



Listening Season and Election Season, Working Together!

[Invest in CAJM Today!](#)



On September 1st, over 40 CAJM Team Leaders gathered to start preparing for this year's House Meetings. **Between September 27 and October 25**, CAJM congregations will host 80 small House Meetings, where we learn and share with each other the deep concerns we hold in our hearts, and also our desires for an abundant, equitable Charleston.

House Meetings are at the core of what we do as CAJM. This is where we engage in the sacred practice of listening! Listening is the first step to ORGANIZING and building our power. Through story-telling and relationship-building, we build the power that we need to WIN real change in our community! All of our campaigns start with stories and relationships, and this year will be no different.

Make sure you pay attention for House Meeting announcements at your congregation and from your Team Leader.

Listening and organizing are a key part of how CAJM members are active and engaged citizens. AND, we also know that this is an important election year! On November 3rd ([or before if you vote early](#)), we will participate in another aspect of engaged citizenry -- MOBILIZING THE VOTE!

CAJM does not endorse candidates, but we will be sharing voting resources and information in the coming two months, including at our House Meetings! We encourage you to share these resources, spread the word about candidates you are passionate about, volunteer with campaigns or at the polls, and help others make time in their schedule to vote. Voting is only meaningful when we all participate, and this is the time to inspire and encourage our neighbors to take action. Meet people where they're at -- maybe they're not ready to come to a House Meeting and share their story, but maybe they can be persuaded to come along with you and cast their vote on November 3rd. Either way, we need them, and we need you.

Food Insecurity Full Committee Meeting Next Week!

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!](#)

Gadsden Creek

Call to Action: Project 3500 (the City's housing plan) SHOULD NOT include building on ANY tidal salt marsh creeks. Attend these important upcoming city design meetings to make your voice heard, and/or reach out to your Charleston City Council representative.

Peninsular Plan Open Studio Events, between 3pm and 6pm at 85 Calhoun Street

Thursday, September 3 - Project 3500

Thursday, September 10 - Battery Wall Extension

RSVP to joyiopsc@aol.com

Statewide Affordable Housing Legislation

When CAJM was first founded in 2012, leaders began dreaming of what it would look like to have sister organizations across the state. We (CAJM) made that dream a reality by sending one of our organizers to Columbia, SC to start MORE Justice and then we applied for a grant for our leaders and Lead Organizer to lay groundwork to start GOAL Justice in Greenville. When we dream together, we make amazing things happen. Once we helped establish our sister organizations, we began to dream about our organizations working on statewide issues together. Over two years ago, discussion began between leadership about what statewide problem we would tackle together. We decided on affordable housing since all three organizations had active housing committees. In the fall of 2023, a steering committee was formed to begin researching the problem of affordable housing across the state. In our research process, we learned how massive of a problem eviction filings are and how those filings stay on families' records for eternity. Hundreds of thousands of families are blocked from securing safe and affordable housing because of evictions on their records. We learned of an eviction bill that was proposed to limit the amount of time an eviction could stay on a person's record. Our steering committee voted to work together with other partners across the state to pass that bill. This past legislative session, with our power of people, we passed that eviction bill. Now eviction filings over 7 years old will automatically be removed from public record.

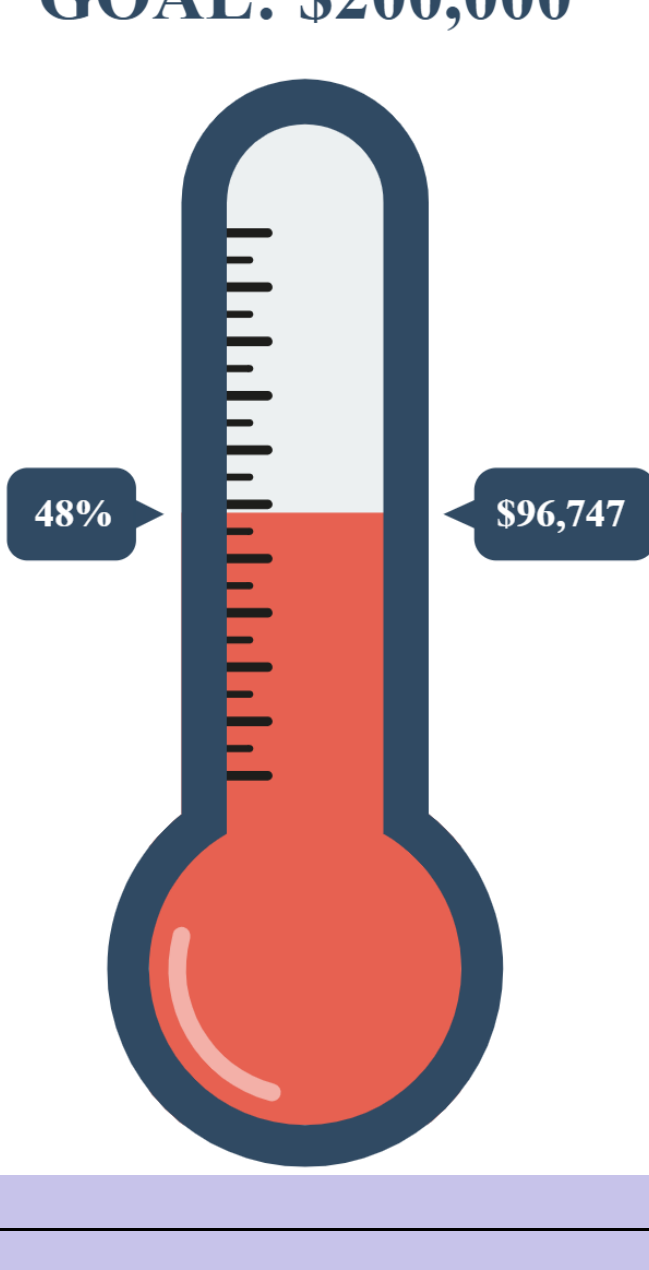
When we came together to do statewide work, we've always had our sights set on writing legislation together so following the passing of the eviction bill, our statewide committee (named PUSH-People United for Statewide Housing) came together to begin drafting legislation that would increase the building of affordable housing across the state. We know from our research that one of the biggest expenses in building affordable housing is in acquiring land. We also know from our research that many congregations across the state are interested in building affordable housing but face many obstacles from a lack of capital to zoning restrictions. Through support from Transformative Organizational Consulting and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, our committee has drafted a bill with the following highlights:

- Removes rezoning requirements for the project
- Allows congregations and other non-profits to keep their non-profit status even while building projects with 30% of the projects being market rent. This would create a mixed-income property that would provide additional funding to help congregations keep up with maintenance to the project.
- Housing must be built at 60% AMI or below
- Project must follow [Good Cause Protections](#) on evictions
- Opens up state housing tax credits for financial feasibility of the project and expands the length of those credits through 2050.

[This bill](#) is still in the drafting stage. We'd love your input and if you'd like to serve on the full committee, please let us know. **Our committee meets again online Thursday, September 10th at 6:00 PM.** [Here](#) is the link to register for that meeting.

It's never too early to start talking about this bill and the impact it could have on families across our state. This bill will not only provide safe and secure housing but it is an opportunity for our congregations to fulfill their missions and show landlords and legislators across our state how to truly care for working families.

GOAL: \$200,000



We're at \$96,747 toward our \$200,000 goal, 48%. 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

Thursday, September 10
6:00pm

Zoom

Full report on our progress and next steps!

[Click here to register.](#)

Gadsden Creek Fall Cleanup.

Sunday, September 20
2:00 - 4:00 PM

Meet across from Johnson Hagood Stadium (Hagood Ave. & Fishburne St.) Join us to clear litter from this historic salt marsh. Bring a water bottle and wear closed-toe shoes or mud boots. CAJM is a community partner.

[Click here to register.](#)



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



A HISTORIC SALT MARSH ON THE CHARLESTON PENINSULA
An Essential Fish Habitat and Critical Wetland

[REGISTER HERE!](#)



In the Community

From the Coastal Conservation League:

We need you to attend the Colleton County Public Hearing and **say NO to data centers in the ACE Basin and rural areas!**

Colleton County Council recently approved a "Digital Infrastructure Overlay" on first reading without public comment, excluding you from the conversation. This overlay would permit data centers across 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 tell Colleton 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 vote by a board or commission. The overlay could green light the largest data center in South Carolina, a 1 Gigawatt facility that would use nearly as much electricity as one million homes. The zoning overlay also allows for on-site energy generation, meaning polluting "pop-up power plants" could be built alongside data centers in vulnerable rural areas. Data centers don't belong in rural areas or the ACE Basin.

Colleton County Public Hearing
Monday, September 14 | 5:30 p.m.
County Council Chambers
109 Benson Street, Walterboro, SC

Three 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!

Development Ordinance Project (UDO)

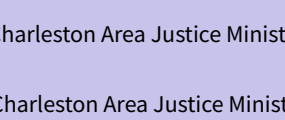
The City of North Charleston is preparing for growth. They are rewriting the rules that guide how the city grows, shaping not only neighborhoods, but also streets, sidewalks, and public spaces.

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 and developed by defining permitted land uses, building standards, setbacks, density, parking, 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 [here](#).

Want to receive updates from CAJM issue committees?
Let us know [here](#).



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