

NOT LEFT. NOT RIGHT.  
**FORWARD**

# What's A Forwardist?







# I Vote As An Independent. And A Forwardist.

All my life, I've been an independent thinker. I've voted as an American, not a Democrat or Republican.

I have always looked for the candidate that will do their best to represent me, my family and neighbors with integrity and humility. Someone I thought would keep our communities and states strong for future generations.

The choices on the ballot have deteriorated and certainly don't favor an independent thinker. The major problem: there is no independent voice. I reject the notion that only Democrats or Republicans can solve America's problems. Our "two party system" is tired and broken and it isn't working for most of us. Independents are now the largest voting bloc in America. Seventy percent of us now think competitive third parties are needed. More ideas. More perspectives. More choices. More power in the hands of the voter and less power in the hands of parties and wealthy donors.

Electoral reform is desperately needed in America. That's why I became interested in - and then decided to support - the Forward Party. Its' mission is to elect better people for public office without chaining them to policy extremes. The Forward Party is building a solid infrastructure from the ground up; starting with local races and a platform built on values and principles. It's a fresh new approach to politics and a platform that voters like me are looking for.

And that's why I'm a Forwardist.



Christine Cavanagh  
Indian Land SC





Jim Andreen  
Columbia SC

# I'm A Businessman. And I'm A Forwardist.

I've spent my career solving problems. That's the job — to bring people together, align different perspectives, and make decisions based on data, not drama. So when I look at our political system, I see what I would never tolerate in my company: gridlock, finger-pointing, and an obsession with scoring points instead of making progress.

That's why I'm a Forwardist.

The Forward Party speaks to me because it doesn't play by the tired rules of left vs. right. It's about forward vs. backward — and as someone who builds strategies, leads teams, and drives innovation every day, I know exactly which direction we should be heading.

What I love about Forward is that it's practical. It's not about ideology — it's about outcomes. Forward people believe in bringing people together, listening to different ideas, and using facts to make fair, smart decisions.

The Forward Party wants to bring that same mindset to politics — and that's exactly what we need. Election systems that give people real choices, not just the lesser of two evils. Leaders who prioritize solutions over slogans. Forward supports reforms that make democracy work better. That's smart, modern, and long overdue.

But that's why I chose to be a Forwardist.







Dr. Najmah Thomas  
St. Helena SC

# I'm A PhD. And A Forwardist.

As a college professor, I encourage students to listen, think critically, and engage with respect for the other sides. I don't ask them to memorize talking points — I ask them to ask better questions.

That's also why I chose to be a Forwardist.

The Forward Party stands for the idea that we can disagree without dehumanizing each other, and that real leadership means listening, learning, and leading with integrity. It's a politics of humility and service — not ego and division.

We also need structural change, and Forward is serious about that too. Ranked-choice voting, open primaries, and uproar over gerrymandering and incumbency are not radical — they're essential upgrades to a democracy that needs to reflect its people instead the legacy political parties.

What I love most about Forward is that it doesn't assume it has all the answers — instead, it's committed to bringing people together to find the answers that work. That's how we approach research, teaching, and scholarship — and it's how we should approach governing.

I'm a professor. And I'm a Forwardist. Because I believe we can model a better way — one that values truth over tribalism, collaboration over conflict, and progress over politics as usual.

It's long overdue.







Brett Eisenhauer  
Charleston SC

## I'm A Structural Engineer. And A Forwardist.

I design the bones of the built environment. Hospitals, bridges, industrial facilities — structures that need to stand up to wind, seismic loads, and decades of use. And when something's not working, I don't wait for someone else to figure it out. I dig into the calcs and make it right. That's just how I'm wired.

Politics is no different. And right now, if you're like me, you're probably tired. Tired of the theater. Tired of watching people promise change and deliver excuses. Tired of a system that's better at fighting than fixing. I wonder what would happen if we actually tried to solve problems instead of winning arguments?

In engineering, the best solutions don't come from the loudest voice or the person with the most power. They come from looking at the real constraints and building something that works in the real world. Not in theory. Not in a campaign speech. In reality.

I'm not naive about how broken things are. But I also know what happens when you keep using the same failed design. The Forward Party is the first thing I've seen that's trying a different approach — cooperation, pragmatism, making things work.

I didn't abandon my principles. I just decided I'm done waiting for a system that won't fix itself.

That's why I'm a Forwardist.







# I'm An Artist. And I'm A Forwardist.

I see the world through color, rhythm, texture, and feeling. For me, life has always been about creating: a space, a moment, a message, a future. Whether I'm sketching a brand new idea or curating a full exhibit, I'm always reaching for what could be.

That's why I joined the Forward Party, too.

I look at the current political system and all I see are hard lines, rigid rules, and layers of paint so thick you can't see the original vision anymore. It's tired. It's loud. It's closed off. And honestly? It's not working for most of us.

But the Forward Party feels different. Forward invites innovation. It makes room for nuance, imagination, and connection. That speaks to me — not just as an artist, but as a humanist who's always balancing vision with reality. It reminds me of how I approach my art: I don't just react to the world — I reimagine it.

I believe in policies that are people-first, voting systems that allow honest choice, and leaders who listen more than they perform. Forward champions all of that. It isn't just politics — it's possibility.

You and I both know: creation is sacred. And being a Forwardist means choosing to build instead of break, to include instead of exclude, and to imagine boldly — even when the world tries to keep us small.

That's why I'm a Forwardist.



Carolina Delgado-Diaz  
Columbia SC





**Mayor Jay Doyle**  
**Georgetown SC**

# I'm A Mayor. And A Forwardist.

I'm Jay Doyle, and I was elected as Mayor of Georgetown in 2025, running as a candidate of the Forward Party.

I took an oath to serve my community, so I don't take words like "leadership" and "public service" lightly. I ran for office because I believe government should be a force for good – a force to bring people together, solve problems and build a better future.

But the hard truth is that the system isn't working the way it should. The incentives in politics reward division over dialog, extremism over methodical problem solving. Performative outrage gets the clicks and the eyeballs while "compromise" and "working across the aisle" must be avoided if we hope to be re-elected.

And that's why I'm a Forwardist.

The Forward Party represents the kind of politics I believe in – one that puts voters' preferences over party loyalty. I believe government should be about solutions and not about the rigid partisanship that we see in too many governing bodies today.

Being a Forwardist doesn't mean I've abandoned my principles – just the opposite. It allows me to do my job based on my values and principles instead of a party platform designed to "beat the other side." I'm spending my time bridging divides, elevating and representing my constituents. And I feel pretty good about that.

I'm proud to be a Forwardist.







Cathleen DeCourcy  
Jasper County, SC

# I'm A Good Christian. And A Forwardist.

As a follower of Christ, I believe in loving my neighbor, seeking peace, and standing for truth. I believe in humility, compassion, and service — not just in my personal life, but in the way we care for each other as a society.

Scripture teaches that “a house divided against itself cannot stand” (Mark 3:25). And right now, our political system feels deeply divided — not just between parties, but between people. We’ve lost the ability to talk to one another, to find common ground, and to focus on what’s right instead of who’s right. Forward is changing that.

Forward is not about pushing a specific agenda — it’s about restoring trust, bringing people together, and making decisions based on facts, fairness, and empathy. That aligns with my faith, because I believe God calls us to be peacemakers, not partisans. He calls us to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly — not to win arguments, but to serve others.

Faith, at its core, is about hope. And being a Forwardist gives me hope — not just for better politics, but for a better way of engaging as citizens, neighbors, and people of conscience.

I’m a Forwardist because I believe God honors those who seek peace, serve others, and work for the good of all. That’s what Forward stands for.

And why I chose to be a Forwardist.







Dean Porter  
Mt. Pleasant SC

# I Am A Lawyer. And I'm A Forwardist.

I knew from a young age I wanted to be a lawyer. I would watch legal shows on TV that addressed real world issues like civil rights, capital punishment and censorship, which brought me to believe that the rule of law, fairness, and systems that protect people were important.

Law school was hard, but I learned important things. That facts matter. Honesty matters. And respect matters, even for those you disagree with.

Politically, I was drawn to the Forward Party because it reflects these values, values I think have been lost by the major parties.

The Forward Party is bringing fresh air to politics. It's challenging conventional wisdom. Bringing a renewed way of thinking about what public service means. Offering up solutions that go beyond building a brand, padding a resume, chasing power or a "career in politics."

Forward is about fixing the system—not just complaining about what's broken, but offering reforms to fix the system. Empowering voters and promoting fairness. Looking at the world differently, and understanding that there are more than one way way to look at a problem.

Takes me back to when I was a young man, just thinking about law school. The things I believed in. The idea that you measure success by the good you do for others, not by what you gain for yourself.

To me, all this matters. And that's why I'm a Forwardist.







Kayla Sullivan  
Georgetown SC

# I'm Gen Z. And I'm A Forwardist.

I just graduated from college and, like a lot of my friends, I have too much tuition debt and too little confidence that I will eventually be able to build a future like I envisioned growing up. I'm excited about finally becoming an independent adult, but I'm already feeling exhausted by the constant negative, performative, partisan politics everywhere I turn.

So I decided to become a Forwardist.

In a way it is a statement of non-compliance. I don't want to be part of a system that I sense has been leading our democracy off a cliff. But the Forward Party seems to speak to my generation - not by pandering but by being honest. I'm for progress over partisanship and collaboration over chaos.

All through school I've been taught how to think and solve problems...how to listen to various opinions and look for common ground. Isn't that what government should be about too?

My generation is tired of government being about the wealthiest, loudest, most extreme voices. And we are tired of choosing between "the lesser of two evils." We want something new, something fresh. We want something real.

I know a lot is at stake now so I am ready to invest energy and ideas in building a better future for everyone - not more of the same old dysfunctional government.

It made total sense for me to be a Forwardist.







Tom Hegarty (center)  
Mt. Pleasant SC

# I Am A Marine. And A Forwardist.

In uniform, we're taught to lead with integrity, to work as a team, and accomplish the mission, no matter what. We don't get to ignore the problem or point fingers — we solve it.

That's what drew me to the Forward Party.

In the military, we come from every background you can imagine. We don't always agree, but we don't let that stop us from working side by side. That's the mindset we need in our government.

Right now, too many of our leaders are stuck in endless arguments that go nowhere while real people struggle. That's not leadership. That's dysfunction.

As a veteran, I know what it means to swear an oath to something bigger than yourself. I see that same spirit in the Forward Party — a commitment to service, to principle, and to putting in the work to build something better. Our two major political parties seem to have forgotten all this.

I'm tired of the noise. I'm tired of being told I have to pick a side when neither side is delivering. I want solutions. I want unity. I want leadership. America deserves a political movement that reflects the best of us — not the loudest, but the bravest, the clearest, and the most committed to getting things done.

I learned how to lead. I learned what service means. My goal is to bring that same discipline, respect, and mission-first mindset to our democracy.

And why I decided to be a Forwardist.







Intensive  
Care  
Unit

Mindy Burgin  
Campobello SC

# I'm A Nurse. And Yes, I'm A Forwardist.

As a nurse, my job is to care for people — no matter who they are, where they come from, or what they believe. When someone is hurting, I don't ask what party they vote for. I show up, I listen, and I do everything I can to help them heal.

And that's why I'm a Forwardist.

I'm part of the Forward Party because I believe our country needs healing, not more division. We need leaders who focus on working together, finding common ground, and fixing real problems — not just arguing on cable news or social media.

The Forward Party speaks to what I do every day as a nurse: putting people first, listening with empathy, and making decisions based on facts. That's how you take care of someone. And that's how we should be taking care of our country.

Right now, I see patients and families struggling — with the cost of healthcare, with mental health issues, with stress and burnout. And yet our politics keeps going in circles.

I believe in compassion, truth, and service. That's what drew me to nursing — and it's what draws me to the Forward Party. It's not trying to score political points; it's trying to make things better. That's what we're supposed to do — show up for each other, care for one another, and build something that works for everyone.

So yes, I'm a nurse. And yes, I'm a Forwardist. Because I'm tired of watching pain go untreated — in our hospitals and in our politics.







Shelly Lee  
James Island SC

# I'm A Teacher. And A Forwardist.

I've spent my life in the classroom — cultivating vision, nurturing critical thought, and planting seeds of curiosity. I teach from a place that holds history in one hand and hope in the other.

That's why I joined the Forward Party.

Politics today is so reactive, so short-sighted, and so disconnected from the communities it claims to serve. The political space feels more like a battleground than a place where problems get solved. And yet, day after day, I'm asked to tell our students to believe in democracy — to care, to participate, to imagine better.

Forward gives me something real to point to. It reflects the best of what we try to model in our classrooms: intellectual honesty, respectful dialogue, and the ability to hold complexity without collapsing into conflict. It's a movement that values both courage and compassion — and that's rare.

I'm a Forwardist because I still believe in the transformative power of policy — when it is informed by lived experience and designed with integrity. I believe in systems that adapt to people, not the other way around. Like any good educator, I know there's no single solution — context matters. Voice matters. History matters.

Our students are watching to see whether we only teach about these things, or whether we really live them. We need to think and act differently.

That's why I became a Forwardist.





If you are one of the 70% of American voters unhappy with the state of our politics, the Forward Party has a place for you. You said you wanted an alternative to “standard” Republican and Democratic politics, and the Forward Party is building it.

Our goal is a culture of free people, enjoying a vibrant democracy and living in thriving communities across South Carolina and the nation.

Unfortunately, our legacy political parties - Republican and Democrat - have failed to produce the kind of national culture to sustain this. They have embroiled us in argument after argument on non-essential issues that lead us away from this goal.

It’s time to think different when selecting candidates, time to repair a broken electoral system that rewards only those in power, and time to re-engage with a sense of positivity and community purpose. The Forward Party is building that foundation, and you can be part of it.

Learn more about the Forward Party and its goals and aspirations at *forwardparty.com* See what is being built in South Carolina at *southcarolinaforwardparty.com* And if this is you, then join with us.

There is a place for you in the South Carolina Forward Party. Come be a part of it all!



Authorized and paid for by the South Carolina Forward Party, PO Box 13715, Charleston SC 29412.



Learn more about the Forward Party. [Click here.](https://www.southcarolinaforwardparty.com)  
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