



It's about democracy.

It's about justice.

It's about time.

DemocraSC

a grass roots campaign to reconstruct South Carolina politics



Good government and fair elections have been central to the SC Progressive Network's mission since its founding in 1996.

We envision a South Carolina where voters have a clear understanding of how the political system works, how to be effective citizens, and how they can exercise collective power at the polls — and beyond.

We seek a reconstructed democracy with competitive elections that force politicians to represent all of their constituents, not just the wealthy and well-connected. Our analysis and strategy, honed over decades of study and experience, informs our projects.

We are uniquely anti-partisan. Our experience leads us to believe that **George Washington** was right to warn us against forming political parties. In his farewell address in the fall of 1796 he said, “[political parties]...are likely to become potent engines by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government, destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion.”

Today's major parties are powered by corporate interests who control everything from public policy to drawing district lines. It is a rigged system, and voters know it. That is why our message resonates with them. They are used to being ignored until election season, when parties and political campaigns flood them with empty rhetoric and solicitations for money. We offer them something new.

In a state with some of the nation's least competitive elections, it is not enough to say: VOTE, VOTE, VOTE or that Every Vote Counts! In too many races, voters have little to no choice in who represents them.



This November, 78% of South Carolina — in 133 of the 170 House and Senate districts — will have just one viable candidate on their ballot. The hard truth is that much of the General Assembly was elected in the June primaries by just 13% of registered voters.

This lack of competition is the price of racial gerrymandering, a cost that is borne most immediately by Black and brown voters. The reality, however, is that the lack of democracy impoverishes us all.

We say vote smart. And we have a plan for that.

Who we are

The Network's DemocraSC campaign is the umbrella for our civics work: Election Protection, the Missing Voter Project, and the SC Fair Maps initiative to end racial gerrymandering. (Details at scpronet.com.)

The DemocraSC campaign encompasses the civics education component of our work, which is ongoing. We offer trainings to demystify the political process and to help organizers and voters understand how elections work and who they benefit.

Our plans

Election Protection

Our immediate focus is on **Election Protection**, partnering with the SC State Conference of the NAACP and its branches to help secure the November elections. Since 2008, the Network has been South Carolina's boots on the ground in the national coalition of election protection volunteers. This year, we are stepping into a support role and handing the bulk of the work to the state NAACP, which has the capacity to conduct outreach in the counties.

The Network will facilitate by providing signage and palm cards for distribution to the branches to promote the nonpartisan Election Protection Hotline. Voter calls to 866-OUR-VOTE are responded to immediately, and provide the state's only real-time audit of our election system. A post-election analysis of problems will be referred to NAACP branches for them to resolve with their county board of elections.

Missing Voter Project



Launched in 2004, the **Missing Voter Project** is a longterm initiative to mobilize young voters in key communities using state-of-the-art tools and unique messaging.

We plan to spend the coming 12 months hiring and training staff. These field organizers will identify leaders and allies in the counties. Our model is peer-to-peer, with our staff training volunteers who will, in turn, spread our message to their peers in schools, churches, and community groups.

The MVP model is focusing its energy and resources on races that cannot be gerrymandered, those for midterm elections for statewide offices in 2026. The numbers reveal an opportunity to shake up the status quo by mobilizing young voters who are already registered but not voting. This constituency is a sleeping giant. Registered Black voters who stay home on Election Day outnumber whites voting in the midterms. We want to engage the 500,000 Black voters who think their vote doesn't matter. We have a message for them: not only does their vote matter; they can change political history in South Carolina.

If those half-million voters went to the polls, they could determine the outcome of statewide races for governor, attorney general, and superintendent of education in 2026. None of these offices have been won by over 238,000 votes in the past 16 years.

We are in the process of updating our training materials and toolkits to reflect the latest numbers. **In November, we will hit the ground running!**