

Title: **Big news for local gal governor**

Author:

Size: 36.27 column inches

Lexington, SC Circulation: 5652



Big news for local gal governor

Last week President-elect Donald Trump named Lexington resident Gov. Nikki Haley ambassador to the United Nations, pending Senate approval.

I remember when Gov. Haley was running for her first elected office, and she passed out donuts to potential voters while seeking their thoughts and opinions on issues.

She was elected to the House of Representatives and then elected and re-elected the first female Governor of South Carolina. Now she faces a new challenge, but she will accept and handle any challenge well.

She would be succeeded by Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, a familiar face to Lexington County.

WE CELEBRATED THANKSGIVING last Thursday at our daughter Charlotte's house. The house has been renovated following damage from the October 2015 flood. We enjoyed all of the family's favorites, and talked about news and football around the dinner table.

In some homes, before the turkey was even digested, shoppers scrambled for the best Black Friday sales during one of the busiest shopping times of the year.

CLEMSON HOSTED USC for the big rivalry game last Saturday. Gamecocks took a beating and ended with a disappointing loss of 56-7. We are a divided family, and some were celebrating while others tried to forget the score and hope for better next year when Williams-Brice Stadium will host the rivalry.

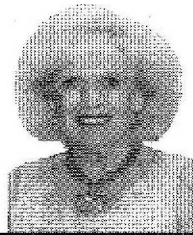
THIS WEEKEND IS the Town of Lexington Snowball Festival December 2-4. Mayor Steve MacDougall invites you and your family to come out and catch the spirit at the festivities.

On Friday there will be a concert and carni-

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**AROUND LEXINGTON
COUNTY**

val in Lexington Square Park from 6 to 8 p.m. The Tree Lighting is at 8 p.m.

On Saturday there will be movies in the Icehouse Amphitheater beginning at 5 p.m.

On Sunday the annual Lexington Christmas Parade will make its way down Main Street at 3:30 p.m. Immediately following will be the

concert at the amphitheater.

THE LEXINGTON COUNTY Choral Society will host its Christmas concert, "We Wish you Christmas," at Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church in Lexington on December 2 and 3 at 7:30 p.m. Founder and director Hal McIntosh invites you to come get into the Christmas mood and celebrate the season!

REMEMBER THAT THE Hite-Dooley Fundraiser will be Saturday, December 3 from 10 a.m. until sell out. Come out and enjoy old-fashioned chicken stew and fixin's at the Reunion Building at 825 Two Notch Rd. Call Stan Hite for more information at (803) 546-2069, or M. Dooley at (803) 606-4452.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DOT and Jim Manning on the birth of their great-grandson River Eichorst, born November 22!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: VICKI Jorgensen, Tom McCants, Cooper Banks, Cathey Klimek, Brian Peck, Dakota Bays, Christopher Broome, Wendell Christine, Bill Juhl, Harmon Petrusick, Sandra Shealy, Meadow Wessinger, Bryce Windham, Ralph Haggard, Kerri Brittingham, Chuck Corley, Holly g

GAMBLE, NOLAN RISH, Shannon Wessinger, Thomas Brunson, Nancy Lipinski, Shirlean Sons, Alice Adkins, Betty Massey, Corley Hight-

Title: **Tough decision ahead for top Senate leader**
 Author: BY JERRY BELLUNE jerrybellune@yahoo.com
 Size: 23.56 column inches
 Lexington, SC Circulation: 5652



Tough decision ahead for top Senate leader

BY JERRY BELLUNE

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Will he or won't he?

That question can't make Senate President pro tem Hugh Leatherman happy.

Gov. Haley's decision to leave two years early will leave him — as one of the state's most powerful politicians — with a problem.

This may seem complicated but under the state Constitution, the Senate president pro tem is next in line to become lieutenant governor if that official dies or leaves office.

If Leatherman accepts the relatively minor role of lieutenant governor, he will lose power in the state Senate.

As Senate leader, he controls appointment to many

jobs. As Senate Finance Committee chairman, he controls much of how the state plans to spend money.

To avoid an unwanted promotion to a largely ceremonial office, Leatherman might hang on to his chairmanship of the Finance Committee but may have to resign as president pro tem.



Leatherman

When Lt. Gov. Ken Ard was forced to step down and pled guilty to seven charges of ethics violations, President Pro Tem Glenn McConnell reluctantly accepted the role but two years later became College of Charleston president.

In 2014, President Pro

Tempore John Courson resigned to avoid becoming lieutenant governor.

To remain in the Senate, Leatherman may be forced to give up the powerful job.

Leatherman's only solution may be an amendment that would allow Gov. McMaster to appoint a lieutenant governor until the next scheduled election in 2018.

Since House Speaker Bobby Harrell left office in disgrace, Leatherman is considered to be the single most powerful member of the General Assembly.

As lieutenant governor, he would be positioned to run for governor in 2018 if he wanted it. But Leatherman would be age 87 by then and, if he won, would be 91 when his term ended.

Title: **Haley departure sets up a shuffle at the Statehouse**
 Author: BY JERRY BELLUNE jerrybellune@yahoo.com
 Size: 25.11 column inches
 Lexington, SC Circulation: 5652



Haley departure sets up a shuffle at the Statehouse

BY JERRY BELLUNE

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Gov. Haley's decision to leave two years early will make one politician happy.

This means Henry McMaster is in line to succeed her. McMaster is one of the Republicans she had to beat in the GOP primary to run against and beat Democrat Vincent Sheheen, a Camden state senator.

Assumed to be a dark horse candidate in the 2010 election, Haley campaigned hard, overcame scurrilous reports designed to damage her reputation and surprised the pundits by beating both of



McMaster

NEXT WEEK

- What will the next governor do about our state's terrible roads, bridges and dams?

them and securing her post.

McMaster, a former S.C. attorney general, endorsed Haley after placing third in the 2010 GOP primary.

This will give McMaster two years to show what he would have done had he been elected governor.

McMaster was born on May 27, 1947, in Columbia to former State Rep. John McMaster and Ida McMaster.

McMaster is a graduate of the University of South Carolina Law School and served in the Army Judge Advocate General's office.

In 1981, President Reagan appointed him as U.S. Attorney. He later won election as state Attorney General where he established criminal domestic violence courts, an internet predator task force, expanded the state grand jury's jurisdiction to gangs, securities fraud and environmental crimes and won the Supreme Court case against North Carolina to protect the Catawba River basin.

Another person who will be happy about this is McMaster's wife Peggy, mother of their two children.

When he lost the GOP primary, family friends say, Peggy McMaster told them she had wanted to invite her bridge club to the Governor's Mansion.

Title: **Why Gov. Haley accepted role as UN ambassador**
 Author: BY JERRY BELLUNE jerrybellune@yahoo.com
 Size: 29.76 column inches
 Lexington, SC Circulation: 5652



Why Gov. Haley accepted role as UN ambassador

BY JERRY BELLUNE

jerrybellune@yahoo.com

Gov. Nikki Haley had two reasons for her decision.

- It was a matter of duty to one's country, she said.
- The state's strong economic recovery makes her feel comfortable leaving her job two years early.

The Lexington resident will become the first woman Donald Trump named to a cabinet position as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations in New York, a cabinet-level position.

"Our country faces enormous challenges here at home and internationally," Haley said. "President-elect Trump asked if I would meet with him to discuss those challenges. He has asked that I serve our country as our next Ambassador to the United Nations."

"Pending confirmation by the U.S. Senate," she said, "I have

agreed."

Many questions are yet to be answered including:

- Does she expect Senate opposition to consenting to her appointment?
- Will she and her family move to New York City or will she commute?
- What will they do about their home in Lexington?

Haley, an outspoken Trump critic during the presidential race, would become the first Asian-American in the cabinet. She is the second Asian-American to serve as a U.S. governor.

Not all presidents have treated the U.N. job as a Cabinet-level post, the Associated Press reported.

Republicans have tended not to grant that status.

This clears the way for Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster to step in as governor for the next two years. It would make him the incumbent if he chooses to run in 2018.

McMaster was an early Trump endorser, backing him before the state's GOP primary in February and publicly endorsing him at a January rally at Harmon's Tree Farm near Gilbert.

Haley campaigned for Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, before supporting Texas Sen. Ted Cruz after Rubio dropped out.

Despite misgivings about Trump, she met with the president-elect last week at Trump Tower in New York.

She wouldn't say what they discussed but it was a "very nice" conversation.

Apparently her grasp of the international as well as national situation must have impressed Trump, a man with a reputation as a tough-minded businessman.

INSIDE

- Move will shuffle Statehouse, leaves questions **Page A5**.



Haley

Title: **Gov. Haley feels 'sense of duty' on nomination**
 Author:
 Size: 27.74 column inches
 Barnwell, SC Circulation: 6702



Your Voices

Gov. Haley feels 'sense of duty' on nomination

Six years ago, South Carolinians bestowed upon me the greatest honor of my life. They took a chance on a little-known, 38-year old, minority, female governor – something our state had never done before. I will be forever grateful, and I expect I will never again receive a higher honor.

"In the six years that followed, our state has reached incredible heights. We made South Carolina's economic development the envy of the nation and brought new jobs to every county. We cut our unemployment rate by more than half, employing more South Carolinians than ever before. We reformed how we fund education, moving more resources to communities in greatest need. We passed landmark ethics reforms that make state government more accountable to our people.

"Our state has also persevered through some of the most difficult times. Nature damaged many of us with the thousand-year flood and Hurricane Matthew. Our hearts were broken for those we



**Governor
Nikki Haley**

State of
South Carolina

lost when tragedy struck. Walter Scott's family, Mother Emanuel, and Townville Elementary School. Yet through it all, the greatness of our people overcame those tragedies, even coming together to heal the old wounds represented by the Confederate Flag on the Statehouse grounds.

"This month's elections have brought exciting changes to America. Our country faces enormous challenges here at home and internationally. Last week, President-elect Trump asked if I would meet with him to discuss those challenges, which I was happy to do. He has asked that I serve our country as our next Am-

bassador to the United Nations. Pending confirmation by the U.S. Senate, I have agreed.

"I always expected to finish the remaining two years of my second term as governor. Not doing so is difficult because I love serving South Carolina more than anything. I was moved to accept this new assignment for two reasons. The first is a sense of duty. When the President believes you have a major contribution to make to the welfare of our nation, and to our nation's standing in the world, that is a calling that is important to heed. The second is a satisfaction with all that we have achieved in our state in the last six years and the knowledge that we are on a very strong footing.

"I will remain as governor until the U.S. Senate acts affirmatively on my nomination. We still have much to do in South Carolina, and my commitment to the people of our state will always remain unbreakable, both while I continue to hold this office, and thereafter.

Title: **Governor's childhood friends react to news of nomination**
 Author: CONTRIBUTED The Associated Press
 Size: 28.98 column inches
 Barnwell, SC Circulation: 6702



Governor's childhood friends react to news of nomination

CONTRIBUTED
The Associated Press

"We're all proud of her honestly."
 – Trent Kinard, a friend of Gov. Haley
on Gov. Nikki Haley's nomination to be the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations

The people who grew up with South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said they are going to miss her when she moves to New York City to be the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, but they are proud to see how far she has come.

Haley grew up in Bamberg County and went to high school at Orangeburg Preparatory Schools. Last Wednesday, she accepted President-elect Donald Trump's request to serve as an ambassador as long as the U.S. Senate approves.

"That's that we're going to lose her in South Carolina, but I do see her looking out for America the same way. She'll also look out for us the best way she can — and as often as she can. She never forgets where she comes from," said Renee Jeffcoat, who went to school with Haley in Bamberg.

Jeffcoat, who is a special education teacher in Bamberg, has stayed close to Haley, even after Haley moved to Lexington, be-

came a state representative and later governor for six years. Jeffcoat is currently a committee member for Haley's nonprofit organization, The Original Six Foundation.

"She was a leader, a good friend who was very loyal, trustworthy and somebody you really wanted to be around. You always felt comfortable with her, and she's still that way today. She just tried to make you feel at ease ... and let you know that she really cared about you," Jeffcoat told *The Times and Democrat* of Orangeburg.

Bamberg County Councilman Trent Kinard also went to school with the governor and said her accomplishments should help children in the county's schools realize they can be anything they want and go anywhere they desire in life.

"We're all proud of her honestly, but at the same time, some people will be disappointed that she's going to be unable to finish her term as governor of South Carolina," Kinard said.

Cox Industries CEO Michael Johnson was a high school classmate of Haley, and said he has seen firsthand how hard she works and how fast she analyzes situations. Johnson accepted Haley's request he serve as chairman of the State Workforce Investment Board and vice chairman of the Original Six Foundation.

"She is a quick study and this will serve her well in the extremely fluid ecosystem of global politics," Johnson said. "She thinks about people first, and that has served South Carolina well. She will serve the citizens of the United States well."

Title: **Gov. Haley nominated for U.N. Ambassador**
 Author: JONATHAN VICKERY Managing Editor jonathan.vickery@morris.com
 Size: 51.46 column inches
 Barnwell, SC Circulation: 6702



Gov. Haley nominated for U.N. Ambassador

JONATHAN VICKERY
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South Carolina will likely have a new leader after Gov. Nikki Haley was nominated to be the country's new Ambassador to the United Nations.

President-elect Donald Trump nominated Haley on Nov. 23 to be part of his cabinet. If Haley's nomination is confirmed by the U.S. Senate then Lieutenant Gov. Henry McMaster will take over as governor.

"I always expected to finish the remaining two years of my second term as governor. Not doing so is difficult because I love serving South Carolina more than anything," she said.

However, she said she was moved to accept this new assignment for two reasons, including a sense of duty. "When the President believes you have a major contribution to make to the welfare of our nation, and to our nation's standing in the world, that is a calling that is important to heed. The second is a satisfaction with all that we

have achieved in our state in the last six years and the knowledge that we are on a very strong footing," said the Republican governor in a statement.

Haley, who was first elected in 2010 and then re-elected in 2014, is the first female and Indian-American to be South Carolina's governor.

"Governor Haley's appointment as U.N. Ambassador shows how far our state has come and how far our nation can go in the 21st century. I couldn't be more proud that the whole world will get to see Nikki Haley's strong, principled leadership in action. It's a great day to be an American," said Matt Moore, chairman of the S.C. Republican Party.

Congressman Joe Wilson, who represents District 2 in the U.S. House of Representatives, said Haley would be a "strong and effective voice for America as our Ambassador to the United Nations, an often hostile environment.

Her fortitude for freedom and democracy will prevail over constant attacks on America and our ally, Israel. As a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, I look forward to working with Nikki Haley to advance freedom and democracy around the world."

U.S. Energy Association Executive Director Barry Worthington, a group chairman within the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe, said Haley can do for the nation like she has done for the state. "A U.N. ambassador needs to be a proven diplomat, someone who can work artfully to represent the interests of the United States, someone who can understand diverse perspectives, and someone who is wise on budgetary matters," he said. "Governor Haley is that diplomat. She is re-

asoned and has proven as much in South Carolina where she has propelled the state into economic prosperity and into the

international limelight."

"Governor Haley is a tremendous leader, and South Carolina is grateful for her service. I have no doubt she will serve America well through defending and sharing our values and strengthening our relationships with Israel and other allies," said U.S. Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC), who looks forward to her confirmation hearing.

Haley said South Carolina has reached "incredible heights" in the past six years, including improving the economy, while also enduring difficult trials, such as the killing of nine people at Mother Emanuel Church in Charleston and Hurricane Matthew. However, she said, through it all "the greatness of our people" helped overcome those tragedies.

"We still have much to do in South Carolina, and my commitment to the people of our state will always remain unbreakable, both while I continue to hold this office, and thereafter," she said.

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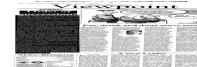
In this Sept. 2, 2015, photo. South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley speaks at the National Press Club in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Yucci)

Title: **Order of succession:**

Author:

Size: 47.74 column inches

Chester, SC Circulation: 6700



OUR VIEW

Order of succession?

What happens if Governor Nikki Haley leaves office before the end of her term, which will apparently happen early next year? What if Lieutenant Governor Henry McMaster also does? Who would be governor then?

Those questions have been raised over the last several days along with speculation about posts in the Trump administration – and some insiders are getting them wrong.

Before 2014, South Carolina's constitution required that in the absence of a lieutenant governor, the Senate president *pro tempore* would give up his seat and serve as lieutenant governor. If both Haley and McMaster resigned, Senator Hugh Leatherman as Senate president would have been required to give up his Senate seat to become governor. The Senate would then elect a new president, who would also give up his Senate seat, to become lieutenant governor.

That year, however, the constitution was amended. Now it stipulates that if the governor is unable to serve, the lieutenant governor takes her place and nominates his own lieutenant governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

To find out what happens if the line of succession needs to go further than the lieutenant governor, you have to look at the law, not the constitution, which states that if both the governor and lieutenant governor are unable to serve, the

Senate president will “perform the duties and exercise the powers of governor” until the next election. If he cannot serve, the speaker of the House would. If neither of them can serve, the General Assembly elects a new governor.

In other words, today, with Haley and McMaster both gone, Leatherman would assume the powers and duties of the governor without having to give up his position as Senate president.

The Senate president already has considerable power, including a seat on the five-member State Fiscal Accountability Authority governing panel, which makes bonding and financial decisions for the state; the ability to appoint two of the 10 members of the Joint Transportation Review Committee, which screens and nominates DOT Commissioners; and the ability to appoint two of the 10 members of the Judicial Merit Selection Commission, which nominates judges for election by the General Assembly.

There already are 64 board, commission or committee positions connected to the Senate president, and the current president also chairs the Senate finance committee.

If both the governor and lieutenant governor should leave, he'd control all three branches of government.

In 2012, when voters approved the constitutional amendment placing the governor and lieutenant governor on the same ticket, it stated that changes regarding the succession of lieutenant governor and governor would take effect in 2018. When the legislature actually amended



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Author:
Size: 47.74 column inches
Chester, SC Circulation: 6700

the constitution, however, it omitted the dates – making the changes effective immediately. Lawmakers may have intended the change to take effect in 2018, but what found its way

into the constitution – by negligence or design – is an effective date of 2014.

Courtesy of The Nerve.

Title: **Who will be McMaster's lieutenant governor?**
 Author: BY CYNTHIA ROLDAN The State cfoldan@thestate.com
 Size: 34.56 column inches
 Lake City, SC Circulation: 1747



Who will be McMaster's lieutenant governor?

BY CYNTHIA ROLDAN

The State
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COLUMBIA — Gov. Nikki Haley's appointment as U.N. ambassador sets up Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster to take over the state's executive office.

But a 2014 constitutional amendment raises the question of who will be South Carolina's next second-in-command.

"I believe that the new law would require Gov. McMaster to choose a lieutenant governor and then have that person run the Senate," said Rep. Jim Merrill, R-Berkeley.

"The entire point of the legislation was to have a governor and a lieutenant governor run on the same ticket, and that was to start in 2018," Merrill said. "This speeds it up by a few months, but it's not really that much of an unexpected change."

Under that interpretation of the law, McMaster would be the first governor in state history who would get to pick his successor. McMaster, who ran unsuccessfully for governor in the 2010 GOP primary, has said he will seek the governor's office in 2018.

But other state legislators interpret the law differently and argue that it was General Assembly's intent to have those changes take effect in 2018 — not before then.

Former Pickens Sen. Larry Martin, who co-sponsored the 2014 law, said it does not affect the current state executive office. He said that even if the law is worded otherwise, it was not the legislature's intent to have it take effect before 2018.

"Everybody understood that the changes we were voting on became effective during the 2018 general election," Martin said. "What is set in stone and what is operative is what we passed... which clearly puts all of this in motion in the 2018 election."

Current state law calls for the Senate president pro tempore to ascend to lieutenant governor if the position is vacant. Though Sen. Hugh Leatherman, R-Flomence, holds that position, the Senate is expected to elect a new president pro tempore when the chamber returns on Dec. 6 for an organizational session.

In 2014, when then-Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell resigned to become the president of the College of Charleston, then-Senate President Pro Tempore John Courson, R-Richland, was set to ascend. But Courson, who did not want to lose his Senate seat resigned to the position, triggering a scuffle over who would become the state's next second-in-command.

Former Democrat Yancey McGill ultimately volunteered to become the Senate's president and consequently, lieutenant governor. Leatherman was then picked to take over as president of the Senate.

Citing previous instances in which the Senate president pro tempore has ascended to lieutenant governor, House Judiciary Chairman Rep. Greg Delleney, R-Chester, said that command structure should remain intact through 2018.

"You can take it to court and let the court determine the intent of

See **MCMASTER**, Page 3A

Title: **Who will be McMaster's lieutenant governor?**
Author: BY CYNTHIA ROLDAN The State cfoldan@thestate.com
Size: 34.56 column inches
Lake City, SC Circulation: 1747

McMaster

From Page 1A

the legislature, but I think it's pretty clear," Delleney said. "The old law would apply, where the president pro tem of the Senate automatically becomes the lieutenant governor."

Title: **Trump picks Haley to be ambassador to the UN**
 Author: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
 Size: 53.63 column inches
 Ridgeland, SC Circulation: 1950



Trump picks Haley to be ambassador to the UN

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald Trump has chosen South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, the first woman tapped for a top-level administration post during his White House transition so far.

It will be a Cabinet-level position, and Haley has accepted, Trump said in a statement Wednesday.

"Gov. Haley has a proven track record of bringing people together regardless of background or party affiliation to move critical policies forward for the betterment of her state and our country," Trump said in the release. "She is also a proven dealmaker, and we look to be making plenty of deals. She will be a great leader representing us on the world stage."

Haley, an outspoken Trump critic throughout much of the presidential race, is the daughter of Indian immigrants and the second Asian-American to serve as a U.S. governor.

Though Haley has limited foreign policy experience, Trump said he was impressed with her knowledge of global affairs. Trump spokesman Jason Miller also said the two had "a natural chemistry."

South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham praised Haley as a good choice and said in a statement that he looks forward to working with her on "overdue reforms of the United Nations." Graham is chairman of the Senate's Foreign Operations Subcommittee on

Appropriations, which is responsible for funding the U.N. and all American foreign assistance.

Haley said she accepted the assignment partly out of "a sense of duty."

"When the president believes you have a major contribution to make to the welfare of our nation, and to our nation's standing in the world, that is a calling that is important to heed," she said in a statement.

Not all presidents have treated the ambassadorship to the U.N. as a Cabinet-level position, and Republicans have tended not to grant that status.

After secretary of state, the UN ambassador is the highest-profile diplomatic position, often serving as the voice for U.S. positions on the international stage. As part of the Cabinet, Haley would have more opportunity to shape U.S. policies, rather than simply defend the administration's positions.

Yet it could be an awkward role at times. Trump campaigned on the theme of "America first" and said he is skeptical about "international unions that tie us up and bring America down." Trump has also described the United Nations as weak and incompetent.

Haley would be the third consecutive female U.S. ambassador to the U.N., after Susan Rice and Samantha Power, the current ambassador.

Haley's new job clears the way for Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster to step into the role of South Carolina governor. McMaster was an early Trump

endorser, backing him before the state's GOP primary in February.

At the time, Haley campaigned for Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, before going on to support Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

Bad blood between Trump and Haley was evident in interviews and on social media. "The people of South Carolina are embarrassed by Nikki Haley!" Trump wrote on Twitter in March. Haley denounced several of Trump's campaign comments and urged voters to "reject the siren call of the angriest voices."

However, Haley met with the president-elect last week at Trump Tower. Afterward, she said they'd had a "very nice" conversation.

A week ago while meeting with other Republican governors in Orlando, Haley said she was heartened by Trump's tone and inclusiveness after winning the election. "I hope he continues to do that, and I hope he continues to be disciplined in his comments."

In a statement, Haley said: "I always expected to finish the remaining two years of my second term as governor. Not doing so is difficult because I love serving South Carolina more than anything. I was moved to accept this new assignment for two reasons. The first is a sense of duty. ... The second is a satisfaction with all that we have achieved in our state in the last six years and the knowledge that we are on a very strong footing."

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File/Associated Press

Gov. Nikki Haley didn't have a great relationship with Donald Trump during the campaign, but she said they had a "very nice" conversation at Trump Tower days before he announced her as his U.N. ambassador pick.