

Title: **Haley vetoes \$41M from Legislature's \$7.5B budget**  
 Author: BY SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press  
 Size: 42.16 column inches  
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



## Haley vetoes \$41M from Legislature's \$7.5B budget

BY SEANNA ADCOX  
 Associated Press

### COLUMBIA

Gov. Nikki Haley struck \$41 million worth of spending from the Legislature's \$7.5 billion budget and thanked legislators Thursday for not attempting to borrow money for college construction.

"We have some major wins this year. The No. 1 win is, there was no bond bill," she said.

Last year, Haley's opposition helped defeat proposals to borrow primarily for projects at universities and technical colleges. She publicly warned legislators in January not to try again.

On Thursday, she applauded the more than \$100 million the state budget sends to technical colleges for one-time spending on buildings and equipment and \$30 million added to four-year colleges for recurring expenses.

That's partly why the veto total isn't higher, she said: "They actually did what we said: 'Use the money that's there. Don't go and borrow.'"

Haley's 51 line-item ve-

toes, issued minutes before her midnight Wednesday deadline, include \$8.7 million of what she calls "old-fashioned pork," such as \$3 million for sports marketing and \$100,000 for a Richland County swimming pool.

Legislators will return to Columbia next week to consider overriding her vetoes.

She struck several earmarks for museums, including \$3 million toward a new Medal of Honor museum - currently located on the USS Yorktown in Charleston Harbor - \$1 million on the Children's Museum of the Upstate, and \$350,000 for the Gibbes Museum of Art in Charleston. She also struck \$50,000 for the USS Laffey in Charleston Harbor.

Historic sites, museums and cultural centers should be funded by "selling memberships, collecting admissions fees and soliciting philanthropic support," Haley wrote in her veto message. "The wrong way to do it is by earmarking state funds to choose one site over another to support."

However, Haley's pen did not touch \$4 million for the planned International African-American Museum in Charleston.

"I think we're a state that's still healing. We're coming on the anniversary," Haley said, referencing the massacre of nine black parishioners at a historic church in Charleston. "I very much feel a responsibility to hold our state together and make sure we understand the significance of June 17 and understand we can only grow from that, so I thought that was important that that stay."

Fifteen of her vetoes strike mandates, not money.

She vetoed a budget clause calling for an evaluation of moving the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum to Charleston.

Legislators opted for the study instead of spending anything to display the Confederate flag removed from Statehouse grounds and sent to the museum last summer following the massacre at Emanuel AME Church.

House members, who balked at a proposed \$3.6 million price tag for the flag display and museum expansion, argued its current location in Columbia - through a separate door at the back of the State Museum building - doesn't attract enough visitors and needs to be more self-sufficient.

But Haley argued the study is a "veiled attempt to justify" combining the Relic

Room and the Confederate submarine H.L. Hunley and is "nothing more than a legislative pet project."

Haley said when she worked with legislators in bringing down the Confederate flag, there was a lot of talk about creating a "proper, respectful place for it" at the Columbia museum.

"Never in any of those conversations did they talk about moving it to Charleston," she said.

Other struck budget clauses say grass mowing at welcome centers must be "uniform in appearance" and a golf cart entrance to Myrtle Beach State Park must be created at a specific intersection along U.S. 17.

Haley calls those examples of legislators micromanaging agencies.

She also dislikes the idea of a coyote bounty program that's designed to encourage hunters to kill the predators. Under the program, hunters who kill one of the 16 coyotes tagged by the Department of Natural Resources would receive a lifetime hunting license.

If DNR employees are in range to kill a coyote, they don't need to take the time to catch, tag and release it, she said.

"It just didn't make a whole lot of sense," she said. "If you're that close, go ahead and get rid of it."

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# Pro-Haley, GOP group spending on Senate races tops \$600K

**Pro-Haley group, A Great Day SC, spending more than \$500,000 for TV ads**

**Spending by Senate Republicans to protect two incumbents tops \$100,000**

**'It's a lot more money than you would ever normally see in this type of race,' political scientist says**

BY JAMIE SELF

*The (Columbia) State*

COLUMBIA

At least three political groups – including one backing Gov. Nikki Haley's political agenda – are waging a six-figure campaign to topple state Senate Republican leaders in Tuesday's primary.

Spending the most — \$500,000 — is a political group, run by Haley's political adviser, that hopes to oust powerful state senators who have clashed with the governor on roads, ethics reform and other issues or fallen out of her favor.

Other groups are supporting the Senate incumbents, including the S.C. Senate Republican Caucus, which will spend \$100,000 to back two GOP state senators facing primary opponents.

The pro-Haley group's effort to sway the Senate races is unusual compared to previous elections, said Winthrop University political scientist Scott Huffman.

"It's a lot more money than you would ever normally see in this type of race," Huffman said. "It is

definitely symbolic of how important each side feels that the fight for the soul of the Republican Party in South Carolina is."

A Great Day SC has spent or plans to spend at least \$500,000 to back Haley's agenda. That is more than the Senate challengers, endorsed by the governor, have raised for their bids combined, according to a State newspaper review Wednesday of campaign finance records and public filings for political TV ads.

Haley's targets include Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, the most powerful legislator in the state, and Sen. Luke Rankin, R-Horry, who the Republican governor has accused of blocking her ethics-reform efforts.

Haley and Great Day also are targeting long-time Sen. Wes Hayes, R-York, and are working to block Rep. Stephen Goldfinch, R-Georgetown, from winning an open Senate seat.

A Great Day SC also has

help from limited-government groups that are targeting the incumbent lawmakers.

Other state senators also are being targeted by groups as well.

● The Senate's loudest conservative firebrand, Sen. Lee Bright, R-Spartanburg, faces opposition in his re-election bid from two lobbying groups — the S.C. Chamber of Commerce's Good Government Committee and the Conservation Voters of South Carolina.

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FROM PAGE 3A

## SPENDING

cluding in Anderson, Edgefield and Lexington counties, senators say.

● An anonymous group called Free Speech Unites – its identity shielded by the state’s lack of disclosure rules for so-called “dark money” groups – has sent out a mail piece opposing Sen. Kevin Bryant, R-Anderson.

Dark-money groups opposed at least two state senators — Hayes and state Sen. Larry Martin, R-Pickens — in 2012. The emergence of the groups has driven State House attempts to force the groups to report their donors and agendas. But those efforts, thus far, have failed.

Bryant, one of the Senate’s most conservative members, said it is the first time he has been targeted by a group he could not identify. “I have been targeted by liberal organizations who we know who they are, and I support their right to free speech,” Bryant said. “But a totally dark organization? This is the first time I’ve seen this.”

### BANKING ON A GREAT IMPACT

The big spender in Tuesday’s primary is A Great Day SC, the pro-Haley group that can raise unlimited contributions.

As of April, Great Day had raised \$515,000 in its attempt to reshape Senate leadership. The money came from six donors in six states, including one in South Carolina who gave \$100,000.

The TV ads Great Day is running are a welcome boost for the candidates

who Haley is backing, including Wes Climer, who is challenging incumbent Sen. Hayes in the District 15 GOP primary.

“Wes Hayes gets backing from every lobbyist, trade association and special interest in Columbia,” Climer said Wednesday while out campaigning. “The support from the governor is very helpful to push back on the special interests that are trying to buy this election. It’s always hard to beat a career politician.”

A Great Day is not alone in targeting the incumbents.

Americans for Prosperity, backed by the billionaire political activist Koch brothers, plans to send out at least five mail pieces criticizing Senate leader Leatherman’s record, said Chris Neefus, a spokesman for the group. The group also has about a half-dozen field staff working with volunteers to knock on doors to share its message.

The group, which opposes raising the state’s gas tax, is criticizing Leatherman, in part, of trying to pass a bill that would force groups attempting to influence an election to disclose their donors.

That proposal is an assault on donors’ rights of privacy and free speech, Americans for Prosperity says.

“The public deserves transparency from government and privacy for themselves, but Sen. Leatherman wants to flip it around,” said Mark Lucas, the group’s regional director. “Instead of working to chill speech, he should focus on getting some accountability for the dollars the state is spend-

ing.”

The S.C. Club for Growth’s political arm also is targeting incumbents.

The group has endorsed the opponents of Leatherman, Hayes and Rankin and one of Goldfinch’s opponents, Reese Boyd, paying for mail pieces in those districts. The group also gave \$1,000 contributions to Richard Skipper and Climer, who Haley is backing in their efforts to unseat Leatherman and Hayes, respectively.

### PROTECTING INCUMBENT SENATORS

Some targeted senators have received reinforcements.

The Senate Republican Caucus is spending more than \$100,000 to shore up support for Hayes and Martin, the Republican chairman of the Senate’s powerful Judiciary Committee, said Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey, R-Edgefield.

The caucus is sending out mail pieces supporting Hayes and Martin, and running television ads praising the senators’ records, Massey said.

The caucus decided to focus its efforts on the two districts after polling in every Senate district where an incumbent faced primary opposition.

“Sen. Martin and Sen. Hayes’ districts are the two where we thought we could have the best impact,” Massey said.

For Senate GOP leaders to get involved could mean they think Hayes and Martin are vulnerable or face a “credible threat,” Huffmon said.

Another group, the Palmetto Conservatives Fund, is spending \$15,000 to run ads against businessman Scott Pyle, said David Wilson, who is buying ads for the group. Pyle, who Haley has endorsed, is challenging state Sen. Rankin.

The odds favor the incumbent state senators, Winthrop’s Huffmon added.

But a few, dedicated voters could swing an election, causing trouble for an incumbent, he added.

Haley is “definitely seeking to leave a mark on the S.C. Republican Party and remake it in the image of Southern conservatism that she’s been developing,” Huffmon said.

But Haley and her allies face “an uphill battle simply because of the strength of incumbency,” he added.

“A lot of people have trust in the incumbent, and seeing these attack ads will get a lot of long-time supporters out of their seats and to the polls.”

### Remaking the S.C. Senate?

A Great Day SC, the political group taking aim at Gov. Nikki Haley’s state Senate opponents, has poured more than \$500,000 into four races, including three where Haley hopes to oust long-time GOP senators. A look at those contests, how much the candidates had raised and how much they had left to spend, heading into June. (Candidates who have not raised \$10,000 are excluded.)

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# Haley vetoes study of moving Relic Room

BY CASSIE COPE  
[ccope@thestate.com](mailto:ccope@thestate.com)

Republican Gov. Nikki Haley vetoed a study of moving the Confederate Relic Room and Military Museum to Charleston from Columbia.

The museum is the new home of the last Confederate flag to fly on the

State House

grounds.

The proposal to explore moving the Relic Room emerged after estimates of

the cost of displaying the flag at the museum came in at

\$3.6 million.

Lawmakers delayed deciding how much to spend on the flag display until at least next year, proposing instead a study on moving the Gervais Street museum, housed in a former Columbia textile mill.

The flag was furled

from the State House grounds last year in the aftermath of the racially motivated slaying of nine

**SEE VETOES, 7A**



**thestate.com:** Video of Gov. Haley discussing her vetoes

**FROM PAGE 3A**

## VETOES

parishioners at Charleston's Emanuel AME Church.

Moving the Relic Room to a location with a high volume of tourists could generate more money, state Rep. Chip Limehouse, R-Charleston, said Thursday. "The Relic Room - where it is in Columbia - is a \$4.5 million boondoggle."

But Haley said it was important to legislators, who she worked with to bring down the flag, that "they were going to be able to develop a proper, respectful place for it" at the current Confederate Relic Room location.

"Never in any of those conversations ... did they talk about moving it to Charleston," Haley said,

adding that proposal arose because a couple of legislators or former legislators want it moved to Charleston. "We talked about Columbia - never did we talk about Charleston - and I have to stay true to my word on that."

Haley also vetoed a coyote-bounty program that would have required the state Department of Natural resources to tag 16 coyotes across the state.

If hunters bagged a tagged coyote, they would have received a reward - a lifetime hunting license. Previously, lawmakers had proposed a \$1,000 reward for killing tagged coyotes.

But Haley said that proposal - designed to encourage hunters to kill the predators, blamed for

killing pets and deer - is problematic.

"If you can go and tag a coyote: Why wouldn't you just get rid of it?" Haley asked rhetorically.

Republican Haley vetoed spending bills totaling \$41.1 million from the state's \$7.5 billion general fund budget.

Haley praised lawmakers for not including a borrowing plan, like the \$500 million proposal defeated last year. That proposal would have paid for overdue maintenance on state-owned buildings, including colleges and universities.

However, the governor blasted lawmakers for combining budget items, making it more challenging for her to veto specific

items.

Haley also said she plans soon to issue an executive order banning pass-through budget requests to cabinet agencies. In those requests, lawmakers direct money to cabinet agencies but then tell the agency head how they want the money spent, Haley said.

"You're compromising my director," Haley said of the legislative practice. "You're compromising the process."

Lawmakers return next week to accept or override Haley's vetoes. It takes a two-thirds vote of the House and Senate to override an veto.

Cassie Cope: 803-771-8657, [@cassielcope](https://twitter.com/cassielcope)

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Spending the most — \$500,000 — is a political group, run by Haley's political adviser, that hopes to oust powerful state senators who have clashed with the governor on roads, ethics reform and other issues or fallen out of her favor.

Other groups are supporting the Senate incumbents, including the S.C. Senate Republican Caucus, which will spend \$100,000 to back two GOP state senators facing primary opponents.

The pro-Haley group's effort to sway the Senate races is unusual compared with previous elections, said Winthrop University political scientist Scott Huffmon.

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➔ MORE INSIDE

**PALMETTO:** What you need to know to vote in next Tuesday's primaries, 1C

## MONEY

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also are targeting longtime Sen. Wes Hayes, R-York, and are working to block Rep. Stephen Goldfinch, R-Georgetown, from winning an open Senate seat.

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Other state senators also are being targeted by groups as well.

● The Senate's loudest conservative firebrand, Sen. Lee Bright, R-Spar-

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Dark-money groups opposed at least two state senators — Hayes and state Sen. Larry Martin, R-Pickens — in 2012. The emergence of the groups

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Jamie Self: 803-771-8658, @jamiemself

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## SC LEGISLATURE

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Haley's 51 line-item vetoes, issued minutes before her midnight Wednesday deadline, include \$8.7 million of what she calls "old-fashioned pork," such as \$3 million for sports marketing and \$100,000 for a Richland County pool.

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Haley calls those examples of legislators micro-managing agencies.

## Vetoes

Highlights from the \$41.1 million Gov. Nikki Haley struck:

- \$300,000 to the Department of Health and Environmental Control for air quality improvements
- \$500,000 to the Department of Social Services for after-school and summer reading programs
- \$1.6 million for unspecified "outreach education" through the Department of Natural Resources
- \$100,000 for unspecified economic development through the Department of Commerce
- \$6.4 million for unspecified "parks, recreational and tourism revitalizations"



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- \$75,000 to the Human Affairs Commission to create more Community Relations Councils
- **\$200,000 for the planned Osprey Village in Beaufort County for adults with disabilities**
- \$7 million for the State



Haley

- Aviation Fund for airport infrastructure
- \$1.6 million to the Department of Natural Resources for the Upper Coastal Waterfowl Project
- **\$500,000 for the South Carolina Artisans Center**
- **in Walterboro**
- \$3 million to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism for sports marketing
- \$100,000 to develop driving tours of historic African-American sites
- \$380,000 to the South

- Carolina Military Museum in Columbia
- \$3 million toward a new Medal of Honor Museum in Charleston Harbor

Source: Gov. Nikki Haley's veto messages on the budget package

# State legislators get roads bill approved

The House and Senate passed a spending plan that would start fixing our crumbling roads and bridges. The Plan has been sent to the Gov. Nikki Haley for her signature. The \$4 billion plan is approximately 10 percent of the monies needed for repairs in our state. The plan includes using \$200 million a year to leverage borrowing additional funds through bonds. The money would come from diverting revenue from fees collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles and sales taxes on vehicles. The Department of Transportation has put together a priority plan that would fix 400 bridges and repair some roads in all 46 counties.

The plan allows the Governor to appoint members of the Transportation Commission. These

members will represent the seven Congressional Districts in South Carolina with an additional member at large. These

appointees would have to be approved by legislators in the House and Senate. The management, operations, and overall governance of the Department of Transportation has been debated in both House and Senate. The Governor has requested more power and control over the current system that gives most authority to appointed Highway Commissioners. Currently, commissioners are appointed by all Senate and House members that reside within each Congressional District.

House Speaker Jay Lucas (R) Darlington gave an arousing speech before the plan was adopted by the Senate saying Governor Haley was part blame for not having a roads bill passed. He said that she should be in Columbia urging the Senate to pass a plan instead of running around the state endorsing opponents of sitting legislators. She has campaigned against Sen. Hugh Leatherman (R) Florence and Sen. Luke Rankin (R)

Horry. In addition, she is working against Rep Stephen Goldfinch (R) Georgetown who is running for the senate seat held by retiring Sen. Ray Cleary. Haley responded with a message that citizens should elect new people who actually want to serve the public rather than themselves.

I voted with the majority in passing the bill out of the House sending it to Gov. Haley. This is a start to fixing a problem that should have been addressed ten years ago. We've allowed roads and bridges to get in such horrible shape, some can't be repaired, therefore they will need to be replaced, end result is the costs is much higher. It will be critical that the incoming legislature next year look to find long term solutions. Our citizens deserve this.

The regular session ends on June 2 and we will return on Wednesday June 15 to vote on the Governor's vetoes.



**Wayne George**

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## 129 + 148 S.C. Senate

### District 19 (Democratic)

This is shaping up as a race about whether experience is a plus. Sen. **John Scott**, a 62-year-old businessman who has spent a quarter-century in the Legislature, is challenged by Richland County Council Chairman **Torrey Rush**, a 38-year-old real estate agent. Scott touts his experience in the State House. He's been willing to try to stall bills, such as one that would allow patrons to carry guns into bars. Rush, who is not seeking re-election after serving just one term on the county council, thinks the district in northern Richland County needs a new voice. The primary winner has no Republican opposition in November. — *Andy Shain*



Torrey Rush



Sen. John Scott

Photo by Thomas Hammond

### District 21 (Democratic)

Here is another attempt to unseat a long-serving politician. Sen. **Darrell Jackson** faces **Wendy Brawley**, a community activist and former school board member, in a rematch of their 2008 primary. Jackson won that race as he has all others since taking a senate seat stretching from Dentsville to lower Richland in 1992. Jackson admitted to *Free Times* that he considered not running for re-election but changed his mind to keep a hand in fixing roads and schools. Like Scott, Jackson leans on his experience in the State House as a reason to keep him in office. Brawley said Lower Richland residents need more access to medical care and more funding for education. No Republican is running for the seat. — *Andy Shain*





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Wendy Brawley



Sen. Darrell Jackson

## District 23 (Republican)

No one promises an easy second act. Sen. **Katrina Shealy** beat incumbent Jake Knotts as a petition candidate in 2012 with the help of a pro-Nikki Haley political group and voters frustrated with Knotts. She made headlines with her defense of victims who said they were hurt by the state's child welfare agency. Now one of only two women in the Senate, she must defeat two challengers to keep her seat. **Michael Sturkie** says he's ready to use his experience as a general contractor to speed road repairs. **Patricia Wheat** says she's worked on domestic-violence issues and called for an impeachment hearing against Haley if she does not fight against Syrian refugees entering the state. The Lexington County seat will stay in Republican hands with no Democrat filing. — *Andy Shain*



Sen. Katrina Shealy



Michael Sturkie



Patricia Wheat

# Richland County Council

## District 3 (Democratic)

While District 3 Richland County Councilman Damon Jeter chose not to seek re-election in 2016, there is a chance the seat could remain in his family. Jeter's aunt, former state Department of Education administrator **Yvonne McBride**, is one of three Democrats seeking the seat in the June 14 primary. McBride, who is the sister of former state legislator Frank McBride (who pleaded guilty to accepting bribes in the 1990 Operation Lost Trust scandal at the State House) and the sister-in-law of Richland County Clerk of Court Jeannette McBride, insists she is her own woman and would work to improve county services. One of her opponents is **Michael D'Amello**, a 23-year-old political consultant who says he would be a verbal "bomb thrower" on Council and vows he would work to repeal the county's embattled Transportation Penny Tax. Also seeking the seat is **Bruce Trezevant**, a funeral home operator and former law enforcement officer who ran unsuccessfully for the District 3 seat in 2008. According to his campaign website, Trezevant is "dead set" on representing District 3 and says he would be an "active spokesperson" for the district. — *Chris Trainor*

## District 7 (Democratic)

Two Democrats — **Gwen Kennedy** and **Keith Bailey** — are vying for the District 7 Council seat being vacated by Torrey Rush, who is running for state Senate in District 19. The winner is set to face Republican Michael Greene in November. Kennedy and Bailey both have political history in the Midlands. Kennedy previously held the Council District 7 seat from 1990-97, then again from 2009-12. Kennedy's first run on Council was memorable for a reported \$3,000 trip she took to a conference in Hawaii on the county's dime. Bailey, meanwhile, was the mayor of Blythewood from 2008-12. Bailey says he thinks the current Council has been unproductive and has lacked creativity in its governance. He also notes that residents in the district have told him they are frustrated that many roads and bridges remain in shabby condition. — *Chris Trainor*

## District 8 (Democratic)

This is one of the more intriguing County Council Democratic primary matchups, as two-term District 8 incumbent **Jim Manning** is taking on challenger **Wayne Gilbert**. With his trademark bowtie and lion's mane of white hair, Manning, a licensed social worker, has been one of the more visible members of Council in recent years. He also has been at the forefront of the county's pushback against the state Department of Revenue's

probe of the Transportation Penny Tax program. Meanwhile, Gilbert, a longtime employee of the state Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, formerly known as the state Budget and Control Board, has promised to return "fiscal integrity" to the county and work to address the concerns of residents who say they voted for the penny tax in 2012, but have yet to see it bear fruit in their area. — *Chris Trainor*

## District 9 (Democratic)

This race is shaping up to be a quite a showdown, with incumbent **Julle-Ann Dixon** facing Richland Two school board member **Calvin "Chip" Jackson**. During her first term on Council, Dixon has made a name for herself in her stance against violence, assisting with revisions to the county's workplace violence policy and serving on the governor's Task Force on Criminal Domestic Violence. Jackson, who has served two terms on the Richland Two school board, is the first cousin of state Sen. Darrell Jackson and a deacon at the Bible Way megachurch that Darrell Jackson pastors. Chip Jackson says ensuring the passage of education budgets would be one of his top priorities, and that the county needs someone to help "restore credibility" and bring a "return to accountability" and "some real transparency" to the Council. — *Chris Trainor*

## District 10 (Democratic)

This is actually a runoff from the May 31 special election for the seat held by Kelvin Washington, who was removed from the seat by Gov. Nikki Haley earlier this year after pleading guilty to not paying his state income taxes for several years. In the May 31 special election, attorney **Dahli Myers** finished on top of a five-person field with 39 percent of the vote. She will now face former Councilwoman **Bernice Scott**, who is Washington's mother-in-law, in the runoff. Scott received 34 percent of the vote in the May 31 election. Of note: Because the runoff and the June 14 primary happen on the same day, voters in District 10 who wish to vote in the primary and the runoff must cast separate ballots at precincts. So, you would vote on one machine for the primary, then a different machine for the District 10 runoff. — *Chris Trainor*

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