

Title: **2 Trump campaign leaders helping McMaster with transition**  
Author:  
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# 2 Trump campaign leaders helping McMaster with transition

COLUMBIA (AP) — Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster has enlisted help in taking over as governor, if the U.S. Senate confirms Gov. Nikki Haley as President-elect Donald Trump's pick for United Nations ambassador.

McMaster's office said in a release Tuesday he's asked longtime GOP adviser Ed McMullen and real estate de-

veloper Bill Stern to help with the transition.

McMullen led Trump's campaign in South Carolina and is a vice chairman of the committee planning Trump's inauguration.

Stern, the longtime former chairman of the State Ports Authority,

also was a leader in Trump's campaign.

McMaster was the nation's first statewide officeholder to endorse Trump, whose pick for U.N. ambassador gives McMaster a job he's long wanted. The state's former GOP chairman and two-term attorney general lost to Haley in the 2010 GOP gubernatorial primary.



**MCMASTER**

Title: **A look at Henry McMaster as South Carolina's governor**  
 Author:  
 Size: 51.92 column inches  
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# A look at Henry McMaster as South Carolina's governor

**T**he Palmetto State is still rocking from this week's earthquake announcement that Gov. Nikki Haley will leave office to be the country's ambassador to the United Nations in President-elect Donald Trump's administration.

The immediate impact will be for Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, one of the nation's first state officials to endorse Trump, to get his dream job as governor, something he's wanted for years.

For the Palmetto State, McMaster's rise likely will mean a kinder, gentler governor who will work better with the state legislature.

Haley, like predecessor Mark Sanford, has generally had a strained relationship with the General Assembly, despite its control by fellow Republicans. They've knocked heads over income tax rates, restructuring, ethics and reform, the funding of educational television and dozens of minor skirmishes over whether to keep or veto spending sought by lawmakers.

To her credit after her 2010 election, Haley focused like a laser beam on more jobs for South Carolina. Thanks in part to federal stimulus strategies to revive the economy, unemployment went down throughout the country. But Haley's embrace of economic devel-

opment helped too. She also deserves part of the credit for success in removing the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds, even though it came in her second term after tragedies.

True believers see Haley as a transformational governor with natural leadership skills that allowed her to master back-to-back crises of the state's 2015 flood and 2016 hurricane. Opponents see her as a thin-skinned, ambitious political zealot with an eye on a more prominent national role.

Nevertheless after confirmation by the U.S. Senate — likely around March 2017 — Haley will be off to the big city, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed for new great days of being absorbed in federal politics and the often mundane, less flashy work of the United Nations.

Leadership attention will shift to McMaster, a longtime political pro who has served as U.S. attorney, state Republican Party chair and state attorney general. To get an idea of what his gubernatorial administration might be like, all you have to do is turn to his 2010 race for governor, where he came in third to Haley in the GOP primary.

"The (governor's) race is not about individuals," he said in

June 2010. "The race is about this state. This is the finest place in the world ...

"And the most important thing is for the politicians to put the interests of the state and her people over their own self-interests, their own political short-term interests, and do the right thing for the future of this state."

During that governor's campaign, in which he endorsed Haley before a runoff, the now-69-year-old McMaster promoted the state's assets, such as its geography, technical training system, research universities and business leadership.

"We've got to think big," he said when he opened his campaign headquarters in March 2010. "There's no power in a small idea."

In the months ahead when McMaster becomes governor, you can also look for this establishment politician to push traditional conservative issues, such as lower taxes — but perhaps in a strategic way that looks at comprehensive reform, not just a bandage here, a splint there.

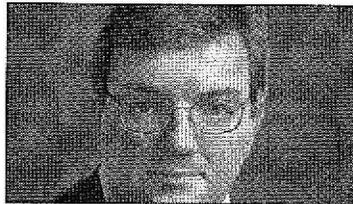
He'll also likely keep most of Haley's senior leadership team at agencies, continue the focus on growing jobs and the work for creation of wealth across the state.

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And if McMaster can build a collaborative spirit among state agencies and the General Assembly, we may be able to tackle billion-dollar issues that have crushed past legislatures — better funding for crumbling roads and bridges; more money for better education, particularly in rural areas; a cash-strapped state pension system; and better health care access for all.

Henry McMaster won't be all things to all people, but he may bring a new sense of urgency and collegial leadership to a General Assembly that has grappled with her recent governors more than worked with them.

Have a comment? Send it to:  
[feedback@statehousereport.com](mailto:feedback@statehousereport.com)



**Andy Brack**  
Statehouse Report

Title: **State Sen. Leatherman staying put**  
 Author: BY JOSHUA LLOYD Morning News jlloyd@florenceci ews.com  
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 Hartsville, SC Circulation: 6303



# State Sen. Leatherman staying put

BY JOSHUA LLOYD

Morning News

jlloyd@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Florence Sen. Hugh K. Leatherman Sr. has said he will not become South Carolina's next lieutenant governor.

Leatherman, the Senate president pro tempore in 2014-15 and chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, among other titles, is widely considered the most powerful person in state government.

He intends to remain so.

"I have no intentions of becoming

the lieutenant governor," Leatherman told the Morning News on Monday. "The people of Florence County elected me to represent them in the Senate and I owe them that. There's no question I can be much more effective for our area and for our state in the Senate."

Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster will replace Nikki Haley as governor if the U.S. Senate confirms President-elect Donald Trump's pick for the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

In Leatherman's opinion, McMaster will be able to choose a lieutenant governor after taking the top spot in state government — in accordance with a law passed in 2014 outlining procedure for the 2018 gubernatorial election.

That interpretation would mean Leatherman could retain his spot atop the state Senate, if chosen by

See **SENATE**, Page 3A

## Senate

From Page 1A

his colleagues, rather than stepping down to avoid becoming lieutenant governor.

On Dec. 6, officials will convene to choose committee members and elect officers, including Senate president pro tempore. Senior committee members will act as chairpersons, according to legislature rules.

Speculation continues on whether the law took effect in 2014 or will take effect in

2018, which is likely to lead to arguments and a decision that will come from a state court.

"There are a lot of moving parts to this issue," Leatherman said. "People of this area have sent me to Columbia long enough that we're in a position to get things done for District 31, for the Pee Dee and for the whole state."

Leatherman said he hasn't spoken to McMaster — who endorsed the 10-term senator before June's

primary elections — about the "biggest issues in this state," i.e. infrastructure funding, education problems and the state's failing pension system.

Leatherman said he's confident McMaster will be a natural fit for the job.

"I think Henry will make a good governor," Leatherman said. "He's been in the system a long time. He understands how it works, and he knows what it takes to get things done."

Title: **Haley needs to focus on preparing for new role**  
 Author:  
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## GUEST EDITORIAL

# Haley needs to focus on preparing for new role

Gov. Nikki Haley asked us all to pray for South Carolina, which has faced and continues to face significant challenges. Today, we all need to pray for Gov. Haley, as she prepares for a very different and very difficult challenge.

There's a lot of distance between Thanksgiving and Ambassador Haley. And there's no guarantee that the Senate, even a Republican Senate, will confirm someone with no foreign policy experience, much less diplomatic experience, as ambassador to the United Nations.

Although it isn't our most important foreign policy position, it is extremely important. And frankly, it's a stretch. For all that President-elect Donald Trump and the governor's supporters say about her deal-making prowess, we've only seen that on display in deals between corporations that wanted to locate in our state and a state that wanted those corporations to locate here.

The challenge she has met, in other words, was coming up with a deal between two parties that wanted to make a deal. That's very different than the challenges facing a UN ambassador. We certainly hope that her talents can translate to this new role, but we simply don't know because she is untested.

Gov. Haley said Wednesday that she had not anticipated leaving her current job before it's completed. But she noted that, "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's absolutely right about that. While there are some positions that a sitting governor probably should reject — positions that are more about allowing a loyal supporter to cash in than about serving the nation — this isn't one of them. Anyone has an obligation to seriously consider a president's request to serve in an important position, regardless of who the president is or how committed that person might be to her current position.

The governor also said she would remain our

*We hope that she will be able to scale the extremely steep learning curve that lies ahead.*

governor until her confirmation, in part because "We still have much to do in South Carolina, and my commitment to the people of our state will always remain unbreakable."

That is honorable. But while we would not ask her to resign yet, we would urge her to informally turn many of her responsibilities over to Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, sooner rather than later.

We are accustomed to UN ambassadors who have extensive foreign policy experience, and usually diplomatic experience as well. In the absence of either, Gov. Haley owes it to our nation to spend the time between now and her confirmation doing everything she can to make up for that lack of experience — meeting not just with handlers trained to guide her through the confirmation process but also with experts who can help bring her up to speed on all the issues that need to be mastered by the UN ambassador of the most important country in the world.

The Senate, too, owes it to our nation to make sure that Gov. Haley is prepared — that she has the appropriate temperament, judgment and knowledge base to serve in this position. Confirmation hearings for someone with her experience should not be particularly easy — and that is why she needs the next two months to prepare for them.

Gov. Haley is a bright and talented politician, and we hope that she will be able to scale the extremely steep learning curve that lies ahead. Assuming she is able to make the Senate comfortable with her ability to serve our nation in this very different sort of job, we wish her all the best in her new position.

This guest editorial was written and published by The State Newspaper on Nov. 25.

Title: **Senate leader says he won't be No. 2 if Haley goes to UN**  
 Author:  
 Size: 38.59 column inches  
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# Senate leader says he won't be No. 2 if Haley goes to UN

COLUMBIA (AP) — South Carolina's most powerful politician is refusing to become lieutenant governor — a job no one seems to want — if Gov. Nikki Haley becomes ambassador to the United Nations.

Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman said Monday he will not leave his Senate seat “under any circumstances.”

“I would like to make it very clear that I have no ambition for statewide office,” said the 85-year-old Florence Republican, who was re-elected in November to a 10th term after winning a three-way primary in which Haley backed the second-place finisher. “I will not leave my Senate seat to serve as lieutenant governor. For me, there is no greater honor than serving in the South Carolina Senate.”

Leatherman's unwillingness to give up his role as Senate leader to temporarily occupy a largely ceremonial position comes as no surprise. Monday's statement makes it official without indicating any of the political chess moves that could occur in the coming weeks to fill a job considered

part-time.

Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster will replace Haley as South Carolina's governor if the U.S. Senate confirms Donald Trump's pick for his Cabinet. It's a job that McMaster — the nation's first statewide officeholder to endorse Trump — has long wanted. Haley says she'll remain governor until then.

The state constitution has called for the Senate president pro tem to become lieutenant governor.

But some argue a 2014 referendum approved by voters allows McMaster to choose his replacement. The question may ultimately be decided by the state Supreme Court.

When former Lt. Gov. Ken Ard pleaded guilty to campaign violations in 2012, then-Senate President Pro Tem Glenn McConnell reluctantly resigned his Charleston seat of 32 years to fulfill what he called his constitutional duties. A stickler for the rules, McConnell said then he could not have looked at himself in the mirror if he tried to circumvent the Constitution's line of succession.

But when McConnell later quit the lieutenant governor job to be president of the Col-

lege of Charleston, his successor as pro tem, Sen. John Courson, resigned the post rather than be forced to leave the Senate. The GOP-controlled Senate then chose a Democrat as pro tem, immediately pushing him into the lieutenant governor's spot because no Republican wanted that job. The voters elected McMaster five months later.

To prevent another such scenario, the Legislature asked voters in 2014 whether the governor and lieutenant governor should run on the same ticket, and, if the No. 2 spot becomes vacant, the governor should choose the replacement.

While voters approved the changes, many point to the opening clause of the ballot question, which specified changes were to begin “with the general election of 2018.” It was the Senate that required the delay before approving the question.

The stipulation infuriated Haley, who said at the time that it ensured the restructuring she'd pushed for since her 2010 campaign won't take effect until she's out of office. If confirmed as ambassador, the term-limited governor will be leaving office two years before her tenure expires.



**LEATHERMAN**

Title: **Nikki Haley**  
Author:  
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U.N. AMBASSADOR

## Nikki Haley

South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, the 44-year-old daughter of Indian immigrants, would bring limited international experience to one of the U.S. government's most important international assignments: U.N. ambassador.

Haley is the first woman and first minority chosen by President-elect Donald Trump for his Cabinet. The Senate must confirm the nomination.

The second-term governor was a Trump critic during the White House campaign. Once Trump became the nominee, she said she would vote for him over Democrat Hillary Clinton, though the choice turned her stomach.

Haley, the second U.S. governor of Indian heritage, is the first South Carolina governor who is not a white man.

She has had little exposure on the world stage, and almost all of that has been in pursuit of luring jobs to South Carolina.

Her trips abroad to lure jobs include a 2015 secretive trip to Sweden, which was followed weeks later by an announcement that Volvo would build its first U.S. auto plant in South Carolina in exchange for more than \$200 million in state incentives.

In 2014, Haley took an eco-

nomie development trip to India, her first visit to her parents' native country since she was 2 years old. Her parents emigrated from India in the early 1960s.

Haley was born Nimrata Nikki Randhawa in rural Bamberg, South Carolina.

She was raised a Sikh but says she converted to Christianity before marrying her husband, Michael, in 1996. They have two children.

Haley drew wide praise for her leadership after the June 2015 slaying of nine black parishioners of historic Emanuel AME Church in Charleston.

Haley graduated from Clemson University in 1994 with an accounting degree. But she says her business experience started at age 13, when she became the bookkeeper of her family's clothing store.

In 2010, she was a three-term state House member. Haley won the GOP primary for governor that year.

She prevailed in the general election and then was easily re-elected four years later. Haley confronted religious slurs over her Sikh roots during that first campaign.

— The Associated Press



### A CLOSER LOOK The Cabinet

A weekly look at President-elect Donald Trump's announced appointments to his White House.



Title: **It's win-win for Haley, McMaster**  
 Author:  
 Size: 59.67 column inches  
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# It's win-win for Haley, McMaster

**T**humbs up to S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley and S.C. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster. Haley has been appointed by President-elect Donald Trump as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. McMaster will ascend to governor, the job he has always wanted. It's a win-win proposition, pending approval by the U.S. Senate. Haley has aspired to a national role and is getting it in a Cabinet-level position. No telling what kind of



springboard this could be for her future in Washington. The move is surprising, given her strong opposition to Trump before the South Carolina primary and Republican National Convention. She has been an exceptional economic ambassador for South Carolina, but the daughter of Indian immigrants lacks experience in foreign policy and diplomacy. She led the state well after a Charleston church massacre, the so-called Thousand-Year Flood and Hurricane Matthew. She also clashed with the General Assembly in general and S.C. Sen. Hugh K. Leatherman of Florence in particular. We still haven't forgiven her for calling him out while speaking at a Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce luncheon. She endorsed one of his opponents in a bitter primary race. We believe the easygoing McMaster will work well with our legislators. Now maybe a much-needed gas-tax increase without strings attached will stand a chance so South Carolina can fix its crumbling roads. As the nation's first statewide official to endorse Trump, McMaster was being mentioned for a possible role in Washington. That could have opened the door for Leatherman to ascend to governor, which would have presented a dilemma. He's more powerful as the president pro tempore of the Senate and the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. He certainly is more powerful than the lieutenant governor, a largely ceremonial position, which is why he is expected to step down as president pro tempore to avoid that "promotion." McMaster endorsed Leatherman before the Republican primary. We look forward to a solid relationship between the two for the good of South Carolina.

Thumbs up to Florence School District One for its success in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. After months of work, the district is now home to two STEM-certified schools: Southside Middle School and



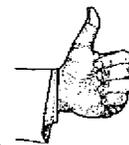
West Florence High School. In September, Southside earned Advanced STEM certification; West Florence received certification in early November. This is a big deal that was worth celebrating Monday. The two schools join a small group worldwide that has received the certification. According to Florence One, Southside is the 51st school and West Florence is the 52nd school to receive it. When "some outsiders come in and say you are doing this about as well as anyone in the world, that is pretty powerful," Florence One Superintendent Randy Bridges said at the celebration. He's understandably proud. We are impressed.

Thumbs up to volunteers. We have been spotlighting them this week in a third annual "Helping Hands" series. To make an impact in the community, nonprofits need



volunteers. We hope that holding up a few as good examples might inspire others to follow their lead. The volunteers we have been spotlighting represent a vast demographic of ordinary people who are doing extraordinary things. These are the kind of people who make Florence a better place to live. We give thanks to those who give back.

Thumbs up to small businesses. Today is Small Business Saturday. We'll echo what we said a week ago. Small businesses are the backbone of our community. We



should support them not only today but every day. Please shop local during this holiday season. Local businesses employ family, friends and neighbors. When they thrive, they often create jobs. When you help businesses that are locally owned, you're helping other people who are invested in our community.

Title: **It's win-win for Haley, McMaster**

Author:

Size: 59.67 column inches

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**Thumbs up to football. Congratulations to the high school teams in our region who advanced in the state playoffs with victories Friday. The annual college game of the year will be played tonight when No. 4 Clemson plays host to South Carolina. The Tigers will try to stay in contention for a second consecutive berth in the four-team playoffs. They fell one victory short of a national championship last season. South Carolina struggled early in its first season under coach Will Muschamp but has come on strong to become bowl eligible. These are good times at Clemson. Better days are ahead for South Carolina. We're not taking sides in this rivalry. We merely hope that fans will be civil toward each other after the game and in the year ahead.**



Thumbs up, thumbs down is a regular feature of the Morning News and appears each Saturday on our Opinion page. We seek nominations for both good and bad deeds from our readers. Send nominations to us by email at [letters@florencenews.com](mailto:letters@florencenews.com). Be sure use the word "thumb" in the subject and include a contact number. Thumbs can also be mailed to us c/o The Morning News, 310 S. Dargan St., Florence, S.C., 29506.



Title: 'Community' thrives in Red Bank
Author: KEVIN OLIVER
Size: 25.57 column inches
Lexington, SC Circulation: 5652



'Community' thrives in Red Bank

Thanksgiving week is a time to spend with family being thankful for all the past year has brought. As a Red Bank resident I'm thankful for many things, but especially for the sense of community one feels here. Just this week we've had a prayer vigil at Red Bank United Methodist on Tuesday—in response to Governor Nikki Haley's request for a state Day of Prayer on Nov. 22. Also, the Community Thanksgiving Eve service at Red Bank Baptist on the 23rd, a joint service which also included the Methodist and St. James Lutheran congregations. The folks at Redemption of Columbia packed and are handing out hundreds of prepared Thanksgiving meals for our less fortunate neighbors. Even the directory photo sessions at Red Bank UMC were accompanied by a canned food drive to benefit Lexington Interfaith Community Services.

THAT GIVING SPIRIT seems to be extending to our local businesses as well. The recently

KEVIN OLIVER
redbanknews@yahoo.com



AROUND RED BANK

opened 2nd Hand Lions Thrift on South Lake Drive is holding regular book club nights and has offered free space for anyone to sell in their parking lot, as well as free meeting space inside for community groups. When Marco's Pizza opened they took their "practice" pizzas from staff training to the local schools for the teachers. They've since had fundraising "Spirit Night" events for our local schools, too.

SO, THIS HOLIDAY season my hope is that you find a way to be in community not just with your family but with your community here in Red Bank. Start by attending the annual Christmas At Red Bank concert at Red Bank United Methodist, happening on Sunday night, December 4—more on that next week.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS week to Bubba Reese, Trey Taylor, Gerry Schepmann, Christine Tindall, Joe Hart, Roy Bedenbaugh, Brian Gunter, Marie Lambert, Joye Jones, Lisa Busbee, and Cody Kyzer.



Title: Governor Haley's star ascending in Republican circles
Author: BY JERRY BELLUNE JenyBellune@yahoo.com
Size: 22.94 column inches
Lexington, SC Circulation: 5652



Governor Haley's star ascending in Republican circles

BY JERRY BELLUNE
JerryBellune@yahoo.com

Gov. Nikki Haley is following the path of three of her predecessors.

She may go higher in national politics than they did.

Last week, the Republican Governors Association elected the Lexington resident and mother of two as their vice chair at their Orlando, Fla., convention.

That puts her in line to become association chair in 2018. That's her last year as

governor under the state's two-term limits requirement of its governors.

She is following three former S.C. governors, Carroll Campbell, David Beasley and Mark Sanford who chaired the association.



Haley

Haley has built a following and banked her own campaign war chest by campaigning for Republicans outside the state.

Out-of-state donors gave

her more than \$3 million when she ran for re-election two years ago.

Haley has gained national attention in managing the 2015 flooding and Emanuel AME Church shootings, the retirement of the Confederate flag from the statehouse and this year's Hurricane Matthew threat.

As vice chair, she will work with another GOP star, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, moving up from vice chair to chair.

Following Walker as chair

would give Haley opportunities to use her managerial experience in business and on corporate boards as well as in campaigns for national office, political experts say.

Haley has been the subject of speculation about her chances to become the first female U.S. President.

That may not be as far fetched as it sounds now.

President Obama had less political experience when he first ran for the presidency eight years ago.

Title: **Leatherman rules if Trump picks Haley, McMaster**  
 Author: Guest column Hannah Hill  
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# Leatherman rules if Trump picks Haley, McMaster

## Guest column

Hannah Hill

**W**hat happens if Gov. Nikki Haley leaves office before the end of her term? What if Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster also does? Who would be governor then?

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

Before 2014, S.C. Constitution required that in the absence of a lieutenant governor, the Senate president pro tem would give up his seat and serve as lieutenant governor. If both Haley and McMaster resigned, Sen. 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. The law 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 ten 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.

*The writer is a policy analyst at the S.C. Policy Council.*