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Subject: Background

Governor Nikki R. Haley 116th Governor of the State of South Carolina Biography

Elected governor on November 2, 2010; re-elected on November 4, 2014, by the largest margin of victory for a South Carolina gubernatorial candidate in 24 years

Youngest governor in the United States (age 43)

Elected governor at age 38

First woman and first minority governor of South Carolina

First Indian American woman governor in American history

Born in Bamberg, the daughter of Indian immigrants

- One of four children; two brothers, one sister; brother Mitti Randhawa served in Operation Desert Storm

Graduated from Clemson University with a B.S. in accounting

Married husband Michael Haley in 1996

- Michael Haley is Captain in the Army National Guard and a combat veteran who was deployed to Afghanistan's Helmand Province in 2013
- Two children: Rena, who is 16 and a high school junior, and Nalin, who is 13 and in middle school

In her first run for office in 2004, Nikki Haley challenged State Rep. Larry Koon, the longest serving member of the S.C. House of Representatives, for the Republican nomination to represent Lexington County's District 87 and won in a runoff. Won November general election.

- Served 3 terms in the S.C. House of Representatives (2004, 2006, 2008)

Announced candidacy for the Republican nomination for governor in May 2009

- Republican gubernatorial field included: Congressman Gresham Barrett (SC-03), Lieutenant Governor Andre Bauer and Attorney General Henry McMaster
- Securing 49 percent of the vote, nearly won the Republican nomination for governor outright on June 8, 2010
- Won Republican nomination for governor on June 22, 2010, defeating Congressman Gresham Barrett in runoff 65-35 percent
- Elected governor of South Carolina on November 2, 2010, defeating Democrat State Sen. Vincent Sheheen 51.4 – 47.0 percent

Under Governor Haley South Carolina Is On The Move

Under Governor Haley more than 60,000 jobs have been announced in 45 of 46 counties and over \$15 billion in

invested in our state. (South Carolina Department of Commerce)

Under Gov. Haley South Carolina's unemployment rate hit a 13-year-low. ("South Carolina Unemployment Drops To Lowest Level In 13 Years," The Associated Press, 5/16/14)

Under Gov. Haley South Carolina has one of the fastest growing economies on the east coast. (South Carolina Department of Commerce)

More South Carolinians are working than ever before. (Angelia Davis, "More In State Find Jobs," The Greenville News, 4/19/14)

Under Gov. Haley South Carolina is the third best state in the country to do business. (Dale Buss, "Top States For Doing Business 2014," Area Development, Q3 2014)

Welfare-to-work: more than 30,022 South Carolinians had transitioned from welfare to work since Gov. Haley took office. (South Carolina Department of Social Services)

When The NLRB Sued Boeing, Attempting To Block South Carolina Jobs, Gov. Haley Lead The Fight Against Them.

- Gov. Haley demanded, "answers from white house on Boeing complaint." (Jenny Munro, "Haley Wants Answers From White House On Boeing Complaint," The Greenville News, 4/27/11)
- Gov. Haley: " [W]e will not stand for them (unions) intimidating South Carolinians." (Nikki Haley, "Op-Ed: Obama's Silence On Boeing Is Unacceptable," The Wall Street Journal, 4/29/11)
- In her 2015 State of the State Gov. Haley said, "So, every time you hear a Seattle union boss carry on about how he has the best interest of the Boeing workers in Charleston at heart, remember this: If it was up to that same union boss, there would be no Boeing workers in Charleston." ("Full text: Gov. Nikki Haley delivers State of the State," The State, 1/22/2015)
- The Wall Street Journal: [Obama's Silence on Boeing is Unacceptable](#)

Governor Haley brought together leaders of both political parties, educators and the business community to pass landmark education reforms. These reforms focus attention where it's most needed: on making education funding more equitable for schools in our poorest communities, on reading instruction in the early grades, and on improving technology in classrooms.

Associated Press: [Haley's reform plan would spend more on poor kids](#)

Times and Democrat: [Haley education shift on target locally, for state](#)

Post and Courier: [Tackling key school problems](#)

Anderson Independent: [Haley lays out plan to boost education](#)

Washington Post: [South Carolina's Haley pitches education reform package](#)

Transparency and accountability in state government were priorities for Governor Haley. In 2011, after a fight that began during her days as a legislator, Governor Haley ushered through the General Assembly and signed into law a bill that, for the first time, required legislators to start showing their votes on the record, allowing citizens to see how their legislators are spending their tax dollars.

The State: [Effort to force roll calls begins](#)

The Associated Press: [S.C. House speaker criticized for committee shake-ups](#)

McClatchy Newspapers: [S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley signs voting bill](#)

In 2014, the governor signed a once-in-a-generation government restructuring bill that makes the executive branch truly accountable for its operations.

Governor Haley also delivered tax relief for small businesses, pension reform, Medicaid reform and illegal immigration reform.