

Title: **S.C. Chamber urges senators to pass roads bill**  
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# S.C. Chamber urges senators to pass roads bill

BY CASSIE COPE  
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The S.C. Chamber of Commerce is pressuring state senators to pass a road-repair bill when they return to Columbia Tuesday.

"The business community is taking notice of the Senate's continued inaction, and we urge senators to do their job and vote to pass a roads package that increases funding, holds the (Transportation Department) accountable, and fixes our roads and bridges once and for all," said chamber president Ted Pitts, a

former Republican state representative and aide to Gov. Nikki Haley.

The chamber said it is encouraging its members to contact their state senators and tell them to end a filibuster by state Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort.

"Filibusters only cause more traffic jams," the chamber said.

Davis filibustered for two days last week. Last year, the libertarian-leaning senator successfully blocked a proposal to increase the state's gas tax to pay for road repairs.

Title: **i rump poised to step on the GOP accelerator**  
 Author: by david lightman dhghtman@mcciatclchydc.com  
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 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



# Trump poised to step on the GOP accelerator

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**GOP delegate selection process favors front-runners**  
 .....

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**Nevada caucus up next; Trump favored**  
 .....

.....  
**He leads in eight of the next states**  
 .....

BY DAVID LIGHTMAN

*dlightman@mcciatclchydc.com*

CHARLESTON, S.C.

Things sure look good for Donald Trump.

The Republican presidential race expanded across the country Sunday, and polls show the real estate mogul ahead in eight of the dozen states voting in the next nine days.

Trump has now won primaries in two very different states, center-right New Hampshire and evangelical-dominated South Carolina. And the Republican Party system of choosing a presidential nominee favors candidates who continue to win early primaries and caucuses.

"He seems to have about a third of the Republican electorate under

his spell, and it's a durable, non-ideological coalition," said Kyle Kondik, managing editor at Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball Sunday.

The biggest hope for stopping Trump is for a single strong challenger to emerge, and so far that hasn't happened.

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., finished second Saturday in South Carolina, but he was 10 percentage points behind Trump and barely edged Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, even though Rubio barnstormed the state with popular Gov. Nikki Haley and Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C.

**SEE GOP, 5A**

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## GOP

### FROM PAGE 1A

Rubio also lacks an obvious state where he can win in the next few weeks. He should be a favorite in Tuesday's Nevada caucus. Rubio lived in Las Vegas as a child, was a church member, and Sunday picked up the endorsement of Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nevada. But a CNN/ORC poll last week showed Trump with a huge lead, with more support than Rubio and Cruz combined.

A week later, Rubio faces primaries and caucuses in 11 states where voters will award delegates, including seven Southern or border states where Cruz is making a strong push. Polls show Rubio ahead in only one Super Tuesday state, Minnesota, though he could contend in Virginia and Tennessee, which have big moderate GOP constituencies.

Rubio's best hope is that once the campaign moves into larger, more diverse states on March 8 that he can emerge as the mainstream hope. He previewed his pitch Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union," saying, "I give us the best chance to unify."

But in Michigan, which votes that day, and Florida, Illinois, Missouri and Ohio, which vote a week later, Gov. John Kasich of Ohio is making a strong effort for the same constituency.

Cruz has a more daunting test.

South Carolina should have ignited his crusade for a more God-fearing Amer-

ica. Everything was in place, including a big momentum-filled downtown Charleston rally Friday with Duck's Dynasty's Phil Robertson, conservative talk show host Sean Hannity and a surprise endorsement from Rep. Mark Sanford, R-S.C.

Instead, Cruz not only finished third, but exit polls showed he trailed Trump among evangelicals. In the upcoming contests, he also has to contend with retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson,

who's far behind but appeals to the same voters.

The challenge for Trump's rivals is that his appeal transcends traditional political boundaries. The future of Trump's candidacy was apparent last week when he stopped in wealthy Kiawah Island, a southeastern South Carolina residential and resort community. The audience was a well-educated, politically sophisticated group full of teachers, lawyers, nurses, doctors and retired government workers.

They tended to be over 55 and had worked in bureaucracies all their lives. They appreciated Trump's ability to cut through the rhetoric.

"I'm tired of all the political correctness," said Isabel Romero, a former Army finance official. "He appeals to your heart and he appeals to the middle class."

"He's credible," said Phil Bernstein, a retired intelligence analyst. Bernstein described how often he'll holler at the television when he sees reports about gov-

ernment he thinks misses the point. Trump gets to the point, Bernstein said.

Life at work for these people was tough enough, but now they have to deal with the government for their Medicare, Social Security and other benefits. And they're finding it a nearly indecipherable maze.

Trump is going to find plenty of people such as these as the race goes west and south.

Trump is also going to find a delegate selection process to his liking. The Republican race now is less about who finishes second or third than who can win the 1,237 delegates needed to win the nomination at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland.

Republican Party Chairman Reince Priebus deliberately crafted a process designed to produce a nominee quickly. By March 15, about 60 percent of Republican delegates will have been chosen.

Rules favor winners. In some states, candidates must get at least 20 percent

The major upcoming Republican primaries and caucuses where delegates will be allocated, and number of total delegates (1,237 needed to nominate):

of the vote to win delegates. In theory, if someone won 35 percent, and no one else got 20 percent, that candidate would win all the state's delegates.

On March 15, the system

changes again to promote an early nominee. States then can award all their delegates to the winner, period, no matter what the margin. That means someone could squeak through in Florida, which has a March 15 primary, and get all its 99 delegates.

Priebus is eager for a quick result. "I can't control everyone's mouth," he said on the "Politinerds" radio show, "but I can control how long we have to kill each other."

**February 23 ...** Nevada caucus, 30 delegates.

**March 1...**Alabama primary, 50 delegates

Alaska caucus, 28 delegates

Arkansas primary, 40 delegates

Georgia primary, 76 delegates

Massachusetts primary, 42 delegates

Minnesota caucus, 38 delegates

Oklahoma primary, 43 delegates

Tennessee primary, 58 delegates

Texas primary, 155 delegates

Vermont primary, 16 delegates

Virginia primary, 49 delegates

Source: Republican National Committee

Title: **Roads, education issues face S.C. Legislature**  
 Author: BY SAMBOOKHART  
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## LEAD LETTER OF THE WEEK

# Roads, education issues face S.C. Legislature

BY SAM BOOKHART

Tim Cook said recently on “60 Minutes” that Apple would prefer to return iPhone manufacturing to the U.S., but there aren’t sufficient workers available who are trained in manufacturing skills. He further said the U.S. has only a couple dozen technical colleges that train students for manufacturing jobs, while China has a thousand schools training their workers.

And at present, there are over 5 million good-paying jobs open in the U.S. that can’t be filled due to a lack of qualified applicants and skilled workers who are readily available. Education can be an important economic driver, but seems to be given little priority in S.C. where ideology seems to reign supreme.

It was also interesting to note in a recent GOP debate much was said about the obligatory “tax cut” idea to grow the economy, but nothing about education as an economic engine. According to the non-partisan Congressional Research Service, there’s no evidence that cutting top marginal income

rates spurs growth.

Studies over the past six decades have found that top tax rates “have had little association with saving, investment or productivity growth,” but reductions in the top marginal rates have led to greater income inequality. In other words, the “cuts don’t affect the size of the economic pie, but can affect how the pie is sliced.”

South Carolina will have over a billion dollars extra available for the 2017 budget due to our returning economy. Gov. Nikki Haley wants to use these extra funds to cut the top income tax rate, but says little about restoring educational funds that were cut during the recession. State funding to S.C. universities has similarly been seriously reduced, but again no word on restoring funds, only complaints about tuition increases.

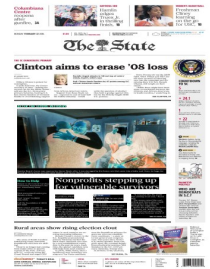
The S.C. Department of Transportation has said we have a \$1.4 billion annual shortfall, and some have proposed a 10-12 cents a gallon gas tax increase to pay to-

ward improving our “D” classification roads system. Our gas tax has not been changed since 1987, and during these 29 years car mileage has improved about 50 percent, reducing revenues. Haley has proposed \$340 million of one-time money and would agree to a 10-cent gas tax increase, if it is offset by reducing the top income bracket from 7 percent to 5 percent.

This “compensation” would be a windfall for the wealthy (some receiving tens of thousands of dollars) while those with lower income would see little or no benefit, even though they would pay the higher gas tax. To truly compensate, if it must be done, why not increase the income exemption from \$5,000 to whatever is appropriate to cover the offset? That way, all taxpayers would be compensated rather than just the wealthier ones. And instead of phasing in over several years, the new gas tax should be put in place now while gas prices are so low.

*The writer lives in Myrtle Beach.*

Title: **Nonprofitssteppingup for vulnerablesurvivors**  
 Author: BY AVERY G.WILKS awilks@thestate.com  
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## AFTER THE FLOOD: RECOVERY

# Nonprofits stepping up for vulnerable survivors

BY AVERY G. WILKS

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Stanley Beard is thankful to be done with chasing squirrels through his north Columbia home.

The furry pests for years had taken up residence with Beard, 67, a retired widower who lacked the money or physical strength to repair a hole in his

home's roof.

The historic October rains further damaged the home. Water poured through the roof as Beard scrambled to set out pots and buckets. The squirrels scurried in as well, seeking shelter from the storm.

"It sounded like the world was coming to an end," Beard said.

The storm ruined the roof, ceiling and floors, plus a bathroom where the toilet fell through the soggy floor.

Beard did not apply for federal disaster aid. But he likely would not have gotten much help anyway because much of

SEE FLOOD, 6A

### How to Help

*Donate to the Central Carolina Community Foundation's One S.C. Flood Relief Fund.*

Visit [www.onescfund.org](http://www.onescfund.org) to donate online.

Text "onesc" to (843) 606-5995.

Call the foundation at (803) 254-5601.

Mail a check payable to Central Carolina Community Foundation-One SC, 2711 Middleburg Drive, Suite 213, Columbia, SC 29204



ONLINE

**AT THESTATE.COM:** See more photos and watch a video.

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# FLOOD

## FROM PAGE 1A

the storm's damage to the home can be attributed to the faulty roof.

Fortunately for Beard and other poor and elderly residents left vulnerable after the storm, that is where volunteer organizations have stepped in to help. Nonprofits have done much of the heavy lifting after the historic storm, helping residents gut and repair their homes.

Those organizations statewide have especially targeted single parents, veterans, the poor, the disabled and the elderly. Some of those residents fell through the gaps of insurance and federal aid because of technicalities or did not receive enough to pay contractors for home repairs.

Home Works of America, a Columbia-based nonprofit, took up Beard's case and 11 others. The nonprofit spent two weeks in late December repairing Beard's house. Home Works plans to work on 10 more flood-related homes in 2016.

More than a dozen nonprofits so far have received funding through the One S.C. Flood Relief Fund, set up by the Central Carolina Community Foundation and endorsed by Gov. Nikki Haley.

The fund's first round of grants, amounting to \$500,000, helped nonprofits repair about 350 homes in 13 counties across the state, said Dana Fulmer, who directs the fund. Another 244 homes will be repaired using funds from the second round of grants, Fulmer said.

"These are the people that would not be able to rebuild without the help of volunteer organizations," Fulmer said.

Jim Powell, executive director of Homes Works, said "hundreds if not thousands" of homeowners in Richland and Lexington counties still are struggling with "unmet needs related to flooding."

That means service organizations like Home Works still have work to do, Powell said.

"Our community needs its local service organizations to creatively find solutions," Powell said. "Even though we're not big yet, even though it's just one home at a time, we're still seeking to step out."

As a result, Beard hasn't chased a squirrel in weeks. His house has a new ceiling, heater, light fixtures and flooring. The roof has been repaired, and the toilet rests on a solid bathroom floor.

"It's more satisfying living here. I feel better," said Beard. "I don't mind having company now. I was ashamed of the place because I had never lived like that my whole life."

My parents didn't raise us like that. And it was just nothing I could do about it."

Beard has his house back, but also a little more. Beard said he has built a relationship with Home Works, including program manager Chris Kemp, who helped oversee the repairs.

"I've got a friend for

life," Beard said. "My heart gets warm when I

think about Chris. If they're doing work like this for other people, the world is a much better place than we all thought."

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

## One S.C. Flood Relief Fund

### \$500,000

Amount awarded to nonprofits in the first round of grants

### 350

Number of homes repaired

### 13

Number of counties where people were helped

### 244

Number of homes to be repaired using with a second round of grants



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Stanley Beard's home was repaired by Home Works after it was damaged by the heavy rain that came into a leaky roof. Here, he hugs Jim Powell as Chris Kemp and Meredith Walker with Home Works watch.

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St. Bernard Project manager Rachel Lau sands drywall in a home being repaired after being damaged by the heavy rain in October.

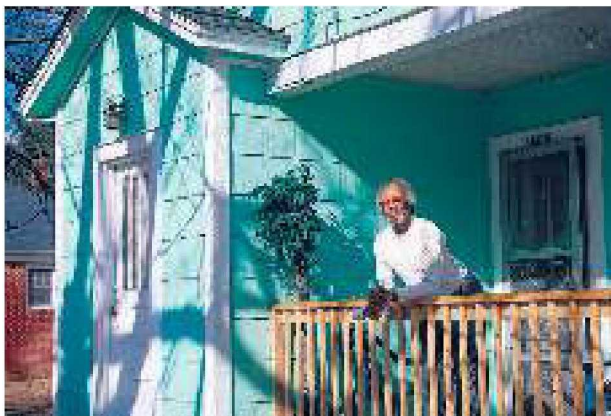


PHOTO PROVIDED

Some of the damage to Stanley Beard's home.



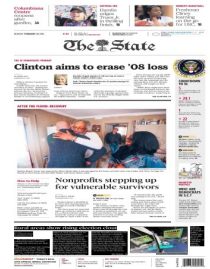
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Beard's home was repaired by Home Works after it was damaged by rains from the flood.

Title: **Rural areas show rising election clout**  
 Author: BY ANDREW SHAIN ashain@thestate.com  
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# Rural areas show rising election clout

BY ANDREW SHAIN  
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The areas of South Carolina influencing major statewide Republicans elections are shifting.

Clout is no longer just coming from major cities or specific regions of the state. Instead, new S.C. residents along the Grand Strand and angry GOP voters in rural counties are exerting increasing influence.

Donald Trump's victory in the

S.C. Republican presidential primary Saturday marked the third major statewide race won by a non-establishment candidate in the past six years. Each time, the upstart candidate won with help from rural counties.

In 2010, Nikki Haley, then a backbench state lawmaker running as a Tea Party candidate,

won the Republican primary for governor over two establish-

ment candidates — a state attorney general and congressman. Two years later, former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich upset the eventual Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney in the S.C. GOP primary. Saturday, Trump won.

In all three of the elections,

**SEE RURAL, 7A**

## RURAL FROM PAGE 1A

GOP voters in 14 counties handed the non-establishment candidate — Haley, Gingrich or Trump — big victories with results above their statewide tallies. The winners received 50 percent or more the vote in some these counties.

The largest is Horry County, the home of Myrtle Beach. There, an influx of retirees has introduced their own brand of conservatism.

But most of the counties that all three candidates won are smaller, rural counties that rank among the state's poorest and least educated — including Marlboro, Clarendon, Lee, Union and Chesterfield.

Voters in those counties feel disconnected from a government that they think no longer pays attention to them.

"Future South Carolina campaigns must focus on rural, working-class voters who feel left behind economically and the more moderate transplants who populate our state's coast," S.C. GOP chairman Matt Moore said. "It's a very new and unique coalition that powered Donald Trump to victory."

Winthrop University political scientist Scott Huffman noted findings in a statewide poll that

he conducted in December showing Trump supporters were more likely to think white people faced discrimination.

Many of the counties that Trump, Gingrich and Haley carried have among the highest percentage of African-Americans residents in the state.

"I would say these 'threatened' people had latched on to the Tea Party in 2010 — which helped Haley after the (Sarah) Palin endorsement — and were channeling the anger against the establishment for not standing up for them," Huffman said. "This anger festered after the failure of the GOP establishment candidate (Romney) to take out Obama in 2012 and has found an outlet with Trump."

"These people are angry at the state of the country," and they prefer candidates who promise to overhaul politics in Washington and Columbia, former S.C. Republican Party chairman Katon Dawson said. They are saying, "I want to be a maverick Republican. I want nothing to do with (the establishment)."

Also, money is a concern for rural voters, Dawson said.

"People heard (Trump) say, 'I going to make you more mon-

ey,' " Dawson said. "And they believed it."

Winning endorsements from the state's biggest political names guarantees little with these rebellious voters.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, had the support of many in the state's Republican establishment, including U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, but finished fourth in the S.C. primary before dropping out of the race Saturday night. U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida received endorsements from three top S.C. Republicans — Haley, U.S. Sen. Tim Scott and U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy.

"For all their popularity, Rubio came in second on Saturday," said Joe Dugan, who produces the S.C. Tea Party Coalition Convention, which attracted six GOP candidates to Myrtle Beach last month, including Trump. "Everyone is going to join the Marco Rubio train. But we saw (in South Carolina) more people climbing onto the train on the other track that's going in the opposite direction."

The Trump, Gingrich and Haley victories also showed candidates can win with broad support across the state, rather than appealing to specific blocs.

Gone are the days that a GOP candidate can target the evan-

Title: **Rural areas showing election clout**  
 Author: BY ANDREW SHAIN ashain@thestate.com  
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gelical bloc that makes up more than two-thirds of the state's Republican voters and expect to win. In Saturday's primary, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, targeted those evangelicals, but lost them to Trump, not known as the most religious candidate.

That shifting ground means that future campaigns, starting with the 2018 governor's race, could look different.

"It might not mean the end of traditional South Carolina campaign strategies, but it certainly does mean reconsidering the assumptions about what motivates voters," Moore said.

Huffman said the New York billionaire's victory showed voters are unhappy Washington failed to change after the Tea Party revolution of 2010. "What this election showed, if anything, is that conservative voters are sick of being pandered to, then ignored until the next election cycle," Huffman said.

Trump's straight-talk appealed to enough of those voters — a third of voters Saturday — to win the S.C. primary.

"You better be upfront and honest, or they're going to find out," Dugan said.

## SC counties gaining influence

*The 14 S.C. counties that handed three non-establishment GOP candidates big wins with higher vote tallies than their statewide results. The races included victories by: Nikki Haley in the 2010 Republican gubernatorial primary; Newt Gingrich in the 2012 Republican presidential primary; and Donald Trump in the 2016 Republican presidential primary. Many of the counties are rural with the state's lowest average household income and lowest education attainment:*

Bamberg  
 Calhoun  
 Chesterfield  
 Clarendon  
 Colleton  
 Darlington  
 Georgetown  
 Fairfield  
 Horry  
 Lee  
 Marlboro  
 Newberry  
 Orangeburg  
 Union

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GERRY MELENDEZ gmelendez@thestate.com

Rebecca  
Wieczorek  
of Lexington  
holds a  
Trump sign  
on N. Lake  
Drive in  
Lexington, as  
motorists  
pass by  
Saturday.



Title: **Cruz and Rubio bring different styles to race**  
 Author: BY FRANK BRUNI New York Times  
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# Cruz and Rubio bring different styles to race

BY FRANK BRUNI

New York Times  
 CHARLESTON

Ted Cruz described Marco Rubio last week as “Donald Trump with a smile,” saying that both are quick to call their critics liars, though Rubio does it amiably.

Cruz is right about Rubio’s affect, wrong about which candidate it distinguishes him from. He and Rubio are the pair twinned in so many respects beyond the curve of their lips.

That makes these two U.S. senators – both in their first terms, both Cuban-American, both lawyers, just five months apart in age – a uniquely fascinating study in how much the style of a person’s politics drives perceptions of who he is and in how thoroughly optics eclipse substance.

Rubio, 44, is routinely branded “mainstream” and occasionally labeled “moderate.” There’s a belief among Republican leaders, along with evidence in polls, that he has an appeal to less conservative voters that Cruz doesn’t.

But that’s not a function of his record or his positions on a range of issues. Like Cruz, who is 45, he found early favor with the Tea Party, which helped propel him to Washington. Like Cruz, he staunchly opposes new gun safety measures, abortion rights and Obamacare.

Like Cruz, he has called

for sweeping tax cuts, the abolition of the federal Department of Education, the relaxing of environmental regulations and unwavering friendship with Israel.

And on the campaign trail here in South Carolina over the days leading up to its primary, he echoed Cruz in his repeated invocations of God. Rubio rolled holier and holier, competing fiercely for the votes of evangelical Christians, an important share of the Republican electorate in this state and throughout the South.

At a town hall in Greenville that was televised by CNN, he told Anderson Cooper that his many blessings included “a godly and wonderful wife.”

But that same event was an even better example of how Rubio and Cruz diverge – and why two conservative politicians who are conjoined ideologically so often come across like distant cousins.

They took the stage one right after the other, Rubio followed by Cruz, and it was night and day. Or, rather, day and night. With a sunny voice, Rubio presented himself as an instrument of hope. With a gloomy one, Cruz played the vessel of dread. Rubio’s smiles were frequent and expansive. Cruz’s were rarer and clenched.

Rubio, granted, had more immediate cause for mirth: He’d just won the

formal backing of Gov. Nikki Haley of South Carolina. But the way he discussed that perfectly illustrated his campaign’s timbre and emotional underpinnings.

Cooper asked him whether he himself had ever felt “the sting of racism,” and his answer was about how good America can be, not how bad.

He encouraged Cooper and the audience to “look at how far we’ve come as a country since the 1960s” and mentioned not just Haley but also Tim Scott, one of South Carolina’s two U.S. senators, who is black.

“I got the endorsement of a governor of Indian descent, who endorsed a presidential candidate of Cuban descent and tomorrow will be campaigning alongside an African-American Republican senator,” Rubio said. “All three are doing that here in South Carolina.”

On the subject of tensions between police officers and African-Americans, he began with a tribute to the integrity of most men and women in blue. But he pivoted quickly to the observation that black men are singled out for suspicion and said that whether Americans accept that or not, “if a significant percentage of the American family believes that they are being treated differently than everyone else, we have a problem.”

“I’m going to be a president for all Americans, because an American president has to love the American people, even those that don’t love you back,” he said.

Such moments were missing from Cruz’s performance.

A typical Cruz campaign event is likely to include talk of “the abyss” on which America teeters and what a terrifying juncture this is.

“I wake up scared every day,” Cruz said at a rally in Charleston early Friday afternoon.

David Limbaugh, Rush’s brother, walked onstage to stand beside him and proclaim: “We’re on the brink of collapse. We have maybe one last chance to save America.”

Cruz’s methods can be ruthless, as Ben Carson learned in Iowa and as Rubio was reminded in South Carolina, where the Cruz campaign promoted images of Rubio not just shaking hands with Obama but merging with him, their two faces becoming one.

“Nasty guy,” Trump said of Cruz during the most recent Republican debate. Even he gets some things right.

Although Cruz leans harder than Rubio does on the memory of Ronald Reagan, it’s Rubio who has learned from Reagan – and from George W. Bush – that conservatism is best sold with uplift, at least





Title: **Cruz and Rubiobring differentstylestorace**  
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usually.

But these are unusual times – hotter, harsher. While Trump promises to “make America great again,” he dwells on what chumps we are now. He’s not trafficking in inspiration. He’s validating a sense of victimization.

If Cruz fails to expand his support beyond the most severe Republicans – a necessity if he wants the nomination – it will be a matter of how he frames his quest: us the righteous versus them the wicked.

If Rubio has better luck, it won’t reflect a platform

significantly to the left of Cruz’s. It will be about an emphasis on joviality over jeremiads.

The two are similar enough beneath the surface that which of them fares better over the coming weeks will tell us volumes about what flavor of

leader many Americans crave now.

A cheerleader? That’s Rubio. A scold? Cue Cruz. And if it’s him, it means that pessimism really has trumped optimism, and we’ve turned a dark corner.



Title: **S.C. must do better for its people**

Author:

Size: 44.33 square inch

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# S.C. must do better for its people

South Carolina weathered many events in 2015. From the senseless murders of Walter Scott and the brothers and sisters of the Emanuel 9, to the devastating floods that crippled our entire state in the latter half of 2015, through it all we showed our resolve, came together as a state and have



**JUSTIN  
BAMBERG**

commenced the healing process. While it was during extraordinary times that we united as a state, it is also a pity that tragedies had to strike before we came together as South Carolinians

to confront issues.

Now 2016 places before us a slew of issues that need to be confronted — issues that should have been confronted a long time ago but thanks in large part to our Republican-dominated Legislature have failed to be discussed. These problems are not foreign to South Carolinians: Our weathered roads need fixing, our health care system that shuts out thousands needs expanding, and our children need adequate education funding.

The October flooding wreaked unimaginable havoc on our state, and the General Assembly must act to aid our constituents. We must work to offer grants to individuals and families, small businesses and those in the agricultural community. We must offer financial assistance to the cities and counties impacted, including fully funding the Local Government Fund. Most importantly, all of this should be done

in a bipartisan fashion.

Just as a flood relief bill should face zero partisan politics, a roads bill deserves the same treatment. South Carolina roads are some of the worst in the Southeast. Due to neglect on the part of the Legislature as well as the impact of increased business activity, our roads have approached the point to where they cannot remain un-addressed.

Instead of focusing on divisive issues such as restricting the reproductive rights of our women, the General Assembly should switch its focus to an issue that unites us: repairing our roads so that we all are not burdened by the associated vehicle repairs, or worse, struck with the pain associated with the loss of a loved one due to roadway conditions.

Economic growth would be another result from these investments, as outside investors are hesitant to invest in a state that does not provide enough attention to its infrastructure. Last year's floods only worsened road conditions and it is past time for the Legislature to ensure South Carolina has adequate infrastructure to meet the needs of our businesses and citizens.

Speaking of adequacy, I must mention the historic decision that the state Supreme Court recently handed down concerning South Carolina's education system. The state has for years ranked near the very bottom of comparative education reports. This is shameful and our children do not deserve such.

The House Democratic Caucus will work to ensure that Gov. Nikki Haley and her Republican

allies who oppose addressing education in the Corridor of Shame are forced to follow through with the court's mandate and all of our children are afforded the education that they deserve.

Finally, no discussion regarding rights would be complete without mentioning the health of our citizens. Health care is a human right, and whether someone lives or dies should not be contingent on his or her bank account. It is sad that in a nation as affluent as the United States, states still debate whether to expand health care coverage to their citizens.

In South Carolina, there are some 200,000 who lack the health care coverage they need. The Affordable Care Act's health care expansion in our state would absolutely not cripple the budget as opponents may suggest. For the first three years, the expansion would be covered 100 percent, and subsequently thereafter 90 percent by the federal government.

It is past time for Gov. Haley and Republicans in both legislative bodies to allow for our citizens to receive the health care they deserve, and Democrats are here to see that they stop playing politics with lives and give our people what they are entitled to. For us, the problem is vividly illustrated at home, where we see our rural hospitals closing, and citizens wondering whether they will have access to a hospital in times of dire need.

Democrat Justin Bamberg represents House District 90, which includes Bamberg County and portions of Barnwell and Colleton.

Title: **TRUMP VICTORIOUS IN S.C.**

Author: BY JILL COLVIN AND THOMAS BEAUMONT The Associated Press SPARTANBURG

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**2016 S.C. REPUBLICAN PRIMARY****TRUMP VICTORIOUS IN S.C.**

• Billionaire wins big in Horry County • Bush drops out after poor showing

• Rubio, Cruz too close to call for 2nd

BY JILL COLVIN  
AND THOMAS BEAUMONT  
The Associated Press

**SPARTANBURG**

**D**onald Trump tightened his grip on the mantle of Republican presidential front-runner on Saturday as South Carolina voters seething about Washington and career politicians propelled the billionaire businessman to a comfortable primary win.

One of Trump's favorite targets, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, finally threw in the towel, suspending his campaign after a dismal finish. "Thank you for the opportunity to run for the greatest office on the face of the earth," an emotional Bush told his supporters.

Trump looked ahead to Nevada and then the 10 primaries and caucuses on Super Tuesday as he tries to increase his delegate advantage.

**TRUMP FROM PAGE 1A**

The two-three finish of Cruz and Rubio undercut the value of some coveted South Carolina endorsements. Rubio had the backing of Gov. Nikki Haley, Sen. Tim Scott and Rep. Trey Gowdy; Cruz got the support of former Gov. Mark Sanford, now a House member.

Exit polls showed 4 in 10 voters angry about how Washington is working, and more than half saying they felt betrayed by politicians in the Republican Party.

Trump's victory capped a week in which he called

In a family-affair victory speech, Trump ticked off his policy promises, vowing to terminate President Barack Obama's health care law and get Mexico to pay for a wall at the border.

"We're going to start winning for our country because our country doesn't win anymore," said

Trump, with his wife, Melania, and daughter Ivanka at his side.

Two freshmen senators – Ted Cruz of Texas and Marco Rubio of Florida – were battling for second place, which would give them bragging rights but might not get them any delegates in the march to the nomination.

Rubio declared, "This has become a three-person race."

Cruz evoked his win in the lead-

off Iowa caucuses as he urged conservatives to rally around his campaign, saying, "We are the only candidate who has beaten and can beat Donald Trump."

**SEE TRUMP, 3A****S.C. GOP primary results**

Trump .....	32.5%
Rubio .....	22.5%
Cruz .....	22.3%
Bush .....	7.8%
Kasich .....	7.6%
Carson .....	7.2%

Results as of 10:30 p.m.

.....

rivals liars, blamed House Speaker Paul Ryan for the GOP's loss in the 2012 presidential race, and even tangled with Pope Francis.

He was backed by nearly 4 in 10 of those who are angry at the federal government, and a third of those who feel betrayed. He did best with men, older voters, those without a college degree and veterans.

About three-quarters of Republican primary voters support a temporary ban on Muslims who are not U.S. citizens from entering the

United States. Nearly 4 in 10 of those voters backed

Trump, while a third who oppose such a ban preferred Rubio.

Trump won a majority of the delegates in the South Carolina primary – at least 38 of the 50 – and has a chance to win them all.

Trump leads the overall race for delegates with 55. Ted Cruz has 11 delegates, Marco Rubio has 10, John Kasich has five, Jeb Bush has 4 and Ben Carson has three.

It takes 1,237 delegates to win the Republican nomination for president.

While the real estate magnate scored a decisive win in

New Hampshire, his second-place finish in Iowa to Cruz illustrated gaps in his less-than-robust ground operation, and questions remain about the extent to which he can translate leads in preference polls and large rally crowds into votes.

Trump's win Saturday could answer some of those questions, adding momentum going into the collection of Southern states that will vote March 1.

The exit polling of voters was conducted for The Associated Press and the television networks by Edison Research.



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PAUL SANCTA The Associated Press

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a South Carolina Republican event Saturday nights in Spartanburg.



JASON LEE jlee@thesunnews

Rosemary Benedetti casts her vote in Cherry Grove District 1 on Saturday.  
County: Horry



Title: **NIKKI HALEY**  
Author:  
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“The endorsement by Nikki Haley was a big deal. ... I was kind of riding the fence, and with everything that’s going on in South Carolina, I trust her – that’s kind of a big deal for me.”  
— **Jason Sims, 33, a teacher from Mount Pleasant who voted for Marco Rubio**



Title: **2.NIKKI HALEY/MARCO RUBIO'S.S.C. SUPPORTERS**

Author:

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## 2. NIKKI HALEY/MARCO RUBIO'S S.C. SUPPORTERS

Haley's response to Democratic President Barack Obama's State of the Union



Marco Rubio and  
Gov. Nikki Haley

address — admonishing her fellow Republicans — created national buzz about a vice presidential nod. Seen again as a new face of the GOP, Haley's endorsement became that much more valuable. The Republican governor waited until three days before the primary to announce her choice, a fellow 44-year-old child of immigrants, U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida. Haley's choice validated the ground work of Team Marco in the state. That work started with **Terry Sullivan** and **Warren Tompkins**, the veteran S.C. political operatives running Rubio's campaign and political-action committee, and was bolstered by key S.C. endorsements from U.S. Sen. **Tim Scott** of North Charleston and U.S. Rep. **Trey Gowdy** of Spartanburg.