer's Reports, including redacted bank statements, remain available at greenvillegov.com/reports. Summary figures presented:

Period	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
April 2026	\$7,220.58	\$9,274.60
May 2026	\$9,274.60	\$7,577.97
June 2026	\$7,577.97	\$5,193.94

June income included membership dues (\$549.90), general donations, fundraising from the Greenville Drive picnic (~\$1,500), and a banner overcharge credit recovered by Olga Lisinska. Expenses were driven primarily by outreach, printing, party promotion, rent/utilities, and web hosting. The period produced a net draw on reserves as literature and newspaper drops for the primary were funded. A voluntary basket collection was conducted at the close of the meeting. Members were urged to re-up or increase monthly sustaining memberships (\$20 / \$40 / \$80) at greenvillegov.com/join so that fundraising pressure does not distract from core mission work. Assistance from a student or young accountant for data entry / review remains desired.

Approval of Prior Minutes

Minutes of the prior regular meeting (distributed by email) were considered. Motion to accept as presented by Diana Weir, Moore Creek and seconded. Approved unanimously by voice vote. Members were reminded that corrections may be submitted by email prior to the next meeting. The Recording Secretary noted that minutes are generated from the official video recording via local diarization/transcription followed by Grok drafting and human verification of names and precincts.

Chairman's Report — Jeff Davis

Voter Turnout & Literature

Greenville County Republican primary / runoff turnout rose substantially (approximately 17 % → 26 %), outperforming the statewide figure. The 10,000-copy primary-focused newspaper and precinct literature drops were credited with helping inform voters. Additional newspaper editions are planned ahead of the special Senate primary and the November general election. Precinct leaders were again asked to map drop routes and to utilize custom one-pagers where helpful. Low historical turnout and candidate-information gaps remain solvable problems through sustained grassroots work.

Special U.S. Senate Primary

Following the death of Senator Graham, a special primary will be held. Filing opens the second Tuesday after the vacancy (approximately July 21), with a one-week filing window. The primary is scheduled for August 11, 2026, with a possible runoff on August 25. Early voting windows are expected (August 5–7 and corresponding dates for any runoff). There is no multi-week early-voting period of the ordinary type. Questions remain about whether the primary will be closed to those who voted in the Democratic primary in June; the body was urged to treat the contest as critical and to ensure every eligible Republican votes (the election will count toward the "two-of-three" eligibility rule for future party office and delegate status). A large field is anticipated; the filing fee is substantial.

General Election Discipline & Focus

Chairman Davis reminded the body that negative public statements or write-in campaigns against Republican nominees constitute rule violations that can result in removal from party positions. Nearly every Republican nominee faces Democratic opposition in November. Energy must be directed outward against the left, not inward. School-board races were flagged as especially consequential for Greenville County; training resources and coordinated support for endorsed candidates are planned.

State Executive Committee Representation

Chairman Davis informed the body that Greenville's State Executive Committee member has been voting in lockstep with State Chairman Drew McKissick on matters contrary to the priorities repeatedly expressed by the county party. The situation has reached the point that it will be formally raised with the Executive Committee / body at a future meeting. The county is not currently receiving the representation its size and activism warrant.

New Business — Resolution of Censure: County Councilman Curt McGahhey

Frank Gunther, Legislative Committee Chair, presented the first reading of a Resolution of Censure drafted by the Rules / Resolutions Committee concerning County Councilman Curt McGahhey:

The resolution recites the Party's commitment to sound fiscal management, minimal taxation, and the elimination of waste before any tax increase is considered; notes that McGahhey was elected as a Republican with full GCRP support on a platform of fiscal responsibility (SCGOP Platform Article 5) after the prior council member raised millage rates without corresponding cuts; and states

that McGahhey has broken that trust by proposing a one-cent (approximately 16.7 % / “ninth-penny”) increase in the Greenville County sales tax, expected to generate more than \$114 million in new annual tax burden on county residents.

Therefore the Executive Committee of the Greenville County Republican Party issues this resolution of censure regarding the proposed tax increase.

Discussion clarified that the “penny” framing is used by proponents to obscure the 17 % relative increase. A non-substantive grammar suggestion was declined. Members asked whether similar resolutions would be prepared against any other Republican council members who vote to place the measure on the November ballot; leadership affirmed that the body is prepared to do so and will bring such resolutions at the appropriate time. The first-reading vote was called after the question was moved. The resolution passed unanimously. (A second reading / vote is required under county party rules before the censure is final.)

Related discussion noted that the sales-tax proposal is enabled by recent state legislation (Turner / Elliott) and that three municipalities (City of Greenville, Mauldin, Simpsonville) are also considering local versions. Opposition infrastructure (nopennytax.com, buttons, radio call-ins to WORD 905-0989) is already being prepared, but the Chairman stressed that the primary focus must remain on electing Republicans in November and flipping school-board seats rather than allowing the tax fight to consume all bandwidth.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Chris Fuselier, Ranch Creek, and seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned following collection of voluntary donations and return of credentialing badges.

Special thanks were extended to all officers, committee chairs, candidates, volunteers, and those who provided updates and technical demonstrations. The body was reminded of the urgency of the special Senate primary, the November general election, school-board races, and Reorg 2027 preparation.

These minutes constitute a summary record of the proceedings, decisions, and action items. They are prepared from the official meeting recording (via local AI transcription/diarization) and contemporaneous 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 27, 2026