



business black box

# THE CHEAT SHEET

this edition: politics

## VIEWPOINT



Instead of tea parties and special interest groups influencing public policy, what if the business community became the leading political voice in South Carolina? What if we demanded nothing short of stronger tort reform, comprehensive tax reform, a dedicated funding source to improve our state's infrastructure, more incentives to help spur high-impact small businesses, and meaningful legislation to help us meet the growing demand of our employers for a more skilled workforce? Could many of these things which we've discussed for years actually get done if the business community became more involved? I think the answer is a resounding "Yes!"

How can you as a business person, get more involved and make a difference?

Stay informed. You can now rely on social media and the ever-increasing popularity of smart phones to help bring you breaking news as it happens. Social media has changed the game of politics.

Get to know your elected officials. Many people either feel that an elected official may be inaccessible, or it is simply a waste of time to develop a relationship since it doesn't really matter. Nothing could be further from the truth! Elected officials want to hear from the business community. In fact, they love hearing from employers and from employees of companies in their respective districts. Building a good relationship can go a long way and influence an opinion.

Communicate. A phone call, personal note, or face-to-face visit can still make a difference in influencing legislation.

Engage. Attend community events and get involved with groups that promote ideas you believe in. Invite your legislators to your business events or to tour your business.

We can make South Carolina the best place in the world to do business. But, we can only do that if our state's business community speaks up and truly, seriously makes itself heard.



Mark Cothran  
VP of Public Policy  
Upstate Chamber Coalition

## Find your legislator

Getting involved in the political landscape can be as simple as picking up a phone and inviting your local representative for coffee. Don't know who your representative is? Here's an easy way to find out.



**Online?**

Click here.

**Printed?**

Scan the QR Code

<http://www.scstatehouse.gov/legislatorssearch.php>

In the General elections in 2010, 51.6 percent of the registered voters voted (down from 75.6 percent in 2008, which was a presidential election year).

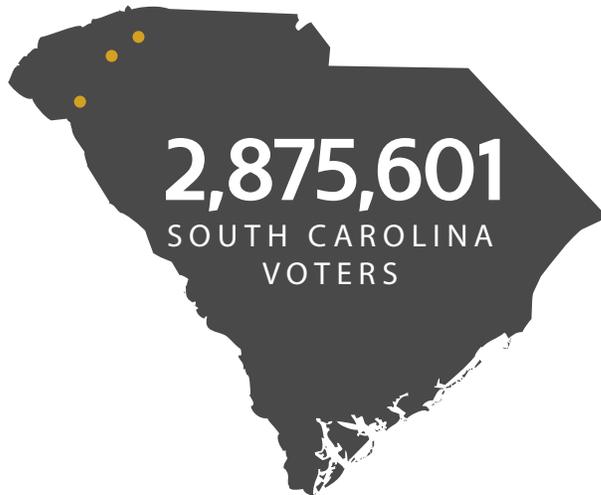


*"Politics is not a game. It is an earnest business."*

WINSTON CHURCHILL

# How many South Carolina voters are there?

There are 2,875,601 registered voters, which is about 60 percent of South Carolina's population.



## GREENVILLE

285,883 voters

## SPARTANBURG

160,578 voters

## ANDERSON

106,141 voters

## LEADERSHIP



### In the S.C. House

While the Speaker of the House (Bobby Harrell, R-Charleston/Dorchester) is from the LowCountry, the majority of committee chairs (six out of 12) is from the Upstate. Also of note: Majority Leader Bruce Bannister (R) is from Greenville.

### In the S.C. Senate

Neither the President Pro Tempore (John Courson, R-Lexington/Richland) nor the Lieutenant Governor (Glenn McConnell, R-Charleston) is from the Upstate, but we still have good representation. Out of 11 committees, four are held by Upstate Senators.

### In the U.S. House of Representatives

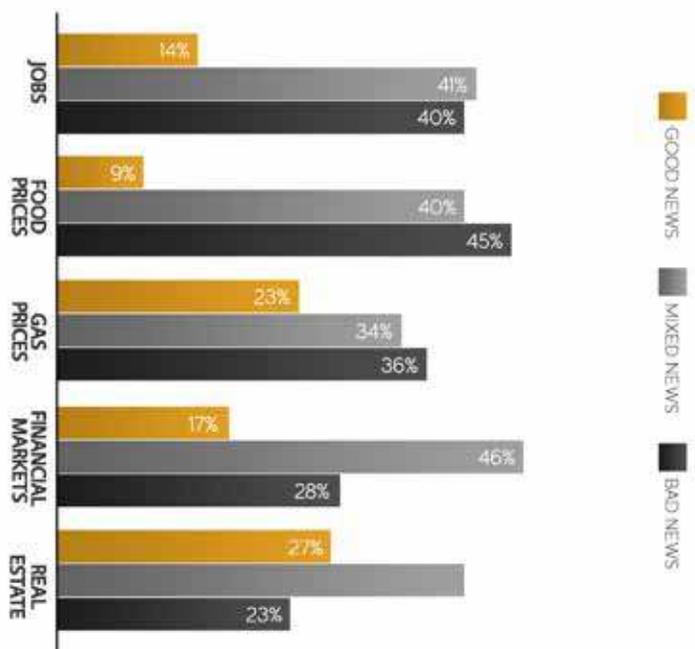
Representative James Clyburn (D) serves as Assistant Democratic Leader, and as a liason to the Appropriations Committee.

## Want to run?

A lot of seats are up for grabs this year—if you want to run, note that filing opens at noon on March 16, and closes on March 30. This year, primaries are on June 10, and Election Day is November 4.

## U.S. Perception on the Economy

In a national survey conducted by the Pew Research Center in December, perceptions of the economy are mixed. While many people are hearing a mix of good and bad news, the number of “bad newsmen” out there is frankly, a bit surprising. But don't take our word for it. Check out the info below.



If you want more of this survey, go to:  
<http://www.people-press.org/2013/12/18/no-improvement-in-publics-views-of-economic-news/>