



FEBRUARY 2026

# ZION INFORMER

## From Your Newsletter Ministry

The 2026 South Carolina elections will be held in the state of South Carolina on **November 3, 2026**, alongside the nationwide midterm elections. Elections will be held for a U.S. Senate seat, governor, as well as other statewide executive offices, all 7 of the state's U.S. House of Representatives seats and all seats in the State House. Primary elections will be held on June 9, 2026, with runoff elections being held on June 23.

A solidly red state, South Carolina has consistently supported Republicans in recent decades. Democrats have not won South Carolina on the presidential level since 1976, when Jimmy Carter won most of the Deep South. Democrats have not won any statewide office in South Carolina since 2006, when Jim Rex was elected as Superintendent of Education.

**United States Senate**-Main article: 2026 United States Senate election in South Carolina

Incumbent Republican senator Lindsey Graham, who was re-elected in 2020 with 54.4% of the vote, is running for re-election to a fifth term in office. Paul Dans, the main architect of Project 2025, is challenging Graham for the Republican nomination.

**United States House of Representatives**-Main article: 2026 United States House of Representatives elections in South Carolina. All of South Carolina's 7 seats in the United States House of Representatives are up for election in 2026.

**Governor**-Main article: 2026 South Carolina gubernatorial election-Incumbent Republican governor Henry McMaster, who was re-elected with 58.04% of the vote in 2022, is term-limited and cannot seek re-election a third full term in office.

**Lieutenant Governor**-Pamela Evette, state senator Josh Kimbrell, U.S. representatives Nancy Mace and Ralph Norman, and attorney general Alan Wilson are running for the Republican nomination.

**Attorney General**-Main article: 2026 South Carolina Attorney General election

Incumbent Republican attorney general Alan Wilson, who was re-elected unopposed in 2022, declined to seek re-election and is instead running for governor. Solicitors David Pascoe and David Stumbo, as well as state senator Stephen Goldfinch, are running for the Republican nomination.

**Secretary of State**-Incumbent Republican secretary of state Mark Hammond, who was re-elected in 2022 with 63.3% of the vote, is eligible to run for re-election to a seventh term in office but has not yet stated if he will do so.

**Treasurer**-Incumbent Republican treasurer Curtis Loftis, who was re-elected in 2022 with 79.7% of the vote, is running for re-election to a fifth term in office. The South Carolina Senate voted to remove Loftis from office in a 33-8 vote in April 2025 following his involvement in a \$1.8 billion accounting error, but the House did not vote on his removal before the end of their legislative session.

**Comptroller General**-Republican Comptroller Richard Eckstrom, who was re-elected unopposed in 2022, left office on April 30, 2023, following the discovery of a \$3.5 billion accounting error.[19] Governor Henry McMaster appointed Democrat Brian J. Gaines to serve the remainder of Eckstrom's term. He is not running for a full term.

**Superintendent of Education**-Republican Superintendent Ellen Weaver was first elected in 2022 with 55.5% of the vote. She is eligible to run for re-election to a second term in office, but has not yet stated if he will do so. Lisa Ellis, the Democratic nominee for Superintendent of Education in 2022, is running in 2026.[22] She is being challenged in the Democratic primary by Sylvia Wright.

**Commissioner of Agriculture**-Main article: 2026 South Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture election  
Incumbent Republican commissioner Hugh Weathers was re-elected in 2022 with 77.6% of the vote. He is retiring. Fred West, the director of market development at the South Carolina Department of Agriculture, is running for the Republican nomination. He is endorsed by Weathers.

**State House of Representatives**-Main article: 2026 South Carolina House of Representatives election  
All 124 seats in the South Carolina House of Representatives are up for election in 2026.

Republicans currently hold 88 seats in the State House, and Democrats hold 36.

## **February Birthdays**

James D. Richardson	03
Danyia Thames	04
Sharon Hall	05
Otis Walters	11
Deborah Summers	11
Taylor Higgins	18
Payton Walters	18
Alicia Graham	20
Elizabeth Taylor	20
Andrena Mack	21
Dea. Donnie Mack	23
Dea. George Fogle	25
Zachary Brown	29



## **February Anniversaries**

Bernard & Audrey Deloach	13
Dea. George & Edith Fogle	15
Moses & Patricia Robinson	27

## **March Birthdays**

McKayla Moore	02
Clannie Washington	02
Amber Abraham	03

## **In Memoriam**

Brother Ronald Davis  
Brother Shawn McKinney  
Rev. Mary M. Montgomery

## **2026 MLK Day**

King Day at the Dome was back at the Statehouse for the 26th year running, celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. and the legacy of civil rights in South Carolina.

The event, hosted by the South Carolina chapter of the NAACP, kicked off Jan. 19 with an 8 A.M. prayer service at Zion Baptist Church, 801 Washington St., in downtown Columbia.

Around 9:30 a.m., participants assembled outside the church to begin their march down Main Street. They arrived at the Statehouse grounds around 10 A.M.

The next two hours filled with speeches from local and national political leaders, including a keynote address from U.S. Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., a potential candidate for president in 2028.

U.S. Rep. Ro Khanna, D-Calif., (who is also in the presidential discussion) S.C. state Sen. Tameika Isaac Devine, D-Richland, and a host of gubernatorial and Senate candidates were also on the docket.

The event started in 2000 as a rally to bring down the Confederate flag flying on top of the Statehouse. The flag came down from all locations around the Statehouse in 2015 in the wake of the Emanuel AME Church mass shooting by a white supremacist in Charleston, but the rally lives on as a way to commemorate the lives and legacies of Civil Rights heroes.

## **Black History Month**

Black History Month (February 1, 2026 - March 1, 2026). It's celebrated in February to honor the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln (February 12) and abolitionist Frederick Douglass (February 14), figures important to Black history, building on existing celebrations started by historian [Carter G. Woodson](#) in 1926, which was officially expanded to the full month in 1976 by President Gerald Ford. He called on the public to celebrate the contributions of Black Americans during the nation's Bicentennial. Since then, every U.S. president has designated February as Black History Month, honoring the legacy and achievements of African Americans.

## **Upcoming Events**

**February 14**—Valentine's Day  
**February 14**—Gethsemane Red Dress and Tie  
**March 8**—Daylight Savings Time  
**March 8**—Annual Women's Day Celebration, Zion Baptist Church  
**April 5**—Easter  
**April 15**—Tax Day  
**May 10**—Mother's Day  
**May 12-14**—Woman's Gethsemane  
**May 25**—Memorial Day  
**June 19**—Juneteenth  
**June 21**—Father's Day  
**June 28**—Annual Church Anniversary, Zion Baptist

## **Scripture**

"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

**Galatians 3:28 NIV**

## **REMINDER**

Our ZBC Worship Service broadcast is every Sunday morning from 7:30 to 8:00 a.m. on the Big DM (WWDM 101.3 FM)

**Continue to Pray  
for  
Zion Baptist Church  
and for  
our  
Nation !!!**

## **Sunday School Lessons**

### **FEBRUARY 1**

"The Christian Church"  
Mark 4:26-32;  
Ephesians 4:4-6, 11-16

### **FEBRUARY 8**

"Baptism and the Lord's Supper"  
Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19-20;  
1 Corinthians 11:23-29

### **FEBRUARY 15**

"The Lord's Day"  
Exodus 20:8-11; Romans 14:4-6; Revelations 1:10

### **FEBRUARY 22**

"Stewardship and Mission"  
Acts 1:6-8;  
2 Corinthians 8:3-9



## **Good News**

Azariah Fluker has been accepted into the Muller Magnet program. He is a student at Muller Road Middle School. Aniya Fluker has been selected to be a part of the Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society, and Alana Fluker has been selected to be a part of the Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society. Both young ladies are students at Winthrop University. Azariah is the son of Sister Jessica Fluker and grandson of Brother James Edmond and Sister Gloria Edmond. Aniya and Alana are daughters of Sister Jessica Fluker and granddaughters of Brother James Edmond and Sister Gloria Edmond.

**Congratulations Azariah, Aniya and Alana !!!**

Anthony Holmes, a sixth grader at Hand Middle School, is an Honor student who maintains an "A" average in all subjects. He is continuing to show gains in the Language Emergence Program and learning to speak Spanish fluently. He is also a member of the school choir. Anthony is the son of Sister Stephanie Augustus and grandson of Minister Golie Augustus.

**Congratulations Anthony !!!**

Niara Waring, an eighth grader at Carolina Springs Middle School in Lexington District 2, has been inducted into the Beta Club for academic excellence. The induction happened on December 17, 2025. Niara is the daughter of Brother Kingsley and Shenika Waring.

**Congratulations Niara !!!**

## ***American Public Health Association***



Washington, D.C., November 4, 2025 — At the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting and Expo, leaders from the Siemer Institute, a program of the Brookland-Lakeview Empowerment Center (BLEC), presented groundbreaking research highlighting urgent reforms needed to strengthen and sustain the social work profession.

Social work leaders Brenda Armstrong Clark, LMSW, and Theresa Hill, MSW, shared their presentation, “Strengthening the Social Work Workforce: Policy Recommendations for Advancing Health Equity and Community Care,” emphasizing the critical role of social workers in advancing national health equity goals. “The profession has an ongoing commitment to advocacy and transformative change in striving for equitable health care. Social workers, equipped with a holistic, person-centered approach, play a pivotal role in navigating these challenges and integrating social determinants of health into care strategies. Social workers stand at the intersection of health, justice, and community care. Yet the workforce is under strain — limited resources, high caseloads, and policy gaps are preventing professionals from doing their best work”, said Clark.

Between August and September 2025, Clark and Hill surveyed 24 licensed social workers in urban settings, most with over 10 years of experience. Participants—primarily female and serving in schools, community agencies, and mental health centers—shared perspectives on systemic barriers and workforce challenges.

Findings revealed a strong professional identity and deep commitment to social justice: 19–20 of 24 respondents strongly agreed that their work contributes to human well-being and addresses social justice and health disparities. However, many reported burnout, limited institutional support, and administrative burdens.

## ***ZBC Sick and Shut-in***

Sister Ruby Burton  
Sister Annette Hill  
Sister Tonja Knightner  
Reverend Fletcher Tucker  
Brother Jeremiah Washington  
Brother Archie P. Williams III

Brother Donald Counts  
Brother William Hope  
Sister Evelyn Stearns  
Sister Clannie Washington  
Sister Thelma Whitney

## ***Vision Statement***

*“Victorious People”*

*The vision is to minister to people by Remembering our History, Rendering Help while Reaching forward with Hope to be victorious in our future demonstrating an unwavering love, steadfast faith and effective witness.*

*Remembering our History  
Rendering Help  
Reaching forward with Hope*

## ***ZION CAN BE REACHED @ .....***

X @ZionBCCOLASC  
Instagram @zionbccolasc  
Facebook @ZionBaptist

Thursday Morning Prayer / 7:00-7:15 a.m. / 1-605-313-4912 / AC 511288#