

Title: **Company adding 100 jobs in Horry County**

Author:

Size: 6.97 column inches

 Florence, SC Circulation: 35092
 

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### **Company adding 100 jobs in Horry County**

LORIS, S.C. — A company that makes air flow measuring devices is expanding its operations in Horry County.

Gov. Nikki Haley's office said in a news release Thursday that Ebtron plans to add 100 jobs over the next five years.

The Loris-based company is expected to spend more than \$2.5 million in the expansion.

Ebtron's products are used for monitoring and maintaining air quality, humidity, climate and other environmental conditions. Its products are used in health care, manufacturing, educational, laboratory and office settings.

The expansion will next to its current operation on U.S. 701 in Loris.

Title: **New GOP chair invites citizens to get involved**  
 Author:  
 Size: 31.62 column inches  
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# New GOP chair invites citizens to get involved

It is with great pleasure that I write to you as the new chairman of the Lancaster County Republican Party.

Our outgoing chair, Brandon Newton, did an excellent job leading the Lancaster GOP to record heights in the 2016 elections, and I look forward to him representing our county in the S.C. House.

As chairman, I will continue the good work of the Republican Party in working for a better Lancaster County. But if we want this country, state and county to thrive, we must all get involved, become educated and take action.

To help give you opportunities to become more informed and involved, I invite you to attend the monthly Republican Party meetings. We meet every month on the fourth Thursday at 7 p.m. at Mike Williams Build-

ers, 1351 Charlotte Highway, Lancaster. These meetings usually last around an hour. Our next meeting will be on Jan. 26. Please make plans to attend.

To help keep the public informed, we also share information about local, state and national political goings-on via our Facebook page: [facebook.com/LCRP.VIEWS](https://www.facebook.com/LCRP.VIEWS).

Each Republican Party meeting will have speakers who will help us understand the issues and the workings of our government. Each presentation includes a question and answer session. In addition to the guest speakers, many county and state public officials and representatives attend these meetings, giving you a chance to meet them and discuss issues of concern to you.

The speaker for our Jan. 26 meeting will be

Chad Connelly. Chad is the RNC faith engagement director and former state GOP chairman.

Next year will have much change, with Gov. Haley and our own Congressman Mick Mulvaney joining the Trump team. This will create opportunities for candidates to visit our meetings, giving us a chance to talk with them about issues.

A new president is taking office and working with Republican majorities on Capitol Hill, and the General Assembly session is under way. There is much taking place – and many opportunities for you to get informed and involved.

Your involvement can help make a difference for a better future for our county, state and nation, so please take an hour of your time to attend an upcoming meeting. You will be glad you did!

## Guest column



Allen Blackmon is chairman of the Lancaster County Republican Party.

Title: **Supreme Court needs to decide how to fix error**  
 Author: BY Hannah Hill  
 Size: 35.80 column inches  
 Pawleys Island, SC Circulation: 5136



## Lieutenant governor

# Supreme Court needs to decide how to fix error

BY HANNAH HILL

The constitutional conundrum South Carolina will face if Nikki Haley is confirmed as U.N. ambassador is evidence of at least one thing: Its legislators take a casual approach to the rule of law.

How did we get to this point? The amendment to the constitution that voters approved in 2012 would have been enacted in 2018, but when the bill to ratify the amendment was filed in the Senate in 2013 it left out a key portion, which changed the effective date. Here is what happened:

On Nov. 6, 2012 voters approved a constitutional amendment which would have enabled, among other things, the governor and lieutenant governor to run on the same ticket and the governor to appoint the lieutenant governor should the seat to become vacant.

On Feb. 27, 2013 a bill was introduced, by Sen.

Shane Massey, that did not include an effective date for much of the bill, meaning it would become effective when the House and Senate passed it.

By May 29, 2014 the bill had passed both the Senate and House and was ratified with no amendment to insert the missing date. Since ratification triggered an effective date where not expressly stated a majority of the bill became effective on this date, which is almost two years before voters intended it to.

The bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee, received two floor votes in the Senate, passed the House Judiciary Committee, and received two floor votes in the House - with no amendment to correct the missing date. The fact that no one caught that error, presumably that no one actually read the bill that changed the constitution, is alarming enough.

But the consequences go much further. By

a plain reading of the constitution, the whole amendment should be invalidated. There are no constitutional or statutory grounds for correcting errors in the constitution. Even the process for correcting errors in state code is limited to a brief 15-day window, after which any errors stand until legislatively corrected by the General Assembly.

If Haley resigns from office, as she is expected to do, who would become lieutenant governor when Henry McMaster steps into the governor's seat? Does the legislature follow what the people voted on, or does it follow the current reading of the constitution? It's not within the purview of the General Assembly to adjudicate or fix constitutional questions. Only the courts can perform that role.

Still, the legislature may try. Media reports indicate that senators may simply follow the original

language of the amendment, in spite of the fact that the constitution, as it reads now, demands something completely different. And lawmakers "fixing" the constitution on their own authority would set a dangerous precedent.

Lawmakers either made this change inadvertently, in which case they passed a constitutional amendment without bothering to read it, or someone altered a constitutional amendment after the people approved it.

South Carolinians ought to be outraged by either scenario. And whatever happened, the state Supreme Court should rule on how to proceed. The court must decide either to make all the amended sections effective 2018 or invalidate the amendment and tell the legislature to start over.

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*Hannah Hill is a policy analyst at the South Carolina Policy Council.*

Title: **TTI to expand operations in Anderson County**  
 Author:  
 Size: 75.17 column inches  
 Williamston, SC Circulation: 3764



## Expected to create 250 new jobs

# TTI to expand operations in Anderson County

Anderson County and State officials joined representatives of Techtronic Industries (TTI), a global leader in the design, manufacturing and marketing of quality consumer, professional and industrial products, for a major announcement last Thursday. The company is expanding its Power Equipment Group's operations in Anderson County with a \$75 million investment that is expected to create 250 new jobs in the Upstate over the next several years.

Founded in 1985 and headquartered in Hong Kong, TTI has continuously expanded around the world through organic growth and strategic acquisitions. TTI now boasts, among its product offerings, some of the world's most famous and iconic brands, including Milwaukee®, AEG®, Ryobi®, Homelite®, Hoover®, Oreck®, Vax® and Dirt Devil®. As a global leader in the home improvement, construction and consumer product markets, the company employs more than 20,000 people worldwide.

To continue its growth in Anderson County, TTI is building a 300,000-square-foot Innovation Center. This latest project complements the company's \$85 million expansion project, which was announced last year and completed this year.

During the announcement, Mike Farrah and Lee Sowell, Presidents of TTI Power Equipment, Power Tool and Outdoor Products said, "Continued investment in our people and product innovation is pivotal to TTI's success. This new

world-class campus will provide an exceptional environment for fostering the development of talented associates and industry leading products. We'd also like to thank the State of South Carolina and Anderson County for their continued partnership."

"I am very pleased TTI has chosen to grow and expand their

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Anderson operations. We take pride in the fact that our quality workforce and business-friendly environment influenced their decision to invest in our community," said S.C. House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Brian White.

Anderson County Council Chairman Tommy Dunn said, "Approximately two years ago, TTI announced more than 200 jobs and the construction of an \$85 million, 1.3 million square foot TTI Distribution Center at Exit 27 that started great change at this intersection. Today, we are very proud to celebrate the announcement of the TTI Corporate Innovation Center, to be located at the Exit 27 TTI campus, bringing 250 new jobs. Congratulations!"

Anderson County Councilman Tom Allen (District 4) said, "Techtronic Industries Power Equipment's decision to expand here is a great vote of confidence for Anderson County. Techtronic Industries' products are recognized worldwide for outstanding quality, performance and innovation. The

superior leadership and workforce currently residing in Anderson County will be enhanced and sustained by this new facility. Anderson County is blessed with this innovative commitment."

SC Governor Nikki Haley and

Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt also commented on the TTI expansion announcement.

"TTI's decision to expand in Anderson County further strengthens its position as an important part of South Carolina's manufacturing industry. This \$75 million investment, and the 250 new jobs it means for Anderson County, will make a real difference in the lives of South Carolinians, and we look forward to seeing the impact this fantastic company will continue to have on our state for many years to come." -Gov. Nikki Haley

"TTI's expansion is a further testament to the growth of South Carolina's economy thanks to our business-friendly climate, market access and quality infrastructure. I'm proud that global firms, like TTI, continue to find success within our borders." -Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt

Techtronic Industries Power Equipment Group is expanding its operations in Anderson County.

\$75 million investment to create 250 new jobs.

TTI was founded in 1985 and is headquartered in Hong Kong.

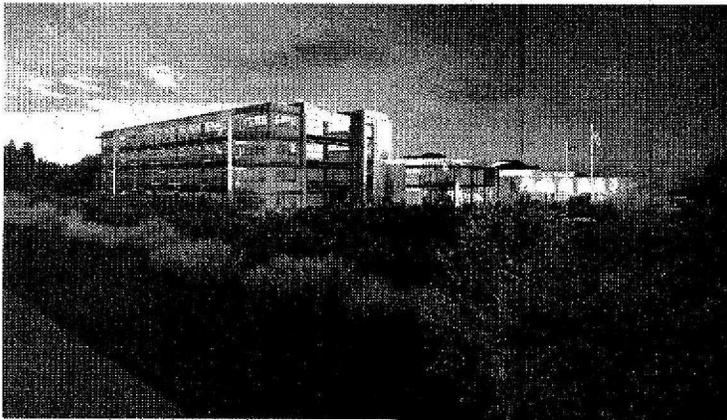
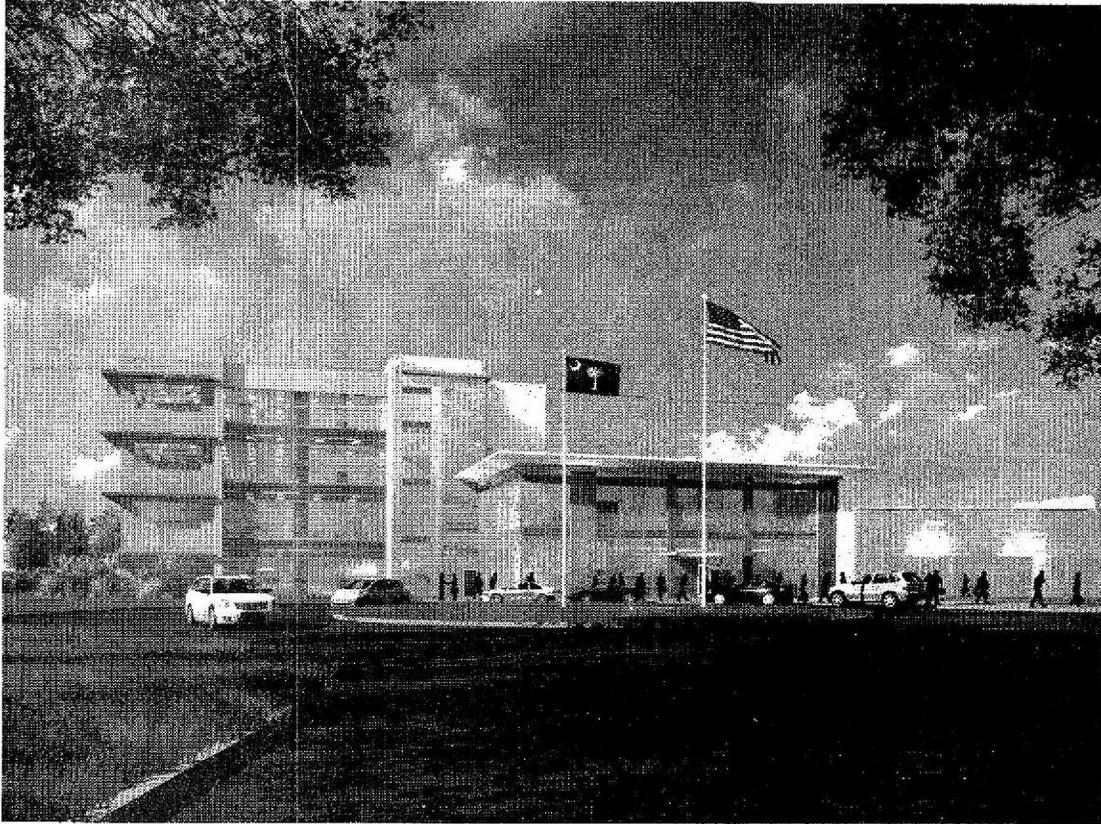
The company will construct a new 300,000-square-foot Innovation Center.

Title: **TTI to expand operations in Anderson County**

Author:

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Title: **I've lost 3 jobs to outsourcing**

Author:

Size: 8.83 column inches

Lancaster, SC Circulation: 12696



## I've lost 3 jobs to outsourcing

Regarding your Dec. 9 article about CompuCom moving its headquarters to Indian Land, at first I was glad to see that 1,500 jobs are coming to the county, but after reading further in the article, my gladness quickly turned to sorrow.

Why? One word in the fourth paragraph – outsource! My jobs have been outsourced three times in the past 16 years, so am I supposed to be glad, excited or thrilled that this company will help to “outsource” my current job?

Mr. Trotter, Mr. Willis, Mr. Gilbert and Gov. Haley, will you still be glad, excited or thrilled when your child's, grandchild's or other relative's job is outsourced by CompuCom?

**James L. Hewett IV**  
Lancaster

Title: **2014 reform failed to shift control from lawmakers**  
 Author: Guest column S.C. Policy Council  
 Size: 47.58 column inches  
 Lancaster, SC Circulation: 12696



# 2014 reform failed to shift control from lawmakers

**Guest column**

S.C. Policy Council

In early 2014, Gov. Nikki Haley signed into law a bill that was supposed to reform state government. It created the Department of Administration and moved the Budget and Control Board's functions under the governor's control.

The bill was widely hailed as historic, and the governor signed it with much fanfare. Yet nearly three years later, somehow it has been almost completely forgotten.

Why? Perhaps because the bill changed so little.

It was supposed to transfer the many executive functions long performed by the legislature back to the executive branch, thus restoring the separation of powers in South Carolina state government. That has long been the aim of supporters of government restructuring in South Carolina. Yet, with the Restructuring Act of 2014 now law, the legislature still runs the show with few checks and little accountability.

The legislature still dominates the apparatus of state government through a dizzying array of boards and commissions. Legislative leaders, acting through the re-named Budget and Control Board (now the State Fiscal Accountability Authority), still control the

lion's share of procurement – the purchasing of goods and services by state government, properly belonging to the executive branch. Thus powerful lawmakers can still push state contracts to their friends and supporters, and the public still has no real way of stopping it or even finding out about it.

Not only did the bill change very little. It actually made a few things worse. The new law gave the legislature new powers to oversee state agencies, including executive agencies: the House and Senate must conduct "oversight studies and investigations on all agencies within the standing committee's subject matter jurisdiction at least once every seven years."

Unsure how such studies and investigations should be done, lawmakers – naturally – appropriated more money for new staffers to do the work for them.

Even worse, perhaps, the bill created a new felony. As Jamie Murguia explained when the bill passed, "The General Assembly will now have the power to subpoena citizens to appear before ei-

ther chamber of the legislature or any committee. Any person who either ignores the subpoena or gives false or incomplete testimony will be guilty of criminal contempt of the General Assembly. Anyone who refuses to be sworn in, refuses to answer any question, or refuses to produce requested docu-



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ments will likewise be guilty of criminal contempt of the General Assembly. Any person convicted under this new law will be guilty of a felony and must either be fined or sentenced to up to five years in prison."

It's true that the new Department of Administration now administers 17 state agencies previously under the Budget and Control Board. The new agency has some

procurement responsibilities, and it will oversee parking services.

But this was never the historic change touted by Gov. Haley and lawmakers. The bill was supposed to separate powers, not merely the workaday administration of agencies. It was supposed to end – or at least change – the legislature's longstanding dominance of state government. It was supposed to put accountability for executive government functions squarely under the governor. It didn't.

Which is why you haven't heard anything about it since January 2014.

*The S.C. Policy Council is an independent nonprofit research organization promoting free-market policies and government transparency.*

Title: **Roofs Conviction Highlights Our Racist Convictions**  
 Author:  
 Size: 49.29 column inches  
 Charleston, SC Circulation: 6000



# Roofs Conviction Highlights Our Racist Convictions

Both the Michael Slager and Dylann Roof trials are over and as I consistently hear persistent undertones of racial reconciliation emanating from various sources in our community, I am reluctant to add to the chorus of those who contend that beyond the tragic deaths of the 10 victims of those two crimes not much has changed.

I was talking to a friend recently who helped me better understand that people don't always think alike for a variety of reasons. I'd said that some things are pretty much cut and dry, right or wrong. My friend gave me an example of how cultural differences can radically change how two people view the same thing.

So I'm trying to understand how some in our community may feel Michael Slager's slaying of an unarmed, fleeing Walter Scott might be justified. Dylann Roof's murder of nine unarmed victims at Emanuel AME Church, by most, is viewed as unacceptable. But again, the reality is there are those who think Roof's actions were just.

I'm bothered that others can find justification for the acts of either Slager or Roof. But I'm more bothered that our community still refuses to acknowledge some blatant realities about the inherent racism that led to both those crimes and which continues to plague our community.

It pains me that so many accept the outcome of Slager's trial and simultaneously accept the outcome of Roof's trial. They accept that Roof's crime was a proverbial onion, yet peel back the layers of Slager's crime as if beneath the layers it's not also an onion.

The search for some benign justification in Slager's criminal action illustrates to me our community's unmoved position on racism. All the talk about racial healing infuriates me. It was easy and expedient to condemn Dylann Roof's psychotic act of murder, but Slager's act offers more opportunity to hide our racism. When it came time to call Slager's act what it is - the racist act of another psychotic fool - some of us got conflicted.

After Dylann Roof murdered those nine people at Emanuel, guilty consciences threw money at the church. Ironically, after Scott's murder guilty consciences threw money at his survivors too. And aside from the cash payoffs, a few symbolic gestures were made to establish a facade of racial reconciliation. A year later that same community voted to install one of the most blatantly repressive presidential regimes in modern history into office. And as we stand confused about Slager and consigned about Roof, it's business as usual in terms of race relations.

I just received an email from former Charleston Senator Robert Ford which provided some statistical information about the population in Charleston County. According to the S.C. Commission for Minority Affairs, as of February 2016, three times as many black families live in poverty as white families and the median family income for blacks in Charleston County is half that of whites. And in the county where only 30 percent of the population is black, 80 percent of its incarcerated population is black, seven percent of whites are unemployed compared to 17 percent of blacks and the number of white-owned firms with paid employees is about 8,000 while there are only about 300 black-owned firms with paid employees.

After the massacre at Emanuel, I got ticked off that so many white folks were willing to hug black folks and shed tears, but so few returned to their jobs and demanded their bosses hire more minority employees. Gov. Nikki Haley implemented a stroke of economic genius by manipulating the removal of the Confederate Flag from the State House grounds opening the door to financial revitalization fools like those who can't see Michael Slager's guilt couldn't fathom.

For more than 18 months since Dylann Roof brutally murdered those nine people at Emanuel (he meant to kill 13 people), I've watched Charleston play shameless games about racial reconciliation.

Despite the cash, tears and condemnation in the wake of the Roof slaughter, when it came time to show how much we've changed as Michael Slager went to trial for the slaughter he committed, this community showed its true color - the sanctity of white supremacy.

What makes the conciliatory rants of racial progress in the shadow of Roof's conviction so distasteful is the fact that most of us in this

community know there's been no change. The only difference between the racist character of 1916 Charleston and 2016 Charleston is that Slager was charged and tried. Like the ceremonial removal of the Confederate Flag from the State House, the symbolism masked a lack of substance.

I personally find no solace in Dylann Roof's conviction, not in the light of a refusal to convict Michael Slager. That's spittin' on me and callin' it rain.

## Black to Black

By Barney Blakeney

