

Bios of Guest Elected Officials



Senator Penry Gustafson

District 27 -- Chesterfield, Kershaw & Lancaster Counties

Penry Gustafson, 53, serves over 116,000 constituents in South Carolina's third largest geographic district. Penry was the only female senator elected in 2020. Out of 46 senators, only five are women, and she is the first Republican elected to District 27 in over a hundred years.

She serves on Agriculture and Natural Resources, Family and Veterans Services, Corrections and Penology, and Judiciary Committees. During the 124th Session (2020-2022), Gustafson sponsored or co-sponsored 15 general bills signed into law.

Legislative Accomplishments Include:

- Protecting our Veterans and Military (S.317, H.3797)
- Promoting education in our state and protecting our children (H.4300, H.3360, H.3908, H.4023, S.39, S.134, S.245, S.285, S.418, S.612)
- Supporting Families (H.3553, S.341, S.380, S.394, S.474, S.602, S.612)
- Protecting First Responders and their families (S.108 and H.3691)
- Improving Public Safety, Security, and Reducing Violent Crimes (S.96, S.304, S.330, H.3503, S.363, S.1, S.36, S.120)
- Promoting Agriculture and Agriculture Business Growth (S.101, S.449, S.576, S.603)
- Keeping Taxes Low and Budgets in-line (\$100m in recurring tax cuts)
- Limiting Red Tape and Bureaucratic Waste (S. 259, S.399, S.406, S.483, S.549, H 3.952)

Senator Gustafson was named an "Elected Woman of Excellence" by the National Foundation for Women Legislators (NFWL) and currently is a South Carolina State Director. She serves on the Board of Directors for Game Changers and the Santee Lynches Council of Government (SLCOG).

She graduated from Newberry College in 1992 and furthered her education with a full graduate assistantship at USC-Columbia. She has championed those most vulnerable or underserved through decades of community service and advocacy. Her wide-ranging career includes coordinator of Operation Inasmuch of the Midlands, top 10% sales producer with Delta Foremost, and case manager for adults with special needs. In younger years, she enjoyed owning a restaurant.

She and her husband Todd live in Camden, SC. Todd is a combat war veteran, retired Lt. Colonel from the US Army, and a retired CRNA. Their blended family includes children William, Maggie, and Drew and their goldendoodle Grace. They love spending time on Lake Wateree, traveling, and listening to live music. When the calendar allows, they both enjoy performing in local community theatre. Born and raised in the state capital of Columbia, South Carolina, Senator Gustafson is honored to represent her home state.



Temus C. "Tem" Miles, Jr.

Mayor of West Columbia

Tem Miles grew up in Lake City, South Carolina. He graduated from Lake City High School, class of 1996, and The Citadel, class of 2000 (Golf Company). He started his career at Southeastern Freight Lines, where he worked until he started law school. He met his beautiful wife, Cassie, while in law school. Both Cassie and Tem were admitted to the South Carolina Bar Association in 2006.

Cassie and Tem have three smart, beautiful daughters: Emma; Cate; and Charlotte. They are members of The Basilica of St. Peter, Columbia, South Carolina.

Tem started his legal career as a Law Clerk to the Honorable Paul E. Short, Jr. at the South Carolina Court of Appeals. He then served as staff counsel in the South Carolina Senate's Office of Senate Research. In 2010 he entered private practice with The McKay Firm of Columbia, South Carolina, practiced civil litigation, and became a partner. In 2020, he started The Miles Firm and continues to practice civil litigation there.

In 2013, Tem was elected as a write-in candidate to serve on the West Columbia City Council to represent District 4. In 2019, he was elected mayor of West Columbia.



Allison Terracio

Richland County Council District 5

Councilwoman Allison Terracio represents Richland County Council District 5, which includes the neighborhoods of Historic Waverly, Edgewood, Shandon, Rosewood, Five Points, the Vista, St. Andrews, and the campuses of the University of South Carolina, Allen University and Benedict College. She is committed to constituent service and makes a practice of listening to constituents' interests and ideas at neighborhood association meetings, in local community gatherings, and while spending time at branches of the Richland County Library.

Terracio is an executive coach, specializing in women's leadership and promoting inclusion and diversity in the workplace. She has previously worked at BNY Mellon in corporate trust, including trustee services on municipal bonds. She has been a yoga teacher and studio owner and has supported women and their families in labor and delivery as a doula.

She and her husband, Nate, director of the Koger Center, reside in his childhood home in Shandon. Their son Van attends Rosewood Elementary School and plays guitar and soccer.

Allison is a member of the League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area.



Tameika Isaac Devine

Columbia City Council At-Large (former)

Growing up in a family dedicated to public service, Tameika Isaac Devine learned early on that we all have a role to play in making our communities better—and that if you want change, you have to roll up your sleeves and get to work. Tameika knew she wanted to make a difference, so she dedicated her life to bettering the city she loves. In 2002, Tameika ran for City Council At-Large, becoming the first African American woman to serve on the Council and the first African American to be elected at large. In her almost 20 years on the City Council, Tameika has planned and executed countless projects that make a real difference in people’s lives, including the recognition of National Youth Violence Prevention week and the creation of the Police Athletic League. During her tenure on council, she served as Mayor Pro Tem, using her experience as a coalition-builder and a problem-solver to deliver results for our families.

In 2021, Tameika ran for mayor of the City of Columbia. While she lost by a narrow margin to become the city’s mayor, she built a diverse coalition across this city, bringing together different demographics that she is still working with to strengthen our city in her role as a community advocate.

In addition to being a partner in her own law firm, Jabber & Isaac, PA, where she practices in the areas of real estate and probate, Tameika is also the founder and CEO of The Possibilities Institute, LLC, a peak performance public speaking and consulting firm specializing in working with women leaders and working moms to help them with strategies to excel professionally while still maintaining a family first lifestyle. Tameika’s leadership has been recognized nationally. She has been named one of the 50th Most Influential People in the Midlands by Columbia Business Monthly and a 2018 Woman of Influence by the Columbia Regional Business Report. She was selected by Governing Magazine to be one of their 20 leaders in the Women in Government Leadership Program. She is also a graduate of the inaugural Cohort of Power, Innovation and Leadership Executive Leadership program and the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard Kennedy School and the Dorothy I. Height Global Leadership Academy with the International Black Women’s Public Policy Institute.

Tameika is a proud graduate of Hampton University and the University of South Carolina School of Law.

Tameika and her husband, Jamie, are the parents of Tamia, Jade, and Jameson. Their son, James Henry, was born into heaven in August 2014.

Tameika is a member of the League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area.

Speaker Bios



Lynn S. Teague

**Lead Lobbyist and
Vice-President, Issues & Actions
League of Women Voters of South Carolina**

Lynn Shuler was born in Orangeburg SC, grew up in Columbia, and moved to New Mexico in 1968 at the time of her marriage to George Teague. She is a professional archaeologist and was on the faculty of the Arizona State Museum at the University of Arizona for many years, where she served as Director of the Museum’s Cultural Resource Management Division and later as Coordinator of Arizona’s repatriation laws protecting Native American and other burials and sacred objects. She has published extensively on Southwestern prehistory and on Native American burial protection issues. She and her husband returned to South Carolina at the time of their retirement. Since 2012 she has served as Vice President of the League of Women Voters of SC and is a volunteer League lobbyist at the State House. Voting rights and elections, along with redistricting are the highest priority for the League but she also has been involved in advocacy on ethics, utility regulation, healthcare access, and other “good government” issues of concern to the League and the people of South Carolina. In May 2023 she was honored to receive the inaugural “Sarah Leverette Award” of the League of Women Voters of South Carolina.

Lynn is a member of the League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area



Dr. Janelle Rivers

**Education Advocacy Specialist/Lobbyist
League of Women Voters of South Carolina**

Dr. Janelle Rivers is a retired educator and one of three lobbyists for the League of Women Voters of SC. She believes in working for good government, supporting public education, promoting fair elections, informing voters, and eliminating corruption. A South Carolina native who grew up in Chesterfield County, she began teaching in the public schools of Charleston County and later served as an administrator overseeing assessment, accountability, evaluation, and research activities at the South Carolina Department of Education and in Richland County and Lexington County. She holds degrees from Columbia College, Boston University, and the University of South Carolina.

Janelle is a member of the League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area.



Teresa Arnold

**Health Care Advocacy Specialist/Lobbyist
League of Women Voters of South Carolina**

Teresa Arnold, MSW, recently retired as the State Director of AARP SC where she advocated for older adults to live independently, have access to health care and adequate retirement savings. She has 28 years of advocacy experience at both the state and congressional level.

She is also a field supervisor for the USC College of Social Work graduate students, providing supervision to more than 45 students on policy and advocacy since 1990. She was awarded Social Worker of the Year and later USC College of Social Work Alumna of the Year. In 2022, she was awarded the Order of the Palmetto by Governor Henry McMaster.

Teresa is a member of the League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area.



Omme-Salma Rahemtullah

**Interim Executive Director
FoodShare South Carolina**

Omme-Salma Rahemtullah just recently became the Interim Executive Director of FoodShare South Carolina. Omme started at FoodShare as the Director of Advocacy and Policy in February 2021. In this capacity she built FoodShare’s regional and national coalition participation and provided policy direction for the organization. She also worked on building advocacy and energy around state-wide policies, such as SNAP expansion and Healthy Bucks, and assisted regional Hubs to engage with their elected officials at all levels.

Omme is a member of the League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area.



Frances Eargle

**Co-Chair, Environmental Affairs Committee
League of Women Voters of the Columbia Area**

Frances Eargle is a retiree from the US EPA (2006 – 2020) in Washington, DC. In that capacity she served as Senior Advisor to the EPA Administrator and Senior EPA Officials on environmental issues affecting local governments. In this role, she acquired extensive experience in working with elected officials on the frontline, such as the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the League of Cities and the National Association of Counties. Formerly, she directed a Taskforce at the White House Council on Environmental Quality to assist communities in restoring blighted waterfront communities by matching and leveraging over \$150 million grant for local projects.

Currently, Frances is working to mobilize citizens in the Ballentine / Chapin area on controversial Richland County rezoning writing a petition with over 2,000 signatures presented to the Richland County Council.