

From: Hall, Christy A <HallCA@scdot.org>

To: Patel, SwatiSwatiPatel@gov.sc.gov

Veldran, KatherineKatherineVeldran@gov.sc.gov

Date: 6/15/2016 11:27:59 AM

Subject: published today



Power Issue 2016: Who Has Clout in Columbia

By [Free Times](#)

Wednesday, June 15, 2016

Cover illustration by Dre Lopez | Photos by John Carlos

Upon its launch in 2012, the Free Times 50 power list quickly became one of our most popular features. It seeks to answer a simple question: Who runs Columbia? Or, more specifically, who gets things done?

Holding political office doesn't necessarily get a person a spot on the list; there are plenty of politicians who don't have much of an impact on the city. Money doesn't buy you a spot, either: Plenty of people have money, but don't use it to effect change in Columbia. And while Columbia is undoubtedly full of powerful attorneys and developers, we try to take a broader look at the realms of power, from the arts and music to tourism and public safety.



No. 1: Gov. Nikki Haley

1. Nikki Haley ↑2

The governor has had a hell of a year. First she helped bring the state together after last year's massacre at a historic black Charleston church; then, she deftly used the tragedy to push for something she'd never previously been able to even admit she wanted: taking the Confederate flag off the State House grounds. She kept a steady hand as the state recovered from historic flooding later that same year. And the Republican Party invited her to give the response to Obama's final State of the Union, where she delivered some gentle but pointed, party-approved jabs at Donald Trump. Her criticism of Trump, now the presumptive Republican nominee for president, may have hurt her near-term prospects of holding higher office, but it likely won't hurt her standing with national GOP insiders.

2. Harris Pastides ↑5

3. Leon Lott ↑2

4. Steve Benjamin ↓3

5. Jason Freier ↑1

6. Bill Stangler *NEW*

7. Skip Holbrook ↑6

8. Alan Wilson ↓6

9. David Pascoe *NEW*

10. Jim Clyburn ↑1



No. 11: Christy Hall

11. Christy Hall NEW

South Carolina's transportation secretary is probably the most popular agency head among lawmakers. She's respected, having risen through the ranks and eschewing politics in the Legislature. Hall is responsive, getting lawmakers data they request. While the roads funding debate was never easy during the past session, concerns about Hall's leadership and vision were never an issue. She joined Gov. Haley in providing a steady hand during the October flood. Hall even (technically) lost her job for a few hours this year when the S.C. Supreme Court ruled the governor should not have appointed her. The state transportation commission voted her back in without a fuss.