

Title: **Officials work to prevent repeat of dueling rallies**
 Author: BY SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
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STATE CAPITOL

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BY SEANNA ADCOX

Associated Press

COLUMBIA

Lawmakers in South Carolina want to regulate events at the state Capitol in an effort to avoid the chaos of last July, when opposing groups of demonstrators held overlapping rallies and overwhelmed a massive police presence.

Since a bill requiring people to obtain a permit for large gatherings on Statehouse grounds failed in April amid First Amendment concerns, a legislative panel is pursuing crowd control through regulations. Drafted rules, similar to those for the U.S. Capitol, have been submitted to the Statehouse Committee for review.

They include requiring a permit for gatherings of more than 19 people, requiring an application to be submitted at least 10 days ahead of the planned event, and barring permits for simultaneous events in the same area.

"I happen to feel you can protect and defend the First Amendment and the public at the same time. But it's impossible to regulate common sense," Sen. Harvey Peeler, the committee's chairman, said Tuesday. "The person

who schedules a KKK rally and Black Panthers rally on the Statehouse grounds at the same time has no common sense."

State officials are waiting for his committee to weigh in on the drafted rules before sending them

through the regulation process.

Meanwhile, two pro-Confederate-flag groups have been approved to gather on the Statehouse's front lawn on the anniversary of the battle flag's removal. So far, no other group has sought to reserve space July 10, said Department of Administration spokeswoman Kelly Coakley.

The South Carolina Secessionist Party plans to raise the battle flag, using a portable base, on the same spot where it flew on a 30-foot pole beside the Confederate Soldiers Monument. Accompanying the flag will be a Confederate Memorial Honor Guard, clad in Civil War uniforms.

"They took it down. We're putting it back up," Secessionist Party founder James Bessenger said Tuesday. "It's in defiance of the Legislature and

governor for what they did last year."

The flag and portable base will be removed at the event's planned 5 p.m. conclusion, though Bessenger plans to make the flag-raising an annual event.

At Gov. Nikki Haley's urging, legislators approved removing the flag and pole after nine African-American parishioners were massacred during a Bible study at a church in Charleston. Photos of the white man charged with their murders showed him holding a rebel flag.

Haley "opened Pandora's Box across the country," Bessenger said. "It's been a bad year for flag supporters."

He expects several hundred people July 10. It will be the second Statehouse event for the Secessionist Party, which Bessenger says has nothing to do with hate. In December, about 50 people commemorated South Carolina's 1860 secession from the Union.

State officials tried to cancel that event, citing the dueling rallies debacle, but reinstated the reservation

at Haley's request, as she publicly noted their constitutional rights to free speech and assembly.

In July, a week after the Statehouse flag was furled and sent to a museum, a North Carolina-based outfit of the Ku Klux Klan and a Florida-based affiliate of the New Black Panther Party rallied on opposite sides of the Statehouse, attracting an estimated 2,000 people.

Fights broke out as shouting and obscenities escalated between the white supremacists and their counter-demonstrators behind a police barricade. Five people were arrested during the rally. More were arrested afterward, as fighting spilled to the streets beyond the Statehouse. Peeler later scolded the state officials responsible for failing to ask the opposing groups to rally on separate days or at least several hours apart.

Meanwhile, the Department of Administration continues to follow its own reservation policy, revised in July to include sending event requests to state law enforcement agencies for input.

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SEANNA ADCOX AP

This photo was taken Dec. 20, 2015, at the South Carolina Secessionist Party rally at the Statehouse in Columbia, S.C. Lawmakers in South Carolina want to regulate events at the state Capitol in an effort to avoid the chaos of July 2015 when opposing groups held overlapping rallies.

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Moped safety

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In a veto letter to the General Assembly, Haley said the restrictions for mopeds would exceed those for motorcycle drivers, although existing law does require helmets for bikers under age 21. People over 18 "should decide for themselves what they should wear for their personal safety," she wrote. ...

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If mopeds increasingly are going to be a reality of the road, there must be sensible regulations. When they return to Columbia in January, lawmakers should move swiftly to reintroduce the moped legislation and work with the governor to determine what it will take to get her signature.

- *Times & Democrat*
Orangeburg

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Sen. Leatherman was the governor's high profile target, but even her popularity among Republican voters couldn't derail his campaign for a 10th term. The 85-year-old senator is still strong in his Florence district, which he won with 54 percent of the vote, against two challengers.

The governor complained about pork-barrel spending in his district, but apparently the county's voters are more than happy for Sen. Leatherman to continue his work. He has used his considerable influence on behalf of road projects, higher education and economic development in his district....

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Naturally, it's troubling to the governor to see a single legislator serving as the most powerful politician in the state. After all, Mrs. Haley

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*- Post & Courier
Charleston*

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THE GOVERNOR CAN TALK ABOUT HER AGENDA FOR SOUTH CAROLINA, BUT IN THIS LEGISLATIVELY CONTROLLED STATE, SHE IS SEVERELY LIMITED IN HER ABILITY TO ENACT IT.

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CINDI ROSS SCOPPE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
THE STATE

Why did popular bills die, or get gutted? It's a mystery — by design

FIRST STORY: After six years of debate, the Legislature passed a bill last month to make moped drivers obey traffic laws. The vote was 68-31 in the House and 41-1 in the Senate.

So when Gov. Nikki Haley vetoed the bill, objecting (in the same way she objects to mandatory seat-belt laws) that it was wrong to make all drivers wear reflective vests and to make those younger than 21 wear helmets, you would have thought the only question was whether the House would be able to maintain the two-thirds margin to override her veto.

In fact, the House overturned the veto with three votes to spare. The problem was the Senate, where Gerald Malloy — who had been among the 41 who voted to pass the bill less than two weeks earlier — suddenly decided it was a bad idea, and made it clear during the Legislature's June 15 veto session that he was going to filibuster if necessary to keep the Senate from voting to override the veto.

After the Senate passed the ethics bills, most Democrats and more than a few Republicans started slipping out of the cham-

ber, and about 10 hours after the day began, the Senate adjourned for the year without a quorum, leaving the moped veto intact.

Did those missing senators intend to kill the bill, or did they simply figure there would never be a vote, so there was no use sticking around as the clock

ticked toward midnight? There's no way to say for sure.

Second story: After the Senate passed a bill to make it more difficult for police to ignore the law that requires them to release dash-cam video, the House voted late last month to strike that language from the bill and replace it with language from a House-passed bill to make it more difficult for local governments to ignore the laws that require *them* to release public information.

The architects of this switch explained that they wanted to negotiate a deal to pass both provisions, bypassing a senator who had refused to allow debate on the House bill. House members seemed to agree that this was a good plan.

Of course the Senate was in no mood to make a deal — at least in part because representatives had the temerity to call out the senator who was

blocking consideration of the House bill — and the House refused to back off and pass the dash-cam bill. Clearly, it was the House that was responsible for killing that bill, for a change. But why? Did representatives oppose it, or were they simply tired of giving in to the Senate's demands, and does it matter?

It's been a quarter century since then-Rep. Jack Gregory famously defended his vote against a bill he had introduced by telling fellow members of the House Judiciary Committee, "Just because you sponsor a bill doesn't mean you support it,"

but that sentiment is still alive and well at the State House, right along with its corollary: Just because you vote for a bill doesn't mean you support it. And certainly the fact that you *say* you are for a bill doesn't mean you're for it.

These stories from the last day of this year's legislative session are but the tip of the iceberg of the gamesmanship that — five years after Gov. Nikki Haley browbeat the Legislature into passing a law requiring what she calls "on-the-record voting" on all bills — makes it impossible in most cases to say who killed bills, or gutted them before

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But Sen. Malloy can't usually dictate the terms of legislation unless he has the support of a lot of other senators — senators who don't have to out themselves as long as he's willing to take the heat.

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Handful of legislative nominees to be decided Tuesday

BY BRUCE SMITH

Associated Press
 CHARLESTON

A handful of nominees for seats in the South Carolina General Assembly will be selected Tuesday as voters go to the polls to settle party runoffs.

There are runoffs in six state Senate and seven House primaries. There are no statewide races to be decided in Tuesday's voting.

Candidates needed 50 percent plus one vote during the June 14 primary to avoid a runoff.

A look at some of the races to be decided with the polls open from 7 a.m. through 7 p.m.:

SENATE INCUMBENTS

Three incumbent senators are in runoffs.

Republican Senate Judiciary Chairman Larry Martin of Pickens faces former state Rep. Rex Rice.

Meanwhile, GOP Sen. Lee Bright of Roebuck meets former state Rep. Scott Talley in Tuesday's runoff. They were the top two vote-getters in a four-way primary two weeks ago.

Republican Mike Fair of Greenville also finds himself in a runoff against challenger William Timmons. Timmons got just under 50 percent of the vote in the primary.

BACKED BY THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Nikki Haley supported five candidates in challenges of incumbent lawmakers before the June 14th primary.

Three of those she supported lost while in a fourth race, incumbent state Sen.

Wes Hayes lost his re-election bid to Haley-backed

York County GOP Chairman Wes Climer.

The fifth race is among those being decided in Tuesday's runoffs. State Rep. Stephen Goldfinch of Murrells Inlet got 44 percent of the vote two weeks ago against attorney Reese Boyd, who was endorsed by Haley. That winner will be the Republican nominee to replace retiring state Sen. Ray Cleary in a Senate district along the coast.

HOUSE RACES

Among the notable House races, Democratic state Rep. Bill Bowers of Hampton faces former state Rep. Curtis Brantley in a runoff. Bowers defeated Brantley to win the seat four years ago.

There is also a Republican runoff to decide the party nominee to replace longtime state Rep. Chip Limehouse who is retiring after serving

his downtown Charleston and Mount Pleasant district for more than two decades. Businessmen William Cogswell Jr. and Russell Guerard were the top vote-getters in the five-way primary.

TURNOUT SHOULD BE LIGHT

Voters should not have to wait long, if at all, to cast their ballots. Only about 14 percent of the state's 3 million voters voted two weeks ago and runoffs generally see fewer voters at the polls.

The turnout was only about 6 percent in 2014 during runoffs that featured statewide races for lieutenant governor and superintendent of education. Figures from the South Carolina Election Commission show about 600,000 registered voters in the districts where runoffs are being held Tuesday.

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Meanwhile, two pro-Confederate flag groups have received the OK to gather on the State House's front lawn on the July 10 anniversary of the battle flag's removal from the grounds.

A bill requiring groups to get an event permit failed in April in the General Assembly amid First Amendment con-

cerns. Since then, a legislative panel has been pursuing crowd control through regulations. Drafted rules have been submitted to the Statehouse Committee.

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THE STATE File photograph

Law enforcement officers make an arrest following dueling KKK and New Black Panther rallies at the State House last July.

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 Author: BY JAMIESELF jself@thestate.com
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THE BUZZ

Clinton winning with SC donors

Donald Trump trails Hillary Clinton in S.C. fundraising

Haley hit with post-primary shade

Vanquished state Sen. Wes Hayes on his vision for SC

BY JAMIE SELF

jself@thestate.com

South Carolina is a red state. But, when it comes to donating money to the presumptive presidential nominees, the GOP's candidate is in the losing corner.

At least, in this election cycle.

Through the end of May, more than 1,360 South Carolinians had given a

total of more than \$1 million to **Hillary Clinton**, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee. That outpaces the performance of President **Barack Obama** four years ago.

Obama had raised \$748,000 from S.C. residents through the end of May 2012 toward the \$2.7 million total he

brought in from the Palmetto State.

Donald Trump is trailing far behind, having raised just \$70,294 from about 150 Palmetto State supporters as of the end of May. That trails, by far, the S.C. fundraising performance

SEE BUZZ, 11A

FROM PAGE 3A

BUZZ

of former Massachusetts Gov. **Mitt Romney**, the 2012 GOP presidential nominee.

As of May 2012, Romney had raised nearly \$1 million in South Carolina. By the end of the race, Romney had pulled down \$6.7 million from S.C. residents.

A look at who's breaking their S.C. piggy banks for the presumptive presidential candidates:

Top donors

● **Jim Shore**, a figurine artist from York, has ponied up \$5,400 for Trump, the maximum

contribution he can make to the candidate for his primary and general election bids. Six S.C. contributors have given Trump \$2,700 each.

● **Claudia Kennedy**, a retired three-star U.S. Army lieutenant general and Hilton Head resident, has donated the maximum allowable – \$5,400 – to Clinton. All told, 181 donors have given Clinton \$2,700 or more.

Top donating S.C. regions

● Lowcountry residents had skipped a five-star restaurant or two to shell

out \$400,544 to Clinton's campaign as of the end of May. The Midlands was the second biggest financier of the Democratic front-runner, giving \$189,383.

● Upstate residents

looked most favorably on Trump, giving \$18,945 to his campaign. The Grand Strand came in second in donations to the GOP leader, giving \$15,963.

HALEY CATCHES SOME POST-PRIMARY SHADE

Gov. Haley was hit last week with some blowback

for her efforts in the June 14 S.C. GOP primary.

The first shots came from Republican S.C. Comptroller Gen. **Richard Eckstrom** at a Wednesday meeting of the S.C. Fiscal Accountability Authority, which met to approve proposals by the state's retirement system.

Haley banged her gavel and called the meeting to order, declaring, "It's another great day in South Carolina," her go-to catchphrase that she customarily uses to start meetings and press con-

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ferences.

Eckstrom cut in, saying, "Governor, if I may," and then proceeded to suggest Haley stop using that introduction. It "creates the impression or could create the impression of some inappropriate melding of politics and the public business that we come here to conduct," he said.

Haley's catchphrase ceased to be only a saying when a political group run by her adviser, formed to do Haley's bidding, took the name and targeted Republican state senators in the GOP primaries.

"I worry that that perception could send a wrong message to other boards, other commissions, other authorities – some of whom are probably represented here today," Eckstrom said. "But, more importantly, I worry that it could undermine the working relationship of other members of this board."

Haley quashed that discussion quickly, responding, "I understand and I appreciate it, but for me, general, every day is a great day in South Carolina. ... Just because an organization happens to have that name doesn't take away the fact I'm going to make sure that every day is a great day in South Carolina."

Eckstrom likely was referring to Senate President Pro Tempore **Hugh Leatherman**, the powerful Florence Republican who Haley's group, A

Great Day SC, targeted in his primary. Leatherman staved off two primary challengers, including one backed by Haley, to win

another four-year term.

He faces no challengers in November.

Leatherman also walked out of the Haley-chaired meeting, without offering any explanation, after about an hour and 20 minutes. A Senate aide said he had another meeting to attend.

But his exit did not go over well.

After the first vote without Leatherman failed in a 2-2 tie, Haley blamed it on the Senate leader's absence.

"I don't know that that's ever happened before," Haley said. "And that's why I canceled the last meeting because Sen. Leatherman wasn't going to be here. And we can't do PEBA (the state retirement votes) without him here."

After the vote failed, the five-member panel agreed to take it up again. At that point, it passed with one member agreeing to abstain. Later votes followed a similar pattern with Haley noting the votes for, against and the "one that walked out."

S.C. SEN. HAYES – THE EXIT INTERVIEW

January will be a time of longing for state Sen. **Wes Hayes**, who – for the first time in three decades – will not be returning to the S.C. State House for a new legislative session.

But the Rock Hill Republican has some thoughts on how best to move the state forward after his 31 years under the dome, which he shared with The Buzz when we called for an exit interview.

Q: How has the Legislature changed since

you were elected?

The biggest change, Hayes said, was the transformation of the state Legislature to a Republican majority from a Democratic majority. Like some old-timers now in the GOP, Hayes first was elected as a Democrat. He switched parties in 1994 because, he says, he was voting more with Republicans and felt more aligned with them philosophically, especially on social issues, including opposing abortion.

And, he added, "**Bill Clinton** was president at the time, and I did not want to be aligned with him."

Q: How has politics changed since you were elected?

"You have some outside groups – like Club for Growth or Americans for Prosperity or (Gov. Haley's) PAC, A Great Day SC – and those groups are participating in spending money at the local state House and Senate level a lot more than you used to see," Hayes said. "You had hotly contested races, and you had some negativity all along. That's politics. But you didn't have so much of the outside groups getting involved."

Q: Is that outside influence good or bad for politics?

"I would prefer not to see it, but whether it's been good or bad, that's a matter of opinion. Having been on the receiving end of it, I'm not sure I can give an unbiased opinion. (T)hings should be left to the locals to fight their own battles and make their own decisions."

Q: What has been the

most challenging part of your time in office?

Banning "video poker" was hard because it took us 10 years to do it and it was almost unlimited resources on the other side," advocating for gambling, Hayes said. "That was a difficult battle against gambling coming into the state. The ongoing battle on gambling is going to be difficult because people kind of look on it, sometimes, as it's easy money, but I think it changes the character of the state."

Q: What work as a lawmaker makes you most proud?

• "(T)he area that I have worked hardest on is education," Hayes said, citing the expansion of free 4-year-old kindergarten for at-risk children, a statewide reading law and charter schools, among other initiatives.

• Hayes also said he worked with then-Attorney General **Henry McMaster** to sue North Carolina over withdrawals of water from rivers flowing into South Carolina.

"We've had water wars. I had a bill to require, for the first time, any withdrawals for surface water had to go through the permitting process. That

is a limited resource, and that was a tough battle to get that done. It's important to protect that resource because it belongs to everybody."

• Hayes also said he authored a law to give tax credits to revitalize former textile and cotton mills.

"Around the state, you had a lot of old textile mills that were basically eye sores and a source of

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crime. In Rock Hill, we've done some great things," he said.

● Finally, Hayes said he authored a law that allows counties to enact a local-option penny sales tax to pay for road improvements. York County, where Hayes is from, was the first county to use the new law.

Q: What are the top things legislators can do to improve South Carolina?



● To help poor, rural school districts pay for building improvements, lawmakers should pass a bill that, for the first time, would commit state money to help districts pay to replace or rebuild aging facilities, he said. After passing the House, a bill to do that landed in Hayes' Senate K-12 spending subcommittee near the end of legislative session. But it did not pass. However, senators

pledged to pass it in 2017, saying they ran out of time this year to make necessary changes.

● Forcing so-called "dark money" groups into the light is the next big priority in reforming the state's ethics laws, Hayes said. The change – forcing secretive groups to name their donors – would complement improvements lawmakers made this year, requiring public officials to disclose the

sources of their private income and end the practice of investigating themselves, said Hayes.

● Other recommendations from Hayes? Find a long-term solution to fixing the state's roads, and get rid of the lengthy, litigation-prone process that the state uses to decide who gets to build or expand hospitals.

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