

# TRUE BLUE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE RICHLAND COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

## FROM THE CHAIR

July marks an important transition, from the primary season into the general election. We are excited to get to work electing our fantastic slate of candidates. We couldn't hope for a better person to have at the top of the ticket than our own James Smith, who has represented Richland County's 72<sup>nd</sup> District since 1996. High Democratic turn-out in true blue Richland County is key to electing James and our other Democratic candidates.

It is the job of the county party to turn out the base at election time. The county party also works in the off-season between elections to lay the groundwork that supports our campaigns. That's why we have been working hard since January.

For the past two months we have been contacting voters, with canvassing and phone banking in over forty voting precincts! Voter contact engages voters who might otherwise choose to sit out a midterm election.

[Continued on page 2]

## ~JULY 2018~

### LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT: Representative Beth Bernstein

State Representative Beth Bernstein represents House District 78 covering the areas of Forest Acres, Arcadia Lakes, Wildewood, The Woodlands, and Woodcreek Farms in Richland County. Since first being elected, after defeating an eight-year Republican incumbent in 2012, she has sponsored legislation mainly focusing on women and children's issues, gun safety laws, ethics laws and environmental issues.

Three of the bills she has authored and sponsored have been ratified into law – a difficult feat in a Republican-led General Assembly. The first bill was the *Cervical Cancer Prevention Act*, which was enacted in 2016. Then she authored legislation updating the child passenger safety seat laws, which were signed by the Governor on May 17, 2017. This year, on the last day of regular session, her sponsored bill, *The Pregnancy Accommodation Act*, passed the House and Senate and was signed by the Governor in May. Bernstein was instrumental in revealing the recent issues with the Richland County Recreation Commission.

"I am honored and privileged to be able to represent my community at the State House and do not take that commitment lightly," Bernstein said. "I am passionate about improving the lives of all South Carolinians and feel this duty of civil service was influenced by my parents who instilled those values in me."

Bernstein has become a tireless advocate on issues affecting our state's children, women and the elderly. She said she feels inspired to do even more and welcomes and encourages people in the community to get involved.

[Continued on page 2]

# TRUE BLUE

RCDP NEWSLETTER PAGE TWO JULY/AUGUST 2018

## FROM THE CHAIR, cont'd

It also helps us to identify voters, in other words, to figure out who are the Democrats and the Republicans. Nowadays, data is power. Without voter contact, we have limited information about voters. It is a lot of work to identify voters, which is why it is rarely done. But the surge in Democratic enthusiasm since Trump's election now makes widespread voter identification possible.

Voter identification will allow us to leverage our enthusiasm for a competitive edge at the ballot box. Our profile on Representative Beth Bernstein reminds us of the pay-off to winning elections: solid, Democratic leadership that benefits everyone in South Carolina.

If you haven't yet joined our voter contact efforts, there is still time to volunteer. Or donate to support our volunteer teams. Please find us on Facebook and Twitter so you can come to one of our events. In the meantime, keep cool and stay blue.

*Matt Kisner, RCDP Chair*

## ~Spotlight: cont'd from p.1 ~

### LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT: **Representative Beth Bernstein**

"It is important to be engaged in the process and exercise your right to vote," she said. "I understand the importance of taking the politics out of how we draw our election districts, and will be focusing on redistricting reform in the upcoming session."

Representative Bernstein was born and raised in Columbia and says she is "thrilled to be representing the district" in which she grew up. Before her legislative career took shape, she had always been involved in the political process and the Democratic Party. After graduating from USC School of Law in 1994, she began practicing law with her father and brother and formed what is now known as Bernstein and Bernstein, Attorneys at Law. She continues to practice law with her brother and her husband, Rip Sanders. She and her husband have two daughters, Caroline and Isabel.

The award-winning Bernstein has received honors such as The State's "Top 20 under 40" award (2006) Business Monthly's "Most Influential People" award (2012), The Barbara Moxon Advocacy Award (2018), USC CON Legacy of Caring award (2018) and the Sierra Club Legislator of the Year (2017), as well as the Richland County Bar Association Distinguished Service Award (2015); however, her "primary motivation is to serve others," and she has a long history of such service besides being your state representative. She serves, or has served, on boards such as the S.C. Philharmonic, Beth Shalom Synagogue, Three Rivers Heritage and Music Foundation, Richland County Bar Association, USC School of Nursing Foundation Board, and the Palmetto Health Foundation Cancer Center.

***Residents of District 78 are welcome to contact Rep. Bernstein at (803) 212-6940.***