



The Aiken  
Leader  
Wagener, SC  
Circ. 0  
From Page:  
3  
1/15/2016  
68380



148

## **Speaker Lucas Responds to Governor Haley's Education Proposal**

*Looks forward to working together to advance reform*

(Columbia, SC) – House Speaker Jay Lucas (District 65-Darlington) issued the following statement in response to Governor Nikki Haley and Superintendent Molly Spearman's education press conference in Gaston, SC.

"Education reform is a long overdue, critical conversation that must take place to protect our state's economic and societal prosperity," Speaker

Jay Lucas stated. "Governor Haley has embraced this issue and we are encouraged by her advocacy for reforms intended to give our children access to the education they deserve."

"Superintendent Molly Spearman, Chairwoman Rita Allison and the members of our House Education Taskforce worked tirelessly for ten months on a proposal that

seeks to fundamentally transform our public education system. Our plan offers assistance to struggling school districts and prioritizes 21st century learning so that every child in every part of our state is given the opportunity to succeed. I look forward to joining Governor Haley in her efforts so that together we can make education reform a reality in South Carolina."

148 + 32

# S.C. ignores law requiring public budget process

Guest column

Ron Aiken

**T**wo years ago this month, then-House Speaker Pro Tem Jay Lucas sent a spirited letter to House Ways and Means Chairman Brian White, asking him a simple question.

Would he support Lucas' desire to see the House, Senate and governor's office obey the law on creating the state budget?

The silence then, and now, is deafening. The most important voices not being heard don't belong to legislators ducking an issue but the general public who are left out of a budget process they were meant to play a role in but never have.

By anyone's reckoning, the state of South Carolina does not, has not and apparently will not follow the law as it relates to the budget process prescribed in Title 11, Chapter 11 of the S.C. Code of Laws (Sections 90 and 100).

These sections, as Lucas wrote to White, "require the House Ways & Means Committee to meet in an open session, jointly with the Senate Finance Committee to hear testimony on the Governor's executive budget."

The section dates to 1919 and mandates that within five days after the governor submits a budget, the Senate Finance and House Ways and Means Committees "shall sit in open sessions while considering the budget." The process involves public hearings in which comment is possible, with the overall intent being clear – the governor

drafts the budget, and the legislature adjusts it with input.

"Since the law allows the joint committee to consider testimony from agency representatives about their budget requests, we could streamline the budget process and possibly have resolution to the budget much earlier than we currently do," wrote Lucas (R-Darlington), who has since become House speaker with the 2014 resignation of Bobby Harrell.

"In turn, this could allow us to achieve a repeated goal of the House Republican Caucus of shortening the length of the legislative session."

Thenerve.org left multiple requests for comment with White (R-Anderson), Lucas,

Sen. Hugh Leatherman (R-Florence) and Gov. Nikki Haley. None were returned – an indication of the unwillingness to bring up an issue that would involve altering the legislature's stranglehold on the state budget.

"I know we both agree on the importance (of) creating the most public and transparent budget process possible and ensuring that all applicable laws are followed," Lucas concluded. "I ask that you review this statute and all other governing language, and if necessary join me in calling for the existence of these meetings."

On Friday, Haley submitted her budget to the legislature, which will do with it what it always does – trash it, then write their own.

For Haley, the opportunity to hold the legislature accountable to its laws and gain a valuable budgetary foothold would seem an easy win. But so far Haley has been unwilling to rock the budgetary boat than make accountable the most important function officials perform – spending the citizens' money.

Aiken writes for thenerve.org, a publication of the South Carolina Policy Council, an independent, private, nonpartisan research group formed in 1986 to promote limited government, free enterprise and individual liberty.

*Aiken writes for thenerve.org, a publication of the South Carolina Policy Council, an independent, private, nonpartisan research group formed in 1986 to promote limited government, free enterprise and individual liberty.*



Lancaster News  
Lancaster, SC  
Circ. 12696  
From Page:  
7a  
1/17/2016  
62165



Free Times  
Columbia, SC  
Circ. 36854  
From Page:  
5  
1/20/2016  
61438



## 148 Haley Delivers State of the Union Response

In his final State of the Union address, President Obama touted job creation, the halving of the unemployment rate and expanded health care coverage during his time in office. He also called on the country to embrace a spirit of innovation in tackling issues such as climate change, noting that the solar industry now employs more Americans than the coal industry. For her part, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said in her official GOP response that "the president's record has often fallen far short of his soaring words," pointing in particular to "a crushing national debt, a health care plan that has made insurance less affordable and doctors less available, and chaotic unrest in many of our cities," as well as "the most dangerous terrorist threat our nation has seen since Sept. 11th." Most notable, though, was Haley's indirect bashing of GOP presidential frontrunner Donald Trump. While toeing a conservative line on immigration — particularly when it comes to Syrian refugees — Haley also said: "No one who is willing to work hard, abide by our laws and love our traditions should ever feel unwelcome in this country." — *Dan Cook*



Free Times  
Columbia, SC  
Circ. 36854  
From Page:  
5  
1/20/2016  
61438



come in this country." — *Dan Cook*

## 148 Feds Pan S.C.'s Hospital Review Program

In South Carolina, hospitals that want to build major new facilities must first obtain a Certificate of Need from the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. The purpose of the program, according to DHEC, is to "prevent unnecessary duplication of health care facilities and services" and "guide the establishment of health facilities and services which will best serve public need." The Haley administration, however, has long argued that the program is unnecessary — and now, it seems, the federal government agrees. In a statement, Assistant Attorney General Bill Baer of the Justice Department's Antitrust Division said that certificate of need laws "raise the cost of investment in new health care services and can shield incumbents from competition that would benefit consumers and lower costs." — *Dan Cook*



Moultrie News  
Sullivan's  
Island, SC  
Circ. 28225  
From Page:  
9a  
1/20/2016  
61297



## 148 Dear governor

I'm going to cut to the chase, and forgo the fawning niceties due your position as governor of the great state

of South Carolina. Your response to the POTUS's State of the Union address last week has exposed you as a pawn of the Republican establishment. Without proof, I can only surmise the language of the deal you accepted to publicly describe the Republican Party presidential primary candidates in such a false and condescending manner. Quite frankly I don't care if you were hatched from an egg on a rural Dorchester County farm. Your race, ethnicity and gender don't provide you political cover to use a national forum to disparage Donald Trump and Senator Cruz, not to mention those of us who are not going to let this great nation deteriorate another inch. Your personal story is irrelevant to the weaponization of immigration by the elites. How dare you lecture me! You summarized me as an irrational, ill-informed, jingoistic fool motivated by the rhetoric of bombastic rabble rowers.

Governor Haley, you are dead darned wrong. The political elite in this country are

a spider web of deceit and devious plans built on wealth and power at the expense of the American citizenry. Immigration is the pry bar on the fulcrum of liberty to

dislodge the foundation of America. The Democratic Party wants the dependent immigrant voter, and the Republican Party Chamber of Commerce elites drool over the cheap labor. Don't suffer us as fools, governor. A blind man doesn't need a guide dog to know when he's in a hog wallow. The stench of this immigration travesty permeates the atmosphere inside the womb of D.C. politics and its umbilical cord of Wall Street cash. Mr. Trump doesn't need or want the dirty money of quid quo pro deviant power brokers. That scares the you-know-what out of the establishment, and now you've joined them. Are you now prepared to campaign against meaningful tax reform that will bust the legislative chokehold of lawyers, banks, brokerage firms, insurance corporations, and tax preparation agencies that feed like gluttons at the trough of a politically-manipulated tax code thousands of pages long?

A tax code that creates a bureaucracy above the law that seeks to punish and prosecute

conservative organizations and principles. A tax code that punishes productivity, and mandates a social safety net dependency. That's part of

the anti-Trump package too, Governor.

I'm fed up with the blood-sucking vampires in Washington who drain the initiative, hard work and loyalty of the American citizen in order to provide the elites with immortal power and generational wealth. They destroy the family structure through abortion, homosexuality (diversity), single parenthood and a corrupt educational system to ensure the deterioration of the moral backbone of this nation. They do this via "political correctness". The elites conspire to take the Second Amendment, of the inconvenient Constitution, and neuter it in order to bend the people to the will of the all-powerful federal government while their personal bodyguards brandish fully-automatic weapons. Enough. I will shout my anger with shrill echo and volume. Build the wall. I will cast my vote to destroy that which is destroying this republic. That's the same vote that I cast twice for your.

**Mark R. Shields**  
**Mount Pleasant**

Clinton  
Chronicle  
Clinton, SC  
Circ. 3954  
From Page:  
1  
1/20/2016  
61096



**Talking the legislature.** Sen. Karl Allen, left, and former State Sen. Jim Bryan, of Laurens County, take a quick break from a photo session after Saturday's Freedom Fund Dinner to talk about the SC General Assembly. Lawmakers returned to Columbia this month for their 2016 session, and Allen made a recent trip for an appearance in Waterloo, Iowa, with four feet of snow on the ground. Of the annual dinner at Laurel Hill Baptist Church, guest speaker Allen, "I'm glad to be back in Waterloo, South Carolina." - Photos by Vic MacDonald

# Looking at Confederate Flag and casket of colleague, Allen knew what needed to be done

**By Vic MacDonald**

Editor

After every voice had been raised and had sung, audience members at the Laurens County Branch of the NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner heard a rallying cry from a prominent member of the South Carolina

legislature.

Singing "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" was the initial activity for the capacity crowd Saturday in the fellowship hall of Laurel Hill Baptist Church. The song, by American poet James Weldon Johnson, is considered the African-American national

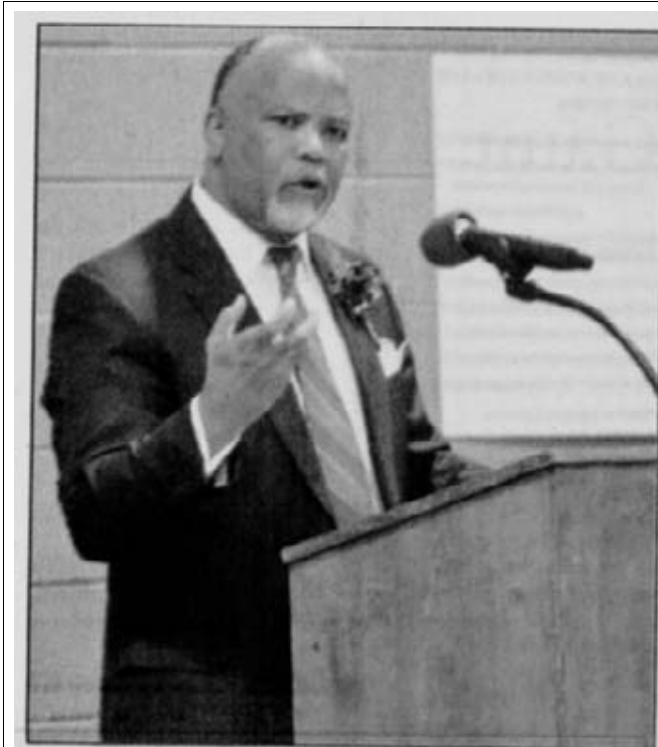
**NAACP, 10A**



Clinton  
Chronicle  
Clinton, SC  
Circ. 3954  
From Page:  
1  
1/20/2016  
61096



**Every voice singing.** Sanita Luke, of Mt. Zion Missionary Church, leads the Freedom Fund Dinner audience in singing "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing" as the program begins in the fellowship hall of Laurel Hill Baptist Church in Waterloo. The dinner is the Laurens County Branch NAACP observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. national holiday and day of service.



**'He did not back down.'** Greenville Sen. Karl Allen, speaking to Saturday's Freedom Fund Dinner of the Laurens County Branch NAACP, pays tribute to his friend and colleague, the late Clementa Pinckney, pastor of Mother Emanuel AME Church, who was shot to death with eight of his parishioners in June 2015 during a prayer service. Allen said of Pinckney, "He did not sell out. He did not back down. He did not hesitate to go toe to toe to fight for people like you and me."



# NAACP

## FROM 1A

anthem.

Several other musical selections and two awards were part of the evening's activities timed to coincide with the national holiday marking the birth of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King.

Had he survived an assassin's bullet, King would have been 87 on Monday.

Featured speaker Karl B. Allen, SC State Senate, District 7, and a Greenville attorney, said at a young age his father told him education was the means by which he could leave the fields and get off the tractor. "I tried to get into the schoolhouse that night," Allen said.

"My father knew, through education, the real legacy of Martin Luther King's 'I Have a Dream' speech could be realized by his young son."

To the young people in the audience, members of the NAACP Youth Council who served as ushers for the dinner, Allen advised, "It's OK to be cool in school, but don't be a cool fool."

Allen looked back on 2015 – to a year when South Carolina buried "the best of the 46," 41-year-old senator and minister Clementa Pinckney – "one of my colleagues who lost his life in Mother Emanuel AME Church."

Pastor of the church, Pinckney was one of nine Emanuel members killed allegedly by Dylann Roof, a young man who authorities say wanted to start a race war in South Carolina. Allen and Clarendon County Sen. Kevin Johnson stood vigil at Pinckney's casket as it was displayed in the rotunda of the Statehouse.

Looking past the casket, through glass in the stately building's front door, Allen could see, flying in a place of prominence, the Confederate Flag. Roof had posted social media images of himself with the Stars and Bars flag, and

Allen said he knew then what had to be done.

The flag was taken down on executive order of Gov. Nikki Haley backed by a vote of the

state Senate and House. "The Confederate Flag, we understand the symbol," Allen said. "We understand that bringing it down does not bring down the Confederate Flag agenda."

To work against that agenda, Allen said in the aftermath of the Walter Scott shooting in North Charleston, the legislature required body cameras for all police officers in South Carolina. "It's like in Jesus' day, they would not believe until they saw the evidence of the crucifixion, the holes in his hands. When you see that video, you knew it happened."

"Like Martin Luther King, we need to do the right thing. Rather than riot, we organize. That's how we got the body camera bill. Coming together, that's what brought down the Confederate Flag in South Carolina."

Allen said more work needs to be done.

Among state government officials who make more than \$100,000 a year, the number of African-Americans is disproportionate, he said. State employees need to receive a 5% raise, he said.

Allen and others forced the state Department of Corrections to join a U.S. Justice Department program to pay a livable wage to inmates working in the state's prison industries. What they were making, 20 cents an hour, Allen said, amounted to "slave labor."

The state senator called for common-sense gun law reform. "People call us and say, 'You're messing around with the 2nd Amendment.' I tell them, 'You're messing around with the lives of good people in South Carolina losing their lives.' We want to keep guns out of undesirable hands."

Clinton  
Chronicle  
Clinton, SC  
Circ. 3954  
From Page:  
10a  
1/20/2016  
61096





Hartsville  
Messenger  
Hartsville, SC  
Circ. 6303  
From Page:  
4a  
1/13/2016  
63276



# 148 + 3 Haley joins the establishment

**R**emoval of the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds is the gift that keeps on giving for Gov. Nikki Haley.

Not only will she receive a major leadership award Jan. 12 from Furman's Riley Institute for her role in taking down the flag, she's been tapped to give the national GOP response to President Obama's final State of the Union address.

Cynics easily spin the speech as little more than an attempt to illustrate that Republicans can be brown and female, not just white and male. Others may take it a step further and say the nationally-televised response is political payback. They'll remind you how the Republican National Committee chairman was onstage when Haley, who essentially ignored the flag in her first four years as governor, issued strong words to take it down after the Emanuel AME Church tragedy. Her voice for flag removal helped to thwart the possibility of weeks of uncomfortable questions from pesky reporters every time a GOP presidential candidate campaigned for votes in South Carolina's early primary. With the flag issue off the table, candidates could run their races. Meanwhile, moderate voters who wanted the flag down would not be reminded how Statehouse Republicans had kept up the flag for years.

Conspiracy theories aside, something more elegant may really be going on: Nikki Haley may be growing up politically, less a firebrand, more of a figure of the establishment.

When Haley took office in 2011, she schmoozed and got legislators thinking that coming years would be a walk in the park compared to the testy rela-



**Andy Brack**  
Statehouse Report

tionship between the GOP-led General Assembly and former Gov. Mark Sanford.

But after some early successes with cabinet appointments and the welcome of Boeing, Haley and leading lawmakers soon were at loggerheads. Legislators complained she was quiet about a tax break for Amazon when leadership was needed. She angered folks when she got rid of philanthropist Darla Moore from the University of South Carolina board. Haley irritated lawmakers with a plan to force them to return to finish her political agenda. And she tried to get rid of state funding for SCETV. Within six months of being sworn in as governor, stories outlined how Haley needed to mend lots of fences.

She then focused on ethics reform — which still hasn't happened — and getting the state's residents back to work, which has happened with the lowest unemployment rates in almost a generation. She railed against Obamacare, pumping up her tea party base by not wanting to accept free federal money to allow 200,000 of the poorest of South Carolinians to be able to get health insurance. She didn't slice and burn budgets with lots of vetoes.

As time passed, Haley's on-the-job training as governor seems to have moved her toward the middle, although

she'll keep throwing red meat to anti-Obama conservatives during Tuesday's national speech.

She didn't, for example, veto an early childhood education program in 2013 pushed by Democratic nemesis Sen. Vincent Sheheen to expand 4-year-old kindergarten. And she didn't stop the program the following year when more money was appropriated to add more kids to the roll books.

Haley, once vociferous that she wouldn't raise gas taxes to pay for crumbling roads, may be mellowing on that a bit, especially after October floods broke dams and ruined roads across the Midlands, Pee Dee and Lowcountry. Just this week, the state Chamber of Commerce, led by former Haley chief of staff Ted Pitts, said South Carolina needed higher gas taxes for infrastructure, perhaps an early crutch for the governor to use to amend earlier toughness on gas taxes.

Also this week, Haley said she'll seek \$19 million — yes, new spending — for 144 new prosecutors, 88 public defenders, three judges and staff to help thwart the high rate of domestic violence that grips the state.

Bottom line: The Nikki Haley of 2016 isn't the woman who took office in 2011. But with South Carolina already such a red state, you've got to wonder whether the new attention will have legs for something bigger for the hyper-ambitious governor.

P.S. Know these names? U.S. Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers and U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst? They gave the GOP responses in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

Andy Brack is editor and publisher of Statehouse Report. Have a comment? Send to: [feedback@statehousereport.com](mailto:feedback@statehousereport.com).



Hartsville  
Messenger  
Hartsville, SC  
Circ. 6303  
From Page:  
3a  
1/13/2016  
63276



# 148 Gov. Haley: Changes being made to fight domestic violence

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Progress is being made in South Carolina's fight against domestic violence, but more time is needed to study the problem and come up with ways to combat it, Gov. Nikki Haley said Thursday.

At a Statehouse news conference, Haley told reporters she has signed three new executive orders pertaining to the issue, which was a major topic during last year's legislative session. One would give the South Carolina Domestic Violence Task Force more time to continue finding ways to fight the problem.

Nationwide, South Carolina consistently ranks among the worst states per capita in women killed by men. A year ago, Haley created the task force to come up with systemic, cultural changes to combat the problem.

In August, the panel issued dozens of recommendations, including training more 911 operators, improving documentation of the crime scene and increasing the number of shelters statewide.

Another order would direct Cabinet agencies to change human resources policies to provide more guidance on how to handle employees who may be affected by abuse, such as providing them with leave

and available resources.

The third order requires Cabinet agencies that regularly screen people for benefits and other assistance to look for domestic violence signs.

In the session that ended last summer, legislators passed a law that increased penalties for domestic violence convictions and gave prosecutors more options for punishment.

On Thursday, flanked by prosecutors from across the state and other members of the task force, Haley said the panel is "going too good to stop" and needs more time past the Dec. 31, 2015, deadline originally set up in her order that created it.

Haley also said that her executive budget for the coming year would allocate funding to help combat the problem, including about \$19 million to fund new prosecutors to handle domestic violence cases, many of which are now prosecuted by law enforcement officers, who are often going up against privately funded attorneys on the defense side.

"I was mortified when I learned that it was law enforcement who were prosecuting these cases," Haley said.

Several professional licensing boards in the state have committed to include domestic violence training in their continuing education courses, Haley said.



Marion Star &  
Mullins  
Enterprise  
Marion, SC  
Circ. 3842  
From Page:  
4a  
1/13/2016  
63186



## 148 The Post and Courier of Charleston on the shrinking of rural areas

**L**owcountry residents are unlikely to be surprised that South Carolina's population is growing. Mount Pleasant, Charleston and Summerville are attracting so many new residents that they struggle with how to provide roads and schools to meet the increased needs.

But in many rural parts of the state, population is shrinking, and their economies are shrinking, too.

New Census Bureau data show that South Carolina overtook Alabama in population during the 12 months ending July 1.

Our population now is the 23rd-largest in the nation. Most of the growth is from people moving here. The rest is from the birthrate.

But in 13 S.C. counties, the number of deaths is exceeding births. In Allendale, for example, the population shrank by 7 percent during that same period. And along with a declining population comes less tax money to fund schools, less incentive for new business and industry to move in, and less likelihood that young adults will stay in their rural hometowns because jobs are scarce.

Studies have also shown that shrinking towns have lower educational attainment — and poorer schools. And more health problems — and fewer options for medical care.

The S.C. Supreme Court's recent decision requiring the Legislature to come up with a plan to improve education in the state's poorest rural counties reflects just how severe that disparity is.

Gov. Nikki Haley is to be commended for recognizing that rural areas need assistance. In addition to designating additional funds for rural schools, she has worked to direct new business and industry to small towns that need jobs — and reasons for people to move in, not out.

And several programs at the Medical University of South Carolina provide remote health care for people in rural areas without enough specialized doctors.

Unfortunately, the charming old homes of many small towns and pastoral beauty of rural areas have yet to attract many new residents. And without growth, planners predict that distressed communities will continue to dry up.

That is a hardship for residents and a threat to the well-being of the state. It is also another drain on infrastructure as people have to travel miles and miles to find work, see doctors and do their shopping.

One advance that could help both urban and rural areas would be better public transit connecting hubs to each other and connecting regions as well.

The Commerce Department must continue to lead the effort bringing new investment and jobs to rural South Carolina.



Gaffney Ledger  
Gaffney, SC  
Circ. 8218  
From Page:  
4a  
1/13/2016  
61126



59 + 148  
**SC message  
to world: No  
more plutonium**

Here we go again.

The federal government wants South Carolina to be the dumping ground for more of the world's plutonium, a toxic nuclear weapons component.

At the same time, it is failing miserably in its promise to process and remove 12 metric tons of plutonium already at the Savannah River Site near Aiken.

South Carolina should fight with every tool it has to stop a new plan by the U.S. Department of Energy to import nearly a ton of plutonium from the Pacific Rim and North America to SRS.

Not an ounce more should arrive until the existing problem is resolved.

The news of new shipments is part of an old shell game. In it, the federal government tries to move bad things around because it has enacted no national plan. And it repeatedly fails to live up to its promises and responsibilities to communities around the country.

Gov. Nikki Haley said a lawsuit

against the federal government may be needed. Good for her. But that tactic — like a previous governor's threat to lie down in the road to stop plutonium shipments, as well as previous lawsuits, and laws threatening steep fines against the federal government — has not yet resolved this national problem.

That's why it would be foolish to trust a new Energy Department proposal to ship about six metric tons of plutonium now at SRS to an existing DOE disposal site in New Mexico.

That would be great, if it could be believed. The proposal faces numerous hurdles, including funding and opposition in New Mexico.

Meanwhile, the government's program to convert weapons-grade plutonium at SRS into a mixed oxide fuel (MOX) that could be used in commercial nuclear reactors is years behind schedule and billions of dollars over budget.

So into this quagmire stumbles the federal government with the suggestion to do what? Bring in more plutonium. It's like the theater of the absurd. But it is a serious problem that has been bungled for many decades.

South Carolina has done more than its share to be a patriotic good neighbor to the nation's nuclear program. Enough is enough.

— *The (Hilton Head) Island Packet*