



## DWC 2025 High School Scholarship Contest Winners



**Julia Harrell**



**Kaylee Heartso**



**Madison Marion**

*To what extent should our government, a Democratic Republic, be involved in the personal lives of its citizens?*

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE DWC PRESIDENT



**Da'Vita Foushee, DWC President**

***To what extent should our government, a Democratic Republic, be involved in the personal lives of its citizens?***

"Government shouldn't try to dictate your lives. But it should give you the tools you need to succeed." President Barack Obama

In his 2010 commencement address at the University of Michigan, President Barack Obama emphasized the importance of a government that empowers its people rather than controls its people.

President Obama was not the only president who understood that the government had a duty to provide resources to its citizens. However, in recent times it seems as if elected officials have lost the "We The People" factor when passing legislation. Policies, politics, laws, and regulations should be for the betterment and empowerment of all citizens of the United States of America.

The original Articles of the Constitution as well as the first 10 Amendments are saturated with fundamental rights. Among them are freedom of speech, religion, and surprisingly even privacy in your own home. These rights were established and fought for to protect the people from any type of government overreach. Today, we find ourselves in the situation where certain elected officials feel that they have more power than the people and they have abused that power.

To what extent should the government play a role in people's everyday affairs? The only role, in my personal opinion, should be to protect the well-being of the citizens and to provide them every opportunity to safely and fairly pursue their goals and dreams.

In a world where technology comes so easily when writing essays, our students have provided personal narratives of their experiences and gained wisdom to illustrate the benefits and pitfalls of government involvement in the lives of its citizens. From healthcare, to TikTok, to freedom of speech and peaceable assembly, the winning essays span all facets of government in a Democratic Republic.

Proudly, the Democratic Women's Council of Horry County has awarded over \$40,000 in scholarships as we mark the 17th anniversary of our Scholarship Essay Contest. Many of our past winners have gone on to postgraduate studies and successful careers. Congratulations this year to our \$1,500 scholarship winner, Julia Harrell and \$750 each to Madison Marion and Kaylee Heartso. I want to thank our judges for their service and dedication to our cause. Please enjoy reading these essays and be confident that our democratic future is in good hands with students like our winners.

Democratically Yours,  
Da'Vita Foushee, President

## DWC Leadership Team



**Penny Sunshine**  
1<sup>st</sup> VP



**Judi Gentleman**  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP



**Bev Bitzegaio**  
Treasurer



**Chrissy Copeland**  
Secretary

The Democratic Women's Council of Horry County is a membership and volunteer-based organization formed to support the Democratic Party. In particular, we advocate for issues important to women and promote female candidates to run for office.

We promote equality in advocacy, communication and community outreach and encourage participation by all ages, races and religions. To promote communication, we share information via social media, email, community engagement meetings and presentations. DWC members are encouraged to advocate by sharing within their own personal networks. Voting membership is open to all women registered to vote in Horry County. Associate membership is open to women and men outside of the county or state.

We invite you to visit our website and facebook pages:

[dwchc.com](http://dwchc.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/dwchc>

# ABOUT THE DWC SCHOLARSHIP

Since the inception of the DWC Scholarship in 2007, over \$40,000 dollars has been awarded to Horry County public high school students.

These annual scholarships recognize outstanding student essays that demonstrate an understanding of the issues and values important to a strong democracy built on equality and opportunity for all.

The 2025 Democratic Women's Council Scholarship awards:  
Julia Harrell, 1<sup>st</sup> place \$1500, tied for 2nd place  
Madison Marion and Kaylee Heartso \$750 each.  
Congratulations to these outstanding students!

## 2025 SCHOLARSHIP JUDGES

**Reese Palmer** is a 2024 DWC Scholarship recipient, St. James High School. Reese is a student at Clemson University studying elementary education with a minor in history.

**Merritt Yoder** 2024 DWC Scholarship recipient, Socastee High School. Merritt is an undergraduate at Warren Wilson College studying conservation biology.

**George Blumenthal**, Attorney

**Etta Carter Green**, Adult Education Director  
Horry County Schools

**Dr. Jessica Greene**, Licensed professional counselor

**Michelle Green**, 30 year veteran educator  
Horry County Schools

🌐 Harrell, Julia intro.mov



**Julia Harrell**

**Carolina Forest High School**

**\$1500 award**

### **Finding the Balance**

Finding the balance between maintaining individual freedoms and defining a common good for the stability of society is the day to day struggle of a Democratic Republic. The foundation of a Democratic Republic is built on many principles such as the participation of the citizens, equality, and a system of guaranteed rights. Moreover, the government should ensure fairness through an interpretation of laws and the constitution in which the welfare of citizens is maintained, all while adhering to the principles established by the citizens of which it governs. Keeping personal autonomy while experiencing oversight is essential to ensure my personal liberties and freedoms. Based on the needs of its society, a democratic republic should act in different ways to prioritize the protection of its people. As an active member of my society, there are many roles that the government takes that directly affects me.

To expand personal freedoms to all and promote voting privileges as expressed in the United States constitution, the Nineteenth Amendment impacts me directly as a woman. Established in 1920, this amendment "legally guaranteed American women the right to vote." A part of my civic engagement in our society was voting for the first time this year, as I hardly made the cutoff for my eighteenth birthday. I woke up excitedly and early, eager to know that my vote would impact those around me. I felt my first true wave of patriotism receiving my "I voted" sticker. Without the woman suffragists who fought for years at events such as Seneca Falls to push for this right, I would have never received the rewarding emotion of showing up to the polls on voting day. A large portion of democratic principles is ensuring that, despite reasons such as gender, race, or class, citizens can participate in the electoral process.

Under the Affordable Care Act, I can stay under my parents insurance until the age of twenty six. This part of the Affordable Care Act was implemented to relieve the financial stresses and burdens on many college students who, prior, had to get on their own insurance right after college. By prolonging the age that children have to be to get off of their parents insurance, there is a more swift transition into adult life and additional leeway for them to find a job before paying for insurance. This expansion of the federal government was created to implement the common good of the people. By allowing young adults to have access to health care until later in life, they are more likely to be successful financially in society. I personally plan to get my Political Science degree at the University of South Carolina and go onto law school, and without the financial stress of health insurance on my shoulders, I hope to continue to be a dedicated student.

Living in a Democratic Republic has given me the protection over my own gender. As a female, there are years of gender discrimination that has been combated through the application of the constitution. For example, in the Supreme Court case Roe V Wade, although now overturned, the idea that women have a right to their bodies without government infringement was instilled. The government takes a step back for the liberties of women to be protected and leaves decisions up to the individual. The implied power of rights to privacy was used in this case to protect women's rights, giving women an expansion of gender equality in America. Additionally, women now work in many atmospheres that were once unheard of. After World War Two, the idea of women in the workplace was increasingly normalized, and now there are women in predominantly male dominated sectors such as engineering and business. With the protections of the Democratic Republic upholding ideals that protect my gender equality, I have been able to move through life with high aspirations without the thought of my gender to stop me.

A core ideal of a Democratic Republic is the principle of Freedom of Speech. The founders of the Constitution found great strength in this right, as the people should be able to speak against those in power. Advocating for

political change or rights is a standard, as active civil participation is crucial for this style of government to flourish. I find myself critically invested in my AP Government class, and actively participating in conversation when we speak on current events. Freedom of Speech has allowed me to interpret viewpoints that I have not considered. Finding ways to build off of other opinions has further expanded my personal political views. Moreover, this personal liberty has allowed me to develop arguments defending my personal morals and beliefs. As a society, this core value has allowed us to advance and create an empathetic atmosphere where learning can develop and prosper.

Historic evidence has shown me that government intervention is necessary for the function of society. America's Articles of Confederation were too weak as shown through instances such as Shays Rebellion and the inability to tax. A stronger form of federalism with principles of a Democratic Republic is what the constitution was built off of, discovering the balance for the government being hands on or hands off. The devotion to the people is proven in documents such as the Federalist papers, where a group of Federalists try to show the people that this more hands on way of governance will not be too powerful and will actually be for the common good, as the system of checks and balances is practiced.

The foundation of a Democratic Republic affects me in my daily life and function. All principles developed by the constitution are instilled to protect personal liberty and freedoms, and our government's main focus is to promote the common good for society. Although a delicate balance, I strongly feel as though I live freely without the overarching hand of the government. With provisions such as the Affordable Care Act and protections such as Freedom of Speech, I believe that the government has stepped into my life for reasons that protect me from an unjust society and give me the chance for a future with equal opportunity.

### **Works Cited**

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## **Madison Marion**

### **Carolina Forest High School**

**\$750 award.**

#### **To Protect or Control? Analyzing The Extent of Government Involvement in the American Peoples' Lives**

The role of government in Americans' personal lives has been a major debate throughout American history. The United States was founded on principles of individual freedom and limited government, but over time, the government has taken on more responsibilities, sometimes stepping into areas that affect personal choices. While some government involvement is necessary to maintain order and protect citizens, too much interference can take away God given rights. The challenge is figuring out how much control the government should have while still allowing Americans to make their own decisions. As an American woman, I believe that finding this balance between the people and the government will demonstrate what this country has a chance to become, rather than display fear and uncertainty in the American population. I will explore the balance between government intervention and individual freedom, looking at both the benefits and risks of government involvement in our personal lives.

The government involvement debate has two platforms: protect the people or control the people. Political thinkers like John Locke and Thomas Jefferson believed that the government's main job is to protect people's natural rights—life, liberty, and property—rather than control their personal decisions. On the contrary, philosopher Thomas Hobbes believed that without rules, society would fall into disorder, so the government must have some control to prevent chaos. Establishing a balance has become extremely difficult over the last decade with advancements in technology and the government implementing new policies based on this technology. The banning of TikTok in the United States perfectly exemplifies this scenario. As privacy concerns grew in the new-age social media platform known as TikTok, the government as a whole felt it was necessary to ban the app entirely. I was personally affected by this, as I have used the platform as a networking site to communicate and interact with others. Not only was I affected, but people who developed jobs through the app were greatly affected as well. The moment the ban went into effect on January 19th, 2024 and the app "turned dark," millions of people, known as influencers on the platform, lost their jobs. This was not a side hustle for them, this was their main source of income; TikTok became a place where people were able to share their lives, achievements, hardships, and lift each other up by just scrolling on their "For You Page." Although President Donald Trump was able to extend the ban, it still remains, leaving influencers in fear of losing their jobs once again. This scenario provides a call to action in finding some balance between government involvement and the people. With privacy concerns on TikTok that began the whole debate, the government should have listened to the people in this case and worked towards mitigating these concerns rather than destroying the app as a whole. In this situation, the government hurt more Americans than they saved, and that is doing the opposite of what the Constitution states.

Where I believe the government *should* interfere is protecting the public health. Through Covid-19, vaccination mandates, mask mandates, and lockdown began taking over the country. Many Americans found this unnecessary and refused to follow these mandates; however, when over 573,000 Americans died in just the first year of the pandemic, I found people arguing and refusing these mandates to be un-American. The year right before Covid-19, I had just discovered that I have a condition known as Vasovagal Syncope. This is a fainting condition, in which the vagus nerve has certain triggers that causes me to get nauseous, lightheaded, blurry vision, shortness of breath, and eventually faint. I was diagnosed with this condition right after getting an IV in a hospital; I discovered that I did not just have a fear of shots, but they were my trigger to pass out. I avoided every shot after that so I

would not have to endure the torturous process right before fainting. When the pandemic came around, I realized that I had to get a vaccine right away. Even with my condition, I participated in the covid vaccination, which was extremely difficult to do. The only reason I got through the vaccination was thinking about all of the lives I was saving. I knew I was single handedly decreasing the death toll just by getting the vaccination. Thus, I believed that the government could have done more to mandate vaccinations because the people refusing to get the vaccine were only hurting everyone around them. If a 12 year old girl at the time with a fainting condition caused by needles can fight through a vaccine to save lives, then I believe any American could have done the same.

There are some laws that finding a line in government intervention becomes tricky. One of these is abortion. Abortion is one of, if not the most, controversial topic in today's time. The overturning of Roe v. Wade changed everything about the topic of abortion; it became up to the states whether or not abortion should be banned. Based on my personal views and values, banning abortion is one of the most unconstitutional ideologies in America. As a woman, the idea of not having my own rights to my own body is petrifying and heinous. As of 2025, 12 states so far have decided to put a near-total ban on abortion; I can not imagine what those women are going through, especially young teenagers and rape victims. Although my views on abortion are very strong, I do believe that restrictions on abortion based on how far along the fetus is are necessary. If the government had put this on a federal level, I do think that there would be less controversy on it. Abortion is a topic that will always be debated, but the government can do more than just leaving it to the states.

Strong government intervention does not have to be the villain in every case, however. Laws such as drunk driving restrictions are put there to help keep society as a whole safe and not put others at risk. Although I have not obviously experienced this myself, I can say my dad has to its full extent. My mom and him had just had me a few years ago when he started to believe that he could drive under the influence. With this mentality, he ended up in a 3 year jail sentence a few months later. He had committed manslaughter as he was driving under the influence and hit an innocent man riding on his bike. This was not something that they wanted their 5 year old daughter to know, reasonably enough, so it was kept hidden from me for years. For those 3 years that he was serving time, I was "visiting him at work." Every birthday, Christmas, and new year that he missed with my mom and I, I would ask her constantly, "when will daddy be home?" "Is daddy coming home this Christmas?" "I don't want a birthday party this year, I just want to see daddy." I thought to myself that he was just working and he'll be home anytime now. Those 3 years flew by fast, and the next thing I knew I was running into his arms in the driveway, as he was finally home. I remember getting breakfast with him that same morning, thinking that he had just worked so hard for our family and he deserved the world. This is where government involvement saves people; that experience for my dad was a pivotal moment in his life, and he is a completely changed man. My parents told me the truth 9 years later, and I sat with my dad for hours talking about remorse and growth from the experience. Although tragic, this was something that sticks with him every day, in which it reminds him to be the best American citizen he can be. This story is one where I thank our government for their involvement; they gave me a dad who provides me with the world. He demonstrates who I aspire to be every day: determined, willing to learn and willing to grow.

Throughout this essay, I displayed scenarios where government involvement is a risk versus a benefit to society, but the question still remains of where to find that balance. My answer is that there is no simple way to put it. The Constitution is the foundation of our government for a reason, so it should always be interpreted accordingly. There are laws that are there to protect society as a whole, in which they do. However, there are some situations where the extent of the government involvement just depends on the people affected by that situation; in that case, the government should exercise democracy. By listening to the people, the American government can not only protect them, but prevent the government themselves from controlling citizens of America.



**Kaylee Heartso**

**SC Connections Academy**

**\$750 award**

## **The Role of Government in the Personal Lives of Citizens**

### **A Balancing Act**

In a democratic republic, the government is entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring the well-being of its citizens while respecting their autonomy. Striking the right balance between public policy and individual freedoms is essential for maintaining a society that is both just and free. The government must intervene when necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare, but its reach into the personal lives of citizens should be limited to what is necessary to maintain the common good. Drawing from personal experience, I believe that while government involvement can be beneficial, it should never come at the expense of the individual's rights and freedoms.

One area where government intervention is widely accepted is public health. For instance, policies designed to protect the population from diseases through vaccinations, food safety regulations, and quarantine measures are crucial. During the COVID-19 pandemic, government decisions to impose lockdowns, enforce mask mandates, and promote vaccinations were instrumental in curbing the spread of the virus and safeguarding vulnerable populations. These interventions were necessary for public safety, especially for those at higher risk due to underlying health conditions or compromised immune systems.

As someone with health conditions such as POTS, MCAS, and EDS, I have personally experienced the importance of healthcare regulations that ensure accessibility and protect vulnerable individuals like me. Government policies that require insurance companies to cover treatments for pre-existing conditions or offer affordable healthcare plans provide individuals like myself with the care we need to manage chronic illnesses. The Affordable Care Act, for example, has made healthcare more accessible for people who may otherwise have been excluded from coverage due to their health status. In this case, government involvement in healthcare has directly impacted my ability to live a healthier and more stable life.

However, the government's role in regulating healthcare must be carefully considered to avoid overreach. For example, while public health laws can protect individuals, they should not infringe on personal choices about healthcare decisions. Reproductive rights are a significant example of where government involvement can cross a line. The government should not mandate medical procedures or decisions regarding reproductive health, as these decisions are deeply personal and should be left to the individual in consultation with medical professionals. A government that intrudes into such personal decisions violates the autonomy and privacy of its citizens.

Beyond healthcare, the government must also protect civil rights, ensuring equal treatment for all citizens. One powerful example of this is the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibited discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin in employment and public accommodations. As a political science and pre-law major, I have been deeply influenced by the importance of these legal protections, which allow people of all backgrounds to live freely without fear of systemic discrimination. In my own life, I have volunteered for local

Democratic organizations and seen firsthand how policies that promote equality and inclusion can empower marginalized communities. The government's role in protecting civil rights cannot be overstated—it is a critical function of a democratic republic.

However, there are instances where government intervention can overstep, leading to violations of privacy and personal freedoms. Surveillance programs like the NSA's warrantless wiretapping, exposed by Edward Snowden, highlight the dangers of government surveillance that infringe upon individual privacy rights. In an increasingly connected world, the question of whether the government should be able to monitor the personal communications of its citizens in the name of national security is one that requires a careful balance. While national security is vital, it should not come at the expense of the constitutional right to privacy. As a citizen of a democratic republic, I believe that the government should only intervene in matters of personal privacy under strict guidelines and with judicial oversight to prevent abuse of power.

Another area where government involvement is contentious is in the regulation of personal behavior. Issues such as drug use, alcohol consumption, and smoking present moral and legal dilemmas. While the government should enact laws to prevent harm to others—such as laws against drunk driving or public drug use—it should also respect the personal autonomy of individuals when their actions do not harm others. The legalization of marijuana in many states is a prime example of how government intervention can evolve in response to changing social and scientific perspectives. In some states, marijuana is now treated as a legal substance, and its regulation is viewed as a more effective approach than criminalization. This shift demonstrates the importance of adapting policies to reflect evolving views on personal freedoms.

In my personal experience, the ability to make decisions about my health, education, and career without undue government interference is a freedom I hold dear. As someone who has struggled with chronic illnesses, I value the support of government programs like disability assistance and accessible healthcare. However, I also recognize that there is a fine line between ensuring access to services and infringing on the ability of individuals to make personal choices. For example, while I appreciate the support provided by disability services, I also believe that individuals should have the freedom to decide how to manage their conditions without unnecessary oversight or restrictions. Government involvement should aim to empower individuals, not control their decisions.

Additionally, as a student planning to major in political science and pre-law, I am acutely aware of the importance of protecting freedoms that allow individuals to express their beliefs and participate in society. For example, freedom of speech and the right to protest are fundamental to a functioning democracy. The government should never curtail these freedoms unless there is a clear and direct threat to public safety or national security. In my own volunteer work with local Democratic organizations, I have seen how crucial it is for people to have the right to organize, speak out, and engage in political activism. Government actions that stifle political expression, whether through censorship or unjust imprisonment, undermine the very foundation of democracy.

In conclusion, while the government has an important role to play in ensuring the safety, equality, and well-being of its citizens, it must be mindful of the line between intervention for the common good and encroachment upon personal liberties. A democratic republic thrives when the government respects individual freedoms, promotes equality, and intervenes only when necessary to protect the public. In my personal life, I have seen both the benefits and drawbacks of government involvement, particularly in the realms of healthcare, civil rights, and personal behavior. By carefully considering the extent of government involvement in the lives of its citizens, we can foster a society that is both free and just, where individuals are empowered to live according to their values and pursue their goals without unnecessary interference.

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# DWC MEMBERS

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\*associate member

\*\* student member

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# DWC SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS

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# Congratulations

## Class of 2025

**We believe...** quality health care is a fundamental right.

**We believe...** unity is better than division.

**We believe...** Black Lives Matter.

**We believe...** veterans are heroes who should be treated with dignity and respect.

**We believe...** voting is a right.

**We believe...** Social Security and Medicare are binding contracts between the United States and seniors.

**We believe...** that we can all work toward a better America for everyone.



The Westside Democrats meet every fourth Monday of every month at 5:30 pm in the HCDP Office, 311c Beatty St, Conway. Please join us to support the Democrat Party in SC for community, outreach, and local support and participation. Welcoming new members at any time. Please contact [horrydems@yahoo.com](mailto:horrydems@yahoo.com).

**Congratulations,  
2025 DWCHC  
Scholarship Essay  
Contest Winners!**

**Voter Protection  
Committee**



**Review your ballot 3 times.**

**The Horry County  
Democratic Party**



# South Enders Democratic Club

## DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

Defending Women's Rights  
Defending a Free Press  
Defending LGBTQI+ Rights  
Defending Social Security & Medicare



Defending Children's Safety & Health  
Defending Veterans Rights  
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**Special thanks to DWC 2025 members providing extra support for our scholarships:**

Bev & John Bitzegaio  
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Elizabeth Cuti  
Joan Furlong  
Da'Vita Foushee  
Judith Gentleman  
Donusia Lipinski  
Cynthia Swanson Powell  
Pat Shama  
Penny Sunshine



**In loving memory of Carole Dwyer and Carlotta Scott**

Honoring the legacy of two very special Democratic women, long-time members of the Democratic Women's Council who contributed much of their time and resources to equality and justice for all. Both were actively involved as chairs and contributors to the Scholarship Committee over many years. Both are greatly missed!



*March 26, 1946-April 18, 2023*



*October 28, 1946-February 27, 2024*



Many thanks to the DWC Scholarship Committee for their tireless efforts in producing another successful scholarship contest!

Judi Gentleman-Committee Chair  
Bev Bitzegaio  
Betty Wells Brown  
Eileen Coates  
Karen Corkum  
Pam Donaldson  
Martha Grayson  
Penny Sunshine  
Joann Teeple

**HELP DWC continue the  
Scholarship Project!**

We rely on DWC memberships, Democratic clubs, local businesses and organizations to help us fund this annual project.

If you would like to have your business or message featured in next year's 2026 Scholarship Program booklet, please contact us at

[DWChorrycounty@gmail.com](mailto:DWChorrycounty@gmail.com)

for details.

Donations toward the scholarship may be sent through ActBlue:

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/dwcscholarship>



# Congratulations to 17 Years of Scholarship Winners

- 2025 *To what extent should our government, a Democratic Republic, be involved in the personal lives of its citizens?* \$1,500 Scholarship – Julia Harrell  
\$750 Scholarships – Kaylee Heartso & Madison Marion
- 2024 *How should Democrats respond to the media's influence on Democracy?*  
\$1,500 Scholarship—Reese Palmer  
\$1,500 Scholarship—Jonathan Galloway  
Honorable Mentions, \$200 each: Merritt Yoder & David Kelly
- 2023 *When women do not have the freedom to make choices about their bodies, how does this impact society? What can Democrats in South Carolina do to ensure the protection of womens' rights?*  
\$1,500 Scholarship—Anna Shull \$1,500 Scholarship—Camila Soria Flores  
Honorable Mentions, \$150 each:  
Sofia Zeballos & Stephanie Rodriguez-Umana
- 2022 *Scholarships were not awarded*
- 2021 *What is the significance to you and future generations of electing the 1st female, multiracial vice president?*  
\$1,000 Scholarship—Alyssa Paquette  
Honorable Mentions, \$100 each:  
Sasha Bronovitskiy & Fallon Tomlin
- 2020 *Scholarships were not awarded*
- 2019 *How do Democrats fight for voting rights for all citizens?* \$1,000 Scholarship—Hailey Lingle  
\$1,000 Scholarship—Josephine Kirkman
- 2018 *How can the Democrats win back voters and win over new voters?*  
\$1,000 Scholarship—Sophia Stevanovich  
\$1,000 Scholarship—David Ryan Thompson
- 2017 *Why does electing Democrats matter to me?*  
\$1,000 Scholarship—Leslie Alexander \$1,000 Scholarship—Katie Hill  
*Why more*
- 2016 *Democrats in office mean a brighter future for me?*  
\$1,000 Scholarship—Lauren Schnexnyder
- 2015 *How Democratic Values Make My Life Better*  
\$1,000 Scholarship—Thomas Kellogg \$500 Scholarship—Hysjana Mince
- 2014 *Why is electing a Democratic governor in 2014 is crucial for South Carolina?* \$1,000 Scholarship—Avery Noel  
\$750 Scholarship—Brooks Swanson  
\$750 Scholarship—Zachary Ohanesian
- 2013 *Democrats Represent ME because . . .*  
\$1,000 Scholarship—Margaret Shelton  
\$1,000 Scholarship—Sarah Martin
- 2012 *The far-reaching effects of the 2012 election, and why electing Democrats matters more than ever*  
\$1,000 Scholarship—Marilyn Cox  
\$1,000 Scholarship—Sarah Martin
- 2011 *I Believe in Public Education—That Is Why I Am a Democrat*  
\$1,000 Scholarship—Caroline Clark  
\$1,000 Scholarship—Whitney Goings  
\$1,000 Scholarship—Trenton Smith
- 2010 *Why South Carolina Needs a Democratic Governor*  
\$2,000 Scholarship—Will Maxey  
\$1,500 Scholarship—Caroline Clark  
\$1,000 Scholarship—Lyndey Zwing
- 2009 *Democrats—The Party of Tolerance*  
\$2,500 Scholarship—Lyndey Zwing  
\$1,000 Scholarship—Matt Abee  
\$500 Scholarship—Caroline Clark
- 2008 *Why America Needs a Democrat in the White House*  
\$2,500 Scholarship—Dargan Foxworth  
\$1,000—Brandon Taylor Charpied  
\$500—Madison John Barrett
- 2007 *Why I am a Democrat*  
\$2,000 Scholarship—Caroline Clark  
\$500 Scholarship—Darielle Deigan  
\$250 Scholarship—Lyndey Zwing

