



# The Dorchester County Democrats' Guide to Elections in 2025





## Table of Contents

|                                                                        |          |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Introduction.....</b>                                               | <b>3</b> |
| <b>What's Important Now!.....</b>                                      | <b>3</b> |
| <b>A Rare Opportunity to Flip SC House District 98.....</b>            | <b>4</b> |
| <b>A Competitive Race for Summerville Town Council District 1.....</b> | <b>4</b> |
| <b>Early Voting.....</b>                                               | <b>5</b> |
| <b>Municipal Elections.....</b>                                        | <b>5</b> |



## Introduction

In 2025, citizens of Dorchester County, SC will elect representatives for a total of 14 offices including a SC House of Representatives seat, 11 town council representatives, and a mayor. If you're a Democrat living in Dorchester County this guide will help you participate more effectively in the 2025 election cycle by answering the following key questions:

- When is election day?
- Where do I vote?
- Which offices are up for election?
- Who's on the ballot?
- How can I register to vote or check the status of my voter registration?
- Which elections are the most strategically important for our party?
- How can I help our Democratic candidates win their elections?

## What's Important Now!

There are 4 things you can do right now to make the most of the 2025 election opportunity:

1. **Volunteer to Help "Take 98"** – There's a special election for House District 98 thanks to Republican Chris Murphy's recent resignation (see details below). This is a HUGE opportunity to flip a Republican-held House seat, and we need all hands on-deck! If you can help in any way—making calls, knocking doors, donating money, etc.—let us know by emailing Debbie Lodge at [debbie.b.lodge@gmail.com](mailto:debbie.b.lodge@gmail.com).
2. **Back Dexter Mack** – Three candidates are competing for Summerville Town Council District 1 after long-serving councilman Aaron Brown announced his retirement. As detailed below, DCDP is pleased to recommend Mr. Mack.
3. **Review Your Voter Information** – [Follow this link](#) to:
  - a. Confirm you're registered to vote,
  - b. Identify your polling location (the place you vote), and
  - c. See which voting districts you live in to confirm you have an election in 2025.<sup>1</sup>
4. **Mark Your Calendar**
  - a. SC House District 98 Democratic Primary – Tue, Nov 4, 2025
  - b. Municipal Election Day – Tue, Nov 4, 2025
  - c. SC House District 98 Special Election – Tue, Jan 6, 2026

---

<sup>1</sup> In 2025, there will only be the special election for SC House District 98 and municipal elections. If you don't live in a municipality or House District 98, you won't have the opportunity to vote in 2025.



## A Rare Opportunity to Flip SC House District 98

We have a **HUGE** opportunity to flip House District 98! Here are the key facts:

- District 98 lies near the southeast corner of Dorchester County and represents over 27,000 registered voters. ([View an interactive map here.](#))
- For the past 15 years, District 98 has been represented by Republican Chris Murphy who has consistently backed abortion restrictions, permitless carry, DEI crackdowns, and school vouchers.
- On Aug 20, 2025, Murphy announced his resignation.
- A special election to fill his seat has been scheduled for Tue, Jan 6th.
- Three Democratic candidates have entered the race: Damian Daly (no website), [Stephen Kohn](#), and [Dr. Sonja Ogletree Satani](#).
- The Democratic Primary for House District 98 will be held on Tue, Nov 4th.
- There are 3 reasons why we think we can win this election:
  - a. ***The Gap Is Small*** – There’s only an 8-point gap between the total number of District 98 voters who voted for Kamala vs Trump in 2024. (On average, we face a 16-point gap in Republican-held state House seats.)
  - b. ***Democrats Are Motivated*** – Alarmed by the MAGA movement’s cruelty, corruption, and autocracy at all levels, Democrats are eager to punch back!
  - c. ***Special Elections Create Special Opportunities*** – Turnout is very low during special elections (10%-15%), so it takes far fewer votes to win. In District 98, we expect fewer than 5,000 total votes will be cast, so we only need about 2,500 to win.<sup>2</sup> We can do that!

## A Competitive Race for Summerville Town Council District 1

With three candidates vying for the non-partisan seat vacated by 20-year incumbent Aaron Brown, Summerville Town Council District 1 is far-and-away the most hotly contested municipal election being held in Dorchester County this year.

The candidates competing for this seat are:

- **Vickie Fagan** (no website), a former Summerville Mayoral candidate;
- [Dexter Mack](#), an established community leader and longstanding administrator within Dorchester County’s Auditors Office ; and
- **Cornelious “Chubby” Smith** (no website), a lifelong resident of District 1.

---

<sup>2</sup> We will obviously strive to get more votes than this, but it’s fair to assume that ~ 2,500 votes will be enough to win.



After conducting interviews with two of the three candidates (all three were invited but Vickie Fagan declined) and examining publicly available information, **Dorchester County Democratic Party strongly recommends Dexter Mack as the most qualified candidate for the job.**

The interviews with Dexter Mack and Chubby Smith are available on the DCDP website. Go here for [the Dexter Mack interview](#) and here for [the Chubby Smith interview](#).

## Early Voting

Early voting is available for all Dorchester County elections. Voters can visit any early voting center during the early voting period, present their Photo ID, and vote using the voting system like they would at their polling place on election day.

| Early Voting Center                                                               | Early Voting Period       | Hours Open            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Rollins Edwards Community Center<br>301 N Hickory Street<br>Summerville, SC 29483 | Mon, Oct 20 – Fri, Oct 31 | 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. |
| St. George Middle School<br>600 Minus Street,<br>St. George, SC 29477             |                           |                       |
| Wescott Park<br>9006 Dorchester Road<br>North Charleston, SC 29420                |                           |                       |

## Municipal Elections

All other elections happening in Dorchester County in 2025 are municipal elections, and all five Dorchester County municipalities will hold their elections on Tue, Nov 4th, including: Harleyville, Reevesville, Ridgeville, St. George (Districts 2 and 6), and Summerville (Districts 1, 3, and 5).

As detailed in the “2025 Dorchester County Municipal Elections” table below, 16 candidates are competing for a total of 13 municipal offices throughout our county.

As best we can tell, none of these races except for Summerville Town Council District 1 represent a challenge between Democratic-leaning and Republican-leaning candidates.



## 2025 Dorchester County Municipal Elections

| Town        | Office       | District   | Voter Instructions      | Political Leaning | Candidate              | Candidate Status |
|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Harleyville | Town Council | At-Large   | Choose any 2 candidates | REP               | Brenda Davis           | Incumbent        |
|             |              |            |                         | REP               | Susan Bishop           | Incumbent        |
|             |              |            |                         | REP               | Mark Parker            | New              |
| Reevesville | Town Council | At-Large   | Choose any 2 candidates | REP               | Charlie Moorner        | Incumbent        |
|             |              |            |                         | REP               | Perry Chinnors         | Incumbent        |
| Ridgeville  | Mayor        | At-Large   | Choose 1 candidate      | DEM               | Clarence Hughes        | Incumbent        |
|             | Town Council | At-Large   | Choose any 2 candidates | DEM               | Lorraine Grant         | Incumbent        |
|             |              |            |                         | DEM               | Michael Snipes         | New              |
| St. George  | Town Council | District 2 | Choose 1 candidate      | DEM               | James C. Singletary    | New              |
|             | Town Council | District 6 | Choose 1 candidate      | REP               | Thomas Rickborn        | New              |
| Summerville | Commissioner | At-Large   | Choose 1 candidate      | REP               | Jordy Tupper           | Incumbent        |
|             | Town Council | District 1 | Choose 1 candidate      | DEM               | Cornelius Chubby Smith | New              |
|             |              |            |                         | DEM               | Dexcter Mack           | New              |
|             |              |            |                         | REP               | Vickie Fagan           | New              |
|             |              | District 3 | Choose 1 candidate      | REP               | Matt Halter            | Incumbent        |
|             |              | District 5 | Choose 1 candidate      | REP               | Kima J. Garten         | Incumbent        |