

SOUTH CAROLINA

FREEDOM

INITIATIVE 2025

Freest State in the South





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01 WELCOME

South Carolina is a state that inspires and innovates to improve the lives of all. At Americans for Prosperity-South Carolina (AFP-SC), we recognize that our public policy must set the bar for long-term economic freedom, opportunity, and prosperity.

AFP-SC is a non-partisan, non-profit grassroots organization committed to bottom-up solutions that drive freedom and prosperity.

We get big things done at AFP-SC through a statewide base of grassroots activists who connect people with policies that empower individuals and keep legislators accountable. At AFP-SC, we are working to strengthen the economy, expand opportunities in education, reform and limit government, and expand access to health care.

We strive to remove barriers and empower people so that everyone can achieve their version of the American Dream.

South Carolina can be an example in the nation for what success, prosperity, and opportunity can look like as we strive to be the freest state in the south.



Matt

Matt Humm,
State Director

02 THE ECONOMY

Eliminate the State Income Tax

South Carolina can practice fiscal responsibility by focusing funding on the government's core responsibilities, protecting taxpayers' hard-earned dollars from unnecessary spending, and keeping on a path to continued income tax reduction.

Given our rapid economic growth, South Carolina should be on a path to a zero rate for income tax, a plan that would reflect the belief that citizens know how to invest their money in a way that will benefit their families and the South Carolina economy.

Committee on Regulatory Reform

Excessive regulations and occupational licenses hinder business and job creation.

A focus on regulatory consistency and sunseting unnecessary rules will help South Carolinians realize their full potential and opportunities. This includes ideas like:

- The Right to Earn a Living Act
- Automatic Review Sunsets for Regulations





Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act

The government has a role in creating fair and equally applied rules that foster an opportunity-rich environment for all people while protecting against significant public harm. However, that role should be limited, and those responsible for developing and enforcing those rules should be held accountable. Elected lawmakers must reassert their proper role in developing and finalizing laws that include clear and unambiguous guidance for enforcement.

One tool for instituting more oversight by legislative branches is the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act. While the details of the REINS Act can vary, the policy aims to require legislative approval for “major” rules that have an economic impact above a certain threshold, such as \$10 million per year in the case of a state-level regulation. This tool gives elected officials, and by extension the voters that elect them, more of a voice in the implantation of rules and regulations.

This reform is forward-looking, and as such would only apply to newly proposed rules. It gives

lawmakers the opportunity to prevent the implementation of overly burdensome regulations, providing an important check on the often virtually unrestrained power of the administrative branch to implement laws at their discretion.

Maintain Fiscal Responsibility & Limited Spending in Columbia

Rapid population growth should not lead to unsustainable state budget growth. Spending should be controlled to prevent burdening taxpayers and ensure continued economic surplus and tax relief.

Corporate Net Income Tax

South Carolina has the highest corporate net income tax in the southeast at 5 percent. Our state government currently incentivizes businesses to the state by offering hand-outs and subsidies. Instead, we should lower and potentially eliminate the corporate net income tax so that businesses will be incentivized on their own to invest in South Carolina.

03 SCHOOL CHOICE

South Carolina has over 750,000 K-12 students. Just over **50% of South Carolina students** are reading at grade level. For math, that number drops to around 40%. Hundreds of thousands of South Carolina students are trapped in their assigned public schools which are designated by the state as “failing.” South Carolina students are the future of our state and must be given every opportunity to succeed.





Universal Education Savings Accounts

South Carolina should join the 18 other states who have passed an Education Savings Account (ESA) program that empowers parents to choose the best educational options for their children and where their paid tax dollars follow the student to the school of their choice.

Parents pay taxes, and they should have some say in where it goes and how it is spent. Universal choice is the priority for all South Carolina students. Giving parents control of their child's education through a \$6,000+ ESA and ensuring students who are trapped in failing schools get priority enrollment is what a good ESA bill should look like.

Right now, in South Carolina only 3,000 students have access to the educational option via the ESA program, with thousands more on the waitlist. It's beyond time to expand school choice – giving EVERY South Carolina student the opportunity to thrive in an educational environment that is the right fit for them on an individual level. However, these 3,000 students are currently in limbo following the South Carolina Supreme Court's recent decision to strike down the constitutionality of the 2023 Education Scholarship Trust Fund (ESTF) program. This ruling has left them uncertain about their educational future, emphasizing the urgent need for a permanent solution that ensures all students can access the educational options they deserve.



Universal Refundable Education Tax Credits

Refundable education tax credits offer a streamlined approach to empower families and improve education.

Tax credits are broadly popular across the nation and can quickly and easily serve families looking to build their kids' unique educational experience outside of the traditional public school system.



Universal Public School Open Enrollment

South Carolina is lagging more than a dozen states in Math and Literacy, and every 60 seconds a student drops out of high school. Our South Carolina public education system is broken.

We have access to any post office, park, or library so why should public schools be different? A child's education should not be determined by one's zip code and where someone can afford to live.

Open Enrollment policies would let parents select the public school that is a better fit for their child. The current system of residential assignment disproportionately harms the students of low-income families.

04 HEALTH CARE



The health care system that we currently have is expensive, complicated, and puts too many barriers between patients and their doctors. A Personal Option plan will empower patients, remove red tape, hold hospitals accountable and ensure that South Carolinians have access to doctors they know at prices they can afford.



Public Disclosure/Price Transparency: Turning Patients into Shoppers

When people shop around for goods and services, they compare prices and make an economic decision based on value. We want the same thing for health care. When you know how much something costs, you can make economic decisions and compare alternatives.

South Carolina can do that by:

- Rewarding patients who shop around for medical services with the cost savings for that medical care. Currently, patients have no incentive to shop for lower-cost care because they often pay the same amount regardless of which provider they choose.
- Requiring a medical service provider to give a price estimate 24 hours before a service or procedure is administered. Final bill cannot exceed that estimate + 5% unless there were complications resulting from the service or procedure.
- Requiring public disclosure of standard pricing information by health care facilities, including freestanding emergency medical care facilities, urgent care or retail clinics, outpatient clinics, birthing centers, and ambulatory surgery centers, particularly for facilities that receive taxpayer dollars.



Hospital Site Neutrality

Currently, hospitals are being reimbursed three times the price as a private practice for the exact same service, distorting the market and leading to higher costs for patients. Site neutrality levels the playing field and promotes fair competition by focusing on the quality of care rather than the service location. Patients pay less out of pocket, and the healthcare system becomes more sustainable.



Expand Direct Primary Care Options

Direct Primary Care (DPC) is a popular health care model in which patients pay a flat, monthly fee directly to a doctor for primary care, like a Netflix or gym membership but for your primary care. DPC is price transparent and lowers costs by removing middlemen who stand in between the patients and their doctor. We can make South Carolina's health care market more expansive by making DPC eligible for capitated payments such as PPO and EPO health insurance arrangements.

05 ENERGY AND INNOVATION





To meet the increasing capacity needs of an expanding population, cutting edge technology, and reindustrialization, we need to release our natural resources and unequalled entrepreneurs from government overreach.

**To help achieve this,
AFP-SC will support an
agenda that unleashes
American energy.**

- 1 Allow production of oil, gas, coal, nuclear, wind, and solar.
- 2 Address potential backlogs in permitting and licensing reform.

06 HOUSING SOUTH CAROLINIANS

With South Carolina being one of the fastest growing states in the nation, the demand for housing options is currently outpacing supply, leading to ever-climbing prices.

Allowing Homes in Commercial Zones

Current zoning frequently makes the process of building multifamily homes onerous, expensive, and unpredictable — deterring the construction of homes near job centers. This reform allows the option for the development of mixed-use and residential developments in land previously solely zoned for commercial and industrial use.

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU)

Allow South Carolinians to build granny flats or accessory dwelling units on their own property. Some local governments are preventing residential property owners from building or erecting ADUs. South Carolinians should be allowed to maximize their investment and utilize their property to its highest and best use.





07 CONSTITUTIONALLY LIMITED GOVERNMENT

At AFP-SC, we envision a country where the government is limited, and the rights of individuals are front and center. We stand for a strong system of checks and balances and a commitment to the rule of law, ensuring that everyone's rights are respected and protected.





Judicial Reform

South Carolinians are rightly concerned about the impact of violent crime in our communities - big and small. We're advocating for proper funding for law enforcement and a justice system that works for everyone by focusing on preventing violent crime and keeping communities safe.

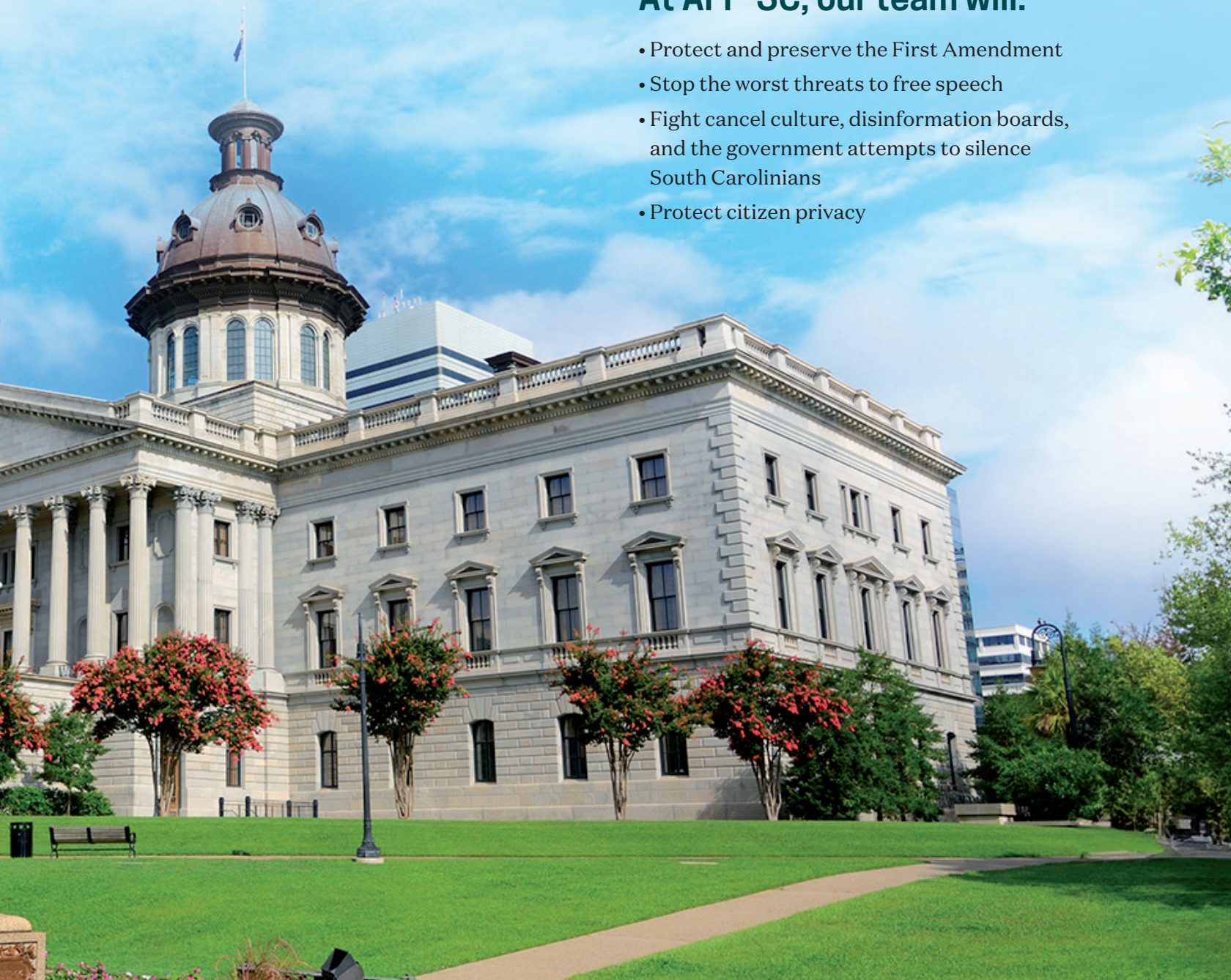


Free Speech

Every American should have the power to speak, think, and act as they see fit, without hindrance from the government — as long as they're not violating the rights of others. Yet today we too often see resistance toward a culture of free expression.

At AFP-SC, our team will:

- Protect and preserve the First Amendment
- Stop the worst threats to free speech
- Fight cancel culture, disinformation boards, and the government attempts to silence South Carolinians
- Protect citizen privacy



08 CONCLUSION

The progress we've made in 2024 gives us confidence for what lies ahead. Through tireless grassroots efforts, we've reached millions of voters, knocking on over 600,000 doors and making 1.4 million phone calls. Our investment in electing principled leaders has already paid off, with a remarkable 86%-win rate for our endorsed candidates in the 2024 cycle.

These victories prove that grassroots activism is the key to lasting change. We've elected champions who will fight for freedom, including JD Chaplin, Everett Stubbs, Jason Elliott, James Teeple, Fawn Pedalino, and Blake Sanders, among others. But the work doesn't stop here. The real opportunity for transformation begins in 2025.

With our grassroots momentum growing, we are poised to pass bold reforms like flattening the tax code, making school choice universal, and tackling South Carolina's regulatory challenges. As we look to the future, we're excited to partner with you in making South Carolina the freest state in the south.







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