

## Race Matters

The Augusta County Democratic Committee believes that everyone deserves the chance to live up to their innate potential. We pledge to challenge and work to dismantle the framework that has resulted in economic, political, and social inequities based on race. Discrimination, prejudice, bigotry, hatred, and racism of any form, at any time, under any circumstances has no place in our country.

- We support vigorous prosecution and punishment of any and all acts of racially motivated violence.
- We support better training of law enforcement to de-escalate rather than escalate situations involving people of color.
- We support efforts to improve relations between law enforcement and the minority populations they are sworn to protect.
- America must recognize the inherent racial wealth and income gaps resulting from the legacy of slavery, Jim Crow laws and other past injustices that in many cases continue today. Government intervention is required to help alleviate these wealth accumulation and income gaps.
- Our criminal justice system unfairly targets people of color and must be reformed to treat all people equally. The criminal justice system includes law enforcement, the prosecutors, judges and juries, and the prison system. At every step, we must work to ensure that all people are treated fairly and equally regardless of race or color.
- The “War on Drugs” has been a failure in stopping drug use and addiction but has been a tremendous success in the incarceration of young black men in staggering numbers. This “War” on the African American community in particular must be stopped.
- As education is one of the primary avenues to success; special emphasis must be placed on helping young people of color gain educational parity with the rest of America.
- In the face of current efforts to disenfranchise minority communities, we must fight to strengthen the voting rights of minorities.
- As minority communities are particularly hard hit in the areas of poverty and unemployment, special efforts must be made to bring parity with the rest of the population.