

Fort Mill, SC, Jan. 29, 2021- Wes Climer At The York County Republican Party Monthly Meeting

It's always a pleasure to be back here. I also want to thank you for the hard work everybody did in 2020.

As Tyler said, we had some pretty solid wins here locally. I never would've gotten elected in the first place without you all, and I wouldn't have gotten back in without you all, so thank you. I appreciate the privilege to serve. I'm here for you.

I want you to have a cell phone number, contact me, hold me accountable, as Tyler said, and don't ever have a thought on some piece of legislation that's wandering through the State House and not pick up the phone and call me and ask me about it.

If it matters to you, I want to hear it, I want to learn from you, I want to know what you think, because you know things I don't know, and I can't do my job well without hearing from you.

So, please keep in touch. My cell phone number is on the Senate website, 803-752-0052. Please don't hesitate to call.

Passing the Heartbeat Bill

Now, I'm not going to bury the lead. We had a huge, huge win today in the South Carolina Senate. Been a long time coming. We passed the Heartbeat Bill down there.

This is a fight we've been having in the State Senate for several years now. This is long overdue.

The House did its job two years ago. The Senate finally caught up too on the backs of flipping three seats from D to R in November.

There's consequences one. South Carolina, the first thing we did is pass the strongest pro-life legislation

that's ever been adopted in South Carolina.

That follows quickly on the heels of a huge win we had in the first week of session. When the Senate adopted a new rules package, something that I've talked with you all about several times, been fighting for three straight years, passed a ban on secret earmarks.

Forever, the senior appropriators buy off other legislators' votes, \$150,000 for a park here, \$500,000 for something in your hometown there. Because they do that, nobody ever pays attention to the big issues in the budget.

If the senior appropriators can buy off enough votes to pass a budget without addressing Medicaid reform, without addressing school choice, without addressing all the myriad problems facing this state, that means politics is too cheap. Our policy is too cheap.

So, by banning secret earmarks, not only do we get the transparency and accountability with your tax dollars that we deserve, it also means we're going to have a more robust and serious public policy conversation in Columbia going forward.

It is a huge win for taxpayers and a huge win for better government across an entire range of issues.

Good Conservative Policy

Next, in the rules package. This gets down in the weeds, but this is one of the reasons I ran.

We've been saying for decades that the South Carolina Senate is where good conservative policy goes to die. That's been the truth for the last couple decades, and that's been the truth for the last couple decades because of the rules of the Senate, where a single Senator, there's 46 senators, a single Senator, one out of the 46 can beat the other 45.

You can't have a state with a population of five and a half million people and the issues we have to deal with where a single person has a veto over every single piece of legislation. Those days are over.

Kill Bill

I know this is going to get in the weeds, but I feel like it's worth sharing.

The way people killed bills in the past was even after you could end the filibuster, or even after you got 26 votes to invoke closure, they can still offer an infinite number of amendments.

Each amendment has 10 minutes for and 10 minutes against. So, even if somebody could get sat down on the filibuster, I could offer 14,000 amendments and then the Senate would have to stay on that bill until the session has to adjourn on May 10.

That was the effective veto that every Senator had. Now, when a closure motion is made, that closure motion can have a time certain devote.

Make the motion at two o'clock. Doesn't matter if there're two amendments or 2,000 amendments.

You can make a motion at 2:00 pm that we're going to vote at 5:00 pm. That is the rules change that has unlocked the Senate to finally deliver on conservative policy priorities, starting with The Heartbeat Bill.