



Title: **Anastopoulos hosting Clinton fundraiser**
 Author:
 Size: 62.93 square inch
 Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289

Anastopoulos hosting Clinton fundraiser

Democratic presidential frontrunner **Hillary Clinton** will headline her first South Carolina campaign fundraiser on Wednesday at the downtown Charleston home of husband-and-wife attorneys **Akim and Constance Anastopoulos**.

Akim Anastopoulos is a bit of a celebrity in Charleston. He's known for the advertising catch phrase "Don't Scream, Call Akim!" and once hosted his own syndicated court TV show, "**Eye for an Eye**," where he played the presiding judge.

Anastopoulos said he's 100 percent behind Clinton in 2016. "We're honored to have her come to our house," he said.

According to the invite, the Clinton effort is seeking some large cash donations from those who attend.

"Event Hosts need to raise \$10k (4 people at max contribution or any other denomination thereof) and Event Co-Hosts are asked to contribute \$2,700," the invitation said.

Clinton is making her first campaign appearance in Charleston earlier on Wednesday, before the 5 p.m. closed-door event.

Anastopoulos recently appeared as himself as the law firm boss to one of the cast members on Bravo's "**Southern Charm**" reality TV show.

Gilliard gets ceremonial body-cam signing pen

Bill-signings often happen with little or short notice because governors have busy schedules, and Gov. **Nikki Haley's** schedule last week was packed. It included multiple trips throughout the state and a visit to Washington, D.C.

That's why only a handful of lawmakers seemed to know late Tuesday that Haley was planning to sign the police body camera bill on Wednesday.

The lack of notice frustrated Rep. **Wendell Gilliard**, D-Charleston, who was an early booster of body cameras for law enforcement officers. Gilliard said he was taken aback when Haley didn't invite him to attend Wednesday's bill signing.

But Haley's office stressed that everyone in the General Assembly was blasted with the same notification of the impending signing. And when she signed the bill in North Charleston, Gilliard was among those who got a ceremonial pen.

"Though we have philosophical differences, you have to give credit where credit is due," Gilliard said. "You have to have Republicans and Democrats to make a bill like this succeed. ... That's why this bill is becoming law. To push me aside is wrong."

Gilliard first pushed for body cameras in 2014, before Walter Scott was shot in the

back by a North Charleston police officer now charged with murder. Gilliard started getting bipartisan support for it then.

Scott's April death helped make the bill a priority for the General Assembly.

Gilliard later gave the signing pen to **Feiden Santana**, who captured the Scott shooting on his cellphone.

Charleston mayoral race ebb and flow

The exact number of candidates seeking to succeed Charleston Mayor **Joe Riley** won't be known until filing for city offices closes on Aug. 17. But City Councilman **Mike Seekings** is expected to announce this month if he will be joining the fray.

Currently, there are seven candidates who have announced and filed financial paperwork with the State Ethics Commission, including nonprofit founder **Ginny Deerin**, City Councilman **William Dudley Gregorie**, political newcomer **Toby Smith**, state Rep. **Leon Stavrinakis**, businessman **John Tecklenburg**, former City Councilman **Paul Tinkler** and former Councilman **Maurice Washington**.

In one sense, it's still early in the process since the official filing period for city offices doesn't open until Aug. 3.

In another sense, it's relatively late. Two candidates, Charleston restaurateur **Dick**

Elliott and former City Councilman **Henry Fishburne**, already have announced, raised money and then withdrawn from the race.

Riley has held the mayoral position since 1975, a record 10 four-year terms. His successor will get paid more. Earlier this year, City Council agreed to raise the mayoral pay from **\$162,816 to \$180,000**, effective once the new mayor takes office.

Oliver North: I shall return

Retired Marine and media personality **Oliver North** returns to Charleston next month with the Concerned Veterans for America's "Defend Freedom Tour" on July 11 at The Citadel.

The group says it is building a "movement of veterans, military families, and patriotic Americans to preserve the freedom and prosperity that we and our families so proudly fought and sacrificed to defend," according to its press announcement.

Attendance at the family-friendly event of speakers and a patriotic concert is free. It will run from 6-9 p.m. at **The Citadel Alumni Center's** Courvoisier Banquet Hall, 69 Hagood Ave. Admission includes a complimentary barbecue dinner.

North has visited Charleston in the past, including doing his radio show from here.

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Bernie Sanders visits Charleston on June 21

Vermont independent Sen. **Bernie Sanders**, who like Hillary Clinton is chasing the Democratic presidential nomination, will be in Charleston on June 21 at the ILA Union Hall on Morrison Drive for a town hall. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with a 7 p.m. start.

TV appearances

U.S. Sen. **Lindsey Graham** will be on CBS' "Face the Nation" Sunday morning. It will be his **seventh** Sunday morning news program appearance of the year, according to media tabulations.

— From Post and Courier reporters Schuyler Kropf, Robert Behre, Andrew Knapp and Cynthia Roldan.

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Hillary Clinton

Title: **Hoping to pave the way to fix S.C. roads**
 Author: BY CYNTHIA ROLDAN croldan@postandcourier.com
 Size: 78.58 square inch
 Charleston, SC Circulation: 110289



Hoping to pave the way to fix S.C. roads

Dems put hopes on
special session efforts

BY CYNTHIA ROLDAN
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COLUMBIA — South Carolina's Democrats don't want the Palmetto State to become known as the Pothole State.

House Democratic

leaders say they're frustrated the session ended without a fix for the state's crumbling roads, and they're planning on a last-ditch effort in the coming week's special session to

prevent South Carolina from getting a new, less complimentary nickname.

Before the Legislature reconvenes for the three-day session beginning Tuesday, Democrats plan to call on

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Haley, Jindal explain their faith in prayer meeting. **A2**

Work left until budget possible. **A7**

Dems want fix before S.C. becomes the Pothole State

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the Republican leadership to rally their troops behind several proposed roads funding efforts.

"It's our last hope," said House Minority Leader Rep. Todd Rutherford. "It's our last-ditch effort to make sure that those in leadership — since the Republican leadership has failed us — know that we're serious about it. And not just Democrats, but everybody."

The Columbia Democrat added that since the legislative session officially ended June 4, almost everybody — including a bailiff in court — has approached him wanting to know what lawmakers are going to do

to fix the state's roads.

On Tuesday, Democrats plan to use several procedural moves to take a last shot at roads funding, including calling on lawmakers in both chambers to amend the Sine Die resolution that called them back for this week's special session and add the roads funding debate to issues they must tackle, such as the budget.

The second involves filing a new roads funding bill using the same language that the House passed in April, in hopes that it can be placed on the floor immediately, voted on again and sent to the Senate.

That plan allocated at least \$400 million for roads, primarily

through tax on gasoline at the wholesale level. It also gave Gov. Nikki Haley more control over the Department of Transportation, reduced the state income tax and had an option, coupled with an incentive, for counties to take over maintenance of more local roads.

Finally, they'll also move to amend a bill that addresses how the state should spend the \$415 million it collected above revenue projections. The amendment would have the roads funding bill's exact same language, but with an added expiration date of a year. That way the state will at least have the \$400 million the roads bill was expected to generate this fiscal year until the

lawmakers return to address a permanent solution during the 2016 legislative session.

"We can do this," said Rep. James Smith, D-Columbia. "Democrats recognize that it's a priority for our state and believe it to be. It is the responsibility of this General Assembly to address this important need, and we shouldn't let one individual stand in the way of the progress of this state."

Smith's claim that one person blocked roads funding referred to the filibuster mounted by Beaufort Republican Sen. Tom Davis in the final weeks of the session. Davis prevented debate and a vote in the Senate on the House roads plan because of his opposition to using money

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in the state's rainy day fund for higher education building projects instead of roads.

But the roads bill also lost steam in the Senate for other reasons. Among them was the campaign Americans For Prosperity mounted, changing the stance of several sena-

tors who initially supported a compromise on roads funding. Rutherford acknowledged the bill hit several roadblocks, but stressed that lawmakers should not run away from bad publicity.

How Republican lawmakers will respond to the Democrats'

move on Tuesday is hard to tell because it's difficult to judge their appetite when they're not in session, Rutherford said. But he said he's tired of being embarrassed when he runs into residents concerned over the Legislature's lack of action.

"We know how to fix the

problem," Rutherford said. "It's simply a matter of rolling up our sleeves and getting it done."

Reach **Cynthia Roldan** at 708-5891.

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House Minority Leader Todd Rutherford, D-Columbia

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FILE/BRAD NETTLES/STAFF

House Democrats say the public will know who to blame, if their efforts to revive the roads-funding bill fail.

Title: **SC legislative session was good to military**

Author:

Size: 31.62 square inch

Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015

**OTHER VIEWPOINTS**

SC legislative session was good to military

In-state tuition bill was one of seven "military friendly" bills to pass with strong support from Beaufort group.

For too long, South Carolina law kept college out of reach for too many student veterans.

Before the passage of a bill sponsored by S.C. Sen. Tom Young, R-Aiken, during this past session, a one-year wait time existed for service members leaving the military to receive in-state tuition.

These are the men and women who have fought to protect us. Shutting out veterans from receiving a quality education merely because they haven't lived in our state quite long enough was a totally misguided stipulation.

Thankfully, Young's bill was actually passed by the General Assembly last month, and on Tuesday, Gov. Nikki Haley held a ceremonial bill signing at USC Aiken, which was hosted by the school's Veteran and Military Student Success Center.

It was clear that, because this stipulation was in place, the extra expense that came with out-of-state tuition caused some veterans to decide not to attend or to defer enrollment.

Lawmakers sensibly moved forward with the bill this session after it was noted that all veterans attending schools in the state who were on the Post 9/11 GI Bill would lose their benefits after July 1 un-

less such a measure was approved.

Its passage also rightfully and wisely brings the state in line with a federal law approved last year that would penalize those states who lag in providing in-state tuition to veterans. Backers of the measure have said the proposal will attract more military veterans to the state and thereby boost the quality of the state's workforce. This is undoubtedly true.

The bill also makes the state more "military friendly," which the Pentagon takes into consideration when deciding whether to close or reduce the size of the state's military installations amid cutbacks.

It is one of seven "military friendly" bills to pass in this legislative session, all of them pushed by the Beaufort Regional Chamber of Commerce and Military Enhancement Committee.

"These seven bills are important to our military families, and I want to thank our legislators for their leadership and support on these important bills," said chamber president and CEO Blakely Williams.

The in-state tuition bill clearly carried a common-sense approach and was overdue. Our state and country are already so indebted to members of the armed services.

This should be seen as a relatively small but needed gesture in showing a tangible piece of appreciation for all that our veterans have done.

The Aiken Standard