

TOMI LAHREN AND OTHERS HOLDING RALLY AT LITTLEJOHN

Caroline Elswick
Asst. News Editor

Tensions at Clemson have been high following the announcement of Tomi Lahren and Brandon Tatum's "Back the Blue" rally, scheduled for Thursday, April 8.

The Clemson chapter of TPUSA announced the event in the beginning of March. The rally was originally planned to take place at the Madren Center, but a surge in requested tickets led the chapter to seek out a larger space.

"Our chapter is now hoping to host the event at a much larger arena to accommodate the 119,000 tickets requested," read a GoFundMe created by the chapter, which raised nearly \$2,000 in just a week.

Clemson's TPUSA chapter alleges that people reserved seats with no intention of going, in hopes of decreasing the actual turnout at the event.

The event originally had free tickets, but to raise funds for the event, Clemson TPUSA increased the price to \$10.

Student organizations such as CUSG's Council of Diversity Affairs responded with opposition



Brandon Tatum, Mike Cernovich, Tomi Lahren and former Arizona State Senator Kelli Ward attend a campaign rally for Ward in 2018. Tatum and Lahren's visit to Clemson on April 8 has sparked controversy across campus.

to the event.

"If the university is unable to move the event, we want to see the university denounce the rhetoric of the event," read a statement from the CODA Action Committee.

Tomi Lahren went on "FOX & Friends" last week to speak about student opposition to her visit.

"We will not be cancelled; we will not back down. Come hell, high water or liberal snowflakes, I will be speaking at Clemson next week, I can promise you guys this," said Lahren.

Lahren also said that the event will be held at Littlejohn Coliseum. The Tiger reached out to the university for confirmation but did not receive a response after multiple requests.

In an Instagram post on March 28, Clemson TPUSA said that "they tried to stop us," followed by screenshots of articles from Greenville's 106.3 WYRD-FM, a press statement by Clemson College Democrats and The Tiger.

Caroline Ennis, sophomore genetics major, is president of Clemson

College Democrats. Ennis speaks for herself and not on behalf of the organization.

"Ms. Lahren has mishandled the criticism she received and her actions, including unprofessional attacks on student organizations, are not exemplary of someone who should be welcomed at an intellectual institution," said Ennis.

Lahren has her own show on FOX Nation, "No Interruption," and 1.9 million followers on Instagram.

"You will not keep me from coming," wrote Lahren, "but you

can keep trying if you like!" Lahren herself was a member of student media at University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Taylor Rodgers, Clemson TPUSA vice president and CUSG Senate president, confirmed the change to Littlejohn late Sunday evening.

"We wanted the event to be open to everyone, including those with different opinions," said Rodgers.

The event has also added Graham Allen as a third panelist.



Photo courtesy of the Office of the Governor

Gov. Henry McMaster visits a COVID-19 vaccine administration site.

SOUTH CAROLINIANS 16 AND OLDER ELIGIBLE FOR COVID VACCINE

Krishna Patel
Senior News Reporter

South Carolina recently expanded its eligibility for the COVID-19 vaccine to all residents aged 16 and older, including part-time residents such as Clemson students.

Those aged 16 and older can register with a provider for the Pfizer vaccine and those aged 18 and older can register for the Pfizer, Moderna, or Janssen vaccines.

This expansion comes after more than 2 million doses of the vaccine have been administered in the state and 17.1% of residents have been fully vaccinated.

"By staying the course and resisting distractions, we've expanded South Carolinians' access and eligibility for vaccinations faster than originally anticipated," said Gov. Henry McMaster in a Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) press release on March 26.

South Carolina has been able to skip Phase 1C, which included vaccinating everyone over the age of 45 and remaining essential healthcare workers.

"It's a milestone that we've been able to achieve actually much sooner than we initially thought we would," said Nick Davidson, the senior deputy of public health, in an update from the department on March 31.

All 50 states plan to expand COVID-19 vaccine eligibility to everyone 16 or older by late March and early April.

With summer quickly approaching, the Palmetto State is hoping to reassure tourists about travel by fast-tracking eligibility. In 2018, the Governor's Conference on Tourism and Travel reported that the S.C. tourism industry brought in \$23.8 billion, and in 2020, the same Conference reported tourism losses totaling \$5.5 billion.

However, students and employees who choose to get vaccinated will still need to continue with required COVID-19 testing every seven days, according to student affairs.

"The more we vaccinate at our University, the closer we will be to some semblance of normalcy," said Dr. Corey Kalbaugh, lead epidemiologist at Clemson, in a recent email sent to students. "The vaccine email and has proven to help prevent serious cases of COVID-19."

Same Day Appointments

AVAILABLE

PRIMARY CARE OFFICE
with counseling services on site

CONTRACEPTIVE MANAGEMENT
including long-acting methods

COMMUNICATE W/ YOUR DOCTOR
with our Patient Portal

Primary health | Behavioral health | Tele-Psychiatry

YOUR MEDICAL HOME

AWAY FROM HOME



FOOTHILLS
COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE

110 Liberty Dr. Clemson, SC
(Behind Golds Gym)

(864) 722-0283

www.myfchc.org

