



Title: **Trump, Cruz go at each other in debate**  
 Author: By JULIE PACE and BILL BARROW Associated Press  
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# Trump, Cruz go at each other in debate

By JULIE PACE  
and BILL BARROW

Associated Press

NORTH CHARLESTON — Republican presidential candidates Donald Trump and Ted Cruz clashed Thursday night over the Texas senator's eligibility to serve as commander in chief and the businessman's "New York values," ending months of civility between fiery contenders seeking to tap into voter anger and frustration.

Two hours of prime-time argument presented voters a sharp contrast to the optimistic vision of America that President Barack Obama painted in his State of the Union address earlier this week. The candidates warned of dire risks to national security and

challenged claims of recent economic gains for the middle class.

The heated exchanges between Trump and Cruz dominated much of the contest, with the real estate mogul saying the senator has a "big question mark" hanging over his candidacy given his birth in Canada to an American mother.

"You can't do that to the party," Trump declared.

Cruz suggested Trump was only turning on him because he's challenging Trump's lead, particularly in

Iowa, which kicks off voting on Feb. 1. The senator was also on the defensive

about his failure to disclose on federal election forms some \$1 million in loans from Wall Street banks during his 2012 Senate campaign, saying it was little more than a "paperwork error."

Cruz also renewed his criticism of Trump's "New York values," a coded questioning of his rival's conservatism. But the biting barb appeared to backfire, eliciting an unexpectedly emotional response from Trump about his hometown's response to the

See **DEBATE**, page 3A

## DEBATE

*Continued from 1A*

Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

At times, the contest between some of the more mainstream candidates seeking to emerge as an alternative to Trump and Cruz was just as fiery, particularly between Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

Rubio likened Christie's policies to President Obama's, particularly on guns, Planned Parenthood and education reform — an attack Christie declared

false. Seeking to undermine Rubio's qualifications for president, Christie suggested that senators "talk and talk and talk" while governors such as himself are "held accountable for everything you do."

Still, Trump and Cruz dominated much of the debate, the first of the new year.

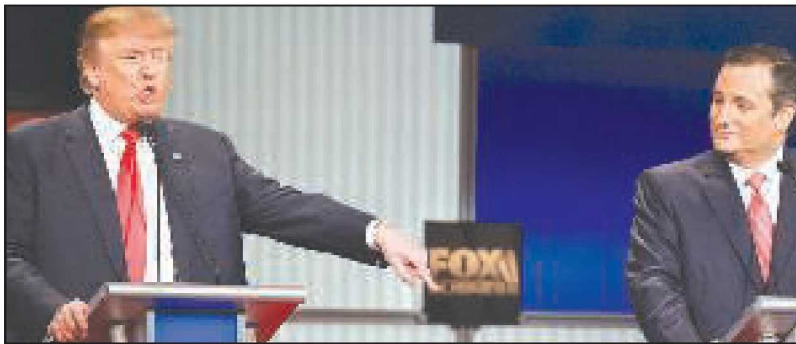
Cruz accused Trump of raising questions about his citizenship simply as a response to his

stronger standing in the polls that Trump still frequently touts in campaign events. The senator was also on the defensive about his failed disclosure on federal election forms of some \$1 million in loans from Wall Street banks during his 2012 Senate campaign, saying it was little more than a "paperwork error."

Thursday night's debate came at the end of a week that

has highlighted anew the deep rifts in the Republican Party. South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, a rising GOP star, was widely praised by many party leaders for including a veiled criticism of Trump's angry rhetoric during her response to Obama's State of the Union address — only to be chastised by conservative commentators and others for the exact same comment.

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Businessman Donald Trump speaks as Republican presidential candidate, Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, looks on during the Fox Business Network Republican presidential debate Thursday at the North Charleston Coliseum, in North Charleston.

Title: **What topGOPhopefulsneed to do in S.C. debate**  
 Author: BY ANDREW SHAIN ashain@thestate.com  
 Size: 33.17 square inch  
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



# What top GOP hopefuls need to do in S.C. debate

BY ANDREW SHAIN  
 ashain@thestate.com

With presidential primaries weeks, not months, away, the time has come for Republican candidates to make their moves to gain momentum just before first voters begin cast ballots.

A GOP debate at the North Charleston Coliseum and Performing Arts Center on Thursday is expected to jump start the final push. The Iowa caucus takes place Feb. 1.

In South Carolina, which holds the South's first primary on Feb. 20, five candidates have separated themselves from the field of 12: New York billionaire Donald Trump; U.S. Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas and Marco Rubio of Florida; retired Maryland neurosurgeon Ben Carson; and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

Here's what the top five polling Republicans in South Carolina, listed in order their current ranking, need to do to succeed in the de-

bate Thursday:

**Donald Trump:** Don't get knocked off the pedestal. He will attack others on the stage a bit (when has he not), but he should save it for the main foes: Cruz and Rubio. Look for an exchange with Cruz over his citizenship. Trump also should take up air time minimize competitors' chances to talk — or criticize him. Avoid getting (or looking) tired by the end of two-hour debate. Have any details for all those boasts making America great again? Might be time to share some.

**Ted Cruz:** Find a way past March 15. Go after Trump to make in-roads outside Iowa. Show where Trump is weak and vague. Avoid prolonged side debates with Rubio that might give Trump a chance at the high road. Can he articulate positions that might attract voters worried that he's too

far to the right? Would help, but with roughly a dozen Southern and Midwest heartland states holding primaries and caucuses before March 15, he might need to worry about that too much.

**Marco Rubio:** Solidify the position as the establishment choice. This might be the time to ratchet up attacks on the top two. The horse race is about to start, and Rubio needs to get closer to the leaders. Show a more realistic approach to foreign relations and the

economy, which has started 2016 in midst of a stock market turmoil, as opposed to his main rivals. Avoid fights with those polling behind him (that means Bush in particular). Play the smart, reasonable guy in the room.

**Ben Carson:** Stop the free fall. He was the No. 2 guy for much of the fall. Now he's in the single-digit club in polls. Bad news?

Debates have not been his strong suit. Not even close. He would need to turn in a top-notch dynamic performance he's not shown on a televised stage to work his way back into the top three from North Charleston. His best hope appears to be his grassroots supporters coming out on primary and caucus election days like they do at his appearances.

**Jeb Bush:** Time is running out. Among the early primary states, the campaign's big spender is most competitive in South Carolina — and he's fifth. He went after Trump at the last debate. He'll probably do so again — bolstered by S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley's criticisms this week. Look for attacks at one-time protégé Rubio, the punching bag of new ads by the pro-Bush super PAC. He needs a stellar performance and must show that voters were right to make him the early front-runner.

Title: **Reportcard: Seven possible GOP choices for Vice President**  
 Author: BY DAVID LIGHTMAN [dlightman@mcclatchydc.com](mailto:dlightman@mcclatchydc.com)  
 Size: 49.75 square inch  
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# Report card: Seven possible GOP choices for Vice President

BY DAVID LIGHTMAN

[dlightman@mcclatchydc.com](mailto:dlightman@mcclatchydc.com)

WASHINGTON

Nikki Haley for vice president?

Let the runaway speculation begin.

The governor of South Carolina leaped into the forefront of possible 2016 Republican running mates Tuesday with her address following President Barack Obama's State of the Union speech. And she told NBC's Matt Lauer on Wednesday that while she's not campaigning for the job, she would "sit down and talk" with any candidate interested in her.

Still, there are many possibilities:

## SEN. ROB PORTMAN OF OHIO

**Pros:** Experience as White House budget director and U.S. trade representative. In 2010, the 60-year-old Portman easily won election to the Senate in a critical state. He's considered a thoughtful center-right voice.

**Cons:** Quiet, unexciting, not conservative enough for the GOP right.

## NEVADA GOV. BRIAN SANDOVAL

**Pros:** Was a federal judge, confirmed 89-0 by the Senate. In 2010, the 52-year-old Sandoval won the governorship over Rory Reid, son of

Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid. Easily won re-election in 2014.

**Cons:** Untested beyond Nevada, and unexciting. See Portman.

## NEW MEXICO GOV. SUSANA MARTINEZ

**Pros:** The nation's first Latina governor, the 56-year-old Martinez made Time magazine's 2013 list of the world's 100 most influential people. Re-elected last year.

**Cons:** Santa Fe New Mexican reported federal investigators are looking into campaign practices.

## SEN. MARCO RUBIO OF FLORIDA

**Pros:** Yes, he's seeking the GOP presidential nomination. But if Rubio, 44, doesn't win, and runs a credible race, he'll get a look for the second spot. He's young, Cuban-American, and from a pivotal state.

**Cons:** So far he hasn't gotten much momentum or stirred much passion among Republicans nationwide.

## SEN. KELLY AYOTTE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

**Pros:** Ayotte, 47, is respected in the Senate as a thoughtful voice on national security matters. Won a Senate seat in a swing state.

**Cons:** Not a strong public

speaker and faces a tough re-election campaign this year.

## SEN. JOHN THUNE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

**Pros:** A Republican hero because he beat Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle in 2004. Part of GOP Senate leadership, Thune, 55, is known as steady, thoughtful.

**Cons:** From a small state, doesn't create much campaign excitement.

## SOUTH CAROLINA GOV. NIKKI HALEY

On paper there are lots of reasons Haley makes sense. Southerner. Daughter of Indian immigrants. A woman who would be on the ticket of a party badly needing help winning women voters. 43 years old. Second-term governor. Showed lots of grit last year when she led the move to remove the Confederate flag from the State-house grounds.

Of course, this all assumes there's logic involved in picking a vice presidential candidate. And there often isn't.

Haley would face the same questions that surface every four summers, as nominees consider their running mate:

**- Can she get along personally and philosophically with the nominee?** A

conservative may want someone more to the center. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, for instance, may want to soften the ticket's image by going with the more moderate John Kasich, the governor of Ohio. Haley has a reputation as a tougher conservative. Flip side: Donald Trump, the current Republican front-runner, may need someone such as Haley to counter his rough edges.

**- Will the vetters, the investigators who will scrutinize every second of her life, find enough to raise doubts in the nominee's mind?** Who knows?

**- Will the primary and caucus process produce a runner-up who does so well, and proves himself so battle-tested, that the nominee feels he's got to put him or her on the ticket?** It happened in 2004 when Democrat John Kerry

chose Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina.

**- Will the nominee want someone who can carry a swing state?** After all, chances are South Carolina is going to be safe Republican territory in the general election. While geography rarely matters in these decisions (2008 nominee Sarah Palin came from Alaska), it still is in the mix.

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S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley speaks to the crowd at the Kemp Forum, Saturday in Columbia. Is she a potential vice presidential candidate?



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Rave reviews for Gov. Nikki Haley's State of the Union response poured from leading political figures Wednesday, though a target of her criticism in the address — GOP presidential front-runner Donald Trump — fired back at the S.C. Republican.

Haley won praise from many for saying Tuesday that Republicans should accept part of the blame for dysfunction in Washington and warning GOP voters to avoid following "the siren call of the angriest voices," a reference to Trump.

Republicans leaders issued statements of support for Haley,

and she also got a thumbs up from a Democratic White House leader.

"I have a lot of admiration for the governor," Denis McDonough, the White House chief of staff, told The New York Times. "By no means am I trying to endorse

everything that she's doing, but I do think that a lot of this, including parts of the speech last night, were admirable."

Furman University political scientist Danielle Vinson said Haley offered something that has been missing from GOP presidential candidates. "She did more talking about her party's positive agenda than any single (one) of

them has done all year," she said.

Much of the talk the morning after Haley's address centered on her vice presidential ambitions in the 2016 race. The nation's young-

## SEE HALEY, 10A

**S.C. governor took on fellow Republicans, GOP presidential front-runner Trump**

**Says she would talk to candidates who see her as possible vice presidential choice**

**Trump calls Haley weak on illegal immigration**

## HALEY FROM PAGE 1A

est sitting governor gave the same answer that she has offering for months, telling morning-TV show hosts that she is willing to speak with presidential candidates who want to consider her for the No. 2 spot.

Later Wednesday, Trump hit back.

The New York billionaire told Fox News and MSNBC that he is leading in S.C. polls "by a lot." He leads U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas 33 percent to 22 percent, according to an average of polls by Real Clear Politics, though no new S.C. polls have been released in nearly a month.

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Haley said Wednesday tone and language matters in the election, especially with Trump, whom she called a friend. "The one that got me is when he said, 'Ban all Muslims,'" she said. "When you've got immigrants coming here legally, we've never in the history of this country passed any law or passed anything based on race or religion. Let's not start that now. I have been through those fights. That's not worth it. We want to

move America forward."

Haley said she does not agree with other candidates on all issues, including U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., who once backed amnesty for undocumented immigrants, a position he now has

backed away from. "What I would say to Mr. Trump is, 'Don't take it personally,'" she said. "This is just something that we just learned in South Carolina that I'm passing along. Take it if you want. Don't take it if you don't. But I think our country would be better if you take it."

Some other conservatives were not impressed South Carolina's first female criticized her own party.

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*Denis McDonough, White  
House chief of staff*

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 Author: BY DAVIDLIGHTMAN McClatchy Washington Bureau  
 Size: 43.55 square inch  
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● Will the nominee want someone who can carry a swing state? South Carolina is safe Republican territory in the general election.



Title: **Senators insight of a deal to repair SC roads?**  
 Author: BY CASSIE COPE ccope@thestate.com  
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## THE LEGISLATURE

# Senators in sight of a deal to repair SC roads?

BY CASSIE COPE

ccope@thestate.com

The Senate's Thursday session will end early so a group of senators can continue working behind the scenes on a road-repair deal, Senate leader Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, said Wednesday.

"Hopefully, the Senate will bite," Leatherman said of the compromise that emerges from the working group of eight senators.

In an ideal world, the senators

would wrap up their work Thursday, said state Sen. Ray Cleary, R-Georgetown, the working group's co-leader. But if that doesn't happen, the senators will work long days next week to reach a compromise that can be debated on the Senate floor, he said.

"There's a good chance we bring a compromise amendment to the floor of the Senate in a couple weeks," said state Sen.

Joel Lourie, D-Richland, a senator working on a deal.

Lourie said senators in the working group realize it is critical to pass a bill to repair the state's crumbling roads and bridges. "I don't think anybody wants to wait until June."

Senators will have to agree on how much to increase the state's 16.75 cent-a-gallon gas tax, the

**SEE ROADS, 7A**

## ROADS FROM PAGE 3A

third lowest in the nation, and other driving-related fees. They also will have to agree on how much to cut taxes, likely the state income tax, and how to change the structure of the Transportation Department, now legislatively controlled.

The Transportation Department's current structure does not make sense, S.C. Chamber of Commerce president Ted Pitts, a former legislator and aide to Gov. Nikki Haley, told an S.C. House oversight panel Wednesday.

Pitts, whose organiza-

tion endorses a gas-tax increase, said the Transportation Department's structure makes it difficult to determine who is responsible for the agency. Seven transportation commissioners are elected by legislative delegations, and one is appointed by the governor. The Transportation Department secretary, who heads the agency, also is appointed by the governor.

Pitts praised legislation, passed in 2007, setting criteria to be used by the Transportation Department in prioritizing road repairs.

But he criticized lawmakers for sending money

to the S.C. Transportation Infrastructure Bank, which does not have to follow those priorities. In addition, Pitts criticized lawmakers for sending \$216 million to counties last year, saying local governments also do not have to follow a prioritization process.

Michael Covington of the S.C. Coastal Conservation League told the House committee that his organization recommends abolishing the Infrastructure Bank. The bank's bonding powers should be transferred to the Transportation Department, making the bank's activities part of the statewide

transportation-planning process, he said.

Only interstate and primary routes that existed prior to 2016 should be eligible for the borrowing, he added.

The Coastal Conservation League opposes new road construction, largely to protect the environment from what it says is unnecessary sprawl and over-development.

"Funding must be addressed. There's no question about it," Covington said. "But do you put water in a leaking bucket?"

Cassie Cope: 803-771-8657, @cassielcope

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FILE PHOTOGRAPH The State

Forest Drive is repaired where floodwaters washed portions away.

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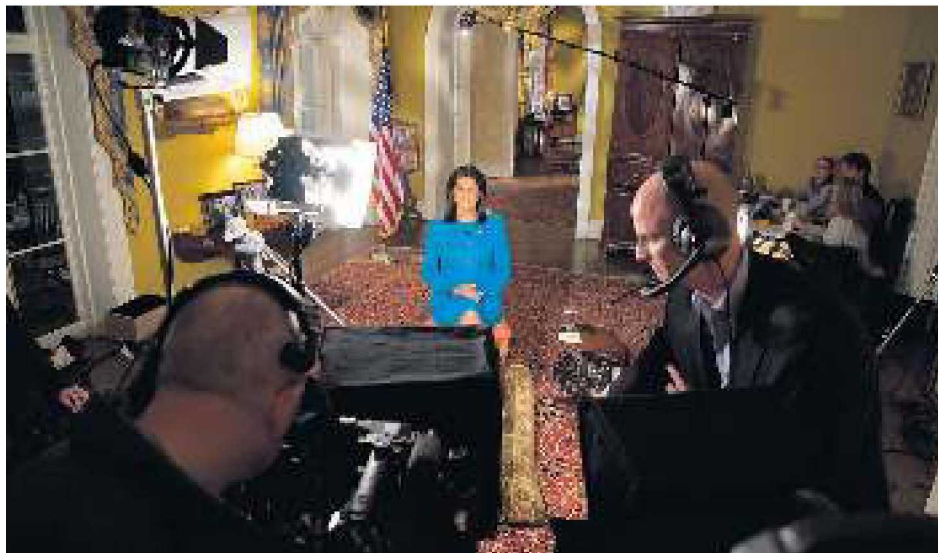
that South Carolina's first female and minority governor criticized her own party.

Former chief executive Carly Fiorina, who is running for the GOP presidential nomination, told a radio show Wednesday that Haley "doesn't speak for me."

Radio show host Laura Ingraham tweeted Haley's address was the type of establishment message that might not win the GOP nomination with Trump and Cruz, a social conservative, leading in polls: "We'll see how popular these views are as primaries begin."

Commentator and author Ann Coulter was more blunt, tweeting, "Trump should deport Nikki Haley." That will be tough to do. The governor, daughter of Indian immigrants, was born in Bamberg.

*Staff writer Jamie Self contributed.*



SAM HOLLAND Office of the Governor

Gov. Nikki Haley prepares to deliver the State of the Union response on Tuesday from the S.C. Governor's Mansion.

Title: **Haley proposes teacher initiatives**  
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## ■ EDUCATION IN SC

# Haley proposes teacher initiatives

By SEANNA ADCOX

Associated Press

GASTON — Gov. Nikki Haley's education improvement plans include offering students the chance to graduate from college debt-free and providing up to \$200 million annually for school construction.

The Republican governor announced the third year of her education initiatives Wednesday with state Superintendent Molly Spearman at a school in rural Gaston.

Most of it will be included in her 2016-17 budget proposal, which she'll release Friday. The announce-

ment comes as legislators face a June deadline for developing a plan to fix South Carolina's broken education system. In November 2014, the state's high court ruled on a then-21-year-old case that the state fails to provide educational opportunities in poor, rural districts.

But Haley insists her plan has nothing to do with that lawsuit.

It designates \$15 million for recruiting and retaining teachers in impoverished areas. That includes annual tuition scholarships of up to \$7,500. To get the scholarship for four years, students would have to commit to working eight years in a district with turnover rates

exceeding 12 percent. The incentive money would also fund scholarships for teachers and teachers' aides who already work in those districts and want to earn a certification or master's degree.

That part of Haley's proposal puts money behind an idea she first announced last year.

Haley's budget will again put \$29 million toward technology improvements — honoring the third of a three-year commitment.

See **HALEY**, page 4A

## HALEY

*Continued from 1A*

This year's plan expands on that pledge with an additional \$5 million designated to the neediest schools, plus \$5 million to provide roughly 10,000 poor students with Internet access at home.

New to Haley's initiative this year is a request to borrow up to \$200 million annually for schools, starting in the 2017-18 school year. Her proposal, to set aside 1 percent of the state's debt capacity for K-12 schools,

would require separate legislation.

Haley said she can't ignore the leaky roofs, moldy walls and other unsafe conditions in schools she visits. Improving education includes improving the buildings where students spend most

of their day, she said.

"My heart is always in rural areas," said Haley, who grew up in tiny Bamberg. "Morale matters. ... We want them to feel safe and we want them to feel they're worthy."

Like Spearman, Haley first





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wants to evaluate districts' infrastructure needs. The governor's budget designates \$2.5 million toward a state-wide review of school buildings. A House panel has recommended creating a low-to-no-interest loan program for facilities. But Spearman has said poor districts can't afford to pay back such loans. Haley's budget plan would also: — Provide \$19 million to raise the state's supplement for bus driver salaries. — Increase charter school spending by \$11.5 million. — Add \$1 million to expand the state's virtual school. Last school year, nearly 40,000 students statewide took a course through the online program, Spearman said. She touted it as a way to increase offerings in rural districts that otherwise can't afford it. — Spend \$165 million to cover growing populations at traditional schools while increasing the "base student cost" by \$80 to \$2,300.



**NIKKI  
HALEY**



Title: **Haley a good choice on 2016 GOP ticket**

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## ■ OUR VIEW

# Haley a good choice on 2016 GOP ticket

It should come as no surprise that Gov. Nikki Haley admits she would entertain the prospect of being on the ticket for the GOP frontrunner in November's presidential race.

Haley has been in the national spotlight more than once during her tenure as governor. That she was asked to deliver the GOP response to President Obama's State of the Union address not only speaks well of our sitting governor, but might indeed portend what lies ahead — if not this year, perhaps sometime down the road. Recall Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal was also thrust into the national spotlight when he gave the GOP response to Obama's first State of the Union Address. Jindal presented himself as a presidential contender in the long line of Republicans who geared up for a 2016 presidential run. His was a short-lived campaign, true, but that does not necessarily mean Haley's political trajectory will follow that of Jindal's.

People might also be quick to liken Haley's vice presidential prospects to her former contemporary from Alaska, Sarah Palin, who was tapped in 2008 to be on the ticket with Sen. John McCain. While both are conservative Republicans and have been successful in their own rights, Haley does not strike us as one who would explode like an errant Scud missile launched by Iraq during Operation Desert Storm.

We have not always found ourselves aligned with Haley. Ethical questions continue to swirl around her role as a hospital fundraiser while serving in the House, but she would hardly be the first lawmaker to not only toe, but also cross the line between right and wrong while remaining shy of doing anything criminal. She has been a vocal

proponent of ethics reform, but has not been instrumental in achieving meaningful reform through her compatriots in the Statehouse.

Haley has, however, been a unity builder at times when unity was most needed. Cynics — and we oftentimes lump ourselves in that category — will say her leadership in bringing the Confederate flag down from the Statehouse grounds monument was motivated purely by politics. A politically smart move? Well, that depends. Many a voter who aligns with the GOP stood adamantly opposed to the flag's removal, something that could cause many South Carolinians to hold that against her in the voting booth.

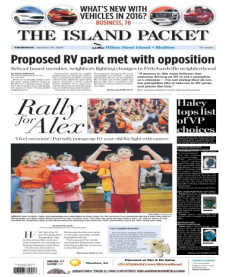
While Haley has opened up and said she would be willing to discuss a vice presidential slot on a GOP ticket, she certainly made it clear Tuesday night that a Trump-Haley ticket is not likely. At the very least, given her rhetoric on immigration, she has likely ensured Trump would not be seeking her as his running mate.

"During anxious times, it can be tempting to follow the siren call of the angriest voices," she said Tuesday. "We must resist that temptation." There is no mistaking Haley was firing that shot across Trump's bow.

We are now halfway into January and, finally, have less than a year to go to the presidential election. The GOP crowd will continue to get whittled down as Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton jockey for the nod from the Democrats. In only a few weeks, South Carolinians will do their part to affect the outcome by casting their votes in the two primaries. Then, as the weeks and months pass, we'll get a better glimpse at what lies ahead for our governor.

This much we know. Haley is a viable running mate who likely could serve any contender's chances well.

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# Haley tops list of VP choices

The SC governor leaps into the forefront with her address after the president's speech. She is one of the GOP's possible picks.

By **DAVID LIGHTMAN**

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Nikki Haley for vice president?

Let the runaway speculation begin.

The governor of South Carolina leaped into the forefront of possible 2016 Republican running mates Tuesday with her address following President Barack Obama's State of the Union speech. And she told NBC's Matt Lauer on Wednesday that while she's not campaigning for the job, she would "sit down and talk" with any candidate inter-

ested in her.

Still, there are many possibilities:

## **SEN. ROB PORTMAN OF OHIO**

**Pros:** Experience as White House budget director and U.S. trade representative. In 2010, the 60-year-old Portman easily won election to the Senate in a critical state. He's considered a thoughtful center-right voice.

**Cons:** Quiet, unexciting, not conservative enough for the GOP right.

## **NEVADA GOV.**

### **BRIAN SANDOVAL**

**Pros:** Was a federal judge, confirmed 89-0 by the Senate. In 2010, the 52-year-old Sandoval won the governorship over Rory Reid, son of Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid. Easily won reelection in 2014.

**Cons:** Untested beyond Nevada, and unexciting. See Portman.

Please see **HALEY** on 7A

## **HALEY**

Continued from 1A

### **NEW MEXICO GOV. SUSANA MARTINEZ**

**Pros:** The nation's first Latina governor, the 56-year-old Martinez made Time magazine's 2013 list of the world's 100 most influential people. Re-elected last year.

**Cons:** Santa

Fe New Mexican reported federal investigators are looking into campaign practices.

### **SEN. MARCO RUBIO OF FLORIDA**

**Pros:** Yes, he's seeking the GOP presidential nomination. But if Rubio, 44, doesn't win, and runs a credible race, he'll get a look

for the second spot. He's young, Cuban-American, and from a pivotal state.

**Cons:** So far he hasn't gotten much momentum or stirred much passion among Republicans nationwide.

### **SEN. KELLY AYOTTE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**Pros:** Ayotte, 47, is respect-

ed in the Senate as a thoughtful voice on national security matters. Won a Senate seat in a swing state.

**Cons:** Not a strong public speaker and faces a tough reelection campaign this year.

### **SEN. JOHN THUNE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**Pros:** A Republican hero

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because he beat Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle in 2004. Part of GOP Senate leadership, Thune, 55, is known as steady, thoughtful.

**Cons:** From a small state, doesn't create much campaign excitement.

#### HALEY

On paper there are lots of reasons Haley makes sense. Southerner. Daughter of Indian immigrants. A woman who would be on the ticket

of a party badly needing help winning women voters. Forty-three years old. Second-term governor. Showed lots of grit last year when she led the move to remove the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds.

Of course, this all assumes there's logic involved in picking a vice presidential candidate. And there often isn't.

Haley would face the same questions that surface every four summers, as nominees consider their running mate:

- Can she get along personally and philosophically with the nominee? A conservative

may want someone more to the center. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, for instance, may want to soften the ticket's image by going with the more moderate John Kasich, the governor of Ohio. Haley has a reputation as a tougher conservative. Flip side: Donald Trump, the current Republican front-runner, may need someone such as Haley to counter his rough edges.

- Will the vetters, the investigators who will scrutinize every second of her life, find enough to raise doubts in the nominee's mind? Who knows?

- Will the primary and caucus process produce a runner-up who does so well, and proves himself so battle-tested, that the nominee feels he's got to put him or her on the ticket? It happened in 2004 when Democrat John Kerry chose Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina.

- Will the nominee want someone who can carry a swing state? After all, chances are South Carolina is going to be safe Republican territory in the general election. While geography rarely matters in these decisions (2008 nominee Sarah Palin came from Alaska), it still is in the mix.



**Haley**



**Portman**



**Sandoval**



**Martinez**



**Rubio**



**Ayotte**



**Thune**