

Title: **The top issues Gov. McMaster would face**
 Author: BY CASSIE COPE ccope@thestate.com
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The top issues Gov. McMaster would face

BY CASSIE COPE

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Moving into the South Carolina governor's mansion means Henry McMaster would inherit the Palmetto State's most pressing issues, among them responding to a school equity lawsuit and repairing the state's crumbling roads and bridges.

The lieutenant governor is expected to replace Gov. Nikki Haley if she is confirmed by the U.S. Senate to be President-elect Donald

Trump's ambassador to the United Nations.

McMaster's stances on the top issues are not as well known as Haley's. And for now, he's not taking questions, staying quiet since Haley's nomination was announced on Wednesday.

Still, it's certain he'll face the usual decisions about what takes priority as he works with the General Assembly on how to spend money. And the demands on the state's pocketbook seem to be particularly

acute right now.

Here are, arguably, the top five most pressing things South Carolina's next governor faces.

SCHOOLS

This year, lawmakers approved spending \$430 million more in general fund dollars on education than nine years ago, before the Great Recession.

But the state is spending only slightly more in in-

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THE BUZZ: Gov. Nikki Haley asked for the numbers – just in case. Here are the effects of a hypothetical 3 percent cut on state agencies. **3A**
SCOPPE: Godspeed Gov. Haley; welcome Gov. McMaster. **2C**

FROM PAGE 1A

ISSUES

flation-adjusted dollars than before the Great Recession, and is educating 6 percent more students than before the recession.

Haley pushed lawmakers to spend more on education in recent years on reading coaches, technology and students in poverty. But this year, legislators failed to pass Haley's proposal – the first of its kind in nearly two decades – to spend state money to help poor districts build and renovate schools.

For decades, districts have had to raise money locally to upgrade facilities – leaving wealthier districts with strong tax bases with a huge advantage over poorer ones.

McMaster likely will have a role in how the state responds to the Abbeville lawsuit.

State Sen. John Courson, R-Richland, who has chaired the state Senate education committee in the past, said education is the

state's No. 1 issue.

"The governor, being the chief executive officer of the state, will be engaged heavily" in education policies and spending, Courson said.

ROADS

South Carolina's roads continue to crumble.

In part, that's because lawmakers have not increased the state's 16.75 cent-a-gallon gas tax, the second-lowest in the nation, in nearly 30 years. That money is one of the state's primary funding sources for repairs.

After winning re-election in 2014, Haley endorsed a 10-cent gas tax increase only if it were paired with a much larger income tax cut. Critics of her plan argue such a tax break would raid the state's budget and force South Carolina to cut services.

Whether McMaster would sign

a proposal increasing the state's gas tax remains to be seen. If he approved a tax hike of any kind, it could be used against him in a GOP primary, should he seek re-election.

However, road-repair advocates hope he will approve spending more money to improve the state's roads and bridges.

"We're very hopeful, certainly, that governor-to-be McMaster will be looking closely at the highway funding road issue that's been before the Legislature now for a number of years," said Bill Ross of the S.C. Alliance to Fix Our Roads.

STATE BUDGET

Disasters have struck the Palmetto State two years in a row.

First, a historically heavy rainfall caused flooding across the Midlands and the coast in Octo-



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ber 2015, killing 19 people. That flooding cost taxpayers about \$150 million, including \$40 million for grants to farmers whose crops were damaged.

This year, Hurricane Matthew brushed the S.C. coast, causing damage and additional flooding, particularly in Beaufort, Horry and Georgetown counties and parts of the Pee Dee.

However, lawmakers will have only about a third of the added money they had last year. That means any money spent to pay for disaster relief will quickly cut into money to pay for other expenses.

State budget writers also will grapple with how to pay for programs at state agencies and overdue maintenance at state government buildings, including on college campuses.

STATE EMPLOYEES

The Great Recession forced cuts across state government, eliminating many employees' jobs. In addition, S.C. state workers received no pay increases

during four of the past 10 budget years.

However, lawmakers in the spring passed a 3.25 percent pay raise, the largest in a decade.

That raise increased the pay of about 61,000 state employees, about 21,000 of whom work in Richland County, according to the state Department of Administration.

McMaster is from Columbia, where many state employees live, which could give him reason to support more money for state workers.

PENSION

Like governments across the country, South Carolina has a pension problem, and the bulk of the Baby Boomers have yet to retire.

A joint panel of S.C. House members and senators have begun reviewing how to address the state's roughly \$20 billion in pension debt.

That estimate, by consultants for the state, is the difference

between the amount the pension fund has to pay for the retirement benefits of state and local government workers, including teachers, and the amount it has promised to pay in the future to current employees and retirees.

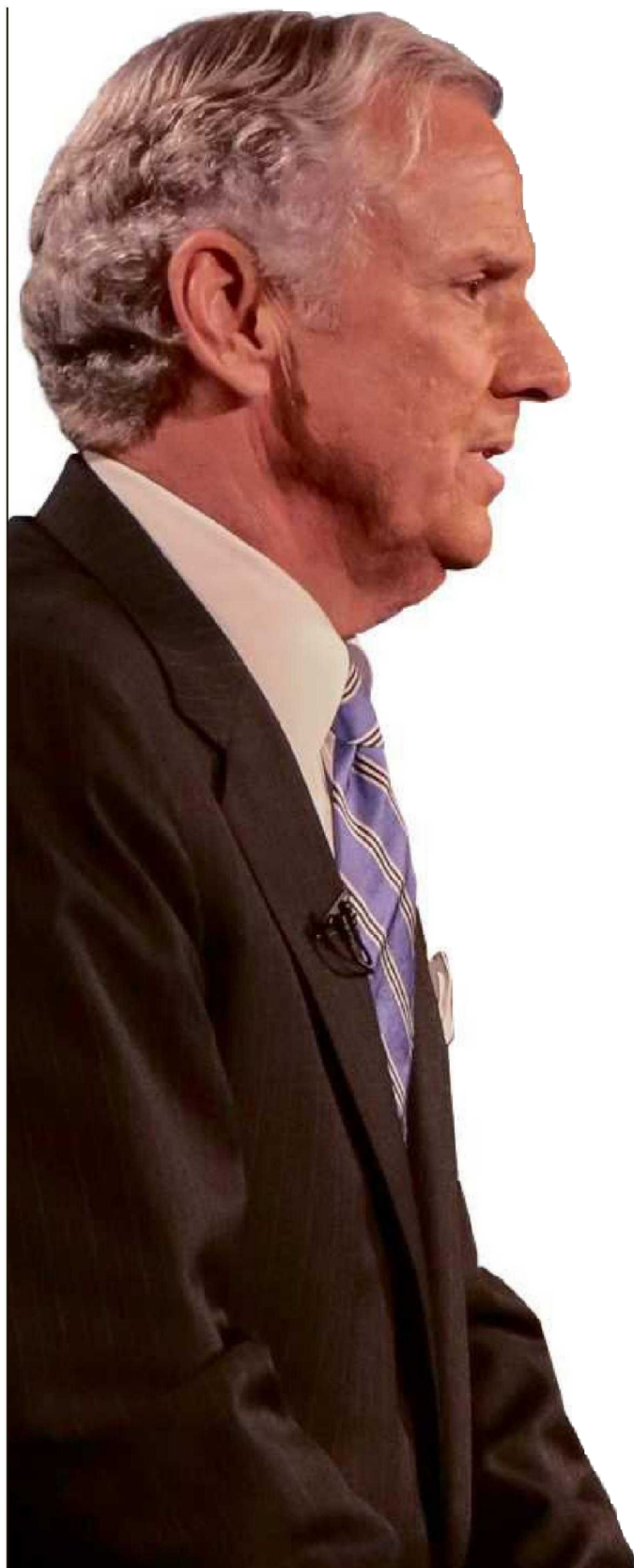
To close that gap, lawmakers are looking at whether to spend more taxpayer money or take more money from the paychecks of current workers.

Lawmakers also could close the pension plan to new employees and require them to take part in a defined contribution plan, like a 401(k) investment plan. In the short term, that would increase the pension system's unfunded liability because new workers would not be paying into the system. But, in the long term, it would reduce the state's pension costs.

Whether McMaster will favor one solution over another remains to be seen.

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THE STATE file photos

Janet Sumter writes the days of the week on a white board for her 4K class at Gadsden Elementary in March of last year.



GERRY MELENDEZ gmelendez@thestate.com

Donald Trump got an endorsement from Henry McMaster as he visited Harmon Tree Farm near Gilbert in January.

Title: **Haley needs to focus on job at U.N.**
 Author: The (Columbia)State
 Size: 38.28 column inches
 Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



Haley needs to focus on job at U.N.

The (Columbia) State

On Tuesday, Gov. Nikki Haley asked us all to pray for South Carolina, which has faced and continues to face significant challenges. Today, we all need to pray for Gov. Haley, as she prepares for a very different and very difficult challenge.

There's a lot of distance between Thanksgiving and Ambassador Haley. And there's no guarantee that the Senate, even a Republican Senate, will confirm someone with no foreign policy experience, much less diplomatic experience, as ambassador to the United Nations.

Although it isn't our most important foreign policy position, it is extremely important. And frankly, it's a stretch. For all that President-elect Donald Trump and the governor's supporters say about her deal-making prowess, we've only seen that on display in deals between corporations that wanted to locate in our state and a state that wanted those corporations to locate here.

The challenge she has met, in other words, was coming up with a deal between two parties that wanted to make a deal. That's very different than the challenges facing a U.N. ambassador. We certainly hope that her talents can translate to this new role, but we simply don't know because she is untested.

Gov. Haley said Wednesday that she had not anticipated leaving her current job before it's completed. But she noted that, "When the president believes you have a major contribution to make to the welfare of our nation, and to our nation's standing in the world, that is a calling that is important to heed."

She's absolutely right about that. While there are some positions that a sitting governor probably should reject — positions that are more about allowing a loyal supporter to cash in than about serving the nation — this isn't one of them. Anyone has an obligation to seriously consider a president's request to serve in an im-

portant position, regardless of who the president is or how committed that person might be to her current position.

The governor also said she would remain our governor until her confirmation, in part because, "We still have much to do in South Carolina, and my commitment to the people of our state will always remain unbreakable."

That is honorable. But while we would not ask her to resign yet, we would urge her to informally turn many of her responsibilities over to Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, sooner rather than later.

We are accustomed to U.N. ambassadors who have extensive foreign policy experience, and usually diplomatic experience as well. In the absence of either, Gov. Haley owes it to our nation to spend the time between now and her confirmation doing everything she can to make up for that lack of experience — meeting not just with handlers trained to guide her through the confirmation process but also with experts who can help bring her up to speed on all the issues that need to be mastered by the U.N. ambassador of the most important country in the world.

The Senate, too, owes it to our nation to make sure that Gov. Haley is prepared — that she has the appropriate temperament, judgment and knowledge base to serve in this position. Confirmation hearings for someone with her experience should not be particularly easy — and that is why she needs the next two months to prepare for them.

Gov. Haley is a bright and talented politician, and we hope that she will be able to scale the extremely steep learning curve that lies ahead. Assuming she is able to make the Senate comfortable with her ability to serve our nation in this very different sort of job, we wish her all the best in her new position.

Title: **Childhood friends in Bamberg are proud of Haley's rise**
 Author: Associated Press
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HOMETOWN HERO

Childhood friends in Bamberg are proud of Haley's rise

Associated Press

ORANGEBURG Bamberg.

The people who grew up with South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said they are going to miss her when she moves to New York City to be the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, but they are proud to see how far she has come.

Haley grew up in Bamberg County and went to high school at Orangeburg Preparatory Schools. On Wednesday, she accepted President-elect Donald Trump's request to serve as an ambassador as long as the U.S. Senate approves.

"I hate that we're going to lose her in South Carolina, but I do see her looking out for America the same way. She'll also look out for us the best way she can — and as often as she can. She never forgets where she comes from," said Renee Jeffcoat, who went to school with Haley in

Jeffcoat, who is a special education teacher in Bamberg, has stayed close to Haley, even after Haley moved to Lexington, became a state representative and later governor for six years. Jeffcoat is currently a committee member for Haley's nonprofit organization, The Original Six Foundation.

"She was a leader, a good friend who was very loyal, trustworthy and somebody you really wanted to be around. You always felt comfortable with her, and she's still that way today. She just tried to make you feel at ease ... and let you know that she really cared about you," Jeffcoat told The Times and Democrat of Orangeburg (<http://bit.ly/2fvfefq>).

Bamberg County Councilman Trent Kinard also went to school with the governor and said he accomplishments should help children in the county's schools realize they can be anything they want and go anywhere

they desire in life.

"We're all proud of her honestly, but at the same time, some people will be disappointed that she's going to be unable to finish her term as governor of South Carolina," Kinard said.

Cox Industries CEO Michael Johnson was a high school classmate of Haley, and said he has seen firsthand how hard she works and how fast she analyzes situations. Johnson accepted Haley's request he serve as chairman of the State Workforce Investment Board and vice chairman of the Original Six Foundation.

"She is a quick study and this will serve her well in the extremely fluid ecosystem of global politics," Johnson said. "She thinks about people first, and that has served South Carolina well. She will serve the citizens of the United States well."

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ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Gov. Nikki Haley along with her family, husband Michael, daughter Rena, and son Nalin sit for a portrait in the drawing room of the Governor's Mansion, in Columbia.

Title: **Breitbart isn't 'just a publication.' It's a pestilence.**

Author:

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Breitbart isn't 'just a publication.' It's a pestilence.

WASHINGTON

To President-elect Donald Trump, Breitbart — the racist, sexist and all-around offensive website once overseen by his campaign chairman and designated White House chief strategist Steve Bannon — is “just a publication.”

Breitbart's editors and writers, Trump told The New York Times, “cover stories like you cover stories.” Granted, Trump said, “they are certainly a much more conservative paper, to put it mildly, than The New York Times. But Breitbart really is a news organization that's become quite successful, and it's got readers and it does cover subjects that are on the right, but it covers subjects on the left also. I mean it's a pretty big, it's a pretty big thing. And he [Bannon] helped build it into a pretty successful news organization.”

Referring to Times publisher Arthur Sulzberger Jr., Trump observed, “I mean, I could say that Arthur is alt-right because they covered an alt-right story.”

No, no, no. The notion that Breitbart is “just a publication,” like The New York Times but just several notches to the right, is untrue and unacceptable. There are any number of conservative publications and websites that would fit that description.

Breitbart is something different entirely. That Trump would put it in the same category exposes both his failure to understand the role of the media and his failure to recognize — or to care about — the offensiveness of what Breitbart,

under the Bannon regime, represents.

We're going to hear the word “normalize” a lot during the Trump administration, and the risk is going to be exactly that, underreacting. Trump says and does so many outrageous things that it will be tempting for us to tire of calling them, and him, out. The job of opinion writers — my job — is to not let Trump define outrageousness down.

So, Breitbart is racist. Two weeks after white supremacist Dylann Roof murdered nine African-Americans at a Charleston church — after Trump's choice for U.N. ambassador, South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, called for the Confederate flag's removal from the statehouse grounds — Breitbart ran an article under the headline, “Hoist it high and proud: The Confederate flag proclaims a glorious heritage.” The Confederacy, the article argued, “was not a callous conspiracy to enforce slavery, but a patriotic and idealistic cause for which 490,000 men were killed, wounded or taken captive.”

Breitbart is anti-Semitic. “Bill Kristol: Republican spoiler, renegade Jew,” blared a May headline about the conservative's effort to launch a third-party candidate. A September article went out of its way to note the religious heritage of my colleague Anne Applebaum: “Hell hath no fury like a Polish, Jewish, American elitist scorned.”

Breitbart is anti-Muslim. Former Rep. Tom Tancredo inveighed in January against an “epidemic” of sexual assault by immigrants in Europe, which he blamed on “Islam's rape culture” that “could be coming to a town near you all too soon.” Anti-Muslim activist Pamela Geller has lamented “the devastation that the Muslim migrant influx is bringing to American communities.”

Breitbart is misogynist. “Birth control makes women unattractive and crazy” was the headline

on an article last December by one of the site's most offensive writers, Milo Yiannopoulos. And what should the pill be replaced with? “Nothing. We need the kids if we're to breed enough to keep the Muslim invaders at bay.”

“The solution to online ‘harassment’ is simple: women should log off,” Yiannopoulos advised in July. Women, he suggested, “could go back to bridge tournaments, or wellness workshops, or swapping apple crumble recipes, or whatever it is women do in their spare time.”

Breitbart is all-around offensive and irresponsible. As to offensive, consider last year's “Gabby Giffords, the gun control movement's human shield.” As to irresponsible, consider June's “Roger Stone: Huma Abedin ‘Most Likely a Saudi Spy’ with ‘Deep, Inarguable Connections’ to ‘Global Terrorist Entity.’” That piece about Hillary Clinton's top aide stemmed from an interview that Stone, a Trump adviser, did with Bannon, not yet an official Trump adviser.

Trump assured the Times that he condemns white supremacist Richard Spencer's National Policy Institute, which greeted the election with cheers of “Hail Trump, hail our people, hail victory!” Breitbart has mildly described Spencer as one of the “intellectuals” of the alt-right movement and noted that his previous forum, *alternativeright.com*, was “accused of racism.” Accused of racism? This is a man who has advocated for creation of a “white ethno-state on the North American continent.”

Breitbart isn't “just a publication.” It's a pestilence — one whose repugnant views Trump has invited into his White House.

Marcus can be reached at ruthmarcus@washpost.com.

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**RUTH
MARCUS**

WASHINGTON POST
COLUMNIST

Title: **Conservatives look to promote Solar in SC**
 Author: GRESHAM BARRETT GUEST COLUMNIST
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Conservatives look to promote Solar in SC

**GRESHAM
BARRETT**
GUEST COLUMNIST

America is entering an exciting time. After the election of a new President, the American people sent a message that now is the time to tackle challenges head on. For our state and country, energy independence is one of these challenges.

America should be free from the reigns of countries that oppose what America stands for and as an American and as a conservative, I believe in using new technology and an "all the above" approach to accomplish energy independence. Here in South Carolina, we are using solar energy as a tool to help accomplish this goal.

In 2014, South Carolina's Legislature unanimously passed, and Gov. Nikki Haley signed into law, common sense solar energy policy — including net metering — that created hundreds of good jobs in just one year. Net metering is a policy that provides consumers with fair credit for the power they generate and send to their neighbors. The law has

also enabled customers to lease solar systems as opposed to buying them outright and removing the up-front investment cost that makes solar affordable and available to all.

Thanks to Gov. Haley and leaders in the Statehouse, South Carolina has become a state on the move when it comes to giving people the chance to produce their own power and to protect our God-given natural resources. The people of the Palmetto State are remarkable. Folks across the country are looking to us as the model of job creation and a free-market approach to renewable energy.

Our state needs to continue to lead on this issue and push for the removal of any barriers that prevent solar businesses from growing here in South Carolina.

Working with partners from across the state, we have created the Palmetto Conservative Solar Coalition to work to provide solutions to critical issues facing utilities and solar companies in South Carolina.

We will address a wide

range of issues including making sure homeowners are not taxed at a higher rate because they choose to go solar while also working with businesses and utilities to continue South Carolina's net metering policy. Please take a moment to visit our website, palmettoconservativesolarcoalition.com and help us send this message.

When you factor in all of the positive advances, South Carolina has quickly become the second-highest-ranking state

in the country for solar job growth. We look forward to reaching out and speaking with others who care about lowering power bills, achieving energy independence, creating more jobs and preserving God's greatest natural gifts for future South Carolina families. Now is the time for us to act.

Former Congressman Gresham Barrett formed the Palmetto Conservative Solar Coalition earlier this month. He represented the 3rd Congressional District of South Carolina from 2003 until 2011. He also served six years in the SC House of Representatives.



Title: **Haley needs to focus on job at U.N.**
 Author: The (Columbia)State
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EDITORIALS

Haley needs to focus on job at U.N.

The (Columbia) State

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There's a lot of distance between Thanksgiving and Ambassador Haley. And there's no guarantee that the Senate, even a Republican Senate, will confirm someone with no foreign policy experience, much less diplomatic experience, as ambassador to the United Nations.

Although it isn't our most important foreign policy position, it is extremely important. And frankly, it's a stretch. For all that President-elect Donald Trump and the governor's supporters say about her deal-making prowess, we've only seen that on display in deals between corporations that wanted to locate in our state and a state that wanted those corporations to locate here.

The challenge she has met, in other words, was coming up with a deal between two parties that wanted to make a deal. That's very different than the challenges facing a U.N. ambassador. We certainly hope that her talents can translate to this new role, but we simply don't know because she is untested.

Gov. Haley said Wednesday that she had not anticipated leaving her current job before it's completed. But she noted that, "When the president believes you have a major contribution to make to the welfare of our nation, and to our nation's standing in the world, that is a calling that is important to heed."

She's absolutely right about that. While there are some positions that a sitting governor probably should reject — positions that are more about allowing a loyal supporter to cash in than about serving the nation — this isn't one of them. Anyone has an obligation to seriously consider a president's request to serve in an im-

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The governor also said she would remain our governor until her confirmation, in part because, "We still have much to do in South Carolina, and my commitment to the people of our state will always remain unbreakable."

That is honorable. But while we would not ask her to resign yet, we would urge her to informally turn many of her responsibilities over to Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, sooner rather than later.

We are accustomed to U.N. ambassadors who have extensive foreign policy experience, and usually diplomatic experience as well. In the absence of either, Gov. Haley owes it to our nation to spend the time between now and her confirmation doing everything she can to make up for that lack of experience — meeting not just with handlers trained to guide her through the confirmation process but also with experts who can help bring her up to speed on all the issues that need to be mastered by the U.N. ambassador of the most important country in the world.

The Senate, too, owes it to our nation to make sure that Gov. Haley is prepared — that she has the appropriate temperament, judgment and knowledge base to serve in this position. Confirmation hearings for someone with her experience should not be particularly easy — and that is why she needs the next two months to prepare for them.

Gov. Haley is a bright and talented politician, and we hope that she will be able to scale the extremely steep learning curve that lies ahead. Assuming she is able to make the Senate comfortable with her ability to serve our nation in this very different sort of job, we wish her all the best in her new position.

Title: **Group to honor Haley with Global Vision Award**
 Author: BY CYNTHIA ROLDÁN croldan@thestate.com
 Size: 15.65 column inches
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Group to honor Haley with Global Vision Award

BY CYNTHIA ROLDÁN
croldan@thestate.com

Before Gov. Nikki Haley undergoes a U.S. Senate vetting process to become the nation's next U.N. Ambassador, she will be honored Wednesday for "connecting South Carolina with the world."

Haley will receive the 2016 Global Vision Award by the Columbia World Affairs Council during a black-tie gala. The 23-year-old organization aims to raise awareness of international activities in the Midlands.

Former Columbia mayor Bob Coble, chair of the council, said Haley has done a good job promoting South Carolina's products abroad, in addition to her efforts in the state's economic development.

"Governor Haley has had an outstanding record in bringing foreign investment to South Carolina, whether it's Volvo or Mercedes," Coble said.

Haley was announced as this year's recipient of the award before she was nominated as U.N. Ambassador. Haley was the first woman and the first minority to be chosen to serve in president-elect Donald Trump's administration.

Trump said Haley was a "proven deal maker" and will make a "great leader representing us on the world stage." Coble said the organization was proud of her appointment.

"I think she's going to be very successful and people will certainly be more aware of South Carolina based on her story and successes in South Carolina," Coble said.

Cynthia Roldán: 803-295-0435

Title: **No experience, noproblem**
 Author: The New YorkTimes
 Size: 32.55 column inches
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



No experience, no problem

The New York Times

President-elect Donald Trump's transition has been a circus, to say the least, with a colorful and eclectic crowd of job seekers of varying ideological hues and levels of experience ascending to the 26th floor of Trump Tower to audition for some of the most consequential jobs in the country. The man who spent years saying "you're fired" is now saying "you're hired" to all sorts of people, though it's not at all clear whether his choices result from a carefully thought-out strategy or are being made on the fly.

The latest winners in the Trump job fair are Gov. Nikki Haley, Betsy DeVos and, by all accounts, Ben Carson, who is likely to be named soon. Anyone seeking a clear policy or ideological pattern here will be disappointed.

Haley, Trump's choice to be ambassador to the United Nations, is a popular South Carolina governor with a winning manner and zero foreign policy experience. Carson, who is expected to lead the Department of Housing and Urban Development, is a famed neurosurgeon who was demolished by Trump in the Republican primaries and whose only experience with housing appears to be that he is a home-

owner. DeVos, the prospective education secretary, is a wealthy Republican donor who leads the advocacy group American Federation for Children, but who spent a considerable amount of time Wednesday insisting that she does not support Common Core, which Trump bashed on the campaign trail.

There is no perfect prescription for assembling a Cabinet, although most incoming presidents have aimed for geographical balance and, in recent years, gender and racial diversity. Nor is there any particular order in which Cabinet members are supposed to be named, although here, again, presidents-elect have sought to nail down top foreign policy and defense jobs fairly soon. On that score, Trump is only partly there, with Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn as national security adviser and Rep. Mike Pompeo as CIA director, but no secretary of state or defense as yet.

If there is any ideological consistency it is in those two appointments. Flynn and Pompeo are both hard-liners, as is true of the hard-right Stephen Bannon, whom Trump appointed as his chief strategist. Reince Priebus, the new chief of staff, seems more of a consensus pick, since his main job over the last few

years, as chairman of the Republican National Committee, has been to keep as many Republicans as possible as happy as possible.

Josh Bolten, who ran George W. Bush's transition – acknowledged by experts to be one of the best-run in recent history – calls Trump's wide-open approach to hiring "refreshing" and its organization "peculiar." He has no better idea than the rest of us about where Trump is headed. After all, Trump has been tinkering with his stances on Obamacare, climate change, so-called enhanced interrogation and immigration, and often seems to express the views of the last person he's spoken to.

But Bolten, like others, seems worried that Trump, like Groucho Marx, might be trotting out his principles, while saying, "If you don't like them ... well, I have others."

"We had a governing agenda," he said. "The Trump folks don't, and so their personnel are going to have to write the book as they enter office. It can be done, but it multiplies the degree of difficulty."

Given the unpredictable nature of the president-elect and the erratic nature of the process, we may be in for a wild ride.

Title: **Haley should prepare for her new role**
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GUEST EDITORIAL

Haley should prepare for her new role

The (Columbia) State

ON TUESDAY, GOV. Nikki Haley asked us all to pray for South Carolina, which has faced and continues to face significant challenges. Today, we all need to pray for Gov. Haley, as she prepares for a very different and very difficult challenge.

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Title: **Politics like shucking oysters**

Author:

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Politics like shucking oysters

Politics is like shucking oysters. Sometimes you don't know what you're going to get until you open it. Congratulations President-Elect Trump on selecting a pearl from South Carolina in Nikki Haley.

Cal Harrelson

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