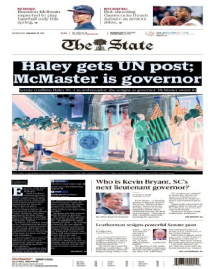


Title: **Haley gets UN post; McMaster is governor**  
 Author: BY JAMIE SELF [jself@thestate.com](mailto:jself@thestate.com)  
 Size: 155.0 column inches  
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



# Haley gets UN post; McMaster is governor

Senate confirms Haley 96-4 as ambassador; she resigns as governor; McMaster sworn in

BY JAMIE SELF  
[jself@thestate.com](mailto:jself@thestate.com)

**E**xit Gov. Nikki Haley. Enter Gov. Henry McMaster. South Carolina's lieutenant governor became its governor Tuesday, within an hour of Haley being confirmed as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and resigning from her job as the state's chief executive.

After the U.S. Senate voted 96-4 to confirm Haley's appointment by President Donald Trump, McMaster and Haley appeared at the State House with S.C. Supreme Court Chief Justice Don Beatty in a ceremonial transfer of power.

McMaster, 69, thanked Haley for her contribution to the state and said he is "humbled, honor-

ed and deeply appreciative of being granted one of the rarest opportunities to serve the people of my state, my home and that of my forefathers.

"Great prosperity, success and happiness will be ours, and we will serve as a beacon of inspiration for others," McMaster added, not taking questions from reporters.

A Columbia Republican elected lieutenant governor in 2014, McMaster took the oath of office Tuesday despite not being required to do so. Under the state Constitution, the lieutenant governor automatically becomes governor when a vacancy occurs in the state's highest office.

McMaster said little Tuesday

about his plans as governor.

The leaders of state agencies that form the governor's Cabinet — all appointed by fellow Republican Haley — are staying on board in the new administration, McMaster's office confirmed Tuesday. That includes Commerce Department Secretary Bobby Hitt, credited, with Haley, with attracting thousands of new jobs to the state.

Also, McMaster and wife Peggy plan to move into the Governor's Mansion as soon as possible. The pair live in a home on Senate Street, near the University of South Carolina campus.

**SEE HALEY, 6A**

➔ **MORE INSIDE**

Embattled S.C. House member resigns, **3A**

Senators quiz U.S. Rep. Mulvaney about budget job, **3A**

➔ **ONLINE**

**thestate.com:** Watch McMaster's swearing-in ceremony.

**FROM PAGE 1A**

## HALEY

S.C. GOP Chairman Matt Moore congratulated Haley and McMaster.

Haley "has led our state through so many difficult days with grace and humility," Moore said, crediting Haley with improving the state's economy. "We will miss Gov. Haley's strong, principled leadership, but we'll also miss her compassion, kindness and love for our state."

"Gov. McMaster is a lifelong Republican, form-

er state GOP chairman and true public servant who loves South Carolina with all of his heart. I know he will continue our state's legacy of great Republican governors," Moore said.

McMaster's tenure in the governor's office could prove historic.

The former two-term state attorney general will finish the final two years of Haley's term and is expected to run for the

office in 2018. If McMaster wins two consecutive terms, he could serve almost 10 years, making him the state's longest-serving governor.

### HALEY OFF TO NEW JOB

Haley's new job will move her to New York City, where she will get a pay raise to \$187,000 a year, up from her \$106,078-a-year salary as governor. She also will get

an apartment in Manhattan at the swanky Waldorf Astoria hotel, which houses the official residence of the U.S. ambassador.

Her six years as governor were marked by a sometimes combative relationship with members of the GOP-controlled Legislature, giving legislators letter grades and calling them out publicly

Title: **HaleygetsUN post; McMaster isgovernor**  
 Author: BY JAMIESELF jself@thestate.com  
 Size: 155.0 column inches  
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564

for not voting for her agenda.

But Haley also leaves the governor's office with a national reputation, credited for her leadership in removing the Confederate flag from the State House grounds after the

racially motivated slaying of nine African-American Charleston churchgoers, and leading the state's recovery from a flood and hurricane.

Haley's tenure in S.C. politics might not be over, observers say.

Haley could come back

to South Carolina to run for the U.S. Senate, Winthrop University political scientist Scott Huffmon said.

Before "handing the reins" to McMaster, she said she would be away for a while, adding, "I will always have one eye on

South Carolina."

*Cassie Cope contributed;  
 Jamie Self: 803-771-8658,  
 @jamiemself*

**HALEY COULD COME BACK TO  
 SOUTH CAROLINA TO RUN FOR  
 THE U.S. SENATE, OBSERVERS SAY.**



TIM DOMINICK tdominick@thestate.com

Nikki Haley congratulates new Gov. Henry McMaster on Tuesday after McMaster is sworn in. Haley now becomes U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

Title: **Haley gets UN post; McMaster is governor**  
Author: BY JAMIESELF jself@thestate.com  
Size: 155.0 column inches  
Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



TIM DOMINICK tdominick@thestate.com

Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster is sworn in as governor after Gov. Nikki Haley resigns to become President Trump's ambassador to the United Nations.

Title: **Leatherman resigns powerful Senate post**  
 Author: BYCASSIE COPE ccope@thestate.com  
 Size: 32.86 column inches  
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



## Leatherman resigns powerful Senate post

BY CASSIE COPE  
 ccope@thestate.com

S.C. Senate President Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman resigned Tuesday in order to avoid becoming the state's lieutenant governor.

The state's most powerful politician, Leatherman — who chairs the Senate's powerful budget-writing Finance Com-

mittee — said in November he was not interested in becoming lieutenant governor, an essentially powerless position.

The question of who would be South Carolina's lieutenant governor became urgent Tues-

day when Gov. Nikki Haley

was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

Haley then resigned, elevating Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, R-Richland, to the post of governor. That move vacated the lieutenant governor's post.

Last week, however, the S.C. Supreme Court ruled the Senate president pro tempore

**SEE LEATHERMAN, 6A**

FROM PAGE 1A

## LEATHERMAN

would replace McMaster as lieutenant governor.

"The state Supreme Court clarified any questions on the line of succession, and as I've stated before, I have no desire to seek statewide office and I will remain in the Senate," Leatherman said in a statement Tuesday evening.

Senators are expected Wednesday to elect state Sen. Kevin Bryant, R-Anderson, to ascend to the lieutenant governor's office.

Once Bryant becomes the state's second-in-command, Leatherman likely will regain the post of Senate leader in a vote of the full Senate.

However, state Sen. Harvey Peeler, R-Cherokee, plans to challenge Leatherman, R-Florence, for the top Senate post.

Peeler, a former Senate majority leader, said he was pushed to run by senators upset by Leatherman's refusal to ascend to lieutenant governor, part of the Senate presi-

dent's job description.

Asked if he thinks he has the votes, Peeler replied: "We'll see. I'm working."

Republicans hold the majority of seats in the 46-member Senate.

However, those GOP senators split into competing factions. The competing GOP factions allow Senate Democrats to ally with one Republican group to elect the Senate leader, most recently Leatherman.

However, opposition to Leatherman has been increasing. In December, nine senators — all Republicans — voted against re-electing him Senate leader.

Leatherman first was elected Senate president pro tempore in 2014 after then-Lt. Gov. Glenn McConnell, R-Charleston, resigned to become the president of the College of Charleston.

At the time, then-President Pro Tempore John Courson, R-Rich-

land, resigned to avoid becoming lieutenant governor.

After Courson stepped down, senators elected then-Sen. Yancey McGill as Senate president pro tempore and he ascended to become lieutenant governor.

Staff writer Avery Wilks contributed.

“

**I HAVE NO  
 DESIRE TO SEEK  
 STATEWIDE  
 OFFICE AND  
 I WILL REMAIN  
 IN THE SENATE.**

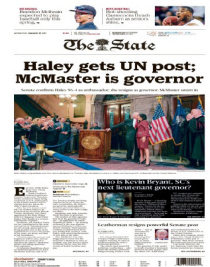
*Former S.C. Senate  
 President Pro Tempore  
 Hugh Leatherman*

Title: **Leatherman resignspowerful Senatepost**  
Author: BYCASSIE COPE ccope@thestate.com  
Size: 32.86 column inches  
Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



Leatherman

Title: **Who is Kevin Bryant, SC's next lieutenant governor?**  
 Author: BYAVERYG. WILKS awilks@thestate.com  
 Size: 72.54 column inches  
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



# Who is Kevin Bryant, SC's next lieutenant governor?

BY AVERY G. WILKS  
 awilks@thestate.com

Kevin Bryant — a founding member of the state Senate's libertarian "William Wallace Caucus," known for his unflinching support of pro-life legislation, school choice, traditional marriage and limited government — soon will be only a heartbeat away from becoming S.C. governor.

S.C. senators are expected to elevate the 49-year-old Anderson Republican on Wednesday to be South Carolina's next lieutenant governor.

Bryant is the only senator to publicly lobby for the job, and his colleagues say he has the votes to be elected.

Senate Pro Tempore Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence,

SEE BRYANT, 6A

FROM PAGE 1A

## BRYANT

paved the way for Bryant's election Tuesday, resigning his post to avoid becoming lieutenant governor. That post has little power, aside from being first in line to succeed the governor, if necessary. It pays \$46,545 a year.

As soon as Bryant — temporarily, the Senate president pro tempore — becomes lieutenant governor, that will create a vacancy for Senate leader, a post Leatherman is expected to seek again.

### THE WILLIAM WALLACE CAUCUS

Since 2005, Bryant — a deeply religious Anderson pharmacist and small-business owner — has been one of the most conservative members in the GOP-majority Senate.

Bryant helped found the Senate's William Wallace

Caucus, a group of backbench Republicans whose proposals and obstructionist tactics have sometimes frustrated both Democrats and mainstream Republicans.

Bryant fought the Affordable Care Act and Common Core, pushed back against proposed tax increases or borrowing plans, and blasted state agencies and public colleges for what he deemed to be wasteful spending.

"He's not a pragmatic politician," said state Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort, another member of the William Wallace Caucus, named for the 13th century Scot — of "Braveheart" fame — who fought for Scottish independence but was executed by the English. "He's not an art-of-the-possible type guy. He has an idea of right and

wrong, and he's not going to waver."

The proposals Bryant has authored or backed over the past few years include:

- A bathroom bill last year that would have prevented transgender men or women from using the bathrooms of their choice. The proposal failed after Republican S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley objected, calling it unnecessary. State economic-development officials also opposed the proposal, noting the negative impact a similar N.C. bill had on jobs in that state.

- Proposals last year to bar state agencies from accepting — or helping others to resettle — refugees in the state until new security measures are enacted, and require the tracking of refugees enter-

ing South Carolina. Both failed.

- A failed push in 2014 to require the state to directly acknowledge a religious creator while making the Columbian mammoth the official state fossil

- An unsuccessful 2012 bill to allow anyone to carry a gun, concealed or not, anywhere but in private homes and businesses that specifically

ban them

- An unsuccessful 2012 bill to require the jobless to pass a drug test before receiving unemployment benefits.

Bryant says one of his proudest accomplishments was pushing through a 2006 bill that extended the death penalty to include child rapists.

Bryant said this week he believes God led him to

Title: **Who is Kevin Bryant, SC's next lieutenant governor?**  
 Author: BYAVERYG. WILKS awilks@thestate.com  
 Size: 72.54 column inches  
 Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564

the state Senate and, now, to become lieutenant governor.

"I will have a platform to preach conservatism across the state," Bryant said.

#### **'A MAN OF HIS WORD'**

Senators on both sides of the aisle admit to differences – large and small – with Bryant's politics. But Bryant has earned universal praise for his principled, straightforward approach to policymaking.

Lawmakers say Bryant is upfront and personable. He tells colleagues where he stands on their proposals and what he plans to do, an approach he says helps to iron out potential problems in legislation.

"There's no surprises with Kevin Bryant," said

state Sen. John Courson, R-Richland.

That approach, plus a reverence for Senate rules, qualify Bryant to be the chamber's presiding officer, a role of the lieutenant governor, legislators say. Last week, Bryant practiced chairing the state Senate. In the vacant Senate chamber, he pretended to call on senators and move through business with the Senate clerk.

"I've always found him to be a man of his word, thoughtful, conscientious," said state Sen. Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg. "We don't always agree on the policies that are proposed, but he's always been a gentlemen."

Former state Sen. Joel Lourie, D-Richland, refers

to Bryant as "my brother from a right-wing mother." Lourie said he admired Bryant's 2015 vote to remove the Confederate flag from the State House dome after the Emanuel Nine massacre.

"He got a lot of grief," Lourie said. "People were protesting in front of his drug store, and he didn't waver a bit."

But Bryant, a former Anderson County GOP chairman, seldom strays from the conservatism that makes him popular among Upstate voters.

Davis says he will miss Bryant's help in fighting a proposal to increase the state's gas tax to pay to repair the South Carolina's crumbling roads. As Davis has filibustered similar

proposals in years' past, Bryant would pepper him with sympathetic questions to pass the time.

"You can only speak for so long before you start to go crazy," Davis said. "He was always somebody who would stand up, and go back and forth with me."

*Avery G. Wilks:*  
 803-771-8362,  
 @averygwilks

## **Kevin Bryant**

*The Anderson Republican likely to be S.C.'s next lieutenant governor*

**Age:** 49

**Occupation:** Pharmacist and president of Bryant Pharmacy and Supply

**Education:** Bachelor's of science degree, University of Georgia

**Personal:** Married, Ann; three children

**Political:** Served in state Senate since 2005; former chairman, Anderson County GOP, 1997-2001; delegate, Republican National Convention, 2000



TRACY GLANTZ tglantz@thestate.com

Sen. Kevin Bryant, R-Anderson

County: Richland