



HORRY COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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MIDTERM ELECTIONS: YOUTH ISSUES

By Ryan Thompson

Heading into the midterm elections in November, candidates of both political parties need to understand what issues are important to youth and what they can do to generate the active support of the next generation of voters.

Guns

One of the issues most concerning to young people – especially those just graduating from high school and voting for the first time – is gun control.

This should come as no surprise given the recent amounts of gun violence in the nation, especially in schools. Students want to feel safe in school again, and until common sense legislation is passed, this is not possible.

The solutions students are looking for include, but are not limited to:

- **Passing universal background checks,**
- **Banning bump stocks,**
- **Banning assault style weapons.**

Youth today are looking for politicians who are not owned by the National Rifle Association (NRA) and are not afraid to openly criticize that powerful organization. To young voters, it seems like people in this country are more concerned about keeping their guns than about keeping people alive.

Horry County Democrats support these solutions and are committed to working for their enactment, both in Washington and in South Carolina.

Environment

Democrats are committed to protecting the environment.

Under the current administration, Obama-era regulations that were established to protect our environment have been stripped away leaving the future uncertain. Climate change is a real threat to the long-term survival of our world, and President Trump and many Republican supporters claim it is not even real, ignoring science.

Democrats must do everything in our power to protect the environment for future generations to come.

Healthcare

Healthcare is an issue that should not be worrisome to children and teenagers, but sadly for some, it is an epidemic.

Many young people are not eligible for Medicaid because their parents made too much money, but still could not afford their medical bills. And what happens in South Carolina? Our Republican-controlled state government refuses to accept federal dollars to expand Medicaid so these South Carolinians can obtain healthcare.

This is an especially serious problem for young people who “age-out” from their parents’ healthcare coverage. Many will not seek medical help because they simply have no money to pay for it.

Healthcare is not a luxury. It is a human right. Yet, the United States is the only industrialized nation where

citizens are not guaranteed access to the medical care they need, and because of that, innocent people die.

Marijuana

Many young voters want to see medicinal marijuana legalized nationwide to help combat the opioid epidemic.

Pain killers have been prescribed to patients who could have benefited from medicinal marijuana as a less addictive and dangerous alternative. Many young adults have died from overdoses in Horry County, and until we combat the initial problem of opioids being too readily available, this tragedy will continue.

If we can decriminalize marijuana both medically and, in the future, recreationally, people will not turn to harder drugs that are more addicting and damaging.



Equality

The Democratic Party is seen as the party of the people, the party for everyone.

The youth have overwhelmingly supported LGBTQ+ equality and it is vital that our candidates are willing and committed to fighting for these rights.

We must elect candidates who are true Democrats, who are committed to equality for all – black, white, gay, straight, whatever.

We must work together as a united team to overcome the dominance of the GOP and those who could care less about fairness and equality for all.

The Trump presidency has given the Democratic party a unique opportunity to flip many seats across the country. Democrats must – and do – value the power of the youth vote as we seek to restore democracy to our country.

To volunteer to help solve this issue in Horry County,
or for more information, please contact us at:
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