



Title: **2 Trump campaign leaders helping McMaster with transition**
Author: Associated Press
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2 Trump campaign leaders helping McMaster with transition

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster has enlisted help in taking over as gover-

nor if the U.S. Senate confirms Gov. Nikki Haley as President-elect Donald Trump's pick for United Nations ambassador. McMaster's office said in

a release Tuesday he's asked longtime GOP adviser Ed McMullen and real estate developer Bill Stern to help with the transition.

Title: **S.C. Senate leader: 'No ambition' to become lieutenant governor**
 Author: BY CASSIE COPE ccope@thestate.com
 Size: 29.14 column inches
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



S.C. Senate leader: 'No ambition' to become lieutenant governor

BY CASSIE COPE
ccope@thestate.com

State Senate leader Hugh Leatherman has no interest in becoming lieutenant governor, he said in a statement Monday.

If Gov. Nikki Haley is confirmed by the U.S. Senate to become U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster will rise to the governor's office.

That would leave vacant the lieutenant governor's seat. Historically, vacancies in that post been filled by the Senate president pro tempore, a position now held by Leatherman.

But a 2014 constitutional amendment has some saying a Gov. McMaster could appoint another South Carolinian to the lieutenant governor's post.

For now, who would re-

place McMaster is unclear.

Leatherman, who chairs the Senate's budget-writing panel and as president pro tempore makes several significant appointments to state boards and commissions, said Monday he does not want to become lieutenant governor, a figurehead position that holds little power.

"I would like to make it very clear that I have no ambition for statewide office," Leatherman said.

He added: "I owe it to the people I represent to continue my service in the Senate and to make the best possible decisions to improve the life for all the people of South Carolina. My constituents re-elected me for that purpose. I am honored to fulfill that pledge. Therefore, I will remain in the Senate."

In 2014, then-Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell resigned to become president of the College of Charleston.

Then-Senate leader John Courson, R-Richland, was next in line to become lieutenant governor, but he resigned as president pro tem to avoid losing his Senate seat.

That triggered uncertainty over who would become the state's next second-in-command until then-state Sen. Yancey McGill volunteered. Leatherman then secured enough Senate votes to become president pro tempore.

McGill was the fourth Senate president pro tempore to become lieutenant governor since 1870, according to state records.

But the office has gone vacant at least six times in its history, after lieutenant governors succeeded governors. The last vacancy happened in 1965, when Lt. Gov. Robert McNair became governor but the Senate's president pro tempore, Edgar Brown, declined to become lieutenant governor.



Leatherman

Title: **Senate leader has 'no ambition' to become lieutenant governor**
 Author: BY CASSIE COPE ccope@thestate.com
 Size: 84.78 column inches
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



Senate leader has 'no ambition' to become lieutenant governor

Leatherman says he won't get involved in reshuffle if Haley is confirmed as ambassador and leaves SC

BY CASSIE COPE

ccope@thestate.com

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FILE PHOTOGRAPH BY MATT WALSH mwalsh@thestate.com

Florence Sen. Hugh Leatherman is the Senate's president pro tem.

Title: **Senate leader says he won't be lieutenant governor**
 Author: Associated Press
 Size: 22.01 column inches
 Greenwood, SC Circulation: 16494



■ **HUGH LEATHERMAN**

Senate leader says he won't be lieutenant governor

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina's most powerful politician is refusing to become lieutenant governor — a job no one seems to want — if Gov. Nikki Haley becomes ambassador to the United Nations.

Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman said Monday he will not leave his Senate seat “under any circumstances.”

“I would like to make it very clear that I have no ambition for statewide office,” said the 85-year-old Florence Republican, who was re-elected in November to a 10th term after winning a three-way primary in which Haley backed the second-place finisher. “I will not leave my Senate seat to serve as lieutenant governor. For me, there is no greater honor than serving in the South Carolina Senate.”

Leatherman's unwillingness to give up his role as Senate leader to temporarily occupy a largely ceremonial

position comes as no surprise. Monday's statement makes it official without indicating any of the political chess moves that could occur in the coming weeks to fill a job considered part-time.

Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster will replace Haley as South Carolina's governor if the U.S. Senate confirms Donald Trump's pick for his Cabinet. It's a job that McMaster — the nation's first statewide officeholder to endorse Trump — has long wanted. Haley said she'll remain governor until then.

The state constitution has called for the Senate president pro tem to become lieutenant governor.

But some argue a 2014 referendum approved by voters allows McMaster to choose his replacement. The question may ultimately be decided by the state Supreme Court.

When former Lt. Gov. Ken Ard pleaded guilty to campaign violations in 2012, then-Senate President Pro Tem Glenn McConnell reluctantly resigned his Charleston seat of 32 years to fulfill what he called his constitutional duties.



**HUGH
LEATHERMAN**

Title: **Senate leader says he won't seek new post**

Author:

Size: 8.99 column inches

Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



Senate leader says he won't seek new post

COLUMBIA

The leader of South Carolina's Senate is refusing to become lieutenant governor if Gov. Nikki Haley becomes ambassador to the United Nations.

Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman of Florence says he will not leave his Senate seat "under any circumstances."

His unwillingness to give up his role as the state's most powerful politician to temporarily occupy a largely ceremonial position comes as no surprise. Monday's statement makes it official.

Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster will replace Haley as governor if the U.S. Senate confirms Donald Trump's pick for his Cabinet. Haley says she'll remain governor in the meantime.

The state constitution has called for the Senate president pro tem to become lieutenant governor. But some argue a 2014 referendum approved by voters allows McMaster to choose his replacement.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

Title: **Senate's Leatherman decides against lieutenant governor job**
 Author: AMANDA COYNE THE GREENVILLE NEWS
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Senate's Leatherman decides against lieutenant governor job

AMANDA COYNE

THE GREENVILLE NEWS

State Sen. Hugh Leatherman will not take the role of lieutenant governor once current Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster is elevated to the governorship, the Florence County Republican announced Monday.

As president pro tempore of the senate, Leatherman is next in line for the lieutenant governorship, according to South Carolina's line of gubernatorial succession. McMaster will become governor once Gov. Nikki Haley is confirmed as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations by the U.S. Senate. President-elect Donald Trump announced that Haley would be nominated to the post last week.

While Leatherman said he considers McMaster a "longtime friend," the 85-year-old legislator said he has no aspirations for statewide office and wishes to serve his Florence constituents. In or-

der to remain in the senate, Leatherman would have to resign the position of president pro tempore and a new one would be elected.

"I want my neighbors who elected me as well as my colleagues in the Senate and all the people of South Carolina to know that I will not leave my Senate seat to serve as Lieutenant Governor. For me, there is no greater honor than serving in the South Carolina Senate," Leatherman said. "In June of this year, the voters of Senate District 31 chose me by an overwhelming majority in a three-person race to continue my service as their Senator. I promised them I would fulfill that commitment just as I have for the past 35 years. I will not break that pledge under any circumstances."

In order to remain in the senate, Leatherman would have to resign the

position of president pro tempore and a new one would be elected. That person would then become lieutenant governor and another president pro tempore would be elected by the senate.

When the lieutenant governorship was vacant in recent history, past senate presidents pro tempore handled the opportunity differently.

When Lt. Gov. Ken Ard resigned in 2012, then-Senate President Pro Tempore Glenn McConnell became lieutenant governor. When McConnell was selected as president of the College of Charleston in 2014, Sen. John Courson resigned his position as president pro tempore in order to remain in the senate.

Sen. Yancey McGill, then a Democrat, was elected to be president pro tempore and then became the lieutenant governor.



TIM DOMINICK / TDOMINICK@THESTATE.COM

Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman

Title: **McMaster will have full plate if he becomes SC governor**
 Author: CASSIE COPE THE STATE
 Size: 64.63 column inches
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



McMaster will have full plate if he becomes SC governor

CASSIE COPE
THE STATE

Moving into the South Carolina governor's mansion means Henry McMaster would inherit the Palmetto State's most pressing issues, among them responding to a school equity lawsuit and repairing the state's crumbling roads and bridges.

The lieutenant governor is expected to replace Gov. Nikki Haley if she is confirmed by the U.S. Senate to be President-elect Donald Trump's ambassador to the United Nations.

McMaster's stances on the top issues are not as well known as Haley's. And for now, he's not taking questions, staying quiet since Haley's nomination was announced on Wednesday.

Still, it's certain he'll face the usual decisions of what takes priority as he works with the General Assembly on how to spend money. And the demands on the state's pocketbook seem

to be particularly acute right now.

Here are, arguably, the top five most pressing things South Carolina's next governor faces.

Schools

This year, lawmakers approved spending \$430 million more in general fund dollars on education than nine years ago, before the Great Recession.

State

Continued from Page 3A

years," said Bill Ross of the state Alliance to Fix Our Roads.

State budget

Disasters have struck the Palmetto State two years in a row.

First, a historically

But the state is spending only slightly higher in inflation-adjusted dollars than before the Great Recession, and is educating 6 percent more students than before the recession.

Haley pushed lawmakers to spend more on education in recent years on reading coaches, technology and students in poverty. But this year, legislators failed to pass Haley's proposal — the first of its kind in nearly two decades — to spend state money to help poor districts build and renovate schools.

For decades, districts have had to raise money locally to upgrade facilities — leaving wealthier districts with strong tax bases with a huge advantage over poorer ones.

McMaster likely will have a role in how the state responds to the Abbeville lawsuit.

State Sen. John Courson, R-Richland, who has chaired the state Senate education committee in the past, said education is the state's No. 1 issue.

"The governor, being the chief executive officer of the state, will be engaged heavily" in education policies and spending, Courson said.

Roads

South Carolina's roads con-

heavy rainfall caused flooding across the Midlands and the coast in October 2015, killing 19 people. That flooding cost taxpayers about \$150 million, including \$40 million for grants to farmers whose crops were damaged.

This year, Hurricane

Matthew brushed the South Carolina coast, causing damage and additional flooding, particularly in Beaufort, Horry and Georgetown counties and parts of the Pee Dee.

However, lawmakers will have only about a third of the added mon-

tinue to crumble.

In part, that's because lawmakers have not increased the state's 16.75 cent-a-gallon gas tax, the second-lowest in the nation, in nearly 30 years. That money is one of the state's primary funding sources for repairs.

After winning re-election in 2014, Haley endorsed a 10-cent gas tax increase only if it were paired with a much larger income tax cut. Critics of her plan argue such a tax break would raid the state's budget and force South Carolina to cut services.

Whether McMaster would sign a proposal increasing the state's gas tax remains to be seen. If he approved a tax hike of any kind, it could be used against him in a GOP primary, should he seek re-election.

However, road-repair advocates hope he will approve spending more money to improve the state's roads and bridges.

"We're very hopeful, certainly, that governor-to-be McMaster will be looking closely at the highway funding road issue that's been before the Legislature now for a number of

See STATE, Page 5A

they had last year. That means any money spent to pay for disaster relief will quickly cut into money to pay for other expenses.

State budget writers also will grapple with how to pay for programs at state agencies and overdue maintenance at

state government buildings, including on college campuses.

State employees

The Great Recession forced cuts across state government, eliminating many employees' jobs. In addition, S.C. state workers received



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 Author: CASSIE COPE THE STATE
 Size: 64.63 column inches
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473

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However, lawmakers in the spring passed a 3.25 percent pay raise, the largest in a decade.

That raise increased the pay of about 61,000 state employees, according to the state Department of Administration.

McMaster is from Columbia, where many

state employees live, which could give him reason to support more money for state workers.

Pension

Like governments across the country, South Carolina has a pension problem, and the bulk of the Baby Boomers have yet to retire.

A joint panel of state

House members and senators have begun reviewing how to address the state's roughly \$20 billion in pension debt.

That estimate, by consultants for the state, is the difference between the amount the pension fund has to pay for the retirement benefits of state and local government workers, including teachers, and the amount it has prom-

ised to pay in the future to current employees and retirees.

To close that gap, lawmakers are looking at whether to spend more taxpayer money or take more money from the paychecks of current workers.

Lawmakers also could close the pension plan to new employees and require them to take part in a defined contri-

bution plan, like a 401(k) investment plan. In the short term, that would increase the pension system's unfunded liability because new workers would not be paying into the system. But, in the long term, it would reduce the state's pension costs.

Whether McMaster will favor one solution over another remains to be seen.

Title: **Senator says he won't be lt. governor**
 Author: BYSEANNAADCOX Associated Press
 Size: 36.89 column inches
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Senator says he won't be lt. governor

BY SEANNA ADCOX

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — South Carolina's most powerful politician is refusing to become lieutenant governor – a job no one seems to want – if Gov. Nikki Haley becomes ambassador to the United Nations.

Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman said Monday he will not leave his Senate seat “under any circumstances.”

“I would like to make it very clear that I have no ambition for statewide office,” said the 85-year-old Florence Republican, who was re-elected in November to a 10th term after winning a three-way primary in which Haley backed the second-place finisher. “I will not leave my Senate seat to serve as lieutenant governor. For me, there is no greater honor than serving in the South Carolina Senate.”

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approved by voters allows McMaster to choose his replacement. The question may ultimately be decided by the state Supreme Court.

When former Lt. Gov. Ken Ard pleaded guilty to campaign violations in 2012, then-Senate President Pro Tem Glenn McConnell reluctantly resigned his Charleston seat of 32 years to fulfill what he called his constitutional duties. A stickler for the rules, McConnell said then he could not have looked at himself in the mirror if he tried

to circumvent the Constitution's line of succession.

But when McConnell later quit the lieutenant governor job to be president of the College of Charleston, his successor as pro tem, Sen. John Courson, resigned the post rather than be forced to leave the Senate. The GOP-controlled Senate then chose a Democrat as pro tem, immediately pushing him into the lieutenant governor's spot, since no Republican wanted that job. The voters elected McMaster five months later.

To prevent another such scenario, the Legislature asked voters in 2014 whether the governor and lieutenant governor should run on the same ticket, and, if the No. 2 spot becomes vacant, the governor should choose the replacement.

While voters approved the changes, many point to the opening clause of the ballot question, which specified changes were to begin “with the general election of 2018.” It was the Senate that required the delay before approving the question.

The stipulation infuriated Haley, who said at the time that it ensured the restructur-

ing she'd pushed for since her 2010 campaign won't take effect until she's out of office. If confirmed as ambassador, the term-limited governor will be leaving office two years before her tenure expires.

Leatherman is expected to be re-elected as president pro tem when senators meet in a post-

election organizational session next week. His statement Monday did not address whether he would be willing to let another senator temporarily win the role until Haley is confirmed.

“I look forward to working with Gov. McMaster, who is a longtime friend,” Leatherman said.

Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey said he can't tell from the statement whether Leatherman's still asking his colleagues to re-elect him pro tem next week.

“If he is a candidate, he is putting senators in a really bad position, because he is asking the Senate to give him a job while telling us upfront he is not going to fulfil the constitutional obligations of that job,” said Massey, R-Edgefield, one of only two senators to oppose Leatherman's election as pro tem in 2014.



Haley

Title: **On Nikki Haley leaving S.C. governor post**
 Author:
 Size: 38.90 column inches
 Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



RANTS & RAVES

On Nikki Haley leaving S.C. governor post

On S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley accepting a United Nations appointment from President-elect Donald Trump:

This lady lives in the 21st century. It will be a loss to SC. But an asset to the UN. And I'm not a Republican.

- Margaret Vitale

I am not a Republican either, and I like her.

- Penny Friesen Dougherty

So much for draining the swamp. Looks like we get more of the same. McMaster sounds like a real gem. Career politician, baby boomer, currently in court fighting ethics charges from violating campaign finance laws where he accepted more money than legally allowed so he could pay off his extra debts. In his early years, worked for Strom Thurmond who is most famous for his opposition to the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and worked very hard as attorney general to investigate marijuana traffickers in South Carolina. What a great guy!

- Justin Rohal

What qualifies her for this position, I do not know, but at least she will not be in SC. Of course, as McMaster will assume power, we may not be much better.

- Sarah Hobson

Congratulations, governor! SC will miss you, but well deserved appointment.

- Caroline Offt Grippio

Hate for our state to lose her but good for her.

- Mb Preacher

Good thing Trump doesn't hold a grudge.

- Garrett Tweedy

So excited for her!

- Deana Dean

So is SC! They get to get rid of her!

- Jody Chilton

She deserves it. I just wished it wasn't in association with our new idiocracy.

- Agatha Applewhite

Gov. Haley can't do any worse than the clowns

we've had in that position in the recent past.

- Francis P Burgt

She should have ran for POTUS this past election. Now she's gonna be tainted by Trump's policies.

- Dawn Caesar-Burke

I think it's a no win for her.

- Sarah O'Leary Takacs

The only person in this administration that warrants respect.

- Ken Boynton

Bravo! She did awesome job during the hurricane.

- Brenda Ivey

Good riddance, turncoat.

- Kraig Hanz Heiligmann

Here you go, Senator Tom Davis!

- Jan Rivera

Good bye.

- Linda Love Peace

Great governor. She brought us jobs, she handled every crisis in our state without incident. I don't want to her to leave.

- Mat Paulick

Wow! What a lying hypocrite she is. Can't trust a word she says!

- Vicki Shivers

I will miss her! Great job recently during the hurricane!

- Sandra Harrison

I always liked her and thought she was a good governor until the Confederate Flag removal. I wish her well.

- Gloria Holman Netherland

Will be happy to see her gone.

- Catherine N David Hurlocker

She has done a great job in our state of SC.

- Patti Payton

 **FACEBOOK**

Join the conversation by liking our Facebook pages at [facebook.com/islandpacket](https://www.facebook.com/islandpacket) and [facebook.com/beaufortgazette](https://www.facebook.com/beaufortgazette)

Title: **Top5issues McMaster would face as S.C. gov.**
 Author: BY CASSIE COPE ccope@thestate.com
 Size: 86.95 column inches
 Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015


POLITICS

Top 5 issues McMaster would face as S.C. gov.

BY CASSIE COPE
 ccope@thestate.com

Moving into the South Carolina governor's mansion means Henry McMaster would inherit the Palmetto State's most pressing issues, among them responding to a school equity lawsuit and repairing the state's crumbling roads and bridges.

The lieutenant governor is expected to replace Gov. Nikki Haley if she is confirmed by the U.S. Senate to be President-elect Donald Trump's ambassador to the United Nations.

McMaster's stances on the top issues are not as well known as Haley's. And for now, he's not taking questions, staying quiet since Haley's nomination was announced on Wednesday.

Still, it's certain he'll face the usual decisions of what takes priority as he works with the

General Assembly on how to spend money. And the demands on the state's pocketbook seem to be particularly acute right now.

Here are, arguably, the top five most pressing things South Carolina's next governor faces.

SCHOOLS

This year, lawmakers approved spending \$430 million more in general fund dollars on education than nine years ago, before the Great Recession.

But the state is spending only slightly higher in inflation-adjusted dollars than before the Great Recession, and is educating 6 percent more students than before the recession.

Haley pushed lawmakers to spend more on education in

recent years on reading coaches, technology and students in poverty. But this year, legislators failed to pass Haley's proposal — the first of its kind in nearly two decades — to spend state money to help poor districts build and renovate schools.

For decades, districts have had to raise money locally to upgrade facilities — leaving wealthier districts with strong tax bases with a huge advantage over poorer ones.

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SEE MCMASTER, 9A

FROM PAGE 1A

MCMASTER

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South Carolina's roads continue to crumble.

In part, that's because lawmakers have not increased the state's 16.75 cent-a-gallon gas tax, the second-lowest in the na-

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number of years," said Bill Ross of the S.C. Alliance to Fix Our Roads.

STATE BUDGET

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Lawmakers also could close the pension plan to new employees and require them to take part in a defined contribution plan, like a 401(k) investment plan. In the short term, that would increase the pension system's unfunded liability because new workers would not be paying into the system. But, in the long term, it would reduce the state's pension costs.

Whether McMaster will favor one solution over another remains to be seen.

Cassie Cope: 803-771-8657, @cassielcope

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GERRY MELENDEZ gmelendez@thestate.com

Donald Trump got an endorsement from Henry McMaster as he visited Harmon Tree Farm near Gilbert in January.