
Title: **Attorney Rivers named to Water & Sewer board**
Author: JCST STAFF REPORT
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Attorney Rivers named to Water & Sewer board

JCST STAFF REPORT

Thayer Rivers, a Ridgeland-based attorney, was named by the Jasper County Legislative Delegation to serve on the Beaufort Jasper Water and Sewer Authority Board.

He was appointed by Gov. Nikki Haley to replace Jimmy Baker to represent the town of Ridgeland.

His term of service expires July 1, 2022.

Title: **State House re-elects leadership. Senate adopts rule changes**
 Author: BY JIM HILLEY jim@theitem.com
 Size: 34.56 column inches
 Sumter, SC Circulation: 19018



State House re-elects leadership, Senate adopts rule changes

BY JIM HILLEY

jim@theitem.com

The South Carolina House and Senate met Tuesday in organizational sessions, electing leadership and installing new members.

After re-electing Sen. Hugh Leatherman, R-Darlington, as president pro tem, the Senate approved changes to Senate rules intended to make it easier to pass legislation out of the chamber.

Leatherman praised the changes as a step forward for the Senate.

"Today, we adopted a set of rules that should make our time in the Senate Chamber more efficient and allow us to focus on the priorities of this state. After all, that's

why we were all elected," Leatherman said. "I created a committee this past session to look at the rules, and it's a great step forward for us to come together and make these changes."

Democrats in the Senate said the new rules would weaken the ability of the minority party to affect legislation.

The changes to the rules approved by the Senate include: eliminating "minority reports," which are attached to bills once they emerge from committee; allowing high-priority bills to be debated sooner in the legislative day than before; and changing cloture rules so that

the Senate can adjourn and return the next day to the bill under cloture.

Leatherman was able to keep his powerful pro tem post, even though he said he will not take the job of lieutenant governor if the U.S. Senate confirms Gov. Nikki Haley as United Nations ambassador.

Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster will replace Haley if she's confirmed as President-elect Donald Trump's U.N. pick. The state constitution calls for the pro tem to become lieutenant governor, and some lawmakers had objected to

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SESSION

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Leatherman shunning the line of succession.

In the House of Representatives, Rep. Jay Lucas (R-Darlington) was re-elected as the chamber's leader for another two years.

Lucas was sworn in Tuesday as House speaker after his colleagues unanimously elected him. He was unopposed for the chamber's top post.

Lucas said Tuesday he's "going to be excited and en-

thusiastic every day" he walks into the chamber, and he encouraged his colleagues to take the same approach. He ended his speech saying, "Let's get busy."

GOP Rep. Tommy Pope of York was re-elected House Speaker pro tem. He too was unopposed.

New members of the General Assembly took their oaths of office Tuesday as well, including Rep. Will Wheeler, D-Bishopville, who

was elected to take the House District 50 seat long held by Grady Brown, who did not run for re-election. The district includes portions of Kershaw, Sumter and Lee counties.

"I am looking forward to serving and making my way and learning how everything gets done," Wheeler said. "I will do a lot of listening and observing and will figure out my place and how to get things accomplished."

The Associated Press contributed to this article.

Title: **Common sense holds Scott will stay in Senate**
 Author:
 Size: 49.29 column inches
 Hartsville, SC Circulation: 6303



Editorial

Common sense holds Scott will stay in Senate

Perhaps the best job in the world for anyone passionate about policy and politics is to be a United States senator.

It pays well. You get to travel. You become part of an exclusive club where you can actually do big, meaningful things. You learn about a lot of different topics. And it can be a special kind of



**Andy
Brack**

wonky fun, despite long hours, politicking, fund-raising and endless meetings.

"I can do more to help more people," by being in the Senate over the long term than by advocating for people in individual cases as a lawyer, former U.S. Sen. Fritz Hollings once told me.

So it comes as a head-scratcher to read that 51-year-old U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, just elected to his first full term, may be considering running for governor in 2018 – especially after news that fellow Republican and Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster will step into Gov. Nikki Haley's shoes when she becomes ambassador to the United Nations for President-elect Donald Trump.

It's all but certain that McMaster, who has wanted to be governor for years, will seek a full gubernatorial term in 2018. And with a Republican now to be in the White House, it defies logic that Scott would want to leave Washington now that the GOP also controls the House and Senate. You'd think that Scott, frequently listed as one of the nation's rising political stars, would prefer the national spotlight over a smaller state one. Besides, he could always run in 2022 after McMaster, who would be 75 by then, had served a full term.

Yet we read a few stories, confirmed by a Scott spokesman, that Scott is considering but hasn't made any decisions about running for governor. He is "simply just going to pray about" running with U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy, a Spartanburg Republican, as his lieutenant governor running mate. Both men, you might recall, have been named to be part of Trump's transition team – more evidence of their national stature.

Scott's rise to national prominence has been meteoric. Born in North Charleston in 1965 in working-class poverty, a conservative mentor "helped instill in Tim the notion that you can think your way out of poverty, and that the golden opportunity is always right around the corner," Scott's bio offers.

In February 1995, Scott won a special election for Charleston County Council where he served until 2009 when he became a member of the S.C. House of Representatives. In 2010, he was considering a bid for lieutenant governor, but decided instead to run for U.S. House with news that a coastal seat would be open. He won a runoff against Paul Thurmond, son of legendary U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond. Two years later, he was re-elected.

But a month and a half later in December 2012, Haley appointed

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 Author:
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Scott to the U.S. Senate seat vacated by the surprise retirement of Jim DeMint making Scott the first black U.S. senator since Reconstruction. In 2014, Scott won his first statewide election to finish DeMint's expired term. This past November, he won a six-year term to the Senate by nabbing about 1.2 million votes in the Palmetto State – more than Trump did.

So after five big elections in the last eight years, it seems Scott might want to coast for a bit – to get away from as much fund-raising and glad-handing – to enjoy being a senator, not mixing it up over another seat.

News of Haley's imminent departure to the United Nations and its impact in the political calculations for the ambitious are surely unwelcome holiday gifts to several Republicans who have been eyeing the governor's mansion, including former Lt. Gov. Yancey McGill of Williamsburg who has been raising money for months. Also on the list: S.C. House Speaker Pro Tem Tommy Pope of York County, former agency head Catherine Templeton of Mount Pleasant and incumbent Attorney General Alan Wilson.

The only person whose political math hasn't changed is S.C. Senate Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman, the Florence Republican who chairs the Senate Finance Committee. While one scenario shows him as the next lieutenant governor, he squelched that notion by saying he'd just stick to the state Senate. And that makes complete sense because that's where he's may have more power and influence than any governor.

Andy Brack is editor and publisher of Statehouse Report. Have a comment?
 Send to: feedback@statehousereport.com.

Title: **USE Submits \$87 Million wish List to State Lawmakers**
 Author: By Andy Shain
 Size: 37.04 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 36854



USC Submits \$87 Million Wish List to State Lawmakers

By Andy Shain

The University of South Carolina's \$87 million wish list from the state budget next year includes help paying to move its medical school, renovate the old law school building and bolster its health and computing programs.

Gov. Nikki Haley and lawmakers have grumbled that colleges keep asking for more state money to cover expansion costs while they keep raising tuition.

USC counters, saying tuition hikes, which have averaged about 3 percent annually in the past five years, pays for hikes in salaries and retirement, utility bills, computer security costs and insurance.

Public colleges have not received their bigger requests in recent years. Lawmakers usually give colleges smaller amounts, some times in the millions, beyond their regular budgets. USC, which has a \$1.1 billion annual budget, got an extra \$5 million this year to expand the Honors College.

USC is not alone in seeking extra funding for special or big projects. Clemson University, the state's second-largest college behind USC, is requesting more than \$73 million in annual funding for self-driving vehicle and cybersecurity programs, and a new business school building and advance materials science complex.

Colleges still can add to their requests before budget hearings begin in the State House. USC unveiled its plans to relocate the School of Medicine two days before Christmas last year.

USC is seeking \$71.5 million for building projects and more than \$15 million for new and expanded programs, and additional

faculty. The school's budget requests for next year feature:

School of Medicine relocation: \$50 million

The university wants to jump start plans to move USC's medical school from next to the Veterans Administration hospital on Garners Ferry Road to a site on the Bull Street development near Palmetto Health Richland. The \$80 million first phase includes a 130,000-square-foot building opening in 2020. The rest of the money would come from gifts, including donation of land for the medical school site, and \$15 million in "local government support." The \$120 million second phase — paid with cash, gifts and bonds — should be finished in 2023.

Law school building renovation: \$21.5 million

This money would help convert the 44-year-old, 193,972-square-foot Main Street building for classrooms and labs on the growing west side of campus after the law school moves next fall. The state already allocated \$3.5 million and the university plans to kick in another \$20 million to rehabilitate one of its largest academic buildings.

IT-Computing collaborative: \$5.6 million

USC plans to launch a new program coordinating work in the information technology, digital humanities and animation programs as well as collaborate with technical schools (\$1.8 million for faculty, \$2.5 million

for computers and software, and \$1.3 million for maintenance and upgrades).

Health science program: \$5.4 million

Health sciences are a key academic area as USC prepares to build the new medical school and health sciences campus at the Bull Street development. The college wants to hire 12 biomedical engineering, chemistry, biology, public health and nursing professors (\$4.6 million) and establish a "learning/living community" for health science students (\$660,000 for staff).

"Student Success Initiative": \$2.5 million

USC hopes to bolster its nationally top-rated Honors College (\$970,000 for additional faculty and advisors), aid student retention (\$930,000 for additional student advisers, tutors and advising programs) and add classes that focus on "developing reflective and critical thinking skills so that our graduates can transfer and apply what they have learned in college to other contexts to solve real world problems ... through service leadership, undergraduate research, and other experiential projects." (\$605,000 for instructors).

School of Medicine professors: \$1.75 million

With this money, USC would add four biomedical engineering and basic sciences professors and four administrative coordinators for education and outreach. **B**

Let us know what you think. Email news@free-times.com.

Title: **Future Unclear for Richland Rec Commission Board**
 Author: By Chris TTainor
 Size: 41.23 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 36854



Future Unclear for Richland Rec Commission Board

By Chris Trainor

With four board members of the embattled Richland County Recreation Commission having already resigned, and the fate of the remaining three commissioners resting with Gov. Nikki Haley, the agency's leadership remains in limbo.

Four commissioners — Weston Furgess, Wilbert Lewis, George Martin and Joseph Weeks — have stepped down from their posts at the behest of Haley, who issued a November order calling for their ouster. The three remaining board members — Chairwoman J. Marie Green, Vice Chairwoman Barbara Mickens and Thomas Clark — exercised their right to a Nov. 30 hearing in front a panel of attorneys appointed by the governor.

Haley is expected to make a ruling on those three commissioners based on the recommendations of the panel.

Regardless of how Haley rules, the makeup of the commission board — which governs the agency that runs sports and recreational facilities and programs across the county and received more than \$13 million in county funding last year — will soon be drastically different.

The commission is supposed to have its next board meeting on Dec. 19 and does not

have a quorum. Recreation Commission human resources director David Stringer says he hopes to soon have clarity as to the status of that meeting.

He also says the commission will continue its mission.

"While we do not know the results of the [Nov. 30] hearing, RCRC will work with the [legislative] delegation and Richland County to ensure the continuous operation of com-

mission facilities," Stringer told *Free Times*.

Stringer says commission staff has been in "close contact" with Richland County staff to ensure there is adequate funding for the commission's operations.

Though it is funded by the county, the Recreation Commission is a special purpose district that is not governed County Council. Its board members are recommended by the Richland County legislative delegation — that is, state lawmakers from the county — and appointed by the governor.

State Sen. John Courson has said he plans to file legislation that would put the commission under the guidance of the county.

Meanwhile, county leaders launched an independent audit of the commission this week, paying a California consulting firm \$80,000 to examine the agency's financial practices. Findings are expected in three months.

The legislative delegation is seeking applicants for a number of boards, including the Recreation Commission. Applications are due by 4 p.m. Dec. 12.

State Sen. John Scott, currently the chairman of the delegation, says he expects to begin work to fill the empty Recreation Commission posts at the delegation's Dec. 15 meeting.

State Rep. Beth Bernstein, who has been sharply critical of former Recreation Commission Director James Brown III and has repeatedly called for a majority of the commission board to be removed, says getting new blood on the commission board is a top priority.

"We need to fill these vacancies and go ahead and take applications for a new executive director," Bernstein says.

The commissioners were accused of

enabling an environment at the Recreation Commission in which Brown allegedly used his director's post to coerce female commission employees into "sexual contact" with him from 2012 to 2015, and in which employee intimidation and rampant nepotism were reportedly taking place.

Brown, who retired from the Recreation Commission in October, has been charged with misconduct in office and witness intimidation. Commission Chief of Staff Tara Dickerson has been running the agency in the interim.

At the nearly four-hour Nov. 30 hearing, the governor's panelists — South Carolina attorneys Ashley Cuttino, Thomas Lydon and Derrick Williams — spent the most time grilling Green, the commission's chairwoman.

Williams questioned Green about accusations of nepotism, noting that Brown's brother, son and four nieces have all worked for the commission, and that numerous

members of Green's family — three nephews and a niece — have also worked there.

Green said she didn't have a hand in her family members being hired to work for the organization.

"I never thought there was anything wrong with that, because they have the right to work just like anybody else has the right to work," Green said. "As a matter of fact, I didn't even know they were working there. They told me they were working there. I didn't go to anyone [to get them hired]. ... They don't live with me. They are grown adults. I live miles and miles from them. ... They applied for those jobs and got them on their own. I didn't have anything to do with that."

Title: **Mistrial Declared in Police Shooting Case**

Author:

Size: 24.95 column inches

Columbia, SC Circulation: 36854

**Michael Slager**

Mistrial Declared in Police Shooting Case

A mistrial was declared because of a hung jury in the trial of Michael Slager, a white former North Charleston police officer who shot and killed black motorist Walter Scott in 2015. Slager was caught on camera firing bullets into Scott's back as he fled. Jurors deliberated murder and voluntary manslaughter charges for more than four days. At one point, there were suggestions that perhaps only one juror was on the fence about a conviction. However, *The Post and Courier* reports that a majority of the jury said it remained undecided on Monday morning. The former officer will remain free on bail through the holidays. Prosecutor Scarlett Wilson has vowed to try Slager again.

In the wake of the mistrial, Scott's brother Anthony called for calm, saying, "We're not going to tear up this city. We're going to keep it just the way it is. We're going to believe in peaceful protests, because it didn't turn out the way we feel, but we feel our voices need to be heard." Gov. Nikki Haley also weighed in, saying a new trial might bring closure. "Justice is not always immediate, but we must all have faith that it will be served — I certainly do. I urge South Carolinians — in Charleston and across our state — to continue along the path we have walked these last two years: a path of grace, faith, love and understanding."

— *Chris Trainor and Eva Moore*

Title: 1 , , everybody's about succession iffweg&w?-

Author:

Size: 42.78 column inches

Pageland, SC Circulation: 4126



No wonder everybody's confused about succession

Editor's note: This piece was updated Nov. 28, 2016, 3:36 p.m. with the following: In 2012, when voters approved the constitutional amendment placing the governor and lieutenant governor on the same ticket, it stated that changes regarding the succession of lieutenant governor and governor would take effect in 2018. When the legislature actually amended the constitution, however, it omitted the dates – making the changes effective immediately. Lawmakers may have intended the change to take effect in 2018, but what found its way into the constitution – by negligence or design – is an effective date of 2014.

— Phillip Cease

By HANNAH HILL

The Nerve.com

What happens if Governor Nikki Haley leaves office before the end of her term?

What if Lieutenant Governor Henry McMaster also does? Who would be governor then?

Those questions have been raised over the last several days along with speculation about posts in the Trump administration – and some insiders are getting them wrong.

Before 2014, South Carolina's Constitution

required that in the absence of a lieutenant governor, the Senate president pro tempore would give up his seat and serve as lieutenant governor.

If both Haley and McMaster resigned, Senator Hugh Leatherman, as Senate president, would have been required to give up his Senate seat to become governor.

The Senate would then elect a new president, who would also give up his Senate seat, to become lieutenant governor.

That year, however, the constitution was amended. Now it stipulates that if the governor is unable to serve, the lieutenant governor takes her place and “nominates his own lieutenant governor,” with the advice and consent of the Senate.

To find out what happens if the line of succession needs to go further than the lieutenant governor, you have to look at the law, not the constitution, which states that if both the governor and lieutenant governor are unable to serve, the Senate president will “perform the duties and exercise the powers of governor” until the next election.

If he cannot serve, the speaker of the House would. If neither of them can serve, the General Assembly elects

a new governor.

In other words, today, with Haley and McMaster both gone, Leatherman would assume the powers and duties of the governor without hav-

ing to give up his position as Senate president.

Senate president's powers

The Senate president already has considerable power, including a seat on the five-member State Fiscal Accountability Authority governing panel, which makes bonding and financial decisions for the state; the ability to appoint two of the 10 members of the Joint Transportation Review Committee, which screens and nominates DOT Commissioners; and the ability to appoint two of the 10 members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission, which nominates judges for election by the General Assembly.

There already are 64 board, commission or committee positions connected to the Senate president, and the current president also chairs the Senate finance committee.

If both the governor and lieutenant governor should leave, he'd control all three branches of government.

Title: **Winter Weather Awareness Week Being Observed This Week**
 Author:
 Size: 22.01 column inches
 Dillon, SC Circulation: 5278



Winter Weather Awareness Week Being Observed This Week

Governor Nikki Haley has proclaimed the week of December 4 through December 10, 2016, as South Carolina Winter Weather Preparedness Week. The South Carolina Emergency Management Division and the National Weather Service along with the agencies that comprise the State Emergency Response Team encourage everyone in South Carolina to prepare for severe winter weather by checking supplies and safety plans now. Snowfall, ice storms and extreme cold can immobilize an entire region. Even areas that normally experience mild winters can be hit with an ice storm or extreme cold. Winter storms can result in flooding,

storm surge, closed highways, blocked roads, downed power lines and hypothermia.

Residents should take the proper winter weather precautions now during milder temperatures while the winter emergency supplies are in low demand:

- Include winter supplies like shovels and rock salt in your household emergency kit.

- Prepare for possible isolation in your home by having sufficient heating fuel; regular fuel sources may be cut off.

- Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and plastic and allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing.

- Learn how to shut off

water valves in case a pipe bursts.

- Portable generators are commonly used in the winter as a result of storm-induced power outages. Carbon monoxide fumes are odorless and deadly. Follow manufacturer's instructions to prevent death from carbon monoxide.

- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.

- Chimneys should be cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional. If not, it can become filled with

highly flammable layers of creosote.

- Have your vehicle serviced to ensure it is prepared for the winter season.

- In every vehicle, place a winter emergency kit that includes: a shovel; windshield scraper and small broom; flashlight; battery-powered radio; extra batteries; water; snack food; matches; extra hats, socks and mittens; first aid kit with a pocket knife; medications; blankets; tow chain or rope; road salt and sand; booster cables; emergency flares; and a fluorescent distress flag. The S.C. Severe Winter Weather Guide is available for download at scemd.org.

Title: **Sen. Scott Tours Iobs Incubator In Gaffney Monday**
 Author: Staff Report
 Size: 24.33 column inches
 Gaffney, SC Circulation: 5800



Sen. Scott Tours Jobs Incubator In Gaffney Monday

Staff Report

U.S. Senator Tim Scott visited Gaffney briefly Monday, touring the new bGEN job incubator facility in downtown Gaffney and talking with leaders about the progressive plan to create and maintain good jobs in the community.

Timothy Eugene "Tim" Scott, 51, is the junior United States Senator for South Carolina. A Republican, he joined the Senate in 2013 when South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley named him to fill the U.S. Senate seat vacated by Jim DeMint. Scott ran in a special election in 2014 for the final two years of DeMint's second term, and won the seat handily.

Currently, he and SC Senator Trey Gowdy are both members of President Elect Donald Trump's transition team. One of the primary focus of the newly-elected president-elect is creating and keeping good jobs.

Along with Democrat Cory Booker of New Jersey, Scott is one of two African Americans serving in the United States Senate. He is the first African-American senator from the state of South

Carolina, the first black Republican elected to the United States Senate since the election of Edward Brooke in 1966, and the first elected from the South since 1881, four years after the end of Reconstruction.

The project he visited in Gaffney, bGEN, was created by KNOW2, a nonprofit organization devoted to helping people aspire and achieve an education so they can get or create a job, provide for their lives and families and give back to others.

The bGEN project here is operated by Roger Ferrell and Brian Ziegelhefer.

The business generator was two years in preparation and opened at 301 North Limestone in downtown Gaffney with assistance from the Gaffney City Council, which provided the building.

"With the support of the Appalachian Regional Council, the City of Gaffney and the Timken Corporation, we are serving new business owners and those who are dreaming of starting their own for-profit or non-profit venture," Ferrell says.

Title: **It's win-win for Haley, McMaster**

Author:

Size: 24.18 column inches

Gaffney, SC Circulation: 8218



It's win-win for Haley, McMaster

Thumbs up to S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley and S.C. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster. Haley has been appointed by President-elect Donald Trump as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. McMaster will ascend to governor, the job he has always wanted. It's a win-win proposition, pending approval by the U.S. Senate.

Haley has aspired to a national role and is getting it in a cabinet-level position. No telling what kind of springboard this could be for her future in Washington. The move is surprising, given her strong opposition to Trump before the South Carolina primary and Republican National Convention.

She has been an exceptional economic ambassador for South Carolina, but the daughter of Indian immigrants lacks experience in foreign policy and diplomacy. She led the state well after a Charleston church massacre, the so-called Thousand-Year Flood and Hurricane Matthew. She also clashed with the General Assembly in general and S.C. Sen. Hugh K. Leatherman of Florence in particular.

We still haven't forgiven her for calling him out while speaking at a Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce luncheon. She endorsed one of his opponents in a bitter primary race.

We believe the easygoing McMaster will work well with our legislators. Now maybe a much-needed gas-tax increase without strings attached will stand a chance so South Carolina can fix its crumbling roads.

As the nation's first statewide official to endorse Trump, McMaster was being mentioned for a possible role in Washington. That could have opened the door for Leatherman to ascend to governor, which would have presented a dilemma. He's more powerful as the president pro tempore of the Senate and the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. He certainly is more powerful than the lieutenant governor, a largely ceremonial position, which is why he is expected to step down as president pro tempore to avoid that "promotion."

McMaster endorsed Leatherman before the Republican primary. We look forward to a solid relationship between the two for the good of South Carolina.

— *The (Florence) Morning News*