

Carol Tempel, Ed.D.  
Candidate for SC House 115  
SIAN Survey of Issues  
May 28, 2020

**Thank you for the opportunity to response to SIAN's interest of important issues in our community. Here are my positions on the issues you are concerned about. I would appreciate your support and vote in the Democratic Primary and Special Election on June 9.**

**Specific Gun Control Legislation:** I support the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, however, I also support completed background checks, maintaining SC's higher standards for permitting concealed weapons for in-state and out of state residents, and oppose open carry and arming teachers. More is needed to teach citizens restorative practices to resolve conflict.

**State Expansion of Medicare/ Medicaid:** I support accepting and expanding Medicaid. With over 250,000 citizens and 177,000 uninsured children, SC must do more to protect its citizens.

**Women's Right to Choose:** I trust every woman to make her own informed choices regarding her reproductive life within the dictates of her own moral and religious beliefs and be made without government interference. As a state we need to update our comprehensive health curriculum and increase access of health care to women to prevent our high rates of infant and maternal mortality.

**Equal Rights Amendment:** I support passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and have been working to on the house and senate bills for SC to become the 39<sup>th</sup> state to approve it. However, even with bills in both the house and senate, the COVID-19 pandemic kept the bills from crossing over for passage this session. I would sponsor/co-sponsor the house bill again and advocate strongly for passage by the entire General Assembly.

**How to improve Education for All:** Education must address the issues of equity and equality for all students. It is my number one priority. I have addressed education in townhalls, interviews with education organizations, and have videos posted on my website. Here are some suggested ways to fundamentally improve education: increase teacher pay, reduce class size, modernize the student and school funding formula, reduce testing, increase pre-K, technical education, and teacher preparation programs, support our universities, and address student educational-emotional-social needs resulting from the loss of schooling during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Charter vs Public Schools:** South Carolina needs a cohesive, comprehensive plan for public education that begins with fully funding its public schools for 700,000 children. Trying to "patch" the system with multiple streams of income and programs obviously isn't working when SC education ranks 46<sup>th</sup> to 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation.

It is the state's moral responsibility to ensure that every public school should have the necessary resources needed to develop each student's potential. By almost every standard, SC

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has failed its responsibility to fully fund education and it is delivering a less than “minimally adequate” education.

SC established a charter school district in an effort to improve public schooling; however, research shows that charter schools often do not outperform the public schools that would normally serve the same population. Instead, the schools offer a choice to a select number of students resulting in the resegregation of the schools. SC has established many charter schools in its system that should be fully evaluated by the Department of Education, the Oversight Committee, the State Board of Education, and the House and Senate Education Committees. Some factors to evaluate are: student achievement, student selection and demographics, teacher hiring and evaluation practices, governance, procurement, assessments, and accountability. When charter schools are not performing or are in violation of best practice and accountability, they should be closed. I do not support the privatization of charter schools and I am opposed to SC operating for profit charter schools. Unfortunately, some students can choose a charter school, but not all students can attend one.

I prefer to strengthen our public schools using a community schools model to operate a school, and ensure every child has access to a quality public education.

**Seismic Testing, Offshore Drilling and related coastal infrastructure:** Drilling off shore is harmful to the coast of SC that is prone to hurricanes. Geologists also estimate there is too little oil available to invest in the infrastructure to support drilling. The onshore infrastructure would be not only expensive, but disastrous to the coastal environment and local communities. Seismic testing is also very harmful to wildlife and the environment. SC should invest in solar, wind, and renewable energy. The last thing we need in SC is to initiate off shore drilling and seismic testing and harm our beaches and coastal environments.

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