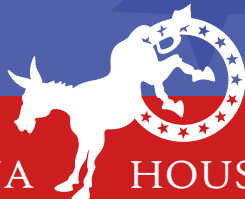




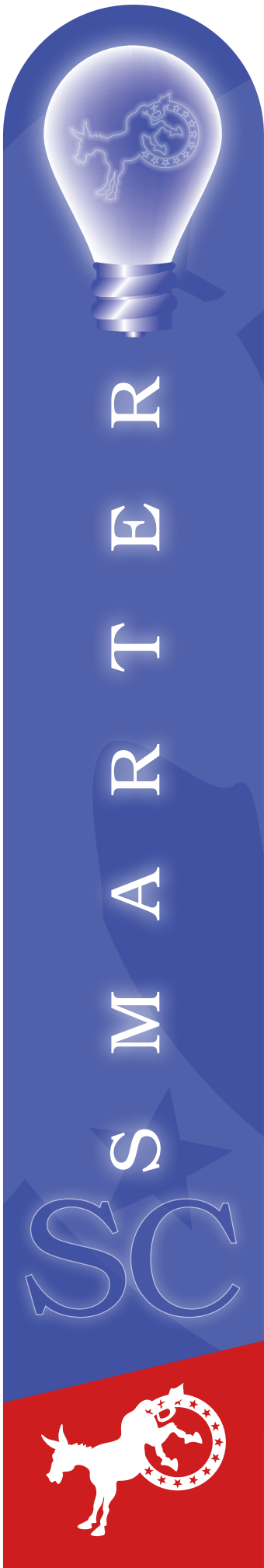
S M A R T E R

SC

2019 - 2020 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS



SOUTH CAROLINA HOUSE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS
SMARTER SC
GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

ACTIONS FOCUSED ON PROVIDING
MEANINGFUL AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS
TO ADDRESS SOUTH CAROLINA'S
CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS

Reform Public Education Funding
and Support and Pay SC Public School Teachers

Improve Healthcare Options
(Accessibility and Affordability)

Increase Jobs Creation
and Economic Development

Enact comprehensive Infrastructure Plan

Support state Colleges, Universities,
and Technical Schools

Protect our Environment and Natural Resources
while Providing Energy Alternative Solutions for the Future

Strengthen SC Families and Communities

**The South Carolina House
Democratic Caucus believes**

an all-inclusive plan is needed to address the state's major issues and challenges. There is no reason why we can't solve our issues associated with public education, healthcare, infrastructure, and economic development and job creation in all regions. The only reason we haven't tackled our major challenges is the lack of leadership by Republicans who have dominated state government over the past two decades. It is Republican leadership that has failed to allow South Carolinians to vote up or down on Medical Cannabis and expanding the state's gaming industry. Both

measures would equal millions of new revenues that could go towards our needs.

The current Republican leadership in Columbia has worked to keep power and control in the hands of the few. This group has based their governing philosophy on "knowing what is best" for South Carolinians while continuing to support out-of-date and failed practices.

SCHDC believes the 2019-20 two-year session will be marked by the actions state lawmakers make towards empowering the citizens of our state and introducing new measures built on our current and future needs and not stuck in practices of the past.

Our Smarter SC Government Initiative takes direct actions that...

- focus on the true needs and challenges facing South Carolina;
- ensure the federal government works in the best interest of South Carolinians and not any individual or political party; and
- empower South Carolinians to vote up or down on possible solutions to our major challenges

Smarter SC Highlights

- Reform the State's public education funding system
- Increase and sustain teacher pay at or above the Southeastern average
- Provide Medical Cannabis Health Alternatives
- Focus on making higher education affordable for state residents
- Implement a Comprehensive Infrastructure Plan
- Allow South Carolinians to vote on expanding Gaming Laws
- Establish a minimum Livable Wage standard
- Establish an Employee Non-Discrimination standard
- Support, expand and modernize SC Farm and Agri-business Community
- Expand Alternative Energy Options and protect our vital natural resources
- Reform and modernize the state Tax Code so that it is fair to all individuals and businesses, regardless of their location within the state

Reform Public Education Funding Support and Pay SC Public School Teachers

House Democrats have always stood by the idea that there is a direct link between job creation and public schools (K-12 and Higher Education). It is a fact that Republican leadership has failed to solve the education funding problem that has continuously plagued our state. In addition, Republican leaders have not implemented the measures needed to support and pay our public teachers at a rate that encourages quality recruitment and retention. GOP leadership have simply failed to provide a meaningful plan or vision to repair and improve our public education system.

The House Democratic Caucus will work to sponsor, support, and promote legislation which:

- reforms the system for funding K-12 public education
- works to ensure public school teachers are paid at the Southeastern average and have quality professional development support and opportunities
- modernizes the state's School Bus System



Improve Healthcare Options (Accessibility and Affordability)



South Carolina's healthcare challenges remain one of the top issues which impact thousands of individuals and families across the state. These challenges, include lack of providing available coverage for thousands of citizens, convenience and accessibility in rural communities, and high cost for coverage faced by many South Carolinians daily.

The House Democratic Caucus will work to sponsor, support, and promote legislation which:

- expands access to healthcare options for rural and disadvantaged areas
- improves the response and efficiency of DHEC
- provides support, focused on mental and behavioral health
- improve the care of senior citizens
- provide Medical Cannabis alternatives and options

Increase Job Creation and Build an Economy that Works for All South Carolinians



South Carolina working class, middle class, and small businesses have been neglected over the past two decades. Republican leaders have simply failed to bring jobs to all regions and communities of the state. House Democrats believe now is the time to focus on South Carolina workers and small businesses first.

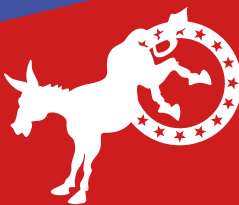
The House Democratic Caucus will work to sponsor, support, and promote legislation which:

- allow South Carolinians to vote on expanding state Gaming Industry
- brings high-quality jobs to all areas of the state (focusing on rural and disadvantaged areas)
- secures and/or creates a stable funding source needed to improve, repair, and construct both main and secondary highways, roads, and bridges
- supports, expands and modernizes the state's Farm and Agri-Business Community
- comprehensively reforms and modernizes the state's tax code
- expands broadband access to all communities of the State (focusing on rural and disadvantaged areas)



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Enact a Comprehensive Infrastructure Plan



The 2017 bill passed serves as only a band-aid for the overall problem. We can no longer wait to address our infrastructure challenges. SCHDC supports working with lawmakers at all levels and taking a comprehensive approach to addressing our needs.

The House Democratic Caucus will work to sponsor, support, and promote legislation which:

- upgrades all SC roads (primary and secondary)
- upgrades all bridges and dams
- work to design and Build the highways and roads needed for the future
- study the possibility of Highspeed Rail
- build Statewide Broadband and Wireless Infrastructure System
- upgrade to all roads used in Emergency Preparation and Response

Support State Colleges, Universities, and Technical Schools



Our colleges and universities have suffered under Republican control the past 10 years. The 2008 economic downturn led to the cut in state support to our institutions of higher learning. Although the economy has improved, and the state budget has grown, GOP leadership in Columbia have yet to restore state funding to support our colleges, universities and technical schools. The lack of state support has led to a decline in in-state students and a rise in tuition cost. This is simply unacceptable.

The House Democratic Caucus will work to sponsor, support, and promote legislation which:

- study possible modernization options for state lottery
- study measures to make tuition more affordable for SC students and families
- provide opportunities to link state higher education institutions with K-12 public schools
- provides workforce development and continuing education options



Protect our Environment and Natural Resources while Providing Clean and Alternative Energy Solutions



We all are fortunate to live in a state with abundant natural beauty and resources. It is important that lawmakers take actions that protect our natural resources and environmental infrastructure. In addition, the VC Summer Nuclear Plant failures is a reminder that state leaders must protect energy customers and consumers and give South Carolinians energy alternatives like solar and wind options.

The House Democratic Caucus will work to sponsor, support, and promote legislation which:

- supports Clean and Alternative Energy Solutions – solar and wind
- protects air and water quality and infrastructure
- supports and promotes state-wide recycling and energy efficiency efforts and initiatives
- protects family-owned farms, privately owned properties, public parks, and historic and recreational sites

Strengthen SC Families and Communities



House Democrats believe strong families build a healthy future for the state. state leaders must take an active role in supporting the family structure, with the understanding that, in the world in which we live today, there are different types of balanced, secured family structures.

The House Democratic Caucus will work to sponsor, support, and promote legislation which:

- aggressively tackles cases of domestic violence and abuse
- protects our senior citizens
- expands broadband access to all communities of the state (focusing on rural and disadvantaged areas)
- comprehensively reforms and modernizes the state's tax code
- protects children from the mistakes of their parents