



Democrats of Chatham

2024 ACTION PLAN – DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF CHATHAM
COUNTY – THE DPCC AND THE COUNTY COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN AARON “ADOT” WHITELEY



Contents

- Executive Summary..... 3
 - State of Chatham – Committee..... 3
 - Rebrand – Democrats of Chatham: **Democratic Party of Chatham County**(“DPCC”) 3
 - Rebuild – The DPC – The Democratic Party of Chatham County 4
 - Reengage – Engaging with Fun, Facts, Fund Raising and Formality..... 4
- Action Plan with Lead Accountability..... 6
 - Operation Outreach Execution 6
 - Membership & Outreach Subcommittee (**Lead**) 6
 - Communications Subcommittee 6
 - Issues & Advocacy Subcommittee 6
 - Finance Subcommittee..... 6
 - Party Platform & Scorecard Implementation 6
 - Issue & Advocacy Subcommittee (**Lead**) 6
 - YWP and Student Subcommittee 6
 - Communications Subcommittee 6
 - Governance and Bylaw Update..... 6
 - Bylaws Subcommittee (**Lead**) 7
 - Parliamentarian..... 7
 - Executive Subcommittee..... 7
 - Donor & Recognition (D&R) Enactment..... 7
 - Donors & Grant Subcommittee (**Lead**)..... 7
 - Honoree Subcommittee **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
 - Executive Subcommittee..... 7
 - Finance Subcommittee..... 7
 - Democratic Elected Officials Caucus 7
 - Chairman (**Lead**)..... 7
 - Executive Subcommittee..... 7
 - Certification, Training and Selection Fulfillment 7
 - Delegate Selection Subcommittee (**Lead**) 7
 - Finance Subcommittee..... 7
 - Donors & Grant Subcommittee..... 7
- Relevant Sources and Quick Link References..... 8

The Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Georgia 8

 THE CHARTER OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF GEORGIA 8

 STATEMENT OF GOAL - <https://www.georgiademocrat.org/about-us/> 8

 THE BYLAWS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF GEORGIA 8

 SECTION 9. VACANCIES 8

The Chatham County Democratic Committee By-Laws 8

 Article VII Vacancies and Removals..... 8

 Article XI General Provisions 8

Democratic Party of Georgia Website..... 8

 County Committees <https://www.georgiademocrat.org/county-committees/>..... 8

Democratic National Committee 9

 Party Platform - <https://democrats.org/where-we-stand/party-platform/>..... 9

Schools and Colleges in Savannah..... 9

 School – Approximate Enrollment 9

 Georgia Southern University – 24,936 9

 Savannah College of Art and Design – 16,218 9

 South University – 9,955 9

 Savannah State University – 2,926..... 9

 Savannah Technical College – 3,642..... 9

The State of Chatham..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

 DPCC Strategic Plan 2024..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

 Thank you for participating in the implementation of your plan for 2024! **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Aaron R. Whitely, MPA Chairman, Chatham County Democratic Committee **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

Executive Summary

State of Chatham – Committee

In July of 2023 the Chatham County Democratic Committee elected Aaron “Adot” Whitely as its new Chairman with the mandate to energize and rebuild the Chatham County Democratic Committee (“CCDC”). The CCDC, like many democratic county committees in Georgia rested after a tremendous effort in the very successful 2020 Presidential and Senate races in Georgia. The CCDC like many of the Georgia Democratic Committees began to suffer from limited participation and post position vacancies after the 2022 Georgia Gubernatorial elections. The continued misinformation and divisive rhetoric have driven many well-meaning and civil folks out of political participation. The Democratic Party of Georgia (“DPG”) recognizes this problem and have published on their website that they are supporting rebuilding the county committees.

In 2023, the new CCDC leadership worked diligently to put in place a plan to **rebrand, rebuild** and **reengage** the citizens of Chatham County in the political process. The goal is to build a strong democratic voice in the heart of Chatham County. The Chairman has officially granted affiliation of four local Democratic organizations; Savannah Federation of Democratic Women, Skidaway Island Democrats, West Chatham Democrats and Young Democrats of Chatham County. Representatives of these organizations serve as members of an ad hoc Strategic Planning committee that represents the **County Party Leadership**; the Strategic Plan is based on input from all members of this committee.

Rebrand – Democrats of Chatham: Democratic Party of Chatham County (“DPCC”)

The Chatham County Democratic Committee (the “**Committee**”) has always been the organization that is directly affiliated with the Democratic Party of Georgia. The term “committee” is used to identify the county entities associated with DPG according to the bylaws of the DPG. The Georgia Democratic Party leadership recognizes “County Committees as the primary point of contact between the Democratic Electorate and the Democratic Party. County level committees are often the entry point for Democratic activists and candidates.” Recognizing that there is a need to galvanize democrats in the county, there is a need to communicate the “Home of all Democrats”.

The County Party Leadership is undergoing a campaign to reintroduce the organization’s name as the **Democratic Party of Chatham County (“DPCC” or the “Party”)** to align with the National and Georgia Democratic Party goal to engage Democrats at the local level. The “Committee” will remain as the decision-making arm locally, while the “Party” is the rally point for all the Democrats in the County. As per DPG Bylaws, the Committee will remain in place as the official entity responsible to the DPG and the local Board of Elections.

The County Party Leadership team has embarked on a project to fund the launch and ongoing maintenance of a new website and social media presence that will invest in social media management. More rebranding projects are planned that will include talking points on the success of local and state policymakers along with federal successes of the Biden\Harris programs. The next step is to get the facts out to our county’s citizens of how the Biden\Harris programs implemented at our state and local level have helped them.

Rebuild – The DPC – The Democratic Party of Chatham

The County Party Leadership team has embarked on an initiative to recruit interested democrats to rebuild the Chatham County Democratic Party. The initiative includes immediately building party membership by way of Declaration Forms. As we build the roster of certified democrats in the county, we improve our ability to carry out our outreach efforts in support of the coming elections. As the Party membership grows, we will caucus throughout the county to fill vacant post seats. One of the most important initiatives in the first quarter of 2024 is building the Party and the Committee membership. The Committee has 23 of 64 Post Seats filled. Post Seat Holder and members have dropped out or are not participating in the party meeting and activities.

Article 7.7 of the Chatham County Democratic Committee By-Laws calls for the Chair to declare vacant any seats where a County Committee member has missed 3 consecutive meetings without prior notification. Efforts are currently underway to engage Democrats in the 1st & 4th Districts to engage new party members to fill all vacant seats.

The leadership team will be communicating to the party District Caucuses that vacant Committee member seats will be filled in the first quarter of 2024. Pursuant to the Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Georgia, "Section 9. Vacancies. (BL7.09.01) All vacancies in elected County Committee district seats shall be elected on a date, time and manner set forth by the County Committee." The DNR and the DPG want County Committee seats in Georgia filled immediately. Engagement cannot happen without active committee members. The DPG "feel[s] that the entry point for Democratic activists and candidates" is at the County Committee level.

The Chairman has also put in place an Action Plan with lead subcommittees to report on initiatives. The subcommittee reports provide communication, transparency, and accountability. The goal is to ensure the procedural and operating decisions in the monthly meetings are streamlined so meetings can be spent on the Mission and Platform of the Democratic Party.

The Chairman will be appointing a Parliamentarian, instituting a Consent Agenda, and expand the number of subcommittees or vicechairs as required to focus on specific goals. For instance, fundraising and outreach (particularly youth) are specific areas that require dedicated leadership and ex-Aficio members with special qualifications or connections (e.g. media influencers for younger generations, donor connections for fund raising). The County Committees By-Laws are also being updated to be consistent and aligned with Georgia Democratic Party Charter and Bylaws.

The goal is to have a clearly understandable road map to assure that meetings are productive, transparent and adhere to the highest governance standards. Specifically, in 2024 the Chairman will be allocating the first half of all meetings to discuss party initiatives and results. The goal is to instill a new sense of urgency, purpose, and accountability among County Committee members. Our Democracy depends on the county committees to get the message out and the Democratic parties platform understood, communicated and more citizens at the local level (county) engaged in our Democracy.

Reengage – Engaging with Fun, Facts, Fund Raising and Formality

The **County Party Leadership** is starting 2024 with a plan for quarterly social gatherings to engage and prepare new party members with facts about our President's programs and their successes in our community. The principals listed on the Democratic Party platform on the economy, women and

reproductive rights, immigration standards, education goals, severe weather events and the strength of our democracy are core and important issues to Chatham County citizens.

In addition, there will be a specific goal of reaching younger members through young working people in trades and professions (“YWP”) and Students at our trade, professional and university and college campuses. The student outreach plan includes Savannah Technical College, South University, Savannah, Georgia Southern University, Savannah State University, St. Joseph’s/Candler Hospital School of Nursing, SCAD and many others.

Fund raising is an important role of the Georgia County Committees. Fund raising events not only provide capital to invest in causes and party platform messaging, but they also provide a place for engagement and recognition of outstanding people in organizations that contribute to the strength of our Democracy.

Chatham County Democrats have had a signature event for many years honoring exceptional people each year at an annual Toby Buttimer Award dinner. Named after the late Toby Buttimer, a long-time local party activist. Ideas around Toby’s Irish heritage and the 200 Anniversary of the Savannah St. Partick’s Day Celebration may be incorporated into pre-fund raising events as well. The Chairman has engaged a subcommittee of Committee Members and ex officio members (and may appoint a vicechair to lead this subcommittee which has been done in the past) to restart this very important annual tradition that was put on hold during Covid. This Donor & Recognition group will be looking at other special events and celebrations of leaders in our democracy.

In addition, the DPC is exploring forming a Georgia Democratic Coastal Caucus with the coastal counties of Georgia and non-affiliated non-profit organization (e.g. 100 Miles, etc.) to raise the awareness of the importance of preserving our low country estuaries and native plants, and educating our citizens how coastal conservation prepares us for the impacts of severe weather. This new caucus will bring together Coastal Georgia Democrats, non-affiliated non-profits, and coordinate with other Georgia Democratic caucuses like the Greening Georgia Caucus.

Many more reengagement initiatives and activities are being explored and will be announced in the coming months.

Democrats of Chatham are excited with the new direction that the leadership team has put in place for 2024! We are back, we are engaged, and we believe in the liberal democracy our founding fathers and mothers put in place.

Action Plan with Lead Accountability

The execution of the Action Plan will be lead and coordinated by the Lead Committee's designated member ("DM") or a Vice Chair of an initiative. Each "Lead" will have the responsibility of coordinating with other initiative members and reporting monthly in a concise written email communication to the Chair progress on the Action Plan prior to the monthly meeting.

Operation Outreach Execution

The goal of the outreach operation is to build and strengthen in tangible and quantifiable ways our membership (Party and Committee) and their participation in party activities. The outreach Lead will report on membership numbers, event numbers, communication releases and other "lag indicators" and on "lead indicators" of planned initiatives and expected results.

Membership & Outreach Subcommittee (Lead)

Communications Subcommittee

Issues & Advocacy Subcommittee

Finance Subcommittee

Party Platform & Scorecard Implementation

"All issues are local." , the DNC and the DPG count on the local and county parties to identify and advocate for issues that are important to them. These issues may already be addressed as a national or state party issue, then the solution facts proposed needs to be concise communicated to our members to empower them to address the issue locally. The Issues & Advocacy implementation will include delivering an "Official Scorecards" for the party platform, official and candidates. A key deliverable from this team will be the scorecards and implementation of wide dissemination and publication of the scorecards in issue, officials, and candidates. Lead will be responsible for reporting on the status of the local platform update, the major issues raised and the advocacy and solutions that have been communicated to our members with quantifiable and measurable results.

Issue & Advocacy Subcommittee (Lead)

YWP and Student Subcommittee

Communications Subcommittee

Governance and Bylaw Update

The Bylaw committee is responsible for updating the Bylaw to conform with the GDP's Charter and bylaws and current governance practices and procedures. The update will assure that the approved is filed with the state party and available to members. The Lead here will communicate the progress each month, note any improvements that have been implemented in the draft and provide an update on the timeline of the release.

Bylaws Subcommittee (Lead)

Parliamentarian

Executive Subcommittee

Donor & Recognition (D&R) Enactment

The initiative of the D&R is to significantly increase donor participation and honor community members who have made difference in the quality of peoples lives and contributed in a significant way to our democracy on a local level. The Lead hear will report on fund raising initiatives, results and honoree considerations.

Fundraising Subcommittee (Lead)

Executive Subcommittee

Finance Subcommittee

Democratic Elected Officials Caucus

The Chair will organize a quarterly meeting with elected officials to hear their constituents' issues, concerns, and the official suggested solution. The Chair will report quarterly on the results of these meetings and make recommendations on how the committee and party can be involved in an appropriate and positive way.

Chairman (Lead)

Executive Subcommittee

Certification, Training and Selection Fulfillment

One of the most important responsibilities of the County Committees is to train members and staff party commitments to elections qualification, state and national roles and volunteer roles. This committee is responsible for revenue, staffing and performance and standards of members in their important functions. The Lead here is responsible for reporting on the financial result of the qualifications role, the status of training and anticipated staffing needed and delivered for all the functions.

Delegate Selection Subcommittee (Lead)

Finance Subcommittee

Donors & Grant Subcommittee

Additional Action Items

- Increase voter education for nonpartisan primary candidates.
- Participate in more local events to expand community awareness and brand recognition.
- Recruit poll workers and train poll watchers.
- Increase grass roots community engagement.

- Set up GOTV subcommittee to assist with voter registration and engage potential partner organizations for voter registration.

Relevant Sources and Quick Link References

The Charter and Bylaws of the Democratic Party of Georgia

Relevant selective provisions of the Democratic Party of Georgia and the Chatham County Democratic Party include below for easy reference.

THE CHARTER OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF GEORGIA

STATEMENT OF GOAL- <https://www.georgiademocrat.org/about-us/>

We, the members of the Democratic Party of Georgia, are committed to the establishment of a Party open to all Georgia Democrats.

CHARTER ARTICLE VII: COUNTY COMMITTEES

C7.01.01 There shall be a Committee in each county of the State, which shall have countywide responsibility for the affairs of the Party.

C7.03.01 ...Party Districts shall be established and apportioned by the County Committee in such a way as to provide for equitable representation for each such district and to allow full participation by all segments of the population.

THE BYLAWS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF GEORGIA

SECTION 9. VACANCIES

BL7.09.01 All vacancies in elected County Committee district seats shall be elected on a date, time and manner set forth by the County Committee.

The Chatham County Democratic Committee By-Laws

Article VII Vacancies and Removals

Any County Committee member missing three consecutives regularly scheduled monthly meetings without prior notification (written, e-mail, text or phone call) to the Chair shall have his/her seat declared vacant by the Chair for lack of active participation.

Article XI General Provisions

The Chair and Executive Committee may recognize and allow affiliation of such county organizations as it deems appropriate.

Democratic Party of Georgia Website

County Committees <https://www.georgiademocrat.org/county-committees/>

County Democratic Committees are the primary point of contact between the Democratic Electorate and the Democratic Party and are often the entry point for Democratic activists and candidates. County Committees in Georgia are chartered as volunteer resources are available. Currently the Party is

rebuilding its county committee network, particularly in counties with small populations, to ensure that Democrats in every area of the state have a voice in the electoral process.

Duties of County Committees include: electing State Committee Members; promoting Party development; recruiting qualified candidates for public office; supporting Democratic nominees; qualifying Democratic candidates for county office; and performing such primary and election functions as are required by law at the County level.

County Committees may raise funds for the above purposes and like all Democratic Committees, they rely primarily on financial donations and volunteer support to enable their work. In addition to their official duties, each County Committee engages in activities that best suit the needs of their local community, as determined by their officers and membership.

Find your local county Democratic committee below. Don't see one for your county? Contact Vice Chair Sarah Todd to find out how to start a Democratic committee in your area.

Democratic National Committee

Party Platform- <https://democrats.org/where-we-stand/party-platform/>

PROTECTING AMERICANS AND RECOVERING FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

BUILDING A STRONGER, FAIRER ECONOMY

ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL, AFFORDABLE, QUALITY HEALTH CARE

PROTECTING COMMUNITIES AND BUILDING TRUST BY REFORMING OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

HEALING THE SOUL OF AMERICA

COMBATING THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND PURSUING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

RESTORING AND STRENGTHENING OUR DEMOCRACY

CREATING A 21ST CENTURY IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

PROVIDING A WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION IN EVERY ZIP CODE

RENEWING AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

Schools and Colleges in Savannah

School – Approximate Enrollment

Georgia Southern University – 24,936

Savannah College of Art and Design – 16,218

South University – 9,955

Savannah State University – 2,926

Savannah Technical College – 3,642