

DNC SOUTHERN CAUCUS



Fellow Caucus Members:

Welcome to the very first edition of our Southern Caucus Newsletter! I know you join me in thanking Gale Jones Carson for her willingness to take on this project as a way of connecting our region and providing a platform to spotlight issues, campaigns etc. through a Southern lens. Please feel free to share your comments and ideas for future editions with Gale and she welcomes volunteers to join her. The Communications Committee is exploring the feasibility of creating a Facebook page as well.

The focus on Georgia and two key races highlight the opportunity to pick up a Governorship and Senate seat that are within reach in our

region. We must step up the work in adding people to the rolls and educating voters on the issues that matter to working and struggling families to increase voter turnout. This can be done and we can do it. Remember, the best way to eat an elephant (pun intended) is one bite at a time!

Enjoy and I look forward to seeing you in DC later this month for the Winter Meeting.

Gilda Cobb-Hunter,
Chair
DNC Southern Region Caucus

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From the Southern Region Caucus Communications Chair



Welcome to the first edition of your online Southern Region Caucus newsletter. We don't have a name for our newsletter yet – we would like for you to submit recommendations for a name.

I'd like to thank our Southern Region Caucus Chair, Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, for her leadership, vision and drive to communicate more directly and more often with Southern Region Caucus DNC members. Although we are open for topic suggestions, we will focus a great deal on what's going on politically in the Southern states and our top Democratic candidates who have strong possibilities of turning our Southern states Blue.

This issue, the spotlight will be on the state of Georgia – a national battleground. For the first time since Reconstruction, all of Georgia's statewide offices are held by Republicans. Currently, Georgia is one of only two states where Democrats have a real opportunity of taking a Senate seat from Republicans this year. The other state is Kentucky with viable Kentucky Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes facing Republican Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell.

Changing demographics -- an influx of African-Americans and Latinos -- is what puts Georgia into play with being a real battleground. Also, whites accounted for 71 percent of Georgians who voted in the 2004 elections, in 2012, that share had dropped by nearly 10 percentage points.

Organization, money and name recognition are critical ingredients needed to win elections. Today, Georgia has fresh Democratic faces and with familiar names, organization and money --

gubernatorial candidate Jason Carson and U.S. Senate candidate Michelle Nunn. Carter is a third-term state senator who is a grandson of former president Jimmy Carter and Nunn is an executive who is also the daughter of former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn. Carter and Nunn are spotlighted in this issue of the Southern Region Caucus' newsletter.

In addition to this online newsletter, we are creating a Southern Region Caucus facebook page that we would like for you to visit, like and share with other Democrats. With your support, we can have great dialogue and much information sharing that hopefully will educate and motivate our voters with the goal of increasing voter-turnout this 2014 election cycle resulting in more Blue Southern States.

Please feel free to send me your ideas, suggestions and/or constructive criticism for our newsletter to gale-dnc@comcast.org or call me at 901-461-6008. See you at our Winter DNC meeting in Washington, D.C.

Gale Jones Carson

Southern Region Caucus
Communications Chair

SOUTHERN REGION OFFICERS



(From left to right)

Dennis Speight, Yvonne Davis, Belinda Biafore, Mitch Caesar, Gilda Cobb-Hunter,
Sally Rosser, Darryl Sinkfield, Gale Jones Carson



Michelle Nunn for U.S. Senate

Georgia Democratic Senate candidate Michelle Nunn is the past CEO of Points of Light, an American nonprofit which is one of the nation's largest volunteer service organizations. Last July, she took a leave of absence to run for retiring Republican Saxby Chambliss' U.S. Senate seat.

Nunn has been an executive for Points of Light since 1990, previously running the predecessor and member organizations Hands On Atlanta, City Cares, and HandsOn Network. Her volunteering began in junior high school when she frequently engaged in activities such as reading books to senior citizens and giving toys to economically disadvantaged children.

She attended the University of Virginia, where she majored in history and had a minor in religion, and was a member of the Phi Beta Kappa honor society. She studied at the University of Oxford during 1987. She also studied for four months in India during 1989. She graduated from the University of Virginia in 1989.

Nunn was a Kellogg National Fellow in the KNFP-15 group from 1995 to 1998. She earned a Master of Public Administration degree from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government in 2001. After college, Nunn applied to join the Peace Corps and considered going to law school, but instead opted to join Hands On Atlanta.

Rapidly expanding and needing someone to help manage their efforts, Nunn was hired on a part-time basis as the Hands On Atlanta executive director and only paid staffer. In May 1990, she became the full-time executive director, and by September 1990, Hands On Atlanta was coordinating 700 volunteers. Hands On

Atlanta founders credited Nunn with a significant role in helping it grow and experiencing more than six million hours over 20 years.

A recent poll done by Public Policy Polling (PPP), working on behalf of the liberal group Americans United For Change, shows that Nunn is slightly ahead of four the candidates in the Republican primary.

During the last three months of 2013, Nunn raised about \$1.7 million. During the fourth quarter, she raised \$1.6 million bringing her total to \$3.3 million since kicking off her campaign last July. Nunn's year-end fundraising disclosure shows former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and mega-investor Warren Buffett are supporting her campaign for U.S. Senate. Additionally, more than 10,000 people have now donated to Nunn's campaign. Nunn, the daughter of former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn, is married with two children.



Jason Carter is running for Governor of Georgia because he believes in Georgia at its best – Georgia's kids learning in the very best schools, an economy that works for middle class families, and an honest government that works for everyone.

Jason is currently serving his third term in the Georgia State Senate. Since being elected, Jason has worked across partisan and geographic lines to bring honest debate to the state legislature on issues that matter to Georgia's families.

In the Senate, Jason has fought for public education and to protect the HOPE Scholarship for Georgia families all across the state. He has worked to make sure that small businesses get the same benefits that big companies do, earning him an "A" from the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the National Federation of Independent Business-Georgia.

He has been a tireless advocate for stronger ethics laws to make sure that Georgia has an honest government that works for everyone.

As a Senate freshman, Jason was selected to participate in the Carl Vinson Institute of Government's bipartisan Georgia Legislative Leadership Institute. He has been honored with awards from numerous organizations including the Sheltering Arms Early Learning Centers, Common Cause Georgia, and the Georgia Commission on Family Violence, and he has twice received Environmental Leadership awards from Georgia Conservation Voters.

Jason is an attorney at Bondurant, Mixson & Elmore LLP where, in addition to his business litigation practice, he has logged hundreds of pro bono hours litigating on behalf of some of Georgia's most vulnerable citizens. He fought to protect voting rights and challenged an overtly partisan reapportionment of the state Senate. For his service, Jason has received the Stuart Eizenstat Young Lawyer Award from the Anti-Defamation League.

Jason serves on the boards of several charitable and public interest organizations including Hands On Atlanta, the DeKalb Women's Resource Center to End Domestic Violence, and the Georgia Afterschool Investment Council. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Carter Center and the Emory University Board of Visitors. Born at Emory Hospital, Jason is a ninth-generation Georgian. Jason and his wife Kate, a public high school teacher, have two young sons and live in Atlanta.



DR. PAMELA ROSHELL



Health Insurance Marketplace Outreach

Open enrollment in the Health Insurance Marketplace will run through March 31st.

The number of people and small businesses that benefit from the Marketplace will ultimately be determined by each community's efforts to educate people and get them to sign up. As trusted leaders in your communities, you are essential to the success of Marketplace enrollment efforts by reaching out now to educate and enroll constituents. Over the next 6 weeks, elected officials across the country can take these efforts to the next level. We are committed to working together and supporting your efforts, and want to hear what works best in your community. Please contact the HHS

Region IV office at 404-562-7888. Click on the link to see the latest enrollment data for your state. The report is live here: http://aspe.hhs.gov/health/reports/2014/MarketPlaceEnrollment/Jan2014/ib_2014jan_enrollment.pdf

WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

1. Refer constituents with questions about the new Marketplace to the 24/7 call center available now at 1-800-318-2596 with trained customer service representatives who can talk applications and answer questions about the Marketplace in 150 languages.

2. Distribute educational materials available at marketplace.cms.gov to your constituents:

- Include Marketplace information in your emails, newsletters, bulletins, and more to ensure your constituents have the most up-to-date information on enrollment.
- Hang posters in your office and make educational materials available.
- Bring brochures, fact sheets, and other materials to events in the community, including speaking engagements, parades, field days, fairs, library events, new business openings, etc

3. Host conversations with community stakeholders to ensure uninsured people in your area are aware of the new Marketplace and know how to sign up for coverage.

- Community stakeholders you can engage: other state and local elected officials, Chambers of Commerce, small and large business owners, educational institutions, community colleges, local libraries, recreational leagues, religious leaders, civic organizations, grassroots organizations, foundations, etc.

- For example, Walgreens and CVS Caremark have made national commitments to provide information about Marketplace options in their stores and at health care fairs around the country.

- You can find materials for these conversations at marketplace.cms.gov. or call our office at 404-562-7888.

4. Use Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and other social media to share important information and announcements. You can record and send out a public service announcement about the Marketplace and share stories about constituents that are taking advantage of the Marketplace.

5. Host enrollment sessions in your community and provide computer stations at your office that constituents can use to enroll in the new Marketplace. Ask other community leaders to provide computers and space for additional enrollment events and activities.

Health Insurance Basics

What are the different types of health insurance?

Different types of health insurance plans meet different needs. When you compare options, it's important to understand the differences.

Why should I have health coverage?

No one plans to get sick or hurt, but most people need medical care at some point. Health insurance covers these costs and protects you from very high expenses....

What if my income is too high to get lower costs on monthly premiums?

If you're not eligible for lower costs, you can buy health coverage through an insurance company, an agent or broker, an online insurance seller, or the Marketplace...

How can I get coverage outside of open enrollment?

Outside open enrollment, you can enroll in a private insurance plan only if you have certain life events that give you a special enrollment period.

Go to Healthcare.gov for more information.