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**Date:** 6/22/2016 12:03:04 PM  
**Subject:** Session Ends, Kids Count, Ethics, and Roads -- Update from Sen. Tom Young – June 7 to June 22, 2016

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## **Session Ends, Kids Count, Ethics, and Roads – Update from June 7 to June 22, 2016**

Good afternoon! The State Senate concluded the 2016 session last Wednesday night and will not meet again in statewide session until December after the November elections. One of my goals as your state senator is that you find this legislative update informative, and I appreciate any feedback. If I can help you with an issue, please let me know. We have been very busy in recent weeks assisting many constituents with a variety of issues. Thank you for allowing me to serve our District!

### **Budget Vetoes Recap**

**Governor Haley's Budget Vetoes** : On June 8, Governor Haley vetoed 51 line items and provisos in the final version of the two bills related to the budget passed by the General Assembly. The vetoed items totaled more than \$41 Million. To see the two separate veto messages, go [here](#) for the General Appropriations Act and [here](#) for the Capital Reserve Fund.

**Clarification – Sustaining versus Overriding Budget Vetoes** : When a budget veto is sustained, that means the vetoed appropriation is not part of the final budget. When a budget veto is overridden, that means the vetoed appropriation is part of the final budget despite the Governor's veto. At least a two thirds vote in both the House and the Senate is needed for an override. All the budget veto votes start in the House. If the House sustains a budget veto, then the Senate does not vote on that vetoed appropriation.

**Votes on Budget Vetoes** : The House of Representatives met and voted to sustain 12 of the 51 budget vetoes. The 39 overridden vetoes then went to the Senate. The Senate voted to override 38 of the 39 budget vetoes and one veto was carried over because it was a duplicate. Thus, the General Assembly sustained 12 budget

vetoed. I voted to sustain 31 of the 38 vetoes that the Senate considered. The Senate only considers any veto that the House overrides. If you have a particular veto for which you want to know more information, please let me know.

**Budget Vetoes – Sustained** : The General Assembly voted to sustain 12 of the 51 budget vetoes. All of those were sustained in the House so those vetoes did not come to the Senate for consideration. Of the remaining 39 that came to the Senate, the Senate voted to override all of them except for one that was carried over as it was a duplicate. I voted to sustain 31 of the 38 budget vetoes that the Senate considered. The budget vetoes that were sustained included a proviso directing the Dept. of Administration to perform a feasibility study on the relocation of the Confederate Relic Room to the Charleston area; a proviso changing the local funding match rate for a swimming pool in Richland County; \$75,000 in funding to the Human Affairs Commission for community relations councils; and a proviso directing how grass should be maintained around State Welcome Centers located on interstate highways.

**Budget Vetoes – Overridden** : The General Assembly voted to override 38 of the 51 budget vetoes. Those that were overridden included funding for renovations to the historic Fireproof Building in Charleston; for outreach education for the Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR); for engineering costs associated with the expansion of the Coastal Carolina football stadium; for driving tours of historic African American sites; for the Gibbs Museum of Art at the University of Charleston; for business incubator programs through the Department of Commerce; for a coyote bounty program through DNR; and for parks and recreation improvements for the local governments in all 46 counties.

### **State Government News**

**Roads**: On June 7, Governor Haley signed the roads bill. The bill allows for more than \$2 billion to be borrowed for major interstate and bridge fixes and allows the Governor to appoint all eight members of the S.C. Department of Transportation's controlling commission. Legislators will confirm those commissioners. The commissioners will select the SCDOT secretary who will then report to the commission. No taxes are increased under this law. Instead, existing revenue will be leveraged into bonds. Having the money from the bonds will allow SCDOT to use other existing funds totaling another \$2 billion over the next decade for more road and bridge improvements. When she signed the bill, the Governor noted that the bill still did not achieve the reform that the state needs for improving the state's roads and bridges and the system associated with it. To see the Governor's signing statement, go [here](#).

**Ethics – Income Source Disclosure and Independent Investigations** : Last Wednesday, the General Assembly passed two ethics reform provisions as follows: (1) Income source disclosure requirements of private income sources meaning income reported to the Internal Revenue Service (public income source and amount already is disclosed); and (2) independent investigations by the State Ethics Commission and its staff of alleged legislative ethics complaints against legislators.

If the State Ethics Commission decides that charges should be brought, then it releases all of the evidence to both the public and to the House or Senate Ethics Committees. The respective committee then decides whether the legislator violated the law, and if so, sets the punishment. Governor Haley is expected to sign the bills on Thursday of this week.

**Shoreline Management** : The General Assembly passed S.139 which establishes that coastal South Carolina's baseline, or construction boundary, does not move seaward. In doing so, the bill is viewed as a means to protect coastal resources and communities.

**FOIA Bill**: The FOIA legislation failed in the Conference Committee where it was with the law enforcement dashcam video bill. The Conference Committee could not agree on whether to include the FOIA provision with the dashcam language as part of the Conference report to the Senate and the House. Efforts to pass both FOIA and dashcam legislation will have to start again in January.

**Foster Care Legislation** : Two bills related to foster care and their status at end of session were as follows:

- Did not pass -- H.4492 requires the Department of Social Services to provide 10 days notice of permanency planning and child abuse and neglect hearings to foster parents, as well as inform them of the right to address the court by submitting a written report and/or live testimony. The Senate adjourned due to lack of a quorum at nearly midnight last Wednesday night while the Conference Report on this bill was being debated. I supported the bill and the Conference Report.
- Passed and enacted --- H.4546 broadens permissions for foster parents adding definitions in the Children's Code related to the standard of care of a "reasonable and prudent" parent and requiring court consideration of local foster care review board recommendations in permanency planning cases.

**Georgia CWP Reciprocity** : Governor Haley signed this bill into law on June 3. With its enactment, there is now concealed weapon permit (CWP) reciprocity between South Carolina and Georgia. Like other states with whom our state has concealed carry reciprocity, Georgia concealed carry permit holders must abide by South Carolina concealed carry laws while in South Carolina and South Carolina permit holders must abide by Georgia's law while in Georgia. To see details on Georgia's CWP carry laws, go [here](#).

**Kids Count - Report on Children in South Carolina** : Earlier this week, the 2016 KIDS COUNT report was released showing that South Carolina is ranked 41st in the nation as to the overall well-being of our state's children. This is the highest spot for our state in the 27 year history of the rankings. To see the numbers specific to South Carolina, go [here](#). To see the full report, go [here](#). Since the rankings began, South Carolina has never been better than number 42 until this year. States that consistently rank high in the annual report have an educated workforce, more students graduating from high school on time, and higher paying jobs than our state. Many of these problems are the direct result of generational poverty in our state.

Improving the overall educational attainment of our state's citizens is critical to decreasing generational poverty in South Carolina. This is one reason why the third grade reading requirement and 4 year old kindergarten legislation which the General Assembly passed in 2014 is very important. I welcome your feedback.

**Commerce -- State Receives Award** : Earlier this month, South Carolina was one of 6 states to receive Area Development's Golden Shovel award for major economic development announcements. To learn more, go [here](#).

**Local Farm Produce** : The S.C. Department of Agriculture has a website that will provide information as to where to buy local produce. To see that, go [here](#).

**DHEC -- Zika Virus** : With the summer fast approaching, more media coverage has focused on the Zika virus in the United States. South Carolina DHEC has a Zika virus information page on its website. As of June 21, 2016, there is one confirmed travel case of Zika virus in South Carolina. To learn more at the DHEC information page, go [here](#). To see the toolkit and outreach materials from DHEC, go [here](#).

### **Communications with Constituents**

**Frequency of Email Updates** : Because the legislature is out of session, my legislative updates will not be sent as frequently as they have been since January of this year. However, I will strive to provide at least a couple of updates per month over the summer into the fall.

**End of Session Town Meetings** : I plan to hold end of session town meetings in the district. Based on constituent requests, I will hold those after the summer vacation season ends. The dates, times, and locations will be provided in the future email updates.

### **Local District News**

**Absentee Voting - June 28 primaries** : For this month's June 28th runoff primary elections, in person absentee voting will continue this week at the Aiken County Voter Registration and Elections Office in the County Administration Building from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday to Friday. To learn more about absentee voting by mail or in person, go [here](#). If you have questions, call [642-2028](tel:642-2028).

**Windsor Area Ground Water Concerns** : Several constituents in the Windsor area have contacted members of our legislative delegation in the past few weeks about ground water supply concerns in the Windsor area. Members of the delegation have contacted DHEC about these concerns. DHEC has responded that many private wells are drilled into a shallow aquifer at less than 150 feet deep. According to DHEC, public water providers and agricultural users typically drill wells at a much deeper depth. DHEC says that complaints from private well users are typical for this time of the year in areas around the state. DHEC also cites that a ground water study is being done in Aiken County now to be completed in 2018. (See link further down herein for more information on this study.) Senator Setzler, Representative Taylor, and I plan to meet with DHEC on these issues again this summer to further address constituent concerns.

**Groundwater Study – Aiken County** : The USGS is currently performing an extensive groundwater study in Aiken County to develop a groundwater-flow model that can be used by Aiken County water managers to manage current and projected reported and unreported demands on groundwater resource and to ensure the highest quality of groundwater. To learn more, go [here](#).

**Aiken County Public Library Summer Reading Program:** The annual summer reading program for children through the 5th grade has started at the Aiken County Public Library, the Nancy Carson Library in North Augusta, and other Aiken County library branches. The Program runs through early August. Children who read the required number of books will receive a medal and a certificate of completion. Reading is essential to doing well in school. Please encourage as many young people as you can to read this summer. For more information, call the Aiken County Public Library at 642- 2020 or go [here](#).

**Congratulations to Larry Frelin -- Marine of the Year!:** Local resident Larry Frelin was recently recognized as Marine of the Year in South Carolina. Congratulations to Mr. Frelin!

**Aiken County Veterans Affairs Officer** : Major Dwight Bradham is the Aiken County Veterans Affairs Officer. He can be reached at [642-1545](tel:642-1545) by phone and at [dbradham@aikencountysc.gov](mailto:dbradham@aikencountysc.gov) by email. If you have any veteran-related issue, please call the office for assistance. You can follow that office on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/AikenVA](http://www.Facebook.com/AikenVA) and on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/VA\\_Aiken](http://www.twitter.com/VA_Aiken).

**Silver Bluff Audubon Center and Sanctuary** : This 3,250 acre property is located 5 miles Northwest of Jackson in Aiken County along the Savannah River. The property includes numerous Carolina bays, walking trails, and a wide variety of wildlife including 217 bird species such as Bald Eagles, Wood Storks, Cooper's Hawks, and Red-headed Woodpeckers. In addition, a 120 acrea area is on the National Register of Historic Sites as the location of George Galphin's Trading post operated from 1750 until the end of the Revolutionary War. To learn more and how to visit, go [here](#).

**Cardiac Arrest** : Recently, a friend sent me a link to this [website](#) with a step by step instruction of how to react in a cardiac arrest situation. Please take a few minutes to review it.

**Grass Cutting in the SCDOT Right of Way** : Grass is growing in right of ways around our district. In Aiken County, DOT contractors have started cutting the grass on the interstates and on secondary roads. If you are aware of an area where high grass is obstructing vision for drivers as they enter or exit certain roads in our County, please call the SCDOT at [641-7665](tel:641-7665) or let me know and I will pass on the information.

**Congressman Wilson's Local Office -- Veteran Assistance** : Congressman Wilson can also assist veterans. The local number to the Aiken County office is [\(803\) 642-6416](tel:803-642-6416).

**Elections - Poll Managers Needed for November General Election** : Aiken County

Voter Registration and Elections needs additional poll managers for the November elections. Basic requirements include being able to work a 14 hour day on election day; experience in using a Windows operating system on a personal computer; internet access for training and communications with County Elections office; and reliable transportation. If you are interested or need more information, call [642-2030](tel:642-2030) to let the Elections office know of your interest or to answer questions.

**Volunteer in Local Schools:** If you would like to help with educating our children, consider volunteering in our local schools. To learn more, go [here](#). Thank you to the Aiken Downtown Rotary Club for putting together this list of opportunities.

**SC Help – Primary Residence Foreclosure Avoidance Assistance** : Several Aiken County residents have received assistance under a federal program instituted in 2011 in several states including South Carolina providing one time assistance to homeowners who risk foreclosure. The program loans up to \$36,000 in one time aid to homeowners who have fallen behind on mortgage payments for a variety of reasons. Acceptable causes include: unemployment, underemployment, a sharp reduction in self-employment income, a divorce, death of a spouse, unexpected medical bills from a catastrophic illness or injury, or damages stemming from the October 2015 floods. The home involved must be the applicant's primary residence and there is a cap on the size of the original mortgage loan amount. The money is collected back from the homeowner after the homeowner is back on his or her feet. To learn more or to apply, go online [here](#) or call [1-855-435-7472](tel:1-855-435-7472).

**Foster Parent Recruitment** : In March, Governor Haley, DSS officials, and foster parents launched a new statewide effort to find more families willing to foster parents for children in need. To learn more, go [here](#).

**Aiken County Legislative Delegation Office** : The local legislative delegation office is staffed by the delegation secretary Jeannie Cadden in the Aiken County Government Building on University Parkway. Ms. Cadden works on both Aiken County and Edgefield County legislative and constituent matters. One of the services provided by our local delegation office is the processing of paperwork associated with becoming a notary public. If you need help with this or other matters, let me know by responding to this email or call Jeannie in the delegation office at [642-1694](tel:642-1694).

### **Campaign Information**

**Donate to Tom Young for Senate** : If you have not done so and would like to donate to my Senate campaign fund, please go [here](#). Donations can be accepted in any amount up to \$1,000.00 per donor per election cycle. Thank you!

**Facebook**: If you are on Facebook, I have a Facebook page for Senator Tom Young. During the week, I post information from the Senate or elsewhere around the District, State, and County. If you are interested, please "like" the page to receive updates during the week from me on Facebook.

### **Other Topics of Interest**

**Faith Magazine article** : A *Faith Magazine* article about my public service and faith can be seen [here](#).

**SRS Retiree Association – Retiree Resource Center Help** : The SRS Retiree Association has established a SRS Retiree Resource Center in Aiken. To learn more about what services this office can provide, go [here](#).

**SRS Deer Hunts** : To apply to participate in annual SRS Deer Hunt program at the Savannah River Site, go [here](#).

**Research Charities in South Carolina** : Charitable donors may research organizations registered in South Carolina by visiting the Secretary of State's website [here](#). You may learn a charity's total revenue, program expenses, total expenses, net assets, and fundraiser costs. You can also call the Division of Public Charities at 1-888-CHARITI (242-7484) for more information.

**Unclaimed Property -- Money for You?** : The State Treasurer's Office maintains a link for residents to search for unclaimed property. Examples of unclaimed property include dormant bank accounts, uncashed checks (including paychecks), unclaimed insurance proceeds, forgotten utility deposits, uncashed dividend checks and unexchanged shares of stock. Some local residents have recently found unclaimed money belonging to them on this website. To learn more, go [here](#).

**Medication Assistance Program** : The LSCOG (Lower Savannah Council of Governments) partnering with local physicians and the United Way, has an ongoing free program to assist lower income Aiken County residents with obtaining medications. Participation is generally limited to those families with no prescription insurance and total household income of less than 150% of Federal Poverty Guidelines. To learn more, call 1-866-845-1550, ext. 6 or go [here](#) and scroll down to Medication Assistance Program.

**Nonprofits and Raffles** : Since last April, nonprofits may legally conduct raffles in South Carolina to raise funds for their charitable purposes. For the new law, the Secretary of State created a frequently asked questions list which can be seen [here](#). If you have more questions, please call the Charities Division of the Secretary of State at (803) 734-1790.

**Cardiac Arrest** : For a step by step instruction of how to react in a cardiac arrest situation, go to [www.heartrescuenow.com](http://www.heartrescuenow.com).

**Special Needs Children – Help for Parents and Caregivers** : The South Carolina Bar developed a handbook for parents of special needs children. An online version of the handbook is available [here](#).

**Teens and Texting** : Texting while driving amongst younger drivers remains a problem. The State of South Carolina's anti-texting law went into effect on December 7, 2014. There is an anti-texting app which parents can use to keep their teen from texting while driving. To learn more, go [here](#).

**Legislative Email Updates** : Locally, three members of the House of Representatives, who represent portions of Aiken County within Senate District 24, send regular email updates. Their respective contact information to get on their email lists to receive their email updates are as follows:

- Rep. Bill Hixon (Dist. 83): [bill@billhixon.com](mailto:bill@billhixon.com)
- Rep. Bill Taylor (Dist. 86): [bill@taylorscheuse.com](mailto:bill@taylorscheuse.com)
- Rep. Don Wells (Dist. 81): [dwells29801@gmail.com](mailto:dwells29801@gmail.com)

**Congressman Joe Wilson Contact Information** : Congressman Wilson represents all of Aiken County. He has staff in Aiken County with office hours in Aiken and in North Augusta. His office number is [642-6416](tel:642-6416).

**Speaking with Groups Around the District** : If you are involved with a local group that would like for me to attend a meeting to provide a legislative update, please let me know.

**State Government Resources** : Several online resources are available to you for learning more about our State Government. These resources include the following websites which can be accessed as follows: General Assembly's website -- go [here](#); Executive Budget Office -- go [here](#); State Library -- go [here](#); Legislative Audit Council -- go [here](#); Governor's Office -- go [here](#); and State Fiscal Transparency information, go [here](#).

**Report Waste, Fraud and Abuse in State Government** : To report waste, fraud and abuse in state government, you can call: [1-855-SC-FRAUD](tel:1-855-SC-FRAUD).

**Tom Young's Website** : My website can be reached at <http://www.senatortomyoung.com>. There are links to a variety of constituent services; the status of sponsored bills; and roll call votes. Please add my web site as a bookmark on your computer.

**Small Business Help – SC Dept. of Commerce** : The South Carolina Department of Commerce has helpful information for small business owners and employees. To learn more, go [here](#).

**Save for College - Future Scholar 529 College Savings Plan** : South Carolina's 529 College Savings Plan Future Scholar offers special tax benefits for South Carolina residents. To learn more or to enroll, go [here](#).

**Donate Life** : You can register as an organ, eye, and tissue donor through the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles or [here](#).

**Child Passenger Safety** : To learn more about ways to keep your children or grandchildren safe in your car, go [here](#). The information at this link is provided in part by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety.

**Request a Flag** : If you would like to request a state or U.S. flag flown over the State Capitol in Columbia, please let me know at [tom@senatortomyoung.com](mailto:tom@senatortomyoung.com). Flags vary

in cost according to their size and their material from which they are made.

**State House Tours** : Tours are available for the S.C. State House by calling (803) 734-2430 or by going [here](#). If you set a tour between January and June and it is on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, please let me know so I can do my best to see you. The State House is open on Saturdays for guided and unguided tours from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

**South Carolina Tourism** : To learn more about tourist attractions and tourism opportunities in South Carolina, go [here](#).

**Thoroughbred Country-- South Carolina Regional Tourism Organization** : To learn more about tourism in the four county region of Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, and Barnwell, go [here](#).

**SC BBQ Trail** : According to the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, our state is the birthplace of barbecue in the United States and is the only state that offers all four official barbecue sauces. To see the official map with more than 200 restaurant listings, go [here](#). Another helpful site can be seen [here](#).

**Aiken County Tourism** : To learn more about tourism options in Aiken County, go [here](#).

**Email Updates** : If you know of people in or around District 24 who do not receive my updates but they would like to get them, please email their names and email addresses to me.

**Road Issues** : If you see a road problem such as a pothole needing repair, call the SCDOT at 641-7665 or Aiken County at 642-1532 to report the problem. You may also report the repair request online [here](#). If you do not get a prompt response, please let me know at [tom@senatortomyoung.com](mailto:tom@senatortomyoung.com) or call me. Generally, most paved roads in the County are maintained by SCDOT and are identified on the road sign poles by a small black and white sign listing the road number, such as S-2-1669. Most unpaved roads in the County are maintained by the County.

Thank you for the opportunity and the honor to represent you. Please let me know if I can help you in any way or if you have questions about these or other issues. Your feedback is meaningful and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tom Young  
649-0000 (o)  
215-3631 (cell)

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