

Title: **Gov. Haley still supporting Trump**
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DECISION 2016

Gov. Haley still supporting Trump

BY JAMIE SELF

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COLUMBIA

Asked Monday whether GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump could do anything to lose her vote, Gov. Nikki Haley said she will continue to support her party's candidate.

"If I've got to deal with these two candidates, Trump is the better candidate of the two," Haley said during a press conference Monday.

The two-term Republican governor added she is concerned about the outlook for the economy under a Democratic president, as well the directors who would be appointed to run federal agencies that impact state government and a Democrat's nominees to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"With the (Supreme Court) members that Trump has suggested, we would keep a conservative court," she said.

While Haley has said she would support the GOP nominee, voting for Trump, some top Republican donors and elected officials are refusing to support the bombastic billionaire, casting doubt

on just how committed Republicans are to their party's candidate.

Haley's comments Monday come a week after she added her voice to a chorus of Republicans criticizing Trump's treatment of the parents of a Muslim U.S. Army captain who died in Iraq in 2004.

Last week, Haley expressed support for the Gold Star family and, without naming Trump, said they should not face criticism for their comments criticizing the GOP nominee at the Democratic convention – a position Haley repeated Monday.

Haley also said she would continue to criticize or praise candidates where she sees fit.

But, she added, "I'm not going to spend the next three months going back and forth on what either candidate says because I have a state to run."

Asked Monday to respond to conservative writer Ann Coulter's criticism of her, Haley said, "Bless her heart" – the same way she responded to an earlier attack by Trump.



Title: **Haley praises flood relief by local crews**
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Haley praises flood relief by local crews

Public works group hears from governor

AMANDA COYNE

THE GREENVILLE NEWS

Gov. Nikki Haley praised the efforts of public works employees across South Carolina to bring the state out from under the floodwaters of last October's devastating deluge in an address to the South Carolina chapter of the American Public Works Association in Greenville on Monday morning.

"When I look back on what the public servants did, we couldn't have handled it without them," Haley said at the trade group's meeting at the Hyatt Regency hotel.

Public works employees are the often unseen workers who help keep utilities including power and water running to homes; when natural disasters

like the October flood take those utilities offline, public works employees are the people who work to get those utilities back up. In the aftermath of the flood, local and county public works departments got to work before state and federal aid arrived, Haley said. The governor recalled some public works officials asking her to tell the public to stop bringing coffee and donuts to workers. While the gesture was appreciated, it got in the way of work.

But while the response from municipal and county agencies was swift, Haley said the state was not as prepared for the flood as it would have been for another natural disaster.

"We always planned for a

hurricane," Haley said of the emergency preparedness plans during her tenure. "Thankfully the hurricane didn't come, but we got two winter storms and a 1,000-year flood instead."

The state acted quickly when they learned heavy rains were coming, but they could not predict how much rain would fall. After much of the state was drenched, public works departments collaborated with state and federal agencies to repair the damage.

"What got us through was over-communication," Haley said. "We left no stone unturned and made sure everyone had everything they needed."

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Flood

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By Thanksgiving, 90 percent of the roads that were closed after the flood had reopened. There are still 36 roads closed due to flood damage in South Carolina, including 12

of bridge damage.

Many dams failed or were damaged during the flood, Haley said inspections will occur more often, including on privately-owned dams. "As some dams are still damaged, we thought we needed to worry about."

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Title: **Haley taps Columbia attorney as labor chief**
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Haley taps Columbia attorney as labor chief

Gov. Nikki Haley has tapped a Columbia attorney specializing in employment law as the new head of the state Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation. Local media outlets report that during a Statehouse news conference Monday, Haley announced that Emily Farr, an attorney at Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, will head the agency. Farr succeeds Richele Taylor who was named director in December of 2014. Taylor is leaving to join Haley's staff as chief legal counsel. The state Senate must confirm Farr's appointment. — AP

Title: **Officials offering reading disorder training**
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S.C. EDUCATION

Officials offering reading disorder training

Staff report

The South Carolina Department of Education's Office of Special Education Services and Early Learning and Literacy have created a series of web-based training modules for educators in order to deal with learning disorders.

"We must ensure that our educators are prepared to meet the needs of every student," said State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman. "These trainings were developed in partnership with national experts and those in the field that understand the needs of our students with dyslexia. I am proud of the work that went into making the training modules and am confident that they will equip educators with the tools that will lead to student success."

The three courses address:

- Dyslexia - What is it and What Do We Know about It?
- How Do We Screen for Dyslexia and Other Reading Disorders?
- Evidence-Based

Instruction for Students with Dyslexia.

The training modules were part of a resolution signed by Governor Nikki Haley that charged the education department with providing training on dyslexia and related reading disorders to all kindergarten through third grade literacy coaches and teachers prior to the 2016-17 school year.

While the intent of the resolution was to provide information specifically about serving students with dyslexia, the content regarding effective evidence-based practices and instruction will be useful to help all struggling readers, education officials say.

The training could become a national model.

In addition, South Carolina is continuing to scale up its efforts to support all struggling readers, including those with dyslexia, in multiple initiatives including the South Carolina Read to Succeed Plan, and the South Carolina Systemic Improvement Plan to

increase outcomes for students with disabilities.

The development of the training modules included the following organizations: Aiken Learning Lab, Camp-erdown Academy, Tutor Eau Claire, Clemson University, University of South Carolina, the South Carolina Association of School Psychologists, the South Carolina Council of Administrators of Special Education, Learning Disabilities of America, and the South Carolina Branch of the International Dyslexia Association.

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WE MUST ENSURE THAT OUR EDUCATORS ARE PREPARED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF EVERY STUDENT.

State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman

Title: **SC legislator under fire over road**
 Author: CASSIE COPE THE STATE
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SC legislator under fire over road

Street leading to his home repaved

CASSIE COPE
 THE STATE

State Rep. **Steve Moss**, R-Cherokee, has come under criticism for a newly paved road that leads to his home.

Cherokee County approved spending \$51,714 to pave the road with money from the county's transportation committee, according to acting county administrator **Holland Belue**.

Moss said he went through the normal county process to get a road paved and "asked for no special favors."

"I made sure that I went by the book," said Moss, adding he spent his own money to get the road up to standards for it to qualify for the county to take it over. The county took responsibility for the road in 2014, according to *The Gaffney Ledger*, an Upstate newspaper.

Currently, three taxpayers own property along the road, Moss said. However, paving the road opens up the area for future development, he added.

Moss said he will disclose the road paving on his state-required Statement of Economic Interest, where legislators disclose any gifts they receive and "any public improvements of more than \$200.00 on or adjacent to (their) real property."

The money to pay for the road-paving project came from the Cherokee County transportation committee. Most county transportation committees are appointed by legislative delegations. But Cherokee County's County Council also is that county's transportation committee.

Typically, county transportation committees get money from the state's 16.75-cent-a-gallon gas tax, collecting 2.66 cents from every gallon sold.

However, in the state's 2015-16 budget, lawmakers approved

sending \$216 million in state money to county transportation committees to repair roads. In the 2016-17 budget that took effect July 1, those committees received an extra \$50 million in state money.

As a legislator, Moss votes on state spending – including sending state money to county transportation committees. But, Moss added, he is not a member of the House panel that writes the state budget.

Moss is not the first legislator to be scrutinized in connection with state road spending.

In 2015, the S.C. Transportation Infrastructure Bank, whose members include Senate President Pro Tempore **Hugh Leatherman**, R-Florence, agreed to spend \$340 million in state money to help pay for Florence County road projects.

"We have a really chaotic system in South Carolina of jurisdiction over roads, and who's responsible for building them and maintaining them," said government watchdog **John Crangle**.

It would be better if the state had one entity in charge of determining how road money is spent, Crangle said. "This has been the problem for a long time – the political determination of how road money is spent."

Dems take swipe at Mulvaney

U.S. Rep. **Mick Mulvaney**, R-Indian Land, predictably took heat from S.C. Democratic Coordinated Campaign last week.

Campaign co-chair **James Smith**, a state representative from Richland County, criticized Mulvaney for, among other things, his votes in favor of "turning Social Security over to

Wall Street" and against the Export-Import Bank, which finances and guarantees loans by foreign companies to buy U.S. goods, including made-in-North-Charleston Boeing jets.

Fiscal hawks, including Mulvaney, contend the Ex-Im Bank is just another example of the government deciding economic winners and losers, adding big businesses like Boeing can afford to buy loan insurance in the private sector.

"These may be Mick Mulvaney's 'principles,' but to voters of the 5th District, they are nothing but a harmful extremist ideology," Smith said, noting Boeing is a major S.C. employer.

Of course, the Democratic state representative is backing Mulvaney's Nov. 8 Democratic challenger, former Biden aide **Fran Person**.

Buzz bites

Columbia Attorney **Butch Bowers** is representing N.C.

Gov. **Pat McCrory** in the legal battle over North Carolina's controversial HB2 law, which bans transgender people from using the bathroom of their choice.

It's nothing new for Bowers, who has represented S.C. Republicans in their legal and ethics skirmishes, including Gov. **Nikki Haley** and Lt. Gov. **Henry McMaster**. The S.C. Democratic Party will hold its Jefferson-Jackson dinner Friday, Sept. 30, in Columbia.

The annual fundraising dinner is named for two early leaders of the Democratic Party – former Presidents Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence, and Andrew Jackson, author of the Trail of Tears. Both, as critics



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have noted, were slaveholders. Citing Jackson's treatment of Native Americans, activists also have pressed Democratic parties in other states to drop his name from their annual fundraising dinners.

That will be a tougher sell in South Carolina, which claims Jackson as a native son, a claim disputed by that other Carolina.

Come Clinton or high water: The S.C. Presidential Inaugural Ball will be held on Jan. 19 at the Smithsonian American Art Museum and National Portrait Gallery, the South Carolina State Society said last week.

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South Carolina of jurisdiction over roads, and who's responsible for building them and

maintaining them."

JOHN CRANGLE
GOVERNMENT WATCHDOG