

Ending Partisanship

We all know that the political process in Columbia is broken. Year after year critical issues remain unresolved due to excessive partisanship and political bickering. Like you, I am tired of the blame game, the same old partisanship and name calling. While serving you in Columbia, I reach across party lines and get problems solved, just as I have always done. The sad reality is that until we address excessive and destructive partisanship in government the issues you care about are unlikely to be resolved.

As I promised when first elected, I have worked with members on both sides of the aisle to bring a better government to the people of South Carolina. I was elected Chairman of County Council while my party was in the minority. This marked the first time in history a member of the party in the minority was elected to the Chairmanship. I was elected to that leadership position because I have shown how to work with both sides in bringing common-sense solutions to issues facing the lowcountry. I have continued to follow through on that commitment in Columbia and was rewarded by receiving an appointment to the powerful House Judiciary Committee. A rare occurrence for a freshman legislator and made even more rare by replacing a member of the majority party.

Like you, I have had enough of hearing both parties blame one another for inaction. The goal is solving problems and making South Carolina a better place to live, work and raise a family. The citizens of South Carolina deserve better, and the people of District 119 deserve a representative who will be their voice, and their's alone- not the political bosses. I have a record of doing just that and pledge to continue working across party lines in Columbia.

What can you do to make a difference? First, reject personal attacks in politics. Criticisms of issues, proposals or voting records are fine but personal attacks or flat out lies just damage our democracy. If the candidates that try this are defeated enough times it will stop. Second, demand that your representatives keep in touch with their districts not just their party bosses. Third, keep in touch with your representatives, the more they hear from their voters the more they know you are watching them. They will behave accordingly. Finally, demand full disclosure of campaign contributions and spending by third party groups. Too often these are the hatchet men for candidates who want to keep their "hands clean". Again, when you see personal attacks reject them. If they are not from the candidate directly, they are from a third party intending to benefit "their candidate". If that candidate losses enough times, it will stop.