

MULLINS
McLEOD
The People's Governor

May 11, 2026

Via Email: chair@charlestondemocrats.com
Thomas Dixon
Charleston County Democratic Party
PO Box 21422
Charleston, SC 29413

Re. May 15, 2026 Candidate Forum

Dear Thomas,

The people of South Carolina are trapped in a corrupt political system where they have no power because they have no voice. If you don't have a seat at the table that means you are on the menu. The people of South Carolina are tired of being on the menu.

Political corruption is the reason our power bills are too high, why our roads rank among the worst and most deadly in the nation, why our public schools fail our children, why people are gainfully employed yet live below the poverty line, why we get taxed at a higher rate than citizens in any other southern state. Political corruption is also the reason a woman's right to make her own health care decisions is at risk every legislative session. These problems are symptoms of one underlying disease: bipartisan political corruption.

One of the most important roles of a State or County chair is to recruit and encourage people to run for public office. During my time as county chair, I took this responsibility seriously. Unfortunately, some democratic party insiders do not. Rather, some party insiders would rather put their thumb on the scale because it satisfies their selfish desire for political power or financial gain. This corrupt conduct is one of the many reasons the people of South Carolina are trapped in a corrupt political system.

On August 11, 2025, and after twenty-five years of training to be the voice the people of South Carolina have long deserved but have not yet had I announced my campaign for Governor. My campaign is more than just a campaign. It is a walk of faith. Within hours of announcing my campaign you revealed yourself as politically corrupt. More particularly and as the County Chair you made the following public comment to the Post and Courier:

"I don't know anything about him. I haven't seen him out here in the community advocating for the things that he calls for on this platform. So that's just the truth of what I see."

I understand why you cannot see me for who I am or for whose I am. I am grateful, however, that others can. I am grateful that others see that I have had "a long record of standing between black families and the institutions that failed them." (<https://theminorityeye.com/the-real-mullins-mcleod-and-his-183-million-record-defending-civil-rights/>). Furthermore, "when

corporations treated Black lives as expendable, he made them pay. When government agencies failed and hoped no one would notice, he forced accountability. And when law enforcement acted recklessly in ways that sent the message that Black lives did not matter, Mullins McLeod showed them exactly how wrong they were..." (*Id.*)

When I become our State's next Governor, I will be the fourth-generation public servant of South Carolina in my immediate family all of whom were democrats. I was raised to know there is no trust more sacred than the public trust, no work more important than the people's work and that political corruption is a threat to democracy itself. One hundred years ago Thomas Gordon McLeod served as Governor. He was the first person in our nation's history to nominate a woman to be Vice President of the United States. While I am deeply proud of my family's long history of public service to our state none of their portraits appear on the walls at my law office here in Charleston. A portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King, however, hangs above my desk. It was given to me in 2017 by the S.C. National Action Network for as you say: "being out here in the community." In addition, a second portrait of Dr. King hangs in my office that was given to me last year by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Picture Award Committee.

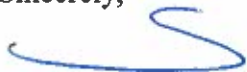
In addition to the foregoing, I was lead counsel in the Mother Emanuel litigation and was instrumental in securing one of the most important pieces of social justice in our state's history. Justice doesn't exist. It must be made. The truth is it takes a lot of work, courage, determination and a relentless pursuit of the truth. The five years of my life that I devoted to that one case has been described as follows: "While politicians issued statements and institutions closed ranks, Mullins went to work. Quietly. Methodically. Relentlessly. When federal officials closed ranks and insisted there was no liability, when the Department of Justice treated the FBI's background check failure as an unfortunate error rather than a deadly one, Mullins chose confrontation over comfort. He took on the federal government itself and forced it to answer..." (<https://theminorityeye.com/the-real-mullins-mcleod-and-his-183-million-record-defending-civil-rights/>).

In addition, you told the newspaper that I had not "been in touch with you" at any time leading up to my announcement. I regret to inform you, sir, I do not need your permission to become our State's next Governor.

In light of the foregoing, I must decline your invitation to participate in the May 15, 2026, candidate forum. When I become our State's next Governor there will be a transformative shift in the balance of power in this State. Before my journey is over the power in this State will be returned to its rightful owner – the people of South Carolina. When that happens the politically corrupt establishment will be the ones on the menu. I regret to inform you sir, but you are now on the menu.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,



W. Mullins McLeod, Jr.