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Subject: Monthly Update - December Edition
Attachments: Collins Flyer.pdf

Friends,

NEXT TUESDAY, January 5, 2016

- It's not too often that a sitting Governor comes to town. I am honored that **Gov. Nikki Haley** will be my special guest at my fundraiser next Tuesday, January 5 from 5:30-7:00pm.
- We already have over 100 registered.
- I always want to highlight local businesses and groups - special thanks to **Easley Bands, Joe's Ice Cream Parlor, Groucho's Deli, The Starving Artist Cafe, and Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakburgers** for providing entertainment and food.
- Donations are encouraged, but I want you to know you're invited regardless.
- I hope to see you next Tuesday evening.
- To join, register [here](#).



Marco Rubio

- As you know, I have endorsed **Senator Marco Rubio for President**. If you have not had the opportunity to familiarize yourself with Sen. Rubio, I strongly encourage it. Here is a [video](#) of his 2010 improbable run for US Senate. Joining Rep. Nathan Ballentine (R-Chapin) and me supporting Rubio is US Rep. Trey Gowdy! More to come.
- Sen. Rubio will be in town this Saturday at Mutt's BBQ at 11am! Register [here](#).

Pickens County News

- **Coal ash** in Pickens County?
- **Merry Christmas** and Happy New Year's from elected officials and leaders.
- As mentioned earlier last year, the Pickens County School District is considering **closing smaller schools**.

- The Reserve donates **\$110,000** to five Pickens County charities.
- McKissick Elementary assistant principal awarded **assistant principal of the year**.
- Toyota of Easley's, Tommy Norris, awarded **Time Magazine's SC Dealer of the Year**.
- City of Easley offers **\$12,000 incentive** to startup a business on Main Street.
- Pickens Co Sheriff's Office focusing on **impaired driving** for New Year's Eve with checkpoints.

State News

- **Police Body Cameras:** The Law Enforcement Training Council issued a three-page list of **guidelines**, which we will approve this upcoming year. Under the guidelines, all officers, uniformed or not, who regularly answer calls and interact with the public must wear the cameras. They are to be activated when an officer arrives at a call for service or initiates any other law enforcement or investigative encounter with a member of the public. That can include traffic stops, car accidents, arrests, calls involving public drunks, emotionally disturbed persons, use of force, suspicious persons and "an adversarial contact or a potentially adversarial contact."
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- Gov. Haley released a plan to sell state-owned **surplus** property. The plan could save hundreds of millions of dollars.
- Consultants' proposal of \$5.3 million one-time money plus \$416,000 per year to exhibit the Confederate flag at the SC Confederate Relic Room and Military Commission has been decreased to **\$3.6 million** one-time money plus \$234,000 per year by the museum's commission.
- **Generational inequity:** the SC Retirement System Investment Commission's manages the retirement investments of public employees at the state and local level. The Legislative Audit Council released a report calling the retirement system "significantly underfunded" and that "it under-reported the risk" of its investments. More specifically, the underfunding is around \$20 billion. The report can be found **here**.
- Pre-filed **K-9 bill**

A Healthier State House

- 2/3 of South Carolinians are overweight. 1/3 are obese.
- What started out as a simple tweet has led to a partnership between the Hospital Association, Institute of Medicine & Public Health, YMCAs, Medical Association, and many other entities. When lawmakers return to session in January, we will start "A Healthier State House" campaign to encourage legislators to become healthier/lose weight.
- We currently have 73 Representatives, 16 Senators, Attorney General Alan Wilson, and Governors Dick Riley and Jim Hodges participating!

Local Events

- Jan. 2: Sen. Rubio at Mutt's BBQ at 11am
- Jan. 5: Fundraiser with special guest, Gov. Nikki Haley. Starts at 5:30 pm.
- Jan. 7: Annual delegation meeting (this year in Clemson). Starts at 5:30pm.
- Jan. 11: Easley City Council
- Jan. 12: President Obama's State of the Union
- Jan. 12: Start of 2016 session for South Carolina State House
- Jan. 25: Pickens County School Board

Sincerely,

Neal

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