

Title: **As parties look to 2020 race, is S.C.'s Tim Scott in the mix?**  
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## POLITICS

# As parties look to 2020 race, is S.C.'s Tim Scott in the mix?

BY MATTHEW SCHOFIELD  
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### WASHINGTON

There are cloak-room style whispers in Washington these days that South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott is being thought of as a Republican Plan B in case the yet to be formed Trump administration doesn't find its footing.

Scott's office dismisses the talk as idle chit-chat, though admits they've been hearing such questions. But it's now been a full week since the last presidential election ended. Washington being Washington, it's time to get the rumors going for the 2020 election. There are experts and insiders who think this one makes a bit of sense.

"This was an, um, unusual election," said Julian Zelizer, an author and public affairs expert who's a professor at Princeton



ANDREW HARNIK AP

Sen. Tim Scott, a Republican from South Carolina, just won an election to keep his current job in the U.S. Senate.

University. "It makes sense that there would be a Plan B, and one that would be antithetical to Plan A.

"It's important to remember, though, that Plan B is always predicated on things that haven't happened, while Plan A is still in effect. Right now for Republicans, the reality is that it's Plan Trump."

Of course, the rumor that Scott is preparing, and being encouraged to prepare, himself for the

presidency follows another similar rumor: As Gov. Nikki Haley is reaching her term-limit in the state capitol in 2018, the junior senator from South Carolina could return to snaffle up the seat.

The rumor goes like this: Senator Scott will return to South Carolina to run for governor in 2018. U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy will join him on the ticket as his lieutenant governor. They would be expected to win, handily.

Then, if needed, Gov. Scott would launch a presidential bid from a position of considerable strength in 2020.

The thinking is that there is a reason for Scott to consider giving up the security of the six years to which he was just elected in the U.S. Senate. That reason goes beyond the notion floated, that he's always wanted to be governor.

Instead, the reason: He needs executive experience to complete the perfect resume for a presidential bid. Ask about this in the halls of Congress these days and people give you knowing looks and nods and respond, "That's what we're hearing..."

Zelizer said that this early in a rumor season, it's tough to know whether anything makes sense.

"But the demographic issues facing the Republican Party that were talked about for this election are real," he said. The nation's minority populations are growing, he pointed out, and Republicans will need some way to appeal to a bigger tent at some point.

Title: **Storm cleanup raises possibility of tax increase**  
 Author: BY LUCASHIGH lhigh@islandpacket.com  
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**BEAUFORT COUNTY**

# Storm cleanup raises possibility of tax increase

■ Preliminary estimates indicate the Hurricane Matthew recovery effort will cost Beaufort County roughly \$17.5 million, but that figure is likely to grow, officials say. Despite an expectation that FEMA will pick up some of that tab, county leaders anticipate using about \$10 million of the county's roughly \$26 million reserve fund to pay for storm cleanup.

BY LUCAS HIGH

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Hurricane Matthew cleanup costs are expected to take a big bite out of Beaufort County's cash reserves and could ultimately lead to a property tax increase.

Preliminary figures estimate the recovery effort will cost the county roughly \$17.5 million.

But that number is "very, very estimated" and expected

to grow significantly, county chief financial officer Alicia Holland said earlier this week.

Debris removal makes up the majority of the cleanup costs at \$10 million.

However, that figure includes only public roads. Once the cost of cleaning up roadways in private and gated communities

— which the county has pledged to assist in — is tabulated, that \$10 million estimate is likely to double, deputy county administrator Josh Gruber said.

County leaders estimate \$3 million will be spent paying public employees for storm-related work, and another \$3 million will be needed to repair roughly 65 government structures and facilities damaged in the hurricane.

Miscellaneous costs such as additional mosquito control operations and contingency funds are estimated at \$1.5 million.

The county has spent more than \$100,000 on extra mosquito control chemicals alone,

Holland said.

County leaders expect at least 75 percent of the cleanup costs to eventually be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The state could also step in and help with the balance left after the FEMA reimbursement. This happened after last year's historic flooding in the Midlands.

County administrator Gary Kubic has suggested that the County Council make a formal

SEE CLEANUP, 8A

## Coming Sunday

In the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew's destruction in

Beaufort County, we asked local leaders and others to weigh in on what went well and what could have gone better. Lessons emerged that may better prepare us for the next hurricane.

“

**THERE WILL BE A  
DRAWDOWN ON THE  
RESERVE FUND —  
I'M GUESSING ABOUT  
\$10 MILLION OR SO.**

*Beaufort County  
Councilman Jerry Stewart*

FROM PAGE 1A

## CLEANUP

request to Gov. Nikki Haley "that the (county's) local match be supplemented" with state funds.

But even in the the best-

case scenario, local leaders expect the county to be left with a sizable tab.

The county has roughly \$26.6 million in cash re-

serves that can be used for storm-recovery costs.

"There will be a drawdown on the reserve fund — I'm guessing about \$10

million or so," Councilman Jerry Stewart said.

"As we get closer to (developing a new fiscal

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year budget), we are going to have an issue about what to do in respect to the reserve fund," he said.

"Are we going to try to bring (the reserves) back up?" he asked rhetorically.

Gruber said it may be possible to issue bonds to replenish the reserves, but

that likely would lead to property tax increase to pay down the new debt.

To complicate matters further, if the County Council is especially proactive and moves quickly to replenish reserves, it could "give (the

state) maybe an out from having to make hard decisions" about ponying up for the local match required by FEMA, he said.

Regardless, county leaders agree that replenishing the reserve is something that can't be ignored for long. That cash cushion

might be needed sooner rather than later.

"Starting around June next year, we are going to be entering hurricane season again," Gruber said.

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Storm debris continues to pile up at the Honey Horn collection site. Beaufort County estimates its cleanup costs at more than \$17 million.



Title: **A thank you to Veterans**

Author:

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# A thank you to Veterans

**H**undreds came out to honor our many veterans and the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor and the USO at Lexington's 14th annual Veterans parade down Main Street last Sunday afternoon.

Bystanders waved American flags and cheered the many veterans riding on decorated floats and some in cars making their way down the parade route. Red, white and blue were the predominant colors of the day and it was patriotism at its best!

Bands from Fort Jackson and White Knoll, Lexington, Pelion, Gilbert, River Bluff High Schools and the new Lexington Community Band contributed to the spirited event.

Among the dignitaries were Congressman Joe & Roxanne Wilson, Sheriff Jay & Kim Koon, Mayor Steve MacDougall and members of town council, Veteran's Office Ed Lundeen, Post 7 Commander David and Linda Griffin and Corner Margaret Fisher.

Following the parade, (Ret.) Lt. Col. Roger Rucker spoke at the Lexington Veterans Monument. Thanks to Sharon Willis for organizing this annual events.

**MARGIE WINDARD**, WHO 50 years ago established Wingard's Nursery, along with her late husband, Judson, was honored last Sunday.

Senator Ronnie Cromer presented Margie the Order of the Silver Crescent. Governor Nikki Haley for her exemplary service to the community through her hard work and dedication to her business and continuously helping others. A letter from the Governor was read along with many kind words spoken by Congressman Joe Wilson.

Daughters, Delores Steinauser, Phyllis Bowen, Gail Buff and Lynn Wingard were there to honor their mother as well as three Great Granddaughters, other family members, friends, and son-in-law Wally Steinauser co-owner of Wingard's Nursery now Wingard's Market. Best wishes and congratulations are extended to Margie!

**FOR THEIR FINAL** Luncheon of the fall session, The Shepherd's Center was honored to have

Sheriff Jay Koon and Captain Mark Jones speak last Thursday at the Lexington United Methodist Church. Captain Jones heads up the Sheriff's Department's community action team.

They wish to educate our citizens and ask them to be their eyes and ears for any problems, concerns or any improvements needed.

They offer awareness education on Business Security, Holiday Safety, Gangs, Home Security, Scam and Fraud Prevention. You may call Captain Jones at 785-2549 for more information.

With the upcoming holidays they caution citizens to be aware of any crime, hold onto your purses and always be aware of your surroundings.

**ALONG WITH FOOTBALL**, sports fans were involved with the Baseball World Series finals

last week. The Chicago Cubs clinched the championship title beating the Cleveland Indians on Wednesday night with much celebration. It was 108 years in the making. Playing a vital role in the victory was midlands native and Cubs relief pitcher, C.J. Edwards of Prosperity.

## ANOTHER OUTSTANDING

**ATHLETE** is Will Register, son of Stuart and Lisa Register, and a senior at Chapin High School. Will's honors include class 4A lower state line-man of the year, ESPN's Top 300 List for class of 2017 and Shrine Bowl selection. He has received a football scholarship from USC. He is the grandson of Louise Register and nephew of Missy Register Porth of Lexington.

## THANKS TO SYLVIA

Clyburn for the following: Lexington Woman's Club November Yard of the Month is 110 Kenwood Drive. The attractively manicured yard is accented with both stone and water features. Shaped shrubbery, as well as beautiful decorative trees adorn the landscape. Gerber daisies add color to the front circular drive. A donation will be made to Lexington Woman's Club Community Service Project (Chris Myers Children's Place) in honor of this family.

**REMEMBER THIS WEEKEND** the St. Peter's Lutheran Church Mission Market, Saturday No-

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vember 12 from 8 am – 1:30 pm. There will be a bake shop, many vendors, craft store and cafe. Don't miss this opportunity to shop for the holidays.

**FACULTY AT THE** Lexington Technology Center continue to receive awards, as teachers Amy Kuntiz, Randy Scott and Marcy O'Brien were named WISE Gold Star teachers for their work in the area of technical and vocational education. Congratulations!

**THERE WAS A** special birthday on Thursday, November 3. Elizabeth Lindler tells us her mother, Gladys Meetze, was a young 102! They enjoyed celebrating the birthday occasion.

Happy Birthday Jennifer, Madsen, Benie Branson, Doug Taylor, Evelyn Stith, Laura Catoe, Dave Dunnagan, Dawson Wiman, Bill Gay,

Suzanne Moore, Bunnie Hagenlocher, Frank Havird, Helen Lucius, Brenda Caughman, Summer Schmidt, Tommie Shirley, Linda Cromer, Connor Fink, Peyton Gamble, Kelly Hawsey, Spencer Robinson, Rachel Crapps, Reuben Earle, Edie Harmon, Mills Hayes, Zachary Juhl, J.K. Addy, III, Shannon Cleary, Gayle Hamby, Joey Hojnacki, Blake Lorick, Dalton Seals, Diane Senn, Perry Charles Sox, Bryson Looney, Debra Mims, James Arnold, Celeste Morgan, Larry Peay, Sr. Nikki Riley, Suzanne Robinson, Brandon Davis, Hunter Mills, Sarah Stafford, Travis Harmon, Will Stogner, Lizzie Tucker, Susan Gladden, Sarah Huckabee, Yanti Pepper, Leon Strock, our nephew Brett Harman and Granddaughter, Sarah Stormer.

DAISY HARMAN

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**AROUND LEXINGTON  
COUNTY**

Title: **A thank you to Veterans**

Author:

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PHOTO PROVIDED

**Mayor Steve MacDougall, SC Senator Ronnie Cromer, Gail Buff, Delores Steinhauser, Margie Wingard, Phyllis Bowen and Congressman Joe Wilson. Gail Buff, Delores Steinhauser and Phyllis Bowen are Margie Wingard's daughters.**



Title: **S.C. crime victims services to be consolidated, relocated to attorney general's office**  
 Author: Special to the Chronicle  
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# S.C. crime victims services to be consolidated, relocated to attorney general's office

Special to the Chronicle

The effort to help crime victims just got more serious on a statewide level.

On Friday, Nov. 4, Governor Nikki Haley, Attorney General Alan Wilson and victims advocates announced the formation of a new state agency to lead the charge: Crime Victim Services of South Carolina.

Officials also announced that legislation will be proposed to consolidate, co-locate and better coordinate multiple state agencies to the Attorney General's Office, including include the State Office of Victim Assistance and the Crime Victim's Ombudsman, currently at the Department of Administration, and the Division of Victim Assistance Grants, currently at the Department of Public Safety.

Approximately 55 employees will be affected with no fiscal impact to the state.

"We are giving crime victim services a home in South Carolina for the first time in our state's history," said Gov. Haley during an event held at Columbia's Crime Victims Memorial Gardens that was attended by members of the General Assembly and other stakeholders. "Combining

these agencies and streamlining their services is the right thing to do. Citizens deserve good government, victims deserve justice, and this is one more step forward to improve how we work for the people.

"We are grateful for victims' advocates who have championed this reform and do hero's work every day, and we thank the attorney general for leading this effort and for continuing to have the backs of crime victims."

With a targeted effective date of July 1, 2017, the governor will issue Executive Order 2016-43, which establishes a Crime Victim Services Transition Team to develop a plan for transitioning the administration of agencies and employees.

A plan for addressing human resources, finance, information technology, and other operational matters must be submitted to the governor no later than Jan. 10, 2017, the first day of the General Assembly's 2017 Session.

Members of the Transition Team will be comprised of representatives from the Attorney General's Office, De-

partment of Administration, and the Department of Public Safety.

"This the most significant reform for crime victims since 1998 when we passed the Victims' Bill of Rights was added to the State Constitution," said Attorney General Alan Wilson. "With this legislation, victims across the state will have a much needed unified voice. These South Carolinians deserve our best, and this proposal will enable us to better serve their needs with improved efficiency."

*'Citizens deserve  
good government,  
victims deserve  
justice, and this is  
one more step  
forward to improve  
how we work  
for the people.'*

Gov. Nikki Haley

Title: **Joe Wilson prevails at polls**  
 Author: BY ROB COTTINGHAM [cottinghamrob@yahoo.com](mailto:cottinghamrob@yahoo.com)  
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# Joe Wilson prevails at polls

## Congressman's stint to continue in Washington

BY ROB COTTINGHAM

[cottinghamrob@yahoo.com](mailto:cottinghamrob@yahoo.com)

While many republicans feared a backlash in this year's election, U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson had few problems retaining his seat in Congress.

Wilson handily defended his post on Tuesday against Democratic newcomer Arik Bjorn and Constitutional Party candidate Eddie McCain.

With 94 of 101 precincts reporting, Wilson received 58.8% of the vote, while Bjorn won 36.6%.

McCain made some noise with his campaign, but only garnered 3% of the vote.

The victory means Wilson's

16-year-long run as U.S. Representative for South Carolina's 2nd congressional district will continue.

"I am humbled by the overwhelming support I received from constituents across the Second Congressional District," Wilson said in news release. "I am grateful for your support, and want to thank all of the volunteers and community members who made today possible."

### Sen. Scott retains seat in U.S. Senate

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott also

managed to defend his seat in the U.S. Senate on Tuesday after besting his challenger Thomas Dixon.

Despite conducting a formidable campaign, Dixon could not overcome the 61% of the vote garnered by Scott.

In January, Scott will begin his first full term as junior senator of South Carolina, a seat to which he was appointed by Gov. Nikki Haley after Jim DeMint vacated the post.

### County, state prove faithful to Trump

In what was undoubtedly the most controversial Presidential race in decades, the final national results were still pending at press time.

Locally, however, Donald Trump reigned supreme.

In Lexington County, Trump won 65.4% of the vote while Clinton received 28.9%.

Across the state, the race was much closer, as Trump claimed 56% of the vote and Clinton garnered 40%.

At press time, Trump had won 216 electoral votes, while Clinton could claim 197.



Title: **Central Wire expands Lancaster plant 18 more jobs coming with \$2M investment**  
 Author: from release  
 Size: 34.1 column inches  
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# Central Wire expands Lancaster plant

## 18 more jobs coming with \$2M investment

From release

Central Wire Inc. will spend \$2 million expanding its Lancaster County manufacturing operation, creating 18 new jobs at the plant off Riverside Road.

The Lancaster facility, at 1552 Cedar Pines Lake Road, now employ 32 workers. The expansion will add two state-of-the-art welding wire manufacturing lines.

"This product line expansion will make CWI a big player in welding wire and greatly increase our local manufacturing work force over time," said the plant's general manager, Wesley Grider. "This CWI and Lancaster County investment and expansion will provide new manufacturing technology and enhance our capabilities to service new customers that consume quality welding wire products in their manufacturing processes."

**"Each time a company is able to expand here, it shows that our approach to developing the most competitive business environment possible is working for the people of the state, and that's a real reason to celebrate."**

— S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley

Work on the expansion is projected to begin in January and is expected to be completed by the end of the first quarter of 2017.

Gov. Nikki Haley praised the company's move.

"CWI's decision to invest further and expand in Lancaster County is a huge win for Team South Carolina," Haley said. "Each time a company is able to expand here, it shows that our approach to developing the most competitive business environment possible is

working for the people of the state, and that's a real reason to celebrate."

Jamie Gilbert, Lancaster County's new economic development director, said economic development starts with our existing businesses.

"Central Wire's decision to invest and grow its Lancaster operation is very much appreciated and demonstrates the

county's strength as a location for advanced manufacturers," Gilbert said. "We are pleased to be able to assist them."

Established in 1955 and headquartered in Perth, Ontario, CWI manufactures and distributes stainless, nickel and specialty alloy wire, as well as engineered cable assemblies.

The company has 11 manufacturing and distribution facilities throughout the United States, Great Britain and Canada.

CWI came to Lancaster in 1999 when the company bought the local facility from Nucor Steel. At the end of this latest expansion, it will have 50 employees here, more than four times as many as in 1999.

Title: **Scott wins first full term**

Author:

Size: 27.12 column inches

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# Scott wins first full term

Staff reports

U.S. Sen. Tim Scott appeared to have easily won his first full term Tuesday, despite facing three challengers representing six parties.

With 30 of 46 counties reporting and many of the absentee ballots still not counted at 11 p.m. Tuesday, Scott held an almost 2 to 1 lead over his nearest opponent, Democrat Thomas Dixon.

Scott had 59 percent of the vote (759,029 votes) to Dixon's 35 percent (452,654 votes).

Dixon, who also ran as a double third-party candidate, received 24,739 votes (1.94 percent) for Working Families and 9,334 votes (0.73 percent) for the Green Party.

Dr. Bill Bledsoe, also a double third-party candidate, received 15,246 votes (1.19 percent) for the Libertarian Party and 7,849 votes (0.61

percent) for the Constitution Party.

Rebel Michael Scarborough of the American Party received 7,807 votes (0.61 percent).

The only black Republican in the U.S. Senate during his last term, Scott, 51, received 62 percent of the vote (16,011 votes) in Lancaster County, with 34 of 35 precincts reporting.

Dixon received 30.54 percent (7,841 votes) as a Democrat, 3.24 percent (833 votes) for Working Families and .64 percent (164 votes) for the Green Party. Bledsoe received 1.41 percent (362 votes) for the Libertarian Party and .83 percent (214 votes) for the Constitution Party. Scarborough received 0.87 percent (223 votes) for the American Party.

Scott is a former member of the U.S. House who was appointed to the Senate by

Gov. Nikki Haley in 2013 when Jim DeMint resigned. Scott was elected to the remaining two years of DeMint's term in 2014.

Scott served one term in the S.C. House of Representatives and eight years on the Charleston County Council.

"Despite what we may hear every day, I believe our nation's greatest days are still ahead of us," Scott said in a statement for a candidates forum in Indian Land last month.

"Growing up in a poor, single-parent household, I know the challenges faced by so many Americans every day," he said. "We must work together as the American family to solve these issues."

"My promise to you is that I will continue working to bring opportunity to all, to restore fiscal sanity in Washington, and to protect life."

Title: **Turner charges cleared**  
 Author: **BY BILLY CANNADA EDITOR**  
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# Turner charges cleared

BY BILLY CANNADA  
 EDITOR

Charges against former Lyman Mayor Rodney Turner have been dropped, more than a year after he was arrested for misconduct in office and wiretapping.

The South Carolina At-

torney General's recently informed Turner and his attorney, Andrew Johnston, of the decision, noting the case "lacks prosecutorial merit and/or evidence."

"I have lost so much be-

cause of the actions taken against me by Town officials and SLED. Certain people tried to ruin my reputation for their own political and personal

SEE TURNER | A7

## TURNER: Sees charges dropped

FROM A1

reasons," Turner said. "While I consider this dismissal of charges to be a complete vindication of my lifetime of public service; there is still damage that can never be repaired."

On August 5, 2015, Agents of the State Law Enforcement Division arrested former Lyman Mayor, Rodney Turner on charges of two counts of misconduct in office and one count of wiretapping.

Later, Turner was indicted by a Spartanburg County Grand Jury on those same charges.

Turner had been the Mayor of Lyman since July 2008, but Governor Nikki Haley suspended him from that office on August 24, 2015, as a result of the indictments.

Turner also resigned his

longtime position as a Sergeant with the Greenville Spartanburg Airport Police Department after his arrest.

Turner had been accused of intercepting "the oral communications of employees working and persons conducting business in and around the Lyman Town Hall," according to one indictment.

Turner was also accused of misconduct of "engaging in acts and omissions in the form of malfeasance, misfeasance and nonfeasance, in breach of his duties to public of good faith, honesty, and accountability in his role as mayor..." the other indictment stated.

That indictment alleged that Turner had entered into secret negotiations without town council's knowledge and consent

and caused the town to expend more than \$200,000 in legal fees.

"(I have) known Rodney Turner for over 25 years and never doubted his innocence for one moment," Turner's attorney said. "I reviewed the evidence in this case and Rodney did absolutely nothing illegal. I am delighted that the Attorney General's office saw that these charges were baseless and dismissed them."

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*'While I consider this dismissal of charges to be a complete vindication of my lifetime of public service; there is still damage that can never be repaired.'*

**Rodney Turner**  
 Former Mayor of Lyman