

THE SOUTH CAROLINA BLUES FEDERAL POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE



October 2019

Voter Registration

The last full week in September was National Voter Registration Week and our PAC honored this by hosting an employee voter registration drive. We are happy to report that 133 employees registered or updated their registration information with us. Here are answers to a few of the top questions we received throughout the week.

All answers are based in South Carolina. Please let me know if you are in another state and have questions specific to your location.

When is the deadline to register?

Citizens must be registered by at least 30 days prior to any election in order to participate.

How do I register to vote by party?

South Carolina does not have registration by party. Voters may vote in either party's primary, but not both. To register go to scvotes.org.

Do I need a Real ID to vote in the election?

No, Real ID licenses are only required to board a domestic or commercial flight, enter a secure federal building, or visit a military installation on and after October 1, 2020.

Can I vote if I don't have my voter registration card?

Citizens must have a photo ID in order to vote; therefore, you will need a SC driver's license or a DMV ID. However, in some cases where a person cannot obtain one of the photo IDs, the voter registration card can be used to sign an affidavit attesting to your identity before casting a ballot. Please contact your local county board of voter registration for a replacement card.

Where can I check my voting precinct before the election?

Please visit scvotes.org to check your voter registration information before the election.

Where can I update my voter registration information?

If you have a SC driver's license or ID card, you can update your address using the online voter registration form at scvote.org. You must make sure that your address with the DMV has been updated first.



SC BLUES FEDPAC
POLITICAL BOOK CLUB

Political Book Club

Our second book is *All The King's Men* by Robert Penn Warren. Members will read and discuss on October 22 from 12:00 – 1:00 PM in the Tower dining area.

Employees can join at any time by e-mailing victoria.halydier@bcbsc.com.

History of the Bill of Rights



“A bill of rights is what the people are entitled to against every government on Earth, general or particular, and what no just government should refuse, or rest on interference.”

- Thomas Jefferson



It took four years after the ratification of the Constitution for the bill of rights fight to be resolved. The Federalists opposed including individual rights based on the ground that it was unnecessary; however, the Anti-Federalists refused to support the Constitution without the individual rights. In the end popular sentiment won. The American people had been recently freed from the English monarchy and wanted strong guarantees that the new government would not trample upon their new freedoms of speech, press and religion, nor upon their right to be free from warrantless searches and seizures.

American mistrust of government is believed to have come from the Stamp Act where taxes were imposed on every legal and business document as well as newspapers, books and pamphlets. The people also resented the fact that a distant government who did not represent them was imposing laws. The Stamp Act led to homes being ransacked in search of contraband even when there was no evidence of a violation.

Our nation’s founders believed that containing the government’s power and protecting liberties was their most important task. They declared that a new purpose of our government would be to protect individual rights.

Our individual rights, also known as “unalienable” or “natural” rights, include having **the right to exercise, or not, one’s own religion; freedom of speech, press, petition and assembly; the right to be free of unwarranted government intrusion into one’s personal affairs, papers, and possessions; the right to be treated fairly whenever the loss of property or liberty is at stake; the right to be treated equally before the law.**

Who would govern these new rights and make rulings over the cases? It was undecided until a case called *Marbury v. Madison* in 1803. In that year, Chief Justice John Marshall wrote an opinion that first declared an act of Congress unconstitutional. With this opinion, the Judiciary branch took a stand that the doctrine of judicial review belonged to them and laws and decisions by the legislative and executive branches could be found invalid based on Constitutional interpretation.

To further solidify that the federal judiciary was supreme, a landmark case in 1958, *Cooper vs. Aaron*, determined who can and cannot make rulings against our Constitution. Alabama’s governor and legislature refused to follow the Supreme Court’s decision on *Brown v. Board of Education*. They argued that states could nullify federal court decisions if they felt the federal courts were violating the Constitution. The Court unanimously rejected this argument and held that only the federal courts can decide when the Constitution is violated. Therefore, citizens can be assured that the bill of rights given to us by the constitution are regulated by one entity, the Supreme Court.