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Subject: Session Ends, Veto Recap, and July 4th -- Update from Sen. Tom Young – June 13 to June 30, 2014

Session Ends, Veto Recap, and July 4th -- Update from Sen. Tom Young – June 13 to June 30, 2014

The State Senate concluded the 2014 session at 5:00 pm on Thursday, June 19. The Senate will not meet again in statewide session until its 2015 organizational session at the end of this year. One of my goals as your state senator is that you find this update helpful and informative. Your feedback is meaningful and appreciated. If I can help you with an issue, please let me know. Thank you for reading and for allowing me to serve our District!

Happy Independence Day! : I hope that you and your family enjoy the July 4th holiday and reflect on how blessed that we are to live in the United States of America. To learn more about July 4th celebrations in the Aiken/Augusta area, go [here](#).

State Senate News

New Lt. Governor and New Senate President Pro Tem : With the expected resignation of Lt. Governor Glenn McConnell to become the next President of the College of Charleston, on June 18 the Senate elected Senator Yancey McGill from Kingstree to the Senate President Pro Tem position. When Lt. Governor McConnell resigned moments later, Sen. McGill ascended to the Lt. Governor position where he will serve for the remainder of this year. After Senator McGill's election, Senator Hugh Leatherman from Florence was elected President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Both Senators were unopposed at the time of their respective elections.

Ethics: The ethics legislation died with the end of session at 5:00 pm on June 19. As I wrote in previous columns this year, I support independent oversight and am disappointed that the final version which the Senate had to consider did not include that. With an ethics reform bill not receiving final passage, I expect ethics reform to be at the forefront of the 2015 legislative session. If the public pushes for ethics

reform in 2015, then my belief is that it will happen, but there has to be a grassroots push for it across the state. I welcome your feedback on this or any other issue.

Penny Sales Tax Option : Last Tuesday, Governor Haley signed into law legislation that gives more counties including Aiken County an additional option for voters to consider by way of referendum to pay for new public school buildings and renovations to existing school buildings. As to Aiken County, the legislation does the following:

- requires that at least 10% of the revenue collected from a penny sales tax be applied annually to reduce the debt millage for property tax that goes to the Aiken County School District for capital and maintenance needs (not operations). This will reduce the "school bond debt" portion of the property tax on 4% properties (owner occupied residential) properties; 6% properties (commercial); and motor vehicles.
- the sales tax cannot be collected on groceries; gasoline; prescription drugs; and other items exempt from state and local sales tax;
- requires that the voting public within the Aiken County School District vote on any proposed referendum for the penny sales tax at the time of a general election (not at a special election on a low turnout day);
- requires the School District to present what will be done with all collected money in a written proposal before the voter referendum;
- forbids the School District from bonding more than 90% of the money remaining after any portion that goes to property tax relief. This is a safety net measure to ensure a revenue stream will exist from the penny to pay for any bond issued by the School District;
- limits the number of local sales taxes that can be collected for any purpose at one time within Aiken County to two pennies. This means that with the capital projects sales tax penny currently being collected in Aiken County, if the school penny is also approved by voters, then there could not be any more local pennies collected in Aiken County under any other applicable law. Other counties allow up to 3 local pennies.

Penny Sales Tax Option Referendum Legislation -- Perspective: Unlike Aiken County, voters in twenty other counties in the state -- including our neighboring counties Lexington and Edgefield -- currently have the option under statewide or local laws to consider a penny sales tax for school capital needs in their county instead of a traditional property tax increase. This legislation allows Aiken County to have that option. Property owners in some school districts in counties that do not have the penny option have newer school facilities and the property owners are paying from 41% to 144% more in property taxes on school bond debt than property owners in Aiken County are. If voters approve a School District proposal under this option later this year or years from now, this legislation ensures that property owners will get some tax relief while all taxpayers in the county and visitors to the county will pay for any new school buildings and renovations specified in a proposed referendum rather than those improvements being paid for only by property owners within the county.

Dept. of Commerce Economic Outlook : To see the June 2014 economic outlook for the state, go [here](#).

Budget Vetoes Recap

Governor Haley's Budget Vetoes : On June 11, Governor Haley vetoed 76 line items and provisos in this year's budget totaling about \$18 Million collectively. Two weeks ago, the House of Representatives met and voted to sustain 15 of the 76 vetoes. The Senate then voted to sustain 8 more for a total of 23 vetoes being sustained. I voted to sustain 43 of the 61 vetoes that the Senate considered. The Senate sustained 8 of those. The Senate only considers any veto that the House overrides. If you have a particular veto for which you want to know more about, please let me know.

Clarification – Sustaining versus Overriding Budget Vetoes : When a budget veto is sustained, that means the vetoed appropriation is not part of the final budget. When a budget veto is overridden, that means the vetoed appropriation is part of the final budget despite the Governor's veto. At least a two thirds vote in both the House and the Senate is needed for an override. All the budget veto votes start in the House. If the House sustains a veto, then the Senate does not vote on that vetoed appropriation.

Governor Haley's Budget Vetoes – Sustained : The General Assembly sustained 23 of Governor Haley's 76 vetoes. Those that were sustained included money for a pay increase for legislators; a new position at the Dept. of Human Affairs; Charlotte Panthers training camp in Spartanburg; multi-purpose sports complex in Greenville/Spartanburg area; and an admissions tax proviso for State Parks.

Governor Haley's Budget Vetoes – Overrides : The General Assembly voted to override 53 of the 76 vetoes. Those that were overridden included funding for the caregivers program assisting homebound senior citizens across the state; the Woodrow Wilson boyhood home in Columbia; the Lee County bus shop; four new positions at the Clemson Public Service Authority; and a new archivist position at the Dept. of Archives.

News of Local Interest

Frequency of Email Updates : Because the legislature is out of session, my legislative updates will not be sent as frequently as they have been since January of this year. However, I will strive to provide at least a couple of updates per month over the summer into the fall.

End of Session Town Meetings : I plan to hold end of session town meetings in the district. Based on constituent requests, I will hold those after the summer vacation season ends. The dates, times, and locations will be provided in the future email updates.

Grass Cutting in the SCDOT Right of Way : Grass is growing in right of ways around our district. DOT has staff cutting the grass. If you are aware of an area

where high grass is obstructing vision for drivers as they enter or exit certain roads in our County, please call the SCDOT at 641-7665 or let me know and I will pass on the information.

Aiken County Public Library Summer Reading Program: The annual summer reading program for children and teenagers is ongoing at the Aiken County Public Library, the Nancy Carson Library in North Augusta, and other Aiken County library branches. The Program runs through early August. Reading is essential to doing well in school. Please encourage as many young people as you can to read this summer. For more information, call the Aiken County Public Library at 642- 2020 or go [here](#).

City of Aiken Litter Hotline : The City of Aiken now has a litter hotline. If you see litter on city property or streets that needs picking up, call the Hotline at 502-4999. The City will dispatch a litter crew to the area.

Constituent Information

Legislative Email Updates : Locally, three members of the House of Representatives, who represent portions of Aiken County within Senate District 24, send regular email updates. Their respective contact information to get on their email lists to receive their email updates are as follows:

- Rep. Bill Hixon (Dist. 83): bill@billhixon.com
- Rep. Bill Taylor (Dist. 86): bill@taylorscheuse.com
- Rep. Don Wells (Dist. 81): dwells29801@gmail.com

Congressman Joe Wilson Contact Information : Congressman Wilson represents all of Aiken County. He has staff in Aiken County with office hours in Aiken and in North Augusta. His office number is [608-9747](tel:608-9747).

Speaking with Groups Around the District : If you are involved with a local group that would like for me to attend a meeting to provide a legislative update, please let me know.

Report Waste, Fraud and Abuse in State Government : To report waste, fraud and abuse in state government, you can call: [1-855-SC-FRAUD](tel:1-855-SC-FRAUD).

Facebook: I have a Facebook page for Senator Tom Young. Please “like” the page to receive updates during the week from me on Facebook.

Tom Young’s Website : My website can be reached at <http://www.senatortomyoung.com>. There are links to a variety of constituent services; the status of sponsored bills; and roll call votes. Please add my web site as a bookmark on your computer.

Small Business Help – SC Dept. of Commerce : The South Carolina Department of Commerce has helpful information for small business owners and employees. To learn more, go to <http://sccommerce.com/south-carolina-business-network>.

Save for College - Future Scholar 529 College Savings Plan : South Carolina's 529 College Savings Plan Future Scholar offers special tax benefits for South Carolina residents. To learn more or to enroll, go to <http://www.FutureScholar.com/parents>.

Donate Life : You can register as an organ, eye, and tissue donor through the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles or at DonateLifeSC.org.

Child Passenger Safety : To learn more about ways to keep your children or grandchildren safe in your car, go to <http://www.bucklebuddiessc.org/>. The information at this link is provided in part by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety.

Request a Flag : If you would like to request a state or U.S. flag flown over the State Capitol in Columbia, please let me know at tom@senatortomyoung.com. Flags vary in cost according to their size and their material from which they are made.

State House Tours : Tours are available for the S.C. State House by calling (803) 734-2430. If you set a tour between January and June and it is on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, please let me know so I can do my best to see you.

Thoroughbred Country-- South Carolina Regional Tourism Organization : To learn more about tourism in the four county region of Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, and Barnwell, visit <http://www.tbredcountry.org>.

Email Updates : If you know of people in or around District 24 who do not receive my updates but they would like to get them, please email their names and email addresses to me.

Road Issues : If you see a road problem such as a pothole needing repair, call the SCDOT at [641-7665](tel:641-7665) or Aiken County at [642-1532](tel:642-1532) to report the problem. If you do not get a prompt response, please let me know at tom@senatortomyoung.com or call me. Generally, most paved roads in the County are maintained by SCDOT and are identified on the road sign poles by a small black and white sign listing the road number, such as S-2-1669. Most unpaved roads in the County are maintained by the County.

Thank you for the opportunity and the honor to represent you. Please let me know if I can help you in any way or if you have questions about these or other issues. Your feedback is meaningful and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tom Young
649-0000 (o)
215-3631 (cell)

Paid for by Tom Young for Senate

This message was sent to katherineveldran@gov.sc.gov from:

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