

Title: **2020 Republican hopefuls reach out to SC delegates**
 Author: JAMIE SELF THE STATE
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 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



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JAMIE SELF

THE STATE

CLEVELAND - The Republican path to the White House requires visits — early and often — to the Palmetto State, where voters are among the first in the nation to pick their presidential candidate.

And this week's Republican National Convention has provided possible 2020 GOP candidates — from Tom Cotton to Ted Cruz to Scott Walker — with an opportunity to reach out.

A number of GOP stars are courting the S.C. delegation this week: speaking at its breakfasts, hosting thank-you receptions and, more informally, posing for pictures when they pass through South Carolina's hoard on the sidewalk.

Some clearly are eyeing a bid for a future presidential nomination.

2020

Continued from Page 3A

drew early, before the South Carolina primary. Still, he made friends in the Palmetto State.

His tone was casual as he reconnected Tuesday. "I wanted to come by and say, 'Hi, it's nice to see y'all.'"

Asked about his visits to early-primary states' breakfasts and whether that meant he was weighing a future presidential bid, Walker played coy, as is expected at this stage of the game, saying his focus now is on his potential re-election bid in 2018.

For instance, some South Carolina delegates said they were invited to a thank-you reception Wednesday with U.S. Sen. Cruz of Texas, the last of Donald Trump's challengers to withdraw from this year's contest.

U.S. Sen. Cotton of Arkansas was received warmly by the state's delegation Monday, when he spoke at a breakfast sponsored by the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition.

The U.S. Army veteran, who trained at Fort Jackson in Columbia, spoke largely about foreign policy and joked about his friends in South Carolina's congressional delegation.

The visit comes a couple of months after Cotton headlined the state GOP's Silver Elephant Dinner in Columbia, raising speculation that he is laying the

groundwork for a presidential run.

Tuesday, Wisconsin Gov. Walker spoke to the delegation, praising S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley, like Walker, elected in 2010; Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, the S.C. Republican with the most prominent role at the Cleveland convention; and state lawmakers.

Before launching into a familiar stump speech about hard work and the battle scars he has suffered while fighting unions in his state, Walker said South Carolina has been a "shining exemplar" for cutting taxes, attracting jobs and helping people transition from welfare to work.

Walker entered the 2016 presidential race late and with-

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"My hope is that we have a Republican president, and that president serves the next eight years."

But Walker appeared to be expanding his outreach at the convention. His wife, Tonette, and son were visiting other delegations' breakfasts Tuesday morning, he said.

The South Carolina delegates are enjoying the attention.

"Cotton would be so good because of his foreign policy," said Richland County's Sandra Bryan, who also wants Walker to run again. "He's so socially conservative. That's what really appeals to me."

Taking the time to visit the S.C. delegation is "absolutely" important," Bryan added. Some voters won't cast a ballot for a candidate who does not take the time to talk to them.

"It shows that they care," she said.

Thursday, the state delegation will hear from Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, more of a "known commodity" in the GOP and not an up-and-comer, said former state Republican chairman Katon Dawson.

Ben Carson and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee, two other former 2016 candidates, also are at the convention but not scheduled to visit

the S.C. delegation. Their absence could be read as having no reason to court the state.

"Mike Huckabee, that train's left the station," Dawson said. "Ben Carson has some followers in South Carolina, but I think his political career is over."

One 2016 candidate who probably should have made time to visit the delegation from the first-in-the-South primary state?

Ohio Gov. John Kasich, Dawson said.

"John Kasich is not through, and he has friends in South Carolina."

Title: **Haley: Clinton must be defeated**
 Author: DEIRDRE SHESGREEN USA TODAY
 Size: 55.49 column inches
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Haley: Clinton must be defeated

DEIRDRE SHESGREEN

USA TODAY

CLEVELAND - If there's a way to tiptoe toward an endorsement of Donald Trump, Gov. Nikki Haley found it Wednesday when she arrived in Cleveland to attend the Republican National Convention.

Speaking to the Palmetto State's delegates, Haley never uttered Trump's name. But she urged the Republican Party faithful to vote for him by vilifying his likely Democratic foe, Hillary Clinton.

"President Obama was awful the last eight years — a President Clinton would be disastrous," Haley told the delegates, who murmured in agreement over their bacon-and-eggs breakfast. Haley urged the South Carolina contingent to help get the message out that "a no vote in November is a vote for Hillary Clinton."

Haley did not address her own misgivings about Trump, but it's no secret that she is not a fan of the brash New

See **HALEY**, Page 4A

Haley

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York real estate mogul. The South Carolina governor has repeatedly cautioned against Trump's racially tinged rhetoric.

In her most high-profile remarks — the GOP rebuttal to President Obama's State of the Union speech in January — Haley recounted her own story as the daughter of Indian immigrants. She called on Americans to reject "the angriest voices," a clear rebuke to Trump's anti-immigrant

statements and positions.

"No one who is willing to work hard, abide by our laws, and love our traditions should ever feel unwelcome in this country," she said in that speech.

Haley admonished Trump again last month, warning that racially divisive rhetoric could lead to violence and pointing to Dylann Roof's shooting rampage at a historic church in Charleston that left nine African-Americans dead last summer.

"I know what that rhetoric

can do," Haley said to the Associated Press in June. "I saw it happen."

Those comments came after Trump had publicly accused a judge of being biased against him because he "happens to be, we believe, Mexican," remarks that were widely seen as racist.

As the first female and first minority governor of South Carolina, Haley is a rising GOP star in a party desperate to broaden its appeal to voters of color. Her appearance at the convention was notable if only

because she has been so critical of Trump.

"That was an endorsement, as best as Nikki could do," said Katon Dawson, a former chair of the South Carolina Republican Party and a state delegate in Cleveland. By telling people that staying home is "unacceptable," said Dawson, "that told me Nikki's willing to get on the move a little bit for the campaign."

David Woodward, a Clemson University political science professor, said Haley's move shows she's a "good sol-

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dier,” and her remarks probably reflect what many Republicans are thinking.

“She is holding her nose,” Woodward said. “She doesn’t particularly like him, but he’s won fair and square.”

The timing of Haley’s arrival in Cleveland may have been intentional. She was not on the

convention floor Tuesday night, when South Carolina’s Republican Party chairman announced the state’s delegate tally for Trump in the roll call of the states and Trump officially became the GOP nominee. But Haley was in the hall Wednesday, mingling with delegates and listening to speak-

ers.

In her morning remarks, Haley touted her record as South Carolina’s chief executive and said her biggest obstacle as governor is Washington.

“The National Labor Relations Board, the EPA, Obamacare, illegal immigration. ... It

never stops,” she said. “We never get any relief.”

If South Carolinians want that to change, she said, “it’s extremely important we think about what the repercussions would be in November if we don’t do something about it.”



CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES

SC Gov. Nikki Haley: Americans should reject “the angriest voices.”

Title: **Gov.getssuite only forbusiness**
 Author: BY SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
 Size: 42.31 column inches
 Beaufort, SC Circulation: 11269



STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

Gov. gets suite only for business

Haley can watch Gamecocks from free luxury football suite only if she is conducting state business

BY SEANNA ADCOX

Associated Press
 COLUMBIA

Gov. Nikki Haley can watch the University of South Carolina Gamecocks from a free luxury football suite only if she is conducting state business, the State Ethics Commission decided Wednesday.

The commission's advisory opinion is a revision from last September, when the board unanimously said the university can continue its longstanding practice of providing free tickets to the box to whoever occupies the governor's mansion, calling it a gift to the office rather than Haley herself.

While last fall's opinion said state business — such as courting company executives or hosting out-of-

state dignitaries — should be a priority for the 16 tickets, it allowed for personal use.

"A caveat we put in the opinion recognized that sometimes there won't be a big company you're trying to woo to South Carolina that's going to need these tickets," said agency attorney Michael Burchstead, referring to a paragraph that read, in part, "we are not advocating for the tickets to go to waste."

Commissioner Frank Grimball said he's concerned about weakening state ethics law that's specifically meant to limit lawmakers' entertainment by lobbyists, especially since the suite's perks

include free food and drinks. He said others may take advantage of the exception.

The issue is that the tickets' value far exceeds legal limits on how much agencies that lobby state government can individually give elected officials. Those limits are \$60 daily and \$480 dollars yearly. State law provides an exception for events directly related to state or local economic development.

"I think our job is to protect the act," Grimball said. "Why not direct the governor to follow the act?"

He cast the lone no for the revised opinion, which limits the box's use to

"state-related purposes."

Grimball called that wording too vague and argued unsuccessfully that the tickets should be used only for economic development.

How much the gift is worth is unknown.

USC spokesman Wes Hickman has said the university can't put a price

SEE SUITE, 4A

At a glance

According to the Gamecock Club website, season tickets for non-suite seats directly beneath the press box cost at least \$1,665 each. Leasing a 24-ticket suite that's located between the end zones exceeds \$100,000.

FROM PAGE 3A

SUITE

tag on the tickets, provided for decades, because the governor's office has a private suite on a level otherwise reserved for news media, the visiting athletic director and others who don't pay.

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each. Leasing a 24-ticket suite that's located between the end zones exceeds \$100,000.

The governor personally attended two of six home games last year and three of seven in 2014, said Haley spokeswoman Chaney Adams.

Like previous administrations, Adams said, Haley has used the suite

for state business "because there's no better way to showcase the great things going on in our state."

Haley attorney Butch Bowers, who had no objection to the revised opinion, said the box is sometimes used for state business without Haley attending. But the governor's office couldn't

detail who has used the suite or why.

The opinion is limited to Gamecocks football tickets. The school also provides the governor's office four season tickets to men's basketball games.

Clemson University, Haley's alma mater, provides the perk differently.

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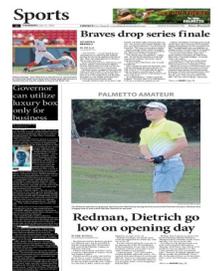
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Haley listed the worth of each of the 10 suites as \$3,200 in her 2016 "statement of economic in-

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Officeholders are required to list gifts, their value and who gave them in the annual disclosure.

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Haley

Title: **S.C. delegation hears from speakers**
 Author: BY JAMIE SELF The (Columbia) State
 Size: 15.5 column inches
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



S.C. delegation hears from speakers

BY JAMIE SELF
The (Columbia) State

CLEVELAND

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker praised South Carolina – from its people to its barbecue – and conservative pollster and commentator Frank Luntz urged S.C. delegates to campaign in swing-state North Carolina if they want to win the White House.

Walker and Luntz spoke Tuesday at the breakfast for the S.C. delegation to the Republican National Convention.

Walker said he's doing the RNC breakfast circuit, visiting early primary states like Iowa and South Carolina, because he wants to see the people, who were the best part of his 2016 presidential run.

Walker praised S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley for her efforts to move people from welfare to work and struck similar notes as he did while campaigning for the GOP presidential nomination.

Walker said Donald Trump was not his first choice for president. "I was," he said. After he exited the race, he endorsed U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas.

But the governor, who will take the stage during the RNC convention, said Republicans have a clear choice and need to keep Hillary Clinton from winning the White House.

As he left the breakfast, Walker told reporters that his eyes are set on 2018 and his re-election campaign.

Luntz had S.C. delegates laughing with his jokes poking fun at presumed Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and her challenger, U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

"My goal was to be the secretary of agriculture in the Sanders administration because I wanted to be the one to plant those magic trees that free stuff grows from," he said.

Title: **S.C.'s McMaster prepares to take center stage at GOP confab**
 Author: BY MEGKINNARD Associated Press
 Size: 45.41 column inches
 Myrtle Beach, SC Circulation: 61238



S.C.'s McMaster prepares to take center stage at GOP confab

Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster has backed Donald Trump since early on in his campaign

McMaster has been prominent member in Republican politics since 1981 when he was President Ronald Reagan's first nominee to a U.S. Attorney position

BY MEG KINNARD
 Associated Press
 COLUMBIA

When South Carolina Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster announced his early support of Donald Trump, many wondered why the establishment Republican was backing the out-of-the-box candidate. Even some within the longtime GOP fixture's inner circle publicly expressed disappointment of his pick.

McMaster stepped into the national spotlight Tuesday giving a speech officially submitting Trump as the GOP nominee, and his wager is apparently beginning to pay off.

In a year with a Republican field that covered just about every angle of a fractured party, many presumed the veteran politician would

back an establishment choice, like Jeb Bush or even native son Lindsey Graham, with whom McMaster shares a longtime political strategist.

But days before South Carolina's February primary balloting, McMaster emerged at a rally with

Trump, saying the billionaire businessman had a unique opportunity to unite the party, which was suffering from the lengthy, hard-fought primary season.

"He's a man of action," McMaster said then. "He speaks the truth as he sees it in words everybody understands. And, ladies and gentlemen, that's something unusual in politics. It's a delightful thing to see."

As the news trickled out, reaction was surprise, even dismay.

"No one in SC politics is more disappointed than me," tweeted Trey Walker, a former aide who spent years serving McMaster in various capacities. Political journalists reported receiving messages of disbelief from Republicans throughout the state.

McMaster has been a fixture in Republican politics in the state since 1981. That year he became President Ronald Reagan's first nominee to a U.S. Attorney position, repeatedly featuring footage of the two together in subsequent campaign ads. As GOP nominee, McMaster lost twice, defeated in 1986 by U.S. Sen. Fritz Hollings and in 1990 by Lt. Gov. Nick Theodore.

McMaster led South Carolina's Republican Party for nearly a decade thereafter.

His leadership ushered in an era of GOP dominance as the party captured the governor's office, statewide offices and both legislative chambers. In 2002, McMaster was elected as the state's attorney general, an office he held until 2010.

That year, he placed third in a four-way GOP primary for governor, losing out to Gov. Nikki Haley. He ultimately endorsed the front-runner, led her transition efforts and became her lieutenant governor in 2014.

The pair have worked together on a variety of issues, although they've differed starkly in terms of the Republican presidential race. Very vocal in her criticism of Trump, Haley said last month she wished

SEE MCMMASTER, 10A

FROM PAGE 3A

MCMMASTER

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But the governor, who initially backed Marco Rubio before reluctantly saying she'd support Ted Cruz over

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Title: **SC DELEGATES AT THERNC**

Author:

Size: 8.83 column inches

Columbia, SC Circulation: 128564



SC DELEGATES AT THE RNC

*Highlights of what
S.C. delegates to the
Republican National
Convention will be doing
through Friday in
Cleveland:*

WEDNESDAY

8-10:30 a.m.: Breakfast honoring Gov. Nikki Haley and S.C. congressional delegation

Noon-3 p.m.: Luncheon with Georgia and Alabama delegations, sponsored by AT&T, the Dallas-based telecommunications giant

7-11 p.m.: Convention business session

10 p.m.-1:30 a.m.: Salute to the Innovation Economy benefit country music concert, featuring Pat Green and Lee Brice, a Sumter native

THURSDAY

8:30-10 a.m.: Breakfast featuring Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson

4-7 p.m.: Pre-acceptance speech reception sponsored by McClatchy, the owner of The State and S.C. newspapers in Beaufort, Hilton Head, Rock Hill and Myrtle Beach

7:30-11 p.m.: Convention business session, including acceptance speech of nominee Donald Trump

FRIDAY

All day: Depart

— STAFF REPORTS

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Author: BY JAMIE SELF jself@thestate.com
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Jamie Self: 803-771-8658, @jamiemself

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GOP CONVENTION

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McMaster

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 Author:
 Size: 14.57 column inches
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



Put concealed gun notice on our driver's licenses

I would like to propose an easy measure that the Department of Motor Vehicles could take when issuing a license to avoid escalation of gun violence or firearm accidents.

A "gun logo" (with expiration date) could be added to a new driver's license when a lawful citizen voluntarily presents their concealed firearm license to a DMV employee. This would not eliminate having to carry their concealed firearm card at all times when a firearm is present but would function (much like an organ donor logo) as a "quick alert" to a police officer dealing with a routine traffic violation stop.

It is a kindness that lawful gun-owner citizens could voluntarily provide the police. It would aid in the proper management between police officers and law-abiding citizens as they retrieve the necessary paperwork (insurance and registration) that officers expect. So often, a firearm is also present in those same places. It might deescalate a tense situation and put both parties at ease.

This is again an easy measure and one that could be completely voluntary and raise awareness.

I have sent this DMV suggestion this week to President Barack Obama, Gov. Nikki Haley, Sen. Lindsey Graham, Sen. Tim Scott and Rep. Trey Gowdy via email. I sincerely hope one of these politicians pushes this forward. In the end, it is all about having lawful people feel safe and protected. Something many Americans have been lacking these days.

Julienne Correa
Greenville