

# U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 01 – CHARLESTON, BEAUFORT, BERKELEY, COLLETON, DORCHESTER

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

**YES**

Nancy Mace, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Joe Cunningham, Democratic

*"I've always been an advocate for victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse. For me, this issue is personal. I was raped at the age of 16, and it took me 25 years to speak about this deeply traumatic and personal issue that so many women across our country face, for a lifetime. Reporting is already a difficult decision to make. Many women feel too ashamed or scared to report sexual abuse or domestic violence, and with COVID-19 keeping victims at home with their abusers it is not surprising that the incidents of domestic abuse and sexual abuse have gone up. In light of this horrific situation, it is incredibly important reporting is made more accessible. We also need to ensure our law enforcement has the funding they need to make the process quick, safe and more private for victims, while also increasing resources for victim advocates." – N. Mace*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

**YES**

Nancy Mace, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Joe Cunningham, Democratic

*"As a state lawmaker, this is an issue I have worked on. The criminal justice system is effective but shouldn't be the first line of defense. Increasing funding for both intense therapy programs for those offenders, while also increasing funding for victim advocates would be a good starting place for reducing repeat offences and getting much needed help to victims. At the state level, another provision I have authored includes legislation that would allow victims of domestic abuse to more easily get out of their leases or rental agreements when these offenses occur. We need to ensure we protect women who are victims of abuse understanding if they are unable to leave the home, it may be a life or death issue." – N. Mace*

# U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 01 – CHARLESTON, BEAUFORT, BERKELEY, COLLETON, DORCHESTER

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

**YES**

Nancy Mace, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Joe Cunningham, Democratic

*"The criminal justice system offers some preventative measures like restraining orders, but that prevention does not come soon enough. It is incredibly important that there is a focus on preventing domestic violence and sexual abuse, and that we properly fund those programs. Increasing education in schools -- how to identify victims, what the resources are and how to access them. We need to bring more awareness to emotional and mental abuse, as well. As a state lawmaker, I drafted legislation that would allow women to get out of their rental agreements or leases to a safe place when they are victims of domestic violence and abuse." – N. Mace*

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

**YES**

Nancy Mace, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Joe Cunningham, Democratic

*"We need to make sure that Congress includes supplementary funding in their next stimulus bill. These public and private funds offer a major gateway for victims to find relief, and when the government all but mandates everyone to stay in their homes, it is more important now than ever before. As we slowly begin to open the country back up, it is increasingly evident that these cuts must be remedied." – N. Mace*

# U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 04 – GREENVILLE, SPARTANBURG

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

**YES**

Michael Chandler, Constitution

**NO RESPONSE**

Kim Nelson, Democratic

William Timmons IV, Republican

*“Make reporting easier to police or social workers, isolate and protect witnesses.” – M. Chandler*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

**YES**

Michael Chandler, Constitution

**NO RESPONSE**

Kim Nelson, Democratic

William Timmons IV, Republican

*“Many cases of abuse involve substance abuse or mental health issues, we need to address these issues.” – M. Chandler*

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

**YES**

Michael Chandler, Constitution

**NO RESPONSE**

Kim Nelson, Democratic

William Timmons IV, Republican

*“Follow up tracking on domestic abuse complaints to insure counseling and positive actions are taken to change the behavior and the negative dynamics of the relationships.” – M. Chandler*

**ELECTION 2020**

**DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY  
QUESTIONNAIRE**



# U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 04 - GREENVILLE, SPARTANBURG

**SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS**

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

**YES**

Michael Chandler, Constitution

**NO RESPONSE**

Kim Nelson, Democratic

William Timmons IV, Republican

*“The most basic duty of the government is to provide for the safety of its citizens. The backbone of this country is the family unit. A strong family unit creates a strong and vibrant community.” – M. Chandler*

## U.S. SENATE

### EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

### SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

### INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

### SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

#### UNANSWERED

Bill Bledsoe, Constitution

#### NO RESPONSE

Lindsey Graham, Republican  
Jaime Harrison, Democratic

*Yes, I would be happy to give you some information. I'm Dr. Bill Bledsoe, in Spartanburg, running for US Senate. My name will be on the ballot under the Constitution party.*

*You need to know that I've thrown my support behind Senator Lindsey Graham.*

*Here is a short proposed text that explains why I did this.*

*"I'm Dr. Bill Bledsoe. If you're an activist in South Carolina, you've probably ran across my name, many times, over the decades. Maybe you attended one of my longgun rallies at one of the County Courthouses around the state, or voted for me in one of the statewide elections. Maybe you've been to my home, where I've hosted dozens of different patriotic, constitutional groups over the decades. I received a mailout from President Trump asking that I support Senator Lindsey Graham because he helped President Trump to appoint over 200 conservative federal judges. We'll likely lose our Senate Majority if we don't unite. This will cripple President Trump's efforts to get 40 years of conservative judges appointed. Please join me and vote for President Donald Trump and Senator Lindsey Graham."*

# SOLICITOR CIRCUIT 4 - CHESTERFIELD, DARLINGTON, DILLON, MARLBORO

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

YES

Will Rogers, Democratic

N/A

Unopposed

*"Emails, etc. Need to use advances in technology for reporting" – W. Rogers*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

YES

Will Rogers, Democratic

N/A

Unopposed

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

YES

Will Rogers, Democratic

N/A

Unopposed

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

YES

Will Rogers, Democratic

N/A

Unopposed

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

*"Both state and federal resources should be increased to provide better victim services thru Solicitors Offices. – W. Rogers*

# SOLICITOR CIRCUIT 9 – BERKELEY, CHARLESTON

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

YES

Ben Pogue III, Democratic

*“Victims need safe spaces to escape harm, safe processes and trained allies to validate and protect them, and options that they are comfortable with--options they trust. As Solicitor--which is like District Attorney, in charge of prosecuting serious crimes--the first step is to prosecute abusers consistently, thoroughly, and transparently, in accordance with the needs of the victim. Our first priority is to demonstrate that victims will be believed, validated, and collaborated with according to their needs. Within the Solicitor’s office I will mandate expanded training for advocates and staff that helps pave the way for each victim to be treated with dignity and respect--regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, race, or socioeconomic status. We will have a diverse staff of attorneys and administrators to demonstrate to every community that we respond to them with an understanding of their life experiences. In order to truly pave the way for increased reporting, that is only the beginning. We must have a multifaceted, holistic approach to the critical threshold issue of underreporting.*

*I have already begun laying the groundwork for expanded use of Family Justice Centers, restorative justice options, and public health reporting that allows for a non-law enforcement response to any domestic or intimate partner violence report. Family Justice Centers involve collaboration between the justice system and public-private partnerships, and allow victims --with children and even pets-- to be immediately protected from their abuser, and separated according to the needs of the victim. I’m committed to expanding dedicated domestic violence courts, where judges are better trained to recognize the threat of continuing violent abuse, and the necessity for safe spaces in the entire judicial process (and protection from manipulation of the victim by the abuser). Restorative justice options can be created at fairly low cost. Although they are not the path for everyone, they can circumvent some of the barriers to reporting, including the perceived threat of an escalation of violence due to the risk of criminal penalties.” – B. Pogue III*

YES

Scarlett A. Wilson, Republican

*“The first thing I did was ensure that all of my Special Victims Prosecutors and Advocates were continually “touching base” with victims during the lockdown. I mandated contact so that we could raise the awareness that we are still open and that police are still responding so that victims know that we and law enforcement are still ready and available to serve. We have selected as our first trial since the lockdowns a DV murder. Publicity during this trial should help raise that awareness.*

## ELECTION 2020

### DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY QUESTIONNAIRE



*My Special Victims Prosecutors helped develop and lead the Tri-County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) which includes members from government agencies, community organizations, educators, victim advocates, and faith-based leaders. The council seeks to increase community*

*awareness regarding domestic violence prevention, victim support, and perpetrator accountability. It does this through creating a solid community network between its participating organizations, as well as pairing with other groups in order to educate the public about the dangers of domestic violence our area. Now, more than ever, we are relying on this group to help with the COVID ramifications on domestic violence.*

*Finally, we will continue working with Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. This is a multi-disciplinary team which seeks to enhance the safety of victims and the accountability of batterers. The Team does this by conducting detailed reviews of domestic fatalities and then preparing and publishing objective information gained from these reviews. The resulting information is used as a tool for identifying gaps in system responses, improving data collection, and implementing recommendations to create a coordinated community approach to ending domestic violence through enhancing efforts to train systems on better responses, identifying points for intervention and prevention, and providing a forum for increasing communication and collaboration throughout the community.*

*These groups and the insight we gain from them will be important moving forward should the COVID situation not improve, soon. Because the COVID situation came on abruptly and has lasted so long, the things we learn, will give us valuable insight should we experience this for longer than we expect and should we face another natural disaster.” – S.A. Wilson*

### SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

**Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?**

**YES**

Ben Pogue III, Democratic

*“I have already begun advocating for an increase in shelters for victims of abuse--currently there are shelters for victims of domestic violence in only about 1/3 of our state’s counties, even though there are abused pet shelters in all 46. We need dedicated state funding for at least one shelter in every county. Additionally, I will advocate for statewide support of a felony strangulation statute, expanded use of domestic violence courts, and required standardized training of all law enforcement officers in response to potential domestic violence situations.” – B. Pogue III*

**YES**

Scarlett A. Wilson, Republican

*“I would support a victim-centric approach that provides for a “Family Justice Center” in each County. Each county should have a location for “wrap around” services for special victims (domestic and sexual abuse victims). Unlike some, I do not believe solicitors should run these. Instead, they should be funded and operated by a Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, or a municipal or county government. Such*



centers can more effectively support the process of “leaving” which we know is not an event but a process. A Family Justice Center takes the focus away from arrest and prosecution and helps encourage victims to get healthy and get out because they do not have to be overwhelmed with thoughts of courtrooms and trials. While arrests and prosecutions are vital, getting victims and their families safe is the priority. Arrests and prosecutions can come when the victim is ready. Having such centers can help in that regard. The City of Charleston is moving forward with such a plan and I have been supportive in that effort.” – S.A. Wilson

## **INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

**Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?**

**YES**

**Ben Pogue III, Democratic**

“Prevention starts with connection to the community. Specifically with domestic violence, we need to connect with communities to cultivate a discussion about domestic violence. Each of my deputy solicitors (prosecutors) will be at a community meeting every three months. That presence and those discussions are the key to gathering data on where domestic violence occurs, where it may be passed down from generation to generation, and what the impediments are to eliminating it.

Prevention also requires a holistic approach. To facilitate partnerships and sharing of services and data, I’ve created our Community Action Team (<https://www.votebenpogue.com/communityactionteam>), which will be a permanent part of the Solicitor’s Office when I’m elected. Our team consists of community representatives who are connected to various networks and issues that intersect with justice; they include victim’s advocacy (including domestic and intimate partner violence), healthcare, education, and mentoring. Integrating the mentoring community and partnering it with healthcare allows us to identify children who have witnessed or experienced this violence--often one of the most important factors influencing later abuse. Partnering with healthcare helps us use data to map where abuse may have a generational or geographical component, in order to help focus educational and therapeutic efforts. Our Community Action Team is the tool to tackle domestic and intimate partner violence from many angles at once--and to stop the cycle of such violence.” – B. Pogue III

**YES**

**Scarlett A. Wilson, Republican**

“I would continue to collaborate with our partners as described above because successful prosecutions should help prevent future harms. I encourage an educational curriculum in our schools that, in an age appropriate way, introduces the concept that domestic violence is wrong and should not be the norm. Young boys should know that it is unacceptable and simply wrong to beat and abuse women and young girls should know that they have options and do not have to tolerate being abused. We know that in most cases, domestic violence is a learned, i.e., taught behavior. Our educational, and religious leaders, need to teach an alternative.” – S.A. Wilson

# SOLICITOR CIRCUIT 9 – BERKELEY, CHARLESTON

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

**YES & YES**

Ben Pogue III, Democratic

*“South Carolina’s federal elected officials must vote to fully support VAWA, and our state legislators must work to pave the way for greater use of STOP grants and collaboration with VAWA initiatives on the state level. The success of any federal initiatives are predicated upon the support of local initiatives to educate the public and increase reporting and awareness. The messages to the public must emphatically demonstrate through words and actions: that abuse will not be tolerated; that victims will be believed; that safe spaces and procedures for everyone will be prioritized--regardless of race, socioeconomic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, or religion. As mentioned above, solutions must be multifaceted and holistic, including: varied pathways for reporting and resolution that are safe and accessible to any victim; tremendous increases in training; and integration of law enforcement, justice, and public health”. – B. Pogue III*

**YES & YES**

Scarlett A. Wilson, Republican

*“I see many duplicated, redundant, competing 501(c)(3) type organizations and it concerns me because more may not be better. Consolidated efforts in times of financial crisis should be encouraged by all of us involved. We all have to work harder at helping our lawmakers understand that preventing DV pays for itself over time. An early investment in education and victim support services can reduce societal and fiscal costs in the long run. All of us who provide victim services have to lobby for targeted cuts, instead of across-the-board cuts so that critical services, like those we provide to DV victims and families, can be spared.” – S.A. Wilson*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 7 – ANDERSON, ABBEVILLE

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

**YES**

Andrea Bejarano-Robinson, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Jay West, Republican

*“Text app that allows a person trying to get safe haven access to people or organizations that can help. Sorta like 211 but not do broad.” – A. Bejarano-Robinson*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

**YES**

Andrea Bejarano-Robinson, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Jay West, Republican

*“Lots of the issue in SC is poverty levels are so high. I would make 15.00 an hour minimum wage.” - A. Bejarano-Robinson*

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

**YES**

Andrea Bejarano-Robinson, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Jay West, Republican

*“Work on breaking stigma around seeking for help. Stigma around this concept that men can not be victim and women can not be abusers. If we removed the fear of legal action for those who go there healthcare providers asking for help with their anger control.” - A. Bejarano-Robinson*

**ELECTION 2020**

**DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY  
QUESTIONNAIRE**



# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 7 – ANDERSON, ABBEVILLE

**SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS**

**Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?**

**YES**

Andrea Bejarano-Robinson, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Jay West, Republican

**Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?**

**YES**

Andrea Bejarano-Robinson, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Jay West, Republican

*“State and Federal law makers talking and so that similar bills are passed across the board.” - A. Bejarano-Robinson*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 20 - GREENVILLE

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

**YES**

Stephen Dreyfus, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Adam Morgan, Republican

*“Control Covid-19. The United States has failed miserably and is arguably the worst country in the world for dealing with this deadly pandemic, with 4% of the world’s population and 20% of the deaths. Specifically, the Trump administration has failed miserably to address this crisis. Even worse, South Carolina has one of the worst records of all 50 states. We are 42nd place in preparedness; and have much higher deaths per capita and cases per capita than the average state. Tensions increase when there are conflicts in a relationship and the parties are in close quarters for extended periods of time. Yet in South Carolina we were led to believe by the Governor it was safe to re-open the economy when it wasn’t. Since then cases in SC skyrocketed. With increase in Covid comes increases in domestic violence.” – S. Dreyfus*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

**YES**

Stephen Dreyfus, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Adam Morgan, Republican

*“We do not need to “defund the police.” But there are times and situations when the police are the least effective intervention in dealing with domestic issues. For example, I know someone in a toxic relationship with a boyfriend who is an emotionally abusive alcoholic. She has called the police several times, and they have taken him away. But she keeps letting him back. I fear for her safety, for although she got rid of him “for good” a week ago, they are already together again, as she believes him when he says he quit drinking. As a retired Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Counselor, I know the criminal justice system can only do so much, and other government programs and services are necessary. Calling the police or sheriff only takes care of the symptoms of abuse, and doesn’t address the underlying causes such as alcoholism or drug addiction. For this we need other government experts in agencies who can provide necessary counseling or treatment.” – S. Dreyfus*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 20 - GREENVILLE

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

**Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?**

### YES

Stephen Dreyfus, Democratic

### NO RESPONSE

Adam Morgan, Republican

*"This is a difficult question. To prevent domestic violence and domestic abuse takes more than education; it takes changing cultural attitudes about women and their rights. I am reminded of a male friend who told me his co-worker openly admitted he physically beat his wife and justified it by saying, "She had it coming." Read O Henry's daring short story, A Harlem Tragedy, published well over a hundred years ago, to see how culture contributes to violence against women. Yet there are peripheral issues that can be addressed as everything is related to everything else. Connected to domestic violence is child abuse. Many people who were abused as a child are more likely to be abusive as adults, and also more likely to get into a relationship where they are abused as an adult. Unemployment or under-employment also contribute to domestic violence. Thus, good education for everyone is a preventive remedy.*

*Running for office as a Democrat I am appalled at how many people would never consider voting for a Democrat because we believe a woman should have the right to make decisions over her own body. Preserving this right goes hand-in-hand with preserving the right not to be physically abused by one's spouse.*

*Finally, our culture of guns endangers women. A gun in the home, ostensibly to protect the family from dangerous intruders, actually puts everyone in the home at greater risk, especially women. I counseled one woman who lived in fear for her life that if she ever tried to leave her abusive husband he would kill her. He had a gun and that is what he said." – S. Dreyfus*

**ELECTION 2020**

**DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY  
QUESTIONNAIRE**



# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 20 - GREENVILLE

**SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS**

**Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?**

**Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?**

**YES**

Stephen Dreyfus, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Adam Morgan, Republican

*“Covid-19 will put a financial strain on states, making funding at the state level more difficult. Yet many object to federal funding saying this is a state issue. All I know is that South Carolina has one of the worst records of domestic violence in the nation. I am in the process of sending out 7500 mailers listing ten issues I support. One of them is Women’s Rights where I state, “We also need to reduce the epidemic of domestic violence against women.”*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 23 - GREENVILLE

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

YES

Chandra Dillard, Democratic

N/A

Unopposed

*“While people are in COVID lockdown, it may be helpful to have "text" reporting capabilities. There also needs to be ongoing education to support victim reporting.: PSA's, Social media, etc.” – C. Dillard*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

YES

Chandra Dillard, Democratic

N/A

Unopposed

*“There needs to be a stakeholder taskforce to look at this issue comprehensively. Not just the usual stakeholders but those stakeholders who may be impacted but may not be aware how domestic violence impacts their sector: workforce representatives, public education representatives, women health care providers, etc.” – C. Dillard*

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

NO RESPONSE

Chandra Dillard, Democratic

N/A

Unopposed



# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 25 - GREENVILLE

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

**YES**

Darath Mackie, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Tony Boyce, Independence  
Leola Simpson, Democratic

*"I would support enhancing and expanding methods for reporting abuse in South Carolina. Simultaneously I would be interested in learning more about how the statistics/ research that shows domestic violence rose during COVID-19 lockdown was obtained especially if the number of victims reporting these crimes has decreased.*

*First I will say that I believe that education, awareness and firm repercussion is the key to reducing and eliminating violence. We need to educate our young woman and men on signs of early abuse. We need to provide them with the tools they need to identify abuse, a safe way to report the abuse and then a healthy way for them to mentally heal from what they have witnessed or experienced. I would further want to research what we are already doing for reporting efforts and identify our strengths and weaknesses. We need to know exactly where we are and what efforts work and what doesn't before adding additional programs." – D. Mackie*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

**YES and NO**

Darath Mackie, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Tony Boyce, Independence  
Leola Simpson, Democratic

*"Before I would advocate for yet another plan/program/ agency/ organization group.... I would want to make sure we are not being repetitive. I would thoroughly research to see what the existing plans are and what existing groups/organizations/programs there already are and work within them to eliminate repetitiveness. Taking proactive steps like this may eliminate ineffective or repetitive programs and open up additional funding. I believe we need to start with what we have and perfect it before adding anything else to the mix." – D. Mackie*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 25 - GREENVILLE

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

**YES**

Darath Mackie, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Tony Boyce, Independence  
Leola Simpson, Democratic

*“Absolutely. This is a multilevel problem with an abundance of steps that could be taken for prevention. I believe that patterns of abuse start in the home and feaster. We need stronger education programs and advocacy groups for young girls and boys to identify abuse, a safe way to report the abuse and then a healthy way for them to mentally heal from what they have witnessed. If we don’t educate our children on domestic and sexual violence early, we stand a greater chance of them repeating the cycle they saw at home.” – D. Mackie*

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

**MORE THAN LIKELY YES**

Darath Mackie, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Tony Boyce, Independence  
Leola Simpson, Democratic

*“However, I would like to see a full report of how your current funding is being allocated. We have a transparency issue with funding programs in SC and I owe it to every taxpayer to be as thorough as possible before spending their money.” D. Mackie*

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

**MORE THAN LIKELY YES**

Darath Mackie, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Tony Boyce, Independence  
Leola Simpson, Democratic

*“However, I would like to see a full report of how your current funding is being allocated. Transparency issues are not just a South Carolina problem. Lawmakers owe it to every tax payer to make sure their money is being used as advertised. As with any secondary funding source you must show your relevance to keep it and or expand it. Perhaps using partial funds on programs that help end the violence all together there would be less need for additional fund requests for victim services. We need to start focusing on the root of the problem instead of making a bigger band aid.” – D. Mackie*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 36 - SPARTANBURG

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

YES (Inferred)

Rita Allison, Republican

N/A

Unopposed

*"I do feel that we need reporting information and we need to make it an even more convenient way for people to report and anonymously. A good hot line with easy access and confidentiality could help." – R. Allison*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

YES

Rita Allison, Republican

N/A

Unopposed

*"We need to refer to the past studies and implement the areas that can improve this issue. I do feel there needs to be more education for all. Victims Assistants need to be listened to more and there needs to be a better understanding from their area. They offer alot of ideas that might better the issue." – R. Allison*

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

YES

Rita Allison, Republican

N/A

Unopposed

*"We need to have more education from a young age through college on prevention measures and signs that lead to this issue. Parents need to have more education, too, on conflict engagement and how to handle." – R. Allison*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 36 - SPARTANBURG

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

YES

Rita Allison, Republican

N/A

Unopposed

*“Yes for more Mental Health Counselors in schools, and Victim Assistants and Advocacy. Advocacy for this issue and funding for it needs a good lobbying group. The Wheel needs to squeak louder.*

*We have a Family and Children's Committee, they need to be involved and lawyers need more education on this. I have a great Victims Assistance in my area and she shares lots of ideas of change. Get the First Lady involved, she is very vested in Human Trafficking.” – R. Allison*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 60 – FLORENCE, DARLINGTON

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

**YES**

Teresa McGill-Cain, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Phillip Lowe, Republican

*“Because of the dynamics of domestic violence, I believe having a relationship of trust with the advocate and victim is important. Allowing the victim to understand that no matter what situation, he or she can call, and seek help. Victims need to continue to be aware of his or her rights and know that it is ok to reach out for help. In addition, reassuring victims and children that there is help for them and their children will allow victims to trust.” – T. McGill-Cain*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

**YES**

Teresa McGill-Cain, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Phillip Lowe, Republican

*“Unfortunately, domestic violence should be a criminal justice issue, mainly because a crime has committed, and prevention of the crime should have been avoided. I would propose that the accused perpetrator to be mandated to endure psychological screening, seek medical help, and is required to take education courses pertaining to domestic and sexual violence. I think that often, this type of behavior is subject to upbringing or product of the environment, however this act does not give permission to hurt someone else.” – T. McGill-Cain*

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

**YES**

Teresa McGill-Cain, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Phillip Lowe, Republican

*“Education, Awareness and Forums for individuals that are subjected to domestic or sexual violence. I truly think that if students are taught in middle and high school the signs to look for during these cases, maybe many individuals could be saved from depression, lack of respect for themselves, suicide, and feeling of lack of self-worth.” – T. McGill-Cain*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 60 – FLORENCE, DARLINGTON

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

YES

Teresa McGill-Cain, Democratic

NO RESPONSE

Phillip Lowe, Republican

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

YES

Teresa McGill-Cain, Democratic

NO RESPONSE

Phillip Lowe, Republican

*“Simply by awareness of how detrimental sexual and domestic violence could lead to a society of violence. I think that often a person who have need traumatized need the help of funding for them from a local and federal level. How can you prevent methods as such with not boundaries or finances to help? The US is built on integrity and helping our fellow man. Many people come to the US for safety and security. The problem lies when we can not help our own.” – T. McGill-Cain*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 66 - ORANGEBURG

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

**YES**

Jeffrey Cila, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Gilda Cobb-Hunter, Democratic

*“The Department of Social Services lays out a straight forward approach to required reporting of professionals that may have first hand suspicion or knowledge. What is not clearly defined or promoted (at least on their web site or brochures) is the role of family, friends, and neighbors. They information is not so clear as to the series of events that would follow from these suspicions or anecdotal tips of family violence. Can they be anonymous, what agency interventions would follow, are safety protections imposed by the agency to create some sanctuary, and is law enforcement made aware of the potential of even when no judicial intervention is warranted. There needs to be a human intervention before judicial not just by the mandated reporters to create an environment of safety through outreach and community awareness.” – J. Cila*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

**YES**

Jeffrey Cila, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Gilda Cobb-Hunter, Democratic

*“Advocacy is important as well as a means for non-judicial intervention and counseling. Where do young women and mothers go for assistance and counseling in their communities not in Columbia or the county seat. I ask this because you may have this answer, but my church does not, I do not... who communicates the advocacy options already available. We need to work on appropriate empowerment of our young women and men. Is there an opportunity to shape this through public education avenues through new curriculum development. The family unit in our state needs a champion. We have societal queues that do not promote marriage and families. Common Law marriage though only abolished in by the Supreme Court on 7/25/2019 leave a legacy of imperfect family unions and children as a legacy of stress that can exacerbate domestic relationships. We need now to promote families and marriage and make available counseling and resources as a health measure of preventive care to reduce domestic frustrations. Alcohol abuse and misuse in our state could use a policy review. Personally, not a fan of single purchase bottle or can of alcohol beverages from stores. The contribution to domestic violence may well have a link, as well as the propensity for immediate consumption, litter, and general dysfunction of communities with alcohol as an over indulged social function. The state is in dire need of an expansion of outpatient and residential addition and abuse treatment facilities as a private sector operation or an extension of judicial “first offender” remedy of a societal problem that is affordable.” – J. Cila*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 66 - ORANGEBURG

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

**Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?**

**YES**

Jeffrey Cila, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Gilda Cobb-Hunter, Democratic

*“Much to do here is along the lines of my response for Question #2. If we have built a system around mandatory reporters we need to ensure they are also provided tools to recognize and intervene. That same sort of messaging needs to be communicated through community leaders, churches, and schools. It is a problem that can’t wait till it manifests itself or the public sees the tragic result on television news. The circumstances of the violence then are all too evident but where was the avenue for intervention, awareness, and education in advance.” – J. Cila*

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

**Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?**

**YES**

Jeffrey Cila, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Gilda Cobb-Hunter, Democratic

*“Outreach to civic groups, church leadership, and community leaders. From a state level look to grants and foundations that may assist not just at the state level but that can provide resources directly to local levels and communicate that information. State agencies can provide a service but they can also help smaller governmental bodies by communicating other direct sources of funding and materials.” – J. Cila*

**Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?**

**NO**

Jeffrey Cila, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Gilda Cobb-Hunter, Democratic

*“Federal funding takes too long to make a local or rural impact. This is a state problem first and foremost. We have ignored, allowed, or tolerated misbehavior and violence as a matter of culture, ignorance, or unwillingness to offend those who do the offending. Communities and local leaders need to be active supporters of right mindedness in how our citizens deal with one another and put a value on appropriate conflict de-escalation and resolution.” – J. Cila*



# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 75 - RICHLAND

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

**YES**

Rhodes Bailey, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Kirkman Finlay III, Republican

*“The reporting process for incidents of domestic violence should be made as easy as possible, and law enforcement/victims response services should be increased and reorganized as needed to improve accessibility.” – R. Bailey*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

**YES**

Rhodes Bailey, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Kirkman Finlay III, Republican

*“Criminal statutes were revised a few years ago to increase penalties for those convicted of domestic violence. Additionally, plans should include education and counselling to address the problems of domestic and sexual systematically, as well as broadening victim services. Public awareness campaigns should also be part of these plans.” – R. Bailey*

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

**YES**

Rhodes Bailey, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Kirkman Finlay III, Republican

*“See previous answer.” – R. Bailey*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 75 - RICHLAND

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

**YES**

Rhodes Bailey, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Kirkman Finlay III, Republican

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

**YES**

Rhodes Bailey, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Kirkman Finlay III, Republican

*“As the pandemic eventually subsides, we must prioritise rebuilding (and strengthening) essential protective services just as we prioritize rebuilding the economy. Also, please see first answer.” – R. Bailey*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 87 - LEXINGTON

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

UNANSWERED

Paula Rawl Calhoon, Republican

N/A

Unopposed

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

UNANSWERED

Paula Rawl Calhoon, Republican

N/A

Unopposed

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

UNANSWERED

Paula Rawl Calhoon, Republican

N/A

Unopposed

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

UNANSWERED

Paula Rawl Calhoon, Republican

N/A

Unopposed

*“Please be informed that CDV and CSC have been issues that I have supported for over twenty-five years. As the Deputy Director of the SC Commission on Prosecution Coordination, state and federal funds were made available to support victims of crime through either prosecution, community programs and networking.” – P. Rawl Calhoon*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 99 – BERKELEY, CHARLESTON

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

**YES**

Jen Gibson, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Mark Smith, Republican

*“Promoting community education and strengthening individual knowledge and skills can enhance existing methods. Survivors need more information about and access to support services. A holistic approach can increase reporting rates, so police and healthcare workers need additional training to help survivors report crimes and access services.” – J. Gibson*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

**YES**

Jen Gibson, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Mark Smith, Republican

*“We must also focus on preventing sexual violence before it happens by treating it like a public health crisis. A statewide plan focused on creating a culture of equity, consent, and safety that shifts society’s perception of what defines domestic and sexual violence.” – J. Gibson*

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

**YES**

Jen Gibson, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Mark Smith, Republican

*“The best way to deter abuse is to stop people from becoming abusers in the first place. Children who are victims or witness domestic or sexual violence need mental health counseling. A state education campaign aimed at children can help teach children to understand boundaries and express emotions without violence. Create policies in government that allow women to achieve pay equity, obtain health insurance independent of their partner, and receive fair divorce settlements that account for lost economic opportunity. Lastly, we must increase funding for support programs, create more affordable housing, and expand Medicaid in South Carolina. Too many domestic and sexual violence survivors sacrifice their safety for food and shelter security, and we need to change that.” – J. Gibson*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 99 – BERKELEY, CHARLESTON

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

**YES**

Jen Gibson, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Mark Smith, Republican

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

**YES**

Jen Gibson, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Mark Smith, Republican

*“The economic cost of domestic and sexual violence is high. Federal and state dollars invested in support services will ultimately save us money and improve our community’s quality of life. Accepting federal funds for Medicaid expansion will increase access to healthcare for survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Investing in affordable housing and dedicated shelters for women will enable survivors to leave their abusers. Community policing strategies can integrate support services, including mental health counselors, into domestic and sexual violence calls. Alcohol and drug abuse are often a contributing factor in violent attacks. Alcohol and drug rehabilitation for people who commit violent acts must be part of the rehabilitative process. While these policies are not traditional support services, they would play an essential role in prevention and protection.” – J. Gibson*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 102 – BERKELEY, DORCHESTER

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

**YES**

Joe H. Jefferson, Democratic

**N/A**

Unopposed

- “1. To protect the person who is being violated, first must have a log-in of incidences occurring in the home.  
2. Reliable witnesses will always prevail.  
3. We must provide a domicile where one can go to and be protected from the abuser.” – J. Jefferson*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

**YES**

Joe H. Jefferson, Democratic

**N/A**

Unopposed

- “You need a board of like minded persons who understands these behaviors coming from the abuser. It may step from drug addiction, the lost of a job, abuse at work, etc.” – J. Jefferson*

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

**YES**

Joe H. Jefferson, Democratic

**N/A**

Unopposed

- “We must increase the penalties regarding abusing our partners.” – J. Jefferson*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 102 – BERKELEY, DORCHESTER

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

YES

Joe H. Jefferson, Democratic

N/A

Unopposed

*“Funding is needed for a variety of reasons. Mental reasons, Counseling, etc.” – J. Jefferson*

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

YES

Joe H. Jefferson, Democratic

N/A

Unopposed

*“Bringing awareness to the public. Too many people don't understand how devastation these conditions are in so many homes.” – J. Jefferson*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 109 - CHARLESTON

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

**NO**

Rodney Travis, Libertarian

**NO RESPONSE**

Deon Tedder, Democratic

*“Victims need to be encouraged to call 911 when domestic violence occurs.” – R. Travis*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

**NO**

Rodney Travis, Libertarian

**NO RESPONSE**

Deon Tedder, Democratic

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

**YES**

Rodney Travis, Libertarian

**NO RESPONSE**

Deon Tedder, Democratic

*“Stop the light sentencing and low bail for domestic violence offenders. No more revolving door policies for those convicted. Make offenders stay in jail a long time. Warn survivors not to reunite with offenders.” – R. Travis*



**ELECTION 2020**

**DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY  
QUESTIONNAIRE**



# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 109 - CHARLESTON

**SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS**

**Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?**

**NO**

Rodney Travis, Libertarian

**NO RESPONSE**

Deon Tedder, Democratic

*“No, not until the pandemic ends and revenues pick up.” – R. Travis*

**Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?**

**YES**

Rodney Travis, Libertarian

**NO RESPONSE**

Deon Tedder, Democratic

*“All of us are in this together and we must endure the economic repercussions of the pandemic. We must guard our finances for basic government functions. Budget cuts are the norm until things get better.” - R. Travis*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 110 - CHARLESTON

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

**YES**

Rebecca Niess Cingolani, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

William Cogswell, Republican

*"I would hear guidance from organizations like yourself to determine the best course of action. The plan would have to integrate easily into current avenues of social services as well as expand into new methodologies where required." – R.N. Cingolani*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

**YES**

Rebecca Niess Cingolani, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

William Cogswell, Republican

*"I would hear guidance from organizations like yourself to determine the best course of action. The plan would have to integrate easily into current avenues of social services as well as expand into new methodologies where required." – R.N. Cingolani*

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

**YES**

Rebecca Niess Cingolani, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

William Cogswell, Republican

*"I would hear guidance from organizations like yourself to determine the best course of action. In addition, once people like myself and Ben Pogue are elected, implementing restorative justice programs have domestic and sexual violence as part of its target issues." R.N. Cingolani*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 110 - CHARLESTON

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

**YES\***

Rebecca Niess Cingolani, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

William Cogswell, Republican

*“Yes, as long as particular protocol is being adhered to each year. Funding should have a basis on the impact the program is having in the community\*. Elect a President who understands the importance of the preventing sexual and domestic violence.” – R.N. Cingolani*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 111 - CHARLESTON

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

**YES**

Wendell G. Gilliard, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Ted Vining, Republican

*"I would create programs that would put in the curriculum at all grade levels in our schools as to teach about the danger signs and causes and how to report such incidents! I would also put more funding for helping victims and create more PSAs about seeking help." – W.G. Gilliard*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

**YES**

Wendell G. Gilliard, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Ted Vining, Republican

*"Only through education and funding more awareness programs can we make a difference." – W.G. Gilliard*

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

**YES**

Wendell G. Gilliard, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Ted Vining, Republican

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

**YES**

Wendell G. Gilliard, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Ted Vining, Republican

*"As I previously stated more funding and programs are needed." – W.G. Gilliard*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 112 - CHARLESTON

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

YES

Joe Bustos, Republican

Daniel Brownstein, Democratic

*"I am unsure of the referenced research. If it was unreported how do researchers know it happened. I think we can assume there was more violence because of the COVID-19 restrictions. People need to return to their normal activities as soon as possible. Churches and other agencies that work with victims of abuse should be manned at a level to receive reports and help those victims." – J. Bustos*

*"Given the pandemic, much more intimate partner violence is going unreported because people are more isolated from public society than ever before. I believe we need to reach victims where they are, in their homes. We should do more as a state to publicize domestic violence and the hotline through the media and public service announcements. We also make sure our shelters have the resources to serve victims in a safe manner." – D. Brownstein*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

YES

Joe Bustos, Republican

Daniel Brownstein, Democratic

*"There should be a mental health screening system for abusers and could be referred by police or judges." – J. Bustos*

*"While working for a prosecutor's office, it became clear that the solution to intimate partner violence is not solely within the criminal justice system. Many victims did not wish to press charges or participate in the prosecution for a variety of reasons. I think we would be better served by diverting at least some cases into special domestic violence courts that follow a restorative justice model in which we are able to create appropriate punishments and offer underlying services such as mental health or substance abuse treatment that would benefit both the offender and victim(s)." – D. Brownstein*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 112 - CHARLESTON

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

**Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?**

**YES**

Joe Bustos, Republican  
Daniel Brownstein, Democratic

*“Prevention needs to be part of highschool education.” – J. Bustos*

*“I think prevention should start in our schools. We need to make sure that we are teaching our young people about healthy relationships and also ensure they receive scientifically accurate sexual education. The state must be a better partner in this.” – D. Brownstein*

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

**Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?**

**YES**

Daniel Brownstein, Democratic

**NO**

Joe Bustos, Republican

**Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?**

**YES**

Joe Bustos, Republican  
Daniel Brownstein, Democratic

*“Levy an additional cost to those abusers or have them pay for services provided.” – J. Bustos*

*“I think the state should increase both its domestic violence and sexual assault funding to ensure that all of our state’s domestic violence and rape crisis centers are able to continue to serve the community during our time of intense need. Right now those organizations do receive a number of pass-through federal grants, but very little in the way of state funds.” – D. Brownstein*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 115 - CHARLESTON

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

**Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?**

**YES**

Josh Stokes, Republican

*"I would be willing to help formulate new legislation or adapt/support current legislation to address the methods for reporting domestic violence and the protections available for those victims of domestic violence who do report. No person should be subject to abuse and South Carolina needs to have system available that appropriately investigates claims of domestic violence, imposes appropriate sanctions for domestic violence, and protects the victims of domestic violence throughout the process." – J. Stokes*

**YES**

Spencer Wetmore, Democratic

*"Definitely. Expanding reporting is one of the first ways we can support and protect victims of domestic violence. I would support statewide investment in a text-message based system to minimize victims' fear of being heard on a phone call to the police and give frightened victims another option to document and report abuse." – S. Wetmore*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

**Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?**

**YES**

Josh Stokes, Republican

*"My typical stance is that less government is better but I do not believe this is an issue of too much regulation by government. This is an issue related to the creation/improvement/promotion of services available to perpetrators and victims of domestic violence both before and after any event of domestic violence has occurred. As before, I would be willing to help formulate new legislation or adapt/support current legislation to create, improve, and promote those services statewide." – J. Stokes*

**YES**

Spencer Wetmore, Democratic

*"In addition to the prevention and treatment programs discussed below, effectively addressing these issues requires that the state provide far more support for victims: counseling, safe sanctuaries, and education." – S. Wetmore*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 115 - CHARLESTON

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

**Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?**

**YES**

Josh Stokes, Republican

*“This response is essentially the same as my response to question 2(b) above. Policing and prosecuting of domestic violence and sexual violence will unfortunately always be necessary but our focus should be on preventing as much domestic and sexual violence as possible.” – J. Stokes*

**YES**

Spencer Wetmore, Democratic

*“Too often, domestic violence is a result of the abuser’s own past trauma or substance abuse, and counseling programs targeted to domestic violence can help address these cycles. While these programs can’t solve every situation, in my experience as a prosecutor, mandating these programs can be an important first step to addressing underlying causes of violence.” – S. Wetmore*

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

**Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?**

**MOST LIKELY**

Josh Stokes, Republican

**YES**

Spencer Wetmore, Democratic

*“It is very difficult to address state budget funding issues in isolation but I do believe additional financial resources are necessary to appropriately address and educate our citizens on the issues of domestic and sexual abuse.” – J. Stokes*

**Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?**

**YES**

Josh Stokes, Republican

*“As mentioned in question 4 above, COVID-19 has made it difficult for many organizations to fundraise in an effort to address a myriad of important issues. The State cannot solely fund them all but I believe this is an excellent opportunity for the State to look at public/private funding options and additional incentives for individuals or entities that contribute funds to these causes.” – J. Stokes*



# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 115 - CHARLESTON

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

YES

Spencer Wetmore, Democratic

*“Reviewing the requirements and programs supported by each jurisdiction’s Victim’s Advocacy Fund may be one option; unspent funds can be contributed to service providers, and this could be one option to supplement last year’s lost funding.” – S. Wetmore*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 123 - BEAUFORT

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

**YES**

Christine deVries, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Jeff Bradley, Republican

*“In the times when physical movement is limited, additional steps need to be taken to help identify victims such as domestic violence screenings at COVID-19 testing sites, finding new ways through electronic communication to reach out to potential victims and develop apps that might help victims by providing local resources and offer suggestions for plans to safety.” – C. deVries*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

**YES**

Christine deVries, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Jeff Bradley, Republican

*“Yes, a coordinated strategic plan that involves all of the governmental and non profit entities involved with addressing domestic violence including health care, mental health, crisis hot lines, criminal justice, and social welfare institutions.” C. deVries*

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

**YES**

Christine deVries, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Jeff Bradley, Republican

*“Prevention is always the preferred intervention to avoid violence and injury. Screenings through a variety of sources can identify potential victims where counseling services including options available can be discussed. Furthermore, the promotion through education of healthy, respectful and nonviolence relationships is critical including teaching effective communication.” C. DeVries*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 123 - BEAUFORT

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

**YES**

Christine deVries, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Jeff Bradley, Republican

*“Elect legislators who prioritize addressing domestic violence in the federal and state budget program; forming coalitions to advocate for increase funding for domestic violence programs, and public education on the effectiveness of domestic violence prevention and intervention programs.” – C. deVries*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 124 - BEAUFORT

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

**YES**

Barb Nash, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Shannon Erickson, Republican

*“Women and children are often afraid to report their abusers. However, there is mandatory reporting for suspected child abuse by teachers, healthcare providers, etc. There is no such requirement for suspected abuse of adult women or men. We need to empower friends, neighbors, and extended family to report suspected abuse through heightened education, anonymous reporting abilities, and no fear of retribution.” – B. Nash*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

**YES**

Barb Nash, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Shannon Erickson, Republican

*“We need to take steps to address patterns of behavior and break cycles of abuse. Education, awareness, counseling, anger management, safe houses, mentoring of women, help to become financially independent and self-sufficient. This is not just a women's issue this is an issue that needs men to become involved and speak out about.” – B. Nash*

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

**YES**

Barb Nash, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Shannon Erickson, Republican

*“Absolutely! I would begin by educating tweens and teens about domestic violence (all violence is unacceptable including bullying) but we know that domestic violence is not just physical. It is also mental and emotional. Tweens and teens need to know how to recognize the signs of abuse, that it is not acceptable, and what to do about it. We also need men who are willing to step up and speak out against domestic and sexual violence. and shine the spotlight on them.” – B. Nash*

# STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 124 - BEAUFORT

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

**YES**

Barb Nash, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Shannon Erickson, Republican

*"We can look at redistributing police funds to provide for more social workers, counselors, etc. on the force, and increase police training about responding to domestic violence calls. There is so much that can be done differently when law enforcement becomes involved in domestic violence.*

*There is a lot of competition for private and community funds for various good causes. What can we do to make this one stand out? The ads for animal rescue get more attention than domestic and sexual violence. We need to find a champion in this state who would be the face of the issue and generate contributions." – B. Nash*

# STATE SENATE DISTRICT 3 - ANDERSON

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

**YES**

Judith Polson, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Richard Cash, Republican

*“Go to houses and check on the women. Publish the hotline for domestic abuse and have shelters available with social distancing and mask-wearing. I would fully fund shelters for victims of domestic violence.” – J. Polson*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

**YES**

Judith Polson, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Richard Cash, Republican

*“Fund counseling centers in every community to provide mental health counseling and other kinds of help needed; help police to direct couples to counseling when a disturbance occurs so that a victim can be helped and the abuser can be helped.” – J. Polson*

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

**YES**

Judith Polson, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Richard Cash, Republican

*“Make the subject of domestic and sexual violence a component of education in our schools with the goal of creating awareness of the triggers and the strategies to prevent yourself or someone else from being a perpetrator or a victim.” – J. Polson*

**ELECTION 2020**

**DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY  
QUESTIONNAIRE**



# STATE SENATE DISTRICT 3 - ANDERSON

**SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS**

**Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?**

**YES**

Judith Polson, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Richard Cash, Republican

**Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?**

**YES**

Judith Polson, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Richard Cash, Republican

*“Partner with businesses and individuals to encourage donations and creative ways to help victim service providers; put money into prevention of the violence which includes limiting irresponsible, easy access to guns.” – J. Polson*

# STATE SENATE DISTRICT 6 – GREENVILLE

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

### UNANSWERED

Dwight Loftis, Republican

### NO RESPONSE

Hao Wu, Democratic

*"I am opposed to domestic violence, abuse on adults or children, human trafficking and protecting the lives of the pre-born. My years of service in the General Assembly reflects my position on these issues."*  
– D. Loftis



# STATE SENATE DISTRICT 12 - SPARTANBURG

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

**YES**

Scott Talley, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Dawn Bingham, Democratic

*"I think there are several reforms to be considered, including how information is provided to citizens about resources in their area, how Magistrate's handle bond hearings on CDV cases to hopefully allow more time for victims to seek protection before the criminal is set free and may return home (despite a no-contact order) and providing funding to assist victims in getting help they need so they are not fearful of reaching out." – S. Talley*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

**YES**

Scott Talley, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Dawn Bingham, Democratic

*"Law enforcement, court and cross agency collaboration on resources, assistance, plans of action and how the public is educated on this information." – S. Talley*

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

**YES**

Scott Talley, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Dawn Bingham, Democratic

*"Programs in our high schools to educate both males and females on resources, consequences and options to deal with issues leading to violence, be it stress, financial planning, alcohol abuse, etc." – S. Talley*

**ELECTION 2020**

**DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY  
QUESTIONNAIRE**



# STATE SENATE DISTRICT 12 - SPARTANBURG

**SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS**

**Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?**

**YES**

Scott Talley, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Dawn Bingham, Democratic

**Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?**

**YES**

Scott Talley, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Dawn Bingham, Democratic

*"I authored the amendment in the Senate to make funding centers from CARES Act a priority during this pandemic. Now, centers may apply for grants to receive needed funding to help serve our communities during this time. I also want to restore the \$800,000 to recurring funding if possible in the 2020-2021 budget in January." – S. Talley*

# STATE SENATE DISTRICT 13 – GREENVILLE, SPARTANBURG, UNION

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

### UNANSWERED

Shane Martin, Republican

N/A

Unopposed

*"You may know that 2nd degree CDV is defined as ""A person commits the offense of domestic violence in the second degree if the person violates subsection (A) and: (1) moderate bodily injury to the person's own household member results or the act is accomplished by means likely to result in moderate bodily injury to the person's own household member; (2) the person violates a protection order and in the process of violating the order commits domestic violence in the third degree; (3) the person has one prior conviction for domestic violence in the past ten years from the current offense; or (4) in the process of committing domestic violence in the third degree one of the following also results: (a) the offense is committed in the presence of, or while being perceived by, a minor; (b) the offense is committed against a person known, or who reasonably should have been known, by the offender to be pregnant; (c) the*

*offense is committed during the commission of a robbery, burglary, kidnapping, or theft; (d) the offense is committed by impeding the victim's breathing or air flow; or (e) the offense is committed using physical force or the threatened use of force against another to block that person's access to any cell phone, telephone, or electronic communication device with the purpose of preventing, obstructing, or interfering with: (i) the report of any criminal offense, bodily injury, or property damage to a law enforcement agency; or (ii) a request for an ambulance or emergency medical assistance to any law enforcement agency or emergency medical provider.""*

**ELECTION 2020**

**DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY  
QUESTIONNAIRE**



## **STATE SENATE DISTRICT 13 – GREENVILLE, SPARTANBURG, UNION**

*You also may know that the actions described above are a misdemeanor in SC. You may not know that I offered an amendment in the Senate in 2015 to make this offense a felony. Senate leadership used a procedural maneuver to rule it out of order, and not one member from either party stood up to object. I don't necessarily disagree to any of the proposals in your survey, but none of them will make a real difference in this type of crime. I think people who beat their spouse should be locked up. Please contact me when that becomes an action item for your group and I will be glad to assist." – S. Martin*

# STATE SENATE DISTRICT 23 - LEXINGTON

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

**RESPONDED**

Bill Brown, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Katrina Shealy, Republican

*"If I were in office, I would first want to know more about the current reporting methods, before commenting on whether they should be enhanced. I would read the research before then reaching out to you and/or others that are expert in the field for thoughts and recommendations." – B. Brown*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

**YES**

Bill Brown, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Katrina Shealy, Republican

*"I would support an effort to look into whether creation of such a plan is advisable and what the likely plan would include before making a decision." – B. Brown*

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

**RESPONDED**

Bill Brown, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Katrina Shealy, Republican

*"It is already criminal. The state is not an entity I personally would WANT involved inside my home beyond the level it already is. Not sure "how" the state could further prevent something that has already been legislated as criminal. How does any legislative body prevent any crime beyond criminalizing the act?"*

*If there were reasonable steps that were recommended by experts that did not run counter to existing legislation, and if those steps were legal and ethical and moral, I would likely support them. So, "learn more" might be my best "short answer" (again, if I were in office)."*

## STATE SENATE DISTRICT 23 - LEXINGTON

### SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

**RESPONDED**

Bill Brown, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Katrina Shealy, Republican

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

**RESPONDED**

Bill Brown, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Katrina Shealy, Republican

*“As I do not currently know what funding levels already exist and do not currently know how the state or the federal funds were/are used, I would answer **“Don’t know at this time”**.”*

*I currently have no first-hand knowledge (or even second-hand) of precisely what impact the funding cut has been, so I cannot offer any recommendations at this time.” – B. Brown*

# STATE SENATE DISTRICT 39 – BERKELEY, CALHOUN, COLLETON, DORCHESTER, ORANGEBURG

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

**YES**

Tom Connor, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Vernon Stephens, Democratic

*“SEEK OUT DEVELOPERS OF PHONE APPS THAT WOULD ALLOW VICTIMS AN EASY AND TIMELY METHOD OF REPORTING CRIMES.” – T. Connor*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

**YES**

Tom Connor, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Vernon Stephens, Democratic

*“ACTIVATE ENHANCED TRAINING OF SOCIAL WORKERS FOR THESE CRIMES.” – T. Connor*

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

**RESPONDED**

Tom Connor, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Vernon Stephens, Democratic

*“MORE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC THROUGH P.S.A. 'S” – T. Connor*

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

**RESPONDED**

Tom Connor, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Vernon Stephens, Democratic

*“SEE ANSWER ABOVE.” – T. Connor*

# STATE SENATE DISTRICT 43 - CHARLESTON, BEAUFORT, COLLETON

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

**YES**

Richard Hricik, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Chip Campsen III, Republican

*"Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is a serious problem and South Carolina still ranks as the nation's sixth-worst, with a domestic violence homicide rate that is more than one-and-a-half times the national average. There continues to be insufficient victim services in many areas of the state; insufficient awareness about services in some places where they exist; insufficient attention statewide to a related problem, dating violence; and insufficient support for primary prevention education in our schools and communities. Attempts to gain insight into solutions frequently are hampered by inconsistent, unreliable data.*

*Victims, now more than ever, need to know what help is available and that there are safe places to go, such as My Sister's House in the tri-county area. Most victims are trapped by their abusers and COVID-19 exacerbated the problem during the lockdown. Their lives are often threatened if they try to leave, either by their abuser or now by the fear of contracting COVID-19. SC needs a PSA campaign in all media forms (print, tv, social media) to get information to the public about the resources available and access to shelters. It's hard for victims to get help if they don't know who to turn to. A PSA program, paid for with money from Covid relief funds and the State of SC, could be what some of these victims need to get help. Public information is essential!*

*Also, medical providers (and in some cases social workers) who are using tele-medecine now, must be reminded to screen for IPV as it is often disclosed in a face-to-face clinical setting. This also ties into the lack of broadband and internet access to places in SC creating even more isolation.*

*If we meaningfully and fully address COVID with widespread testing, we can create greater freedom and more safe places for victims." – R. Hricik*



# STATE SENATE DISTRICT 43 – CHARLESTON, BEAUFORT, COLLETON

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

**YES**

Richard Hricik, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Chip Campsen III, Republican

*"The State does have the Advisory Committee that makes recommendations and issues its annual report that summarizes steps taken and steps that need to be taken on a wide range of issues relating to Domestic Violence (IPV):*

*<https://www.scstatehouse.gov/reports/SCCPC/2019%20SC%20Domestic%20Violence%20Advisory%20Committee%20Annual%20Report.pdf>*

*This last report was Pre-COVID but I would emphasize the previous answer and state economic independence is a critical factor in violence prevention. For many people who experience IPV, the financial entanglement with an abusive partner is too convoluted to sever without an alternative source of economic support. The pandemic has exacerbated financial entanglement by causing increased job loss and unemployment, particularly among women of color, immigrants, and workers without a college education.*

*Domestic and sexual violence crimes need to be punished through the criminal justice system, but punishment alone will often not stop the cycle of abuse. In addition, the abuse often stems from other issues such as mental health and substance use/abuse. Cases need to be evaluated individually as many abusers might also need mental health assistance and/or alcohol/drug treatment so that the core problem of the abuse is addressed. There are also many abusers who were victims themselves growing up and continue the cycle of abuse. This pattern of behavior needs to be recognized, treated and stopped. Expanding education to kids/people to recognize and report abuse when they see it or experience it is also an additional step." – R. Hricik*

# STATE SENATE DISTRICT 43 - CHARLESTON, BEAUFORT, COLLETON

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

**RESPONDED**

Richard Hricik, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Chip Campsen III, Republican

*"Strategies to prevent IPV include teaching safe and healthy relationship skills; engaging influential adults and peers; disrupting the developmental pathways toward IPV; creating protective environments; strengthening economic supports for families; and supporting survivors to increase safety and lessen harms." – R. Hricik*

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

**RESPONDED**

Richard Hricik, Democratic

**NO RESPONSE**

Chip Campsen III, Republican

*"State spending, especially on CARES Act relief money and general budgetary concerns are all a matter of priorities. The same career politicians who have failed to fully fund, implement and address the issues related to SC and IPV won't be the ones to make it a priority going forward." – R. Hricik*

# DILLON COUNTY SHERIFF

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

**YES**

Phillip Davis, Independence

**NO RESPONSE**

Tracy Pelt, Republican

Douglas "Humbunny" Pernell, Democratic

*"In order for Domestic Violence incidents to be properly addressed, officers should be trained to complete a report and a welfare check on all calls, even if a call is cancelled before law enforcement arrives. A welfare check increases the likelihood that a potential victim is properly assessed for injury. By creating the report, law enforcement establishes a record that may indicate there is a recurring problem with persons at the same address. Therefore, establishing a pattern of potential abuse." – P. Davis*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

**YES**

Phillip Davis, Independence

**NO RESPONSE**

Tracy Pelt, Republican

Douglas "Humbunny" Pernell, Democratic

*"Domestic violence is not always just physical, it is oftentimes emotional and mental abuse. This type of abuse over extended periods of time can result in generations of abuse that are learned and passed down to children raised in such environments. This is the same for sexual abuse as well as research indicates victims of sexual abuse repeat this behavior as youth and adults. These learned patterns of behavior can be best addressed by a collective statewide and even national approach." – P. Davis*

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

**YES**

Phillip Davis, Independence

**NO RESPONSE**

Tracy Pelt, Republican

Douglas "Humbunny" Pernell, Democratic

*"This should include a targeted approach for both the victim and the abuser. First, you must identify the problem and address it. Most of the time, law enforcement just locks someone up and when they get out, they return to their same environment and continue their abusive ways. Officers should be trained to better recognize the signs and indicators of abuse. Proper counseling and intervention should be initiated for both the abused and the abuser." – P. Davis*

# DILLON COUNTY SHERIFF

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

**YES**

Phillip Davis, Independence

**NO RESPONSE**

Tracy Pelt, Republican  
Douglas “Humbunny” Pernell, Democratic

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

**YES**

Phillip Davis, Independence

**NO RESPONSE**

Tracy Pelt, Republican  
Douglas “Humbunny” Pernell, Democratic

*“The most cost effective way is to address the problem from a social interventional perspective. Incarcerating those who abuse is not the answer in all cases. While more serious offenses should result in jail time, those who are committing such violence of a less serious nature for the first time should be placed in diversionary programs that help teach them how to cope with rage, anger, stress, and any environmental or mental stimulus that causes their actions. Recurring violent behaviors must result in more progressive methods of intervention to include in-patient counseling that deals specifically with that individual’s trigger points.” – P. Davis*

# FLORENCE COUNTY SHERIFF

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?

**YES**

T.J. Joye, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Darrin Yarborough, Democratic

*"We would continue to address all of the crimes of domestic violence that are being reported and take them just as seriously as before we did before the pandemic. In doing this, we would take necessary steps to protect our officers as well as those present at the locations where officer response is needed. I also think it's important to offer different ways to report domestic violence so that those being victimized can feel safer. Many times, people are afraid to pick up the phone and dial 911 because their abuser is always around and would hear the call and hurt them more. I'd like to create a text message reporting system and an online reporting system that victims could use to report domestic violence in a more concealed and safe way. The online reporting system could also include a way to upload pictures and text messages documenting a cycle of abuse, which would later assist us in prosecuting suspects more effectively. These new reporting mechanisms would take some of the weight off of our dispatchers and allow victims to report being abused without risking being caught by their abuser and punished/injured after reporting." – T.J. Joye*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?

**YES**

T.J. Joye, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Darrin Yarborough, Democratic

*"I plan to properly record and report all incidents of CDV to different agencies that we partner with as well as our Solicitor's Office of course. This coordinated effort would include partnering with local organizations such as the Pee Dee Coalition, Sleep in Heavenly Peace and House of Hope to help people move out of abusive situations and develop a game plan to separate from their abuser and become financially independent as well as seek treatment for the damage the abuse has caused. I think that if victims know FCSO will help them beyond just documenting and helping prosecute their abuser, they are much more likely to come forward and report abuse as well. As of last year, South Carolina was the nation's 6th worst state when it came to violence against women, in particular homicides that came from domestic abuse situations. This is more than a criminal justice issue and I want to make a coordinated effort to decrease all types of domestic violence in our community to make sure nobody in Florence County lives in fear of an abuser. An example of a statewide effort might also be the creation of a database including people with criminal domestic violence convictions. These convictions are already public record on each county's public index, but I would support a statewide means where prior to getting involved with someone, a man or woman could easily look up their name and see if they had a past track record of abusing partners or past partners." – T.J. Joye*

# FLORENCE COUNTY SHERIFF

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?

**YES**

T.J. Joye, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Darrin Yarborough, Democratic

*"If we take a strong stance against domestic and sexual violence in our county, we give ourselves a stronger voice to lobby the legislature to create more programs that help prevent CDV and sexual abuse. We do this by responding to CDV and sexual violence calls in a timely manner by increasing patrol deputies, partnering with agencies that assist in prosecuting sexual abuse cases like the Durant Center and Pee Dee Coalition, and using the most effective investigators to rigorously work these cases and leave no stone unturned when it comes to building a strong and detailed case against each one of them so that each one will be prosecuted effectively. Also, we have to take the violation of protective orders and restraining orders seriously. I have heard before that "a restraining order is just a piece of paper." If I am sheriff, that will not be the case and those that violate orders that have already been issued telling them to stay away from someone they've abused will be found and prosecuted to the fullest extent the law allows." – T.J. Joye*

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?

**YES**

T.J. Joye, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Darrin Yarborough, Democratic

Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?

**YES**

T.J. Joye, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Darrin Yarborough, Democratic

*"We can provide our state and federal elected officials with accurate numbers showing the severity of CDV and the continued need for implementing fund to help address this issue. When we receive that funding, we will be sure that it is allocated to address victim services. This is another reason that I have vowed not to take a pay raise-I want any additional funding to help victims that are suffering, not line my pockets." – T.J. Joye*

# MARLBORO COUNTY SHERIFF

## EXPANDING/ENHANCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REPORTING EFFORTS

**Would you support efforts to enhance/expand methods for reporting in South Carolina?**

**YES**

Henry Love, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Charles Lemon, Democratic

*“Help provide training for the public on how they can report an incident to Law Enforcement. More Training for Officers on the signs of domestic violence and sexual assault violence. Some Victims are scared to report an incident and Officers need to know what to look for when a victim is too afraid to report it.” – H. Love*

## SUPPORT FOR GOING BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE

**Would you support the creation of a statewide plan to effectively address the issues of domestic and sexual violence beyond the criminal justice response?**

**YES**

Henry Love, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Charles Lemon, Democratic

*“1. Conduct cross training with Law Enforcement, EMS, Medical Providers.  
2. Community training and Assistants  
3. Look at what other states are doing to address these issues and adopt what works into our plan.  
4. Start a Task force dedicated to the prevention and prosecution of offenses.” – H. Love*

## INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

**Do you believe our state needs to increase its focus on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence?**

**YES**

Henry Love, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Charles Lemon, Democratic

*“1. Conduct cross training with Law Enforcement, EMS, Medical Providers.  
2. Community training and Assistants  
3. Look at what other states are doing to address these issues and adopt what works into our plan.  
4. Start a Task force dedicated to the prevention and prosecution of offenses.” – H. Love*

**ELECTION 2020**

**DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY  
QUESTIONNAIRE**



# MARLBORO COUNTY SHERIFF

## SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE SERVICE PROVIDERS

**Would you support additional state funding be allocated to victim service providers?**

**YES**

Henry Love, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Charles Lemon, Democratic

**Do you believe additional federal funding should be allocated to victim service providers?**

**YES**

Henry Love, Republican

**NO RESPONSE**

Charles Lemon, Democratic

*“As Sheriff along with other local leaders, we can sponsor fundraisers and community training to help Non- profit agencies when these cuts occur.” – H. Love*