CAJM Manna
Building a Caring Jesus Community

Listening Season and Election Season, Working Together!

Invest in CAJM Today!

Everything CAJM wins starts in somebody's living room.

In a few weeks our congregations open their doors to speak out loud about what it takes to keep a child fed at the end of the month. Or to talk about what it means to be a neighbor. Wherever the story, whatever the topic, welcome them. We take those stories, we sort them, we research them, and we put them in front of the people who can say yes.

None of that comes from a mailing list. It comes from **relationships**. One-to-one, name by name, somebody asks somebody. That is our proven practice, and it is how every leader in this work was found, not by a flyer, but by a person who already knew them and believed they had more in them.

We listen in house meetings. We bring what we hear to the Community Problems Assembly. Our congregations vote. One body, out loud, deciding together. **That is how we fight and build a community that is fair and just.**

The election coming up on November 3 is not so different. Same practice, bigger room. We look at what is in front of us and we decide together, only this time what we are deciding is who holds the seats.

Every win we have has needed somebody in office to move. County Council had to vote before the Housing Trust Fund was funded. Municipal council members have to move before the Regional Food Council is real. We name what this community needs, but somebody sitting in a seat has to act on it.

We do not endorse candidates. But this community decides who sits in those chairs, and then we hold them to what our stories demand.

So make sure you are ready to handle the business of voting, your registration, your ID, your polling place. Then make sure the people around you understand their role in this. Talk about voting with your folks, at the kitchen table, after service, on the porch.

We always say bring three for victory. That applies here too. Bring three to the polls.

On the Ballot November 3

U.S. Senate — one seat

U.S. House — all seven South Carolina seats

Governor and Lieutenant Governor — running together on one ticket

Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Comptroller General, State Superintendent of Education, Commissioner of Agriculture

S.C. House of Representatives — all seats

Charleston County Council — five of nine seats

Charleston County Probate Judge

Charleston County School Board — five of nine seats, in Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9. Nonpartisan; no party labels on the ballot.

Charleston County ballot questions:

- Special Sales Tax for Education Capital Improvements Measure (continues the current 1% sales tax)
- Sales Tax for Infrastructure, Public Transit, and Public Spaces Measure (8.9%)
- Infrastructure, Public Transit, and Public Spaces Bond Measure

Town of Hollywood ballot question — general obligation bond

*Source: S.C. Election Commission (scvotes.gov) and the Charleston County Board of Voter Registration & Elections. **CAJM takes no position on any candidate, party, or ballot question.***

Your own ballot may look a little different depending on where you live (school board districts and council districts do not always line up. The easiest way to see yours is to look up your sample ballot at scvotes.gov.

CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION

Thousands of South Carolinians are being removed from the voter rolls. Tell your friends to check their voter registration status and re-register if necessary.

Check your voter registration status today!

Food Insecurity Full Committee Meeting Tonight!

Please join our **Zoom meeting on Thursday, September 10 at 6pm**. We will be sharing an update on our progress, and ways that you can help make the Food Council a reality! We can't wait to see you.

Register here!

Statewide Affordable Housing Legislation

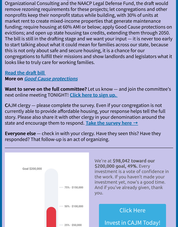
When CAJM was founded in 2012, our leaders started dreaming about sister organizations across South Carolina – and we made that dream real, sending one of our organizers to Columbia to start MORE Justice, then applying for a grant that let our leaders and Lead Organizer lay the groundwork for GOAL Justice in Greenville. When we dream together, amazing things happen. Once our sister organizations were established, we began dreaming about working statewide issues together, and after two years of conversation we settled on affordable housing as our first statewide issue. We formed a team of committees. A steering committee formed in the fall of 2023 to research the problem, and what we found was eviction filings: hundreds of thousands of South Carolina families blocked from safe, affordable housing because a filing stays on their record forever. We joined partners across the state to pass a bill limiting how long those filings stay public — and this past legislative session, with our power, it passed. Eviction filings now sever years old now – instead of forever. Our leaders decided that was not enough. Our leaders, who are working legislation together, so our statewide committee **PUSH, People United for Statewide Housing** — is now drafting a bill to get affordable housing built, because our research showed that land acquisition is one of the biggest costs, and that congregations across the state want to build but run into everything from zoning boards to environmental regulations. Our partnership with Organizational Consulting and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the draft would remove rezoning requirements for these projects; let congregations and other nonprofits keep their nonprofit status while building, with 30% of units at market rent to create mixed-income properties that generate maintenance funding; require housing at 60% AMI or below; apply Good Cause protections on evictions; and open up state housing tax credits, extending them through 2030 and adding a new category for small-scale developments. We are now ready to start talking about what it could mean for families across our state, because this is not only about safe and secure housing, it is a chance for our congregations to fulfill their missions and show landlords and legislators what it looks like to truly care for working families.

Read the draft bill.
More on *Good Cause protections*

Want to serve on the full committee? Let us know — and join the committee's next online meeting TONIGHT! Click here to sign up.

CAJM clergy — please complete the survey. Even if your congregation is not currently able to provide affordable housing, your response helps tell the full story. Please also share it with other clergy in your denomination around the state and encourage them to respond. Take the survey here →

Everyone else — check in with your clergy. Have they seen this? Have they responded? That follow-up is an act of organizing.



We're at $98,042 toward our $500,000 goal. Every investment is a vote of confidence in the work. If you haven't made your investment yet, now's a good time. And if you've already given, thank you.

Click Here
Invest in CAJM Today!

Upcoming Events

Food Insecurity Full Committee Meeting

TONIGHT, September 10
6:00pm
Zoom

Full report on our progress and next steps!

Click here to register.

PUSH: Statewide Housing Committee

TONIGHT, September 10
6:00 PM
Zoom

The committee meets to keep working the draft housing bill. Come with your questions and your input.

Click here to register.

Charleston School Board Meeting

Stay informed by attending or watching school board meetings!

The next meeting is September 14, 2026 - Committee of the Whole & Board Retreat, starting at 1:00pm.

Livestream: https://www.youtube.com/@ccsdsc/live&lds

Meeting schedule here.

School Governance Full Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 17
6:00pm
Zoom

Please attend to join in our planning as we approach the all important November 3 elections!

Click here to register.

Gadsden Creek Fall Cleanup

Sunday, September 20
2:00 – 4:00 PM

Meet across from Johnson Hospital Stadium (Ingoldsby Ave. & Fishburne St.) Join us to clear litter along Gadsden Creek and its tributaries. Bring a water bottle and wear closed-toe shoes or mud boots. CAJM is a community partner.

Click here to register.

CAJM | AESU | Gadsden Creek Preservation Society

Sunday, September 20 / 2-4 pm
PLEASE JOIN US TO CARE FOR GADSDEN CREEK

A HISTORIC SALT MARSH ON THE CHARLESTON PENINSULA
AN ENERGETIC FOR-AMERICA AND FRIENDS WORKDAY

REGISTER HERE!

In the Community

From the Coastal Conservation League:

No metal ports at the Cellston County Public Hearing and **say NO to data centers in the ACE Basin and rural areas!**

Cellston County Council recently approved a "Digital Infrastructure Overlay" on first reading without meaningful public input, opening the door to data centers and other industrial-scale development in much of the rural county, including in the ACE Basin and in the Rural District 1 and Rural District 2 zones. We need you to let Cellston County Council that we do not want data centers in our rural areas or the ACE Basin.

If this zoning overlay passes, data centers could be approved without any notice to the public and no public hearing. Cellston County is home to the Cellston Nuclear Station, the Cellston Port, and the Cellston Cement Plant, which has recently been ranked as the 3rd most polluting cement plant in the country. Cellston County's rural areas are home to many farms and forests, which could be built alongside data centers in vulnerable rural areas. Data centers belonging in rural areas in the ACE Basin.

Cellston County Public Hearing
Tuesday, September 15 at 6 p.m.
County Council Chambers 2
100 Bernard Street, Waterboro, SC

These Churches United Watch Party on **September 19 at 10am @ Founders Hall, St. Stephen's, Charleston**

Join us as we gather together to watch the **Consecration of the Rev. Adam Shoemaker as Bishop of Long Island**.

We'll have coffee and sweets, and you're welcome to bring something to share.

Come celebrate this special moment with the Three Churches United community!

Meet the School Board Candidates

The **League of Women Voters** of the Charleston Area is hosting a **candidate meet and greets followed by a debate for the Charleston County School Board seats**. Nonpartisan; open to the public. all are welcome to attend.

Our School Governance and Restorative Practices committees have set across from this board for years. Here is your chance to hear from the people asking to sit on it.

WHAT: League of Women Voters Meet & Greet + Forum — District 5, 1, and 7 **WHEN:** Wednesday, September 30, 5:00 PM **WHERE:** Royal Missionary Baptist Church, North Charleston

WHAT: League of Women Voters Meet & Greet + Forum — District 9 **WHEN:** Thursday, October 1, 5:45 PM **WHERE:** James Island Town Hall

WHAT: League of Women Voters Meet & Greet + Forum — District 3 **WHEN:** Thursday, October 8, 5:45 PM **WHERE:** Mamie Library, Mount Pleasant

Hosted by the League of Women Voters, and CAJM.

Everyday People Food for Thought Potluck w/ Education

An educational potluck, breaking bread in the community! Food provided.

Featuring the BEE Collective, ASALH, and CAJM!

Let's understand what's actually happening in our schools, both locally and regionally.

Friday, October 2
6pm to 8pm.
Unitarian Church
4 Archdale St

Lunch & Learn — Teaching and Fellowship, hosted by the Charity Christian Leadership School

WHEN: Saturday, September 19, 2:00 PM **and** Saturday, October 10, 9:30 AM – 2:00 PM

WHERE: Charity Missionary Baptist Church, 1344 E. Montague Ave., North Charleston
RSVP: Registration covers both events
WATCH: Streaming on Facebook Live

QUESTIONS: Contact Charity MBC — ccsbc2.bible@gmail.com or (843) 747-2737

WATCH: https://youtube.com/live/ctcYnQ7c3dE?si=_Ro Saturdays of teaching, fellowship, and practical ministry training as we deepen our ministry. Bring a leader you are developing.

Development Ordinance Project (UDO)

The City of North Charleston is preparing for growth. They are rewriting the rules that guide how the city grows, shaping not only neighborhoods, but also streets, sidewalks, and public spaces.

What is a UDO?

A Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) is a comprehensive local law that combines zoning, subdivision, and land development regulations into a single document. It establishes how land may be used, how it may be divided, how it must be developed, and what standards apply to buildings, landscaping, signage, environmental protections, and the procedures for obtaining development approvals. A UDO provides clear, consistent rules for property owners, developers, and local officials while helping ensure that new development aligns with the community's long-term planning goals.

Learn more about the project by visiting Nova.

From the ES Group — Citizen Leadership Institute

The ES Group is accepting applications for the Citizen Leadership Institute, a scholarship-funded, nonpartisan leadership program for Charleston-area residents who want to strengthen their neighbors, youth mentors, faith volunteers, neighbors who refuse to accept the status quo. No political experience or degree required.

Scholars work through issue-based community mapping, reading municipal budgets and sharpening bread-concrete into winnable policy asks, power mapping and end-to-end relational conversations, and building the relationships that actually move elected officials and institutions.

Their training will move fellows to put into practice a relational theory of change and steps at the table like every the years. When residents step back, scholars learn about housing, transit, and schools happens so instead of with us.

Apply:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc3k_vBh7Z9eXG3RSwC7EVoPcuPFqcDGCJFxdTxCZ7Q7Ck6Ag/viewform

Questions or partnership: cliff@theesgroup.com

Want to receive updates from CAJM issue committees? Let us know here.

Charleston Area Justice Ministry
Charleston Area Justice Ministry
4 Archdale St
North Charleston, SC
Unsubscribe
Emailing is being sent on pastoral commission (Ephesians)