

From: Symmes, Brian <BrianSymmes@gov.sc.gov>
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Governor Nikki Haley News:

Washington Post: Winners and losers from the Nevada caucuses and South Carolina primary
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/02/20/winners-and-losers-from-the-nevada-caucus-and-south-carolina-primary/>

Chris Cillizza

Nevada Democrats gave Hillary Clinton a much-needed win in the state's caucuses, while South Carolina Republicans handed Donald Trump a much-expected win in their state's primary. Below, I broke down some less obvious winners and losers from the night.

Nikki Haley: The South Carolina governor jumped into the race for Rubio this week and can now claim she helped him to second place. (Yes, I know that seven in 10 Republicans said the Haley endorsement didn't make their mind up. People never say that someone else influences their vote; we're too proud.) Haley — along with Sen. Tim Scott — allowed Rubio to cast himself as part of the new face of the Republican Party, a powerful message going forward in the race. And if Rubio winds up as the nominee, Haley will be first among equals to be his vice-presidential pick.

Washington Post: How Marco Rubio edged out Ted Cruz for second in S.C. (hint: Nikki Haley helped)
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/02/21/how-marco-rubio-edged-out-ted-cruz-for-second-in-s-c-hint-nikki-haley-helped/>

Scott Clement, Emily Guskin

In South Carolina, Marco Rubio barely eclipsed Ted Cruz for second place, beating him by less than two-tenths of a percentage point with almost all votes tallied. The result confirms a late surge in polling for Rubio, and the network exit poll shows it was fueled by the upper-class pragmatists of the Republican Party -- a coalition that skews wealthier, more-educated and cosmopolitan -- just the type of Republican who is apprehensive about Donald Trump becoming the party's nominee

Note: There's also some indication South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley's final-week endorsement helped boost Rubio's standing in the closing days.

Note: There are two indications that Haley's endorsement of Rubio on Wednesday made a difference in his support. While only 26 percent of voters said the endorsement was important, half of those voted for Rubio (47 percent). While some of this may reflect longtime Rubio supporters rationalizing their decision, Rubio also fared nine points better among voters who said they decided in the final few days before voting than among those who decided earlier (27 vs. 18 percent).

Politico: The Mainstreaming of Nikki Haley

Elected as an outsider, she has become the face of the GOP establishment.

<http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2016/02/nikki-haley-2016-south-carolina-213657#ixzz40orB2waG>

Jeremy Markovich

During Saturday's Republican presidential debate in Greenville, South Carolina, when Nikki Haley's endorsement was still up for grabs, it was clear that at least two candidates wanted it. "Nikki Haley will do a better job curing poverty than Barack Obama," said Marco Rubio. Later, Jeb Bush took a swipe at rival John Kasich, citing a think tank report that graded governors on spending. Kasich got a bad grade.

Note: The next day, Haley broke her silence. "We say that every day is a great day in South Carolina," she told a crowd of hundreds at a Rubio event outside a warehouse in Chapin. "If we elect Marco Rubio, every day will be a great day in America."

Post and Courier: 5 things we learned from Saturday's Republican primary results

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160220/PC1603/160229860>

Schuyler Kropf

1) Gov. Nikki Haley's endorsement of Marco Rubio worked vs. Ted Cruz.

College of Charleston political scientist Jordan Ragusa said Haley's support probably netted the Florida senator an additional 4 percentage points. He based his calculation on research models from races dating back to 1988 involving incumbent governors who made a public pick. Ragusa did his work with two C of C students, announcing his projection three days before the vote.

Politico: How Rubio won over Nikki Haley

The South Carolina governor's endorsement lifted Marco at exactly the right moment.

<http://www.politico.com/story/2016/02/marco-rubio-nikki-haley-south-carolina-219576#ixzz40os3aMYa>

Shane Goldmacher, Anna Palmer

It was over steak and more than three hours of conversation that stretched deep into the night that Marco Rubio sealed the endorsement of Gov. Nikki Haley — setting himself on the path to squeeze out a virtual second-place finish in South Carolina that has revitalized his candidacy.

WIS: Sen. Marco Rubio's 'Marcomentum' propels him to second place finish in SC

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31273320/sen-marco-rubios-marcomentum-propels-him-to-second-place-finish-in-sc>

Jeremy Turnage

After polls put him pulling neck-and-neck with fellow Sen. Ted Cruz, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio secured a tight second place finish in South Carolina's Republican Primary. However, Rubio was not able to win the Palmetto State outright -- falling far behind billionaire businessman Donald Trump by 11 percent.

Note: Rubio took the stage with key endorsers Gov. Nikki Haley, Sen. Tim Scott, and Rep. Trey Gowdy. He told his supporters history was made.

USA Today: Rubio says S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley would be good VP candidate

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/onpolitics/2016/02/21/rubio-says-sc-gov-nikki-haley-would-good-vp-candidate/80699188/>

Paul Singer

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, fresh off his second place finish in Saturday's South Carolina primary, said Nikki Haley, the governor of the state, would be "on everyone's short list" for vice president.

Note: Speaking on Fox News Sunday, Rubio would not say he is considering Haley as a potential running mate — "that would be presumptuous," he said — but he acknowledged that her endorsement of him last week was very important in the primary there and he hopes to have her campaigning for him around the country.

Post and Courier: Trump wins South Carolina primary in runaway

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160220/PC1603/160229888>

Schuyler Kropf

Fueled by record voter turnout, billionaire businessman Donald Trump easily captured the South Carolina Republican primary, vaulting ahead for a second straight win and moving another step closer to becoming the eventual GOP nominee.

Note: Rubio, buoyed late in the week by South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley's endorsement, overcame a weak debate performance leading up to New Hampshire to move up in a tight race for a coveted second-place finish versus Cruz. The two were separated by about 1,000 votes as the counting came to a close with Rubio in the lead.

Note: Rubio addressed supporters from Columbia with Haley, U.S. Sen. Tim Scott and other backers by his side, projecting the image that a new Republican Party might be emerging.

WIS: Gov. Nikki Haley gets out and casts her vote in the SC GOP primary

<http://www.wistv.com/story/31271426/gov-nikki-haley-gets-out-and-casts-her-vote-in-the-sc-gop-primary>

Caroline Patrickis

People all over the state were heading out to cast their vote for the candidate of their choice in the GOP primary on Saturday. That includes South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley. Governor Haley cast her vote for Marco Rubio this morning. Haley voted late Saturday morning at her precinct at Mount Horeb United Methodist Church in Lexington.

Note: "I am very excited, it is a great day in South Carolina. We are seeing a lot of turnout at the polls. The weather is perfect, people are excited. We make presidents in South Carolina and we think it's going to be a great day for Marco Rubio," Governor Haley said.

Post and Courier: A record vote, a resounding result in South Carolina GOP primary

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160220/PC16/160229855>

Robert Behre

A presidential primary like no other drew a record number of South Carolina Republicans to the polls. Businessman Donald Trump not only won the state Saturday, he placed first in 44 of its 46 counties and appeared likely to walk away with nearly all of the state's 50 delegates.

The State: How Trump won the SC GOP primary

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article61555582.html>

Andrew Shain

Donald Trump kept on doing and saying the wrong things for someone trying to win the S.C. Republican primary. He spitefully gave out U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham's cellphone number during a Bluffton rally in July. He suggested a ban on Muslims entering the country before a Pearl Harbor Day event at Patriots Point in December.

Note: Republican Gov. Nikki Haley, a popular S.C. politician who already had denounced Trump's combative campaign tactics, called his proposal un-American and an embarrassment to the party. She later would ask people to avoid the "angriest voices," like Trump, during her GOP response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address.

USA Today: Rubio: 'This Election is a Generational Choice'

<http://www.wltx.com/story/news/politics/2016/02/19/rubio-election-generational-choice/80632502/>

David Jackson

Marco Rubio is hoping a political all-star team can help him score big in South Carolina. Gov. Nikki Haley and Sen. Tim Scott toured the state with the Florida senator Friday as he looked for uncommitted voters ahead of Saturday's primary. "This election is a generational choice," the 44-year-old Rubio told supporters gathered in the gym at R.B. Stall High School, flanked by the equally youngish Haley and Scott.

Note: Haley said that a President Rubio can reduce federal government regulations that burden states. "The hardest part of my job is the federal government each and every day," the governor said.

Note: Rubio returned the favor — "we want to do for America what Nikki Haley has done for South Carolina" — and urged voters to get to the polls on the "big day" Saturday.

Rock Hill Herald: York County Republican voters: Trump, Cruz, Rubio strong

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article61496332.html>

Andrew Dys

Donald Trump seemed to be a clear favorite Saturday morning in heavily conservative northern York County as voters started the day-long Republican primary to select a presidential nominee. Yet Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio had several supporters, and even the candidates trailing in the polls had people on their side.

Note: Joe Rayano, 48, who works in transportation, said that he voted for Rubio for many reasons, including the endorsement of South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, whom Rayano believes has done an outstanding job.

Note: Toby Crisley, 40, employed in packaging sales, said that Haley's endorsement was important, but more, said Rubio is "a real conservative" who can help South Carolina.

New York Times: Donald Trump Wins South Carolina Primary; Cruz and Rubio Vie for 2nd

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/21/us/politics/south-carolina-primary.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share>

Jonathan Martin, Alexander Burns

Donald J. Trump rolled to a commanding victory in the South Carolina primary on Saturday, solidifying his position as the Republican presidential front-runner after a savage campaign that drove Jeb Bush, the son and brother of presidents, to quit the race.

Note: Surrounding himself with Gov. Nikki R. Haley, an Indian-American, and Senator Tim Scott, an African-American, Mr. Rubio, the son of Cuban immigrants, recounted their biographies and his own, seeking to portray the coming race as a choice between the new faces of the Republican Party and Mr. Trump's brand of resentment politics.

Note: In his victory speech, Mr. Trump took a rhetorical shot at Ms. Haley, by offering abundant praise for Henry McMaster, the state's lieutenant governor, a top Trump supporter.

Note: Despite a series of late developments in his favor, including Ms. Haley's endorsement, Mr. Rubio was unable to derail either of his harder-line rivals or to loosen their grip on the party's most conservative voters.

NPR: Rubio Tries To Sell The New Face Of The GOP Establishment To S.C. Voters

<http://www.npr.org/2016/02/20/467436116/rubio-tries-to-sell-the-new-face-of-the-gop-establishment-to-s-c>

voters

Jessica Taylor

The young Latino presidential candidate many top party leaders believe would be their best standard-bearer smiled and cheered, flanked by South Carolina's Indian-American female governor, the state's young black Republican senator and the congressman who's led the investigation into the Benghazi attacks and Hillary Clinton's involvement.

Note: "Take a picture of this, because this new group of conservatives taking over America looks like a Benetton commercial," Gov. Nikki Haley crowed, standing alongside Sen. Tim Scott and Rep. Trey Gowdy on stage in a CrossFit gym re-purposed for Rubio's rally.

S.C. Presidential Primary News:

New York Times: Donald Trump's South Carolina Win, and What Comes Next

<http://takingnote.blogs.nytimes.com/2016/02/21/donald-trumps-south-carolina-win-and-what-comes-next/?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share>

Elizabeth Williamson

History will likely treat Jeb Bush's candidacy better than voters did, as the former Florida governor ended his Republican presidential primary bid amid calls from party leaders to consolidate the field or risk the nightmare of having Donald Trump atop the ticket.

Post and Courier: The national impact of S.C.'s vote

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160220/PC1603/160229856>

Gibbs Knotts, Jordan Ragusa

The major storyline from the South Carolina GOP primary was the dominance of Donald Trump, but an equally important story was Marco Rubio's second-place finish. Most political analysts expected Trump to do well in the Palmetto State, where on Saturday he confirmed his front-runner status and demonstrated his ability to generate broad-base support.

Note: He picked up the coveted endorsement of Gov. Nikki Haley, one of the most popular governors in the U.S., in addition to securing Sen. Tim Scott's and U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy's backing.

Greenville News: Donald Trump wins South Carolina Republican primary

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/politics/elections/2016/02/20/trump-track-win-sc-primary/80674016/>

Rudolph Bell

Donald Trump, a billionaire real estate mogul and reality TV star from New York City who cussed at campaign events and donated to Hillary Clinton, won South Carolina's evangelical-heavy Republican presidential primary Saturday on the promise of making America great again.

Note: He relished the win during a victory party at the Spartanburg Marriott, taking a shot at Gov. Nikki Haley, who endorsed Rubio.

Rock Hill Herald: Trump wins in South Carolina, easily leads in York, Chester, Lancaster counties

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/article61586952.html#storylink=cpy>

Bristow Marchant

Results Saturday night from York, Chester, and Lancaster supported an overall lead across the state for Donald Trump in the GOP presidential primary. In York County, Trump lead with 32 percent of the vote with 72 of 95 precincts reporting. In Lancaster, he had 33 percent of the vote, with all but one precinct reporting. In Chester, Trump won 42 percent of the vote.

Miami Herald: Jeb Bush falls as Marco Rubio rises in South Carolina

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/article61575137.html>

Patricia Mazzei

Jeb Bush ended his bid for president Saturday in South Carolina, the state that helped clinch the Republican presidential nomination for his father and brother. "The people of Iowa and New Hampshire and South Carolina have spoken," the former Florida governor told a modest group of supporters, many of them from Miami and Tallahassee, gathered at a downtown Columbia Hilton hotel.

New York Times: The Party of Bush Yields, Warily, to a New Face: Donald Trump

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/21/us/politics/bush-family-donald-trump.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share&_r=0

Michael Barbaro, Ashley Parker

In his emotional seven-minute farewell to a Republican Party that elevated his father and brother to the White House, there were two words that a choked-up Jeb Bush could not bring himself to utter: "Donald Trump." Mr. Bush, the former governor of Florida, had been soundly rejected by an electorate he no longer recognized, hobbling his campaign and leaving him little choice but to withdraw from the presidential race.

Associated Press: Trump wins big in South Carolina; Clinton takes Nevada

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=hjg8qINF

Julie Pace, Bill Barrow

Donald Trump barreled to victory in South Carolina's Republican primary Saturday, deepening his hold on the GOP presidential field as the race headed into the South. "Let's put this thing away," he shouted to cheering supporters. Out West, Hillary Clinton pulled out a crucial win over Bernie Sanders in Nevada's Democratic caucuses, easing the rising anxieties of her backers.

Associated Press: Rubio, Cruz play tug-of-war for anti-Trump voters

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=2T77g5Zo

Nancy Benac

Donald Trump's resounding victory in South Carolina had Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz playing tug-of-war Sunday over who's the stronger anti-Trump. Rubio, who placed second in South Carolina based on complete but unofficial returns, argued that his policy specifics trump Trump's big talk. "If you're running for president of the United States, you can't just tell people you're going to make America great again," Rubio said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Post and Courier: Rubio: Reports of a Romney endorsement are 'false'

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160221/PC1603/160229849>

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio told CNN on Sunday morning that earlier reports that former Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney would endorse him are inaccurate. "Well that report is false. I have no reason to believe he is anywhere near endorsing," Romney told CNN's Jake Tapper.

Note: Rubio is coming off a second place finish in South Carolina, aided by endorsements from South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott.

Anderson Independent: Trump takes Upstate as voter turnout exceeds expectations

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/trump-takes-upstate-as-voter-turnout-exceeds-expectations-2c3c3791-7a43-6570-e053-0100007fd316-369562071.html>

Kirk Brown

Donald Trump was the top vote-getter Saturday in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties. The number of voters who went to the polls in each of the counties exceeded expectations. U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz finished ahead of U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio for second place in Anderson and Pickens counties, but Rubio bested him for the runner-up spot in Oconee.

The State: How pro-Cruz PAC targeted evangelical, likely GOP voters

<http://www.thestate.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/the-buzz/article61517727.html>

Cassie Cope

Starting in late November, Keep the Promise political action committee workers knocked on about 110,000 doors in South Carolina, targeting evangelical GOP voters likely to vote in Saturday's primary and trying to get them to vote for Ted Cruz, according to the group's state director.

Associated Press: AP News Guide: Trump and Clinton power past rivals

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=No8cqCtp

Calvin Woodward

A South Carolina win behind him, Donald Trump powers on in a presidential race with one of his most caustic critics gone and skeptics forced to come to grips with his growing prospects for taking the Republican nomination.

S.C. General Assembly News:

Post and Courier: Proposed bill would increase number of eligible South Carolina foster families

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160220/PC16/160229943/1177/proposed-bill-would-increase-number-of-eligible-south-carolina-foster-families>

Lauren Sausser

On paper, Carey and Tom Paudler seem like ideal foster parents. He's a West Point graduate. She's a volunteer legal advocate for vulnerable children in state custody. They're raising five children of their own in Greenville. The Paudlers have the time, space and inclination to welcome foster children into their home, but for one roadblock — a South Carolina law that caps the number of children one family may foster.

Opinion / Editorial Roundup:

The State: Why most of South Carolina's \$1.2 billion state 'surplus' isn't actually surplus

<http://www.thestate.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/cindi-ross-scope/article61339057.html#storylink=cpy>

Cindi Ross Scope

LET'S SAY YOU got a 1 percent raise. It's just enough to keep up with inflation. Would you consider that "surplus" money? Money that you should use to buy a bigger house? Money that you should refuse to take? Or is it money you would use to pay for the electricity and groceries and prescription drugs and other necessities that will cost more this year than last?

Post and Courier: Trump's surge: GOP's test

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160220/PC1002/160229858>

Editorial

Donald Trump's decisive victory in Saturday's South Carolina Republican presidential primary solidified his front-runner status. It also clarified a major challenge facing the party. Though many of the tough-talking New York billionaire's simplistic — and in some cases outlandish — policy proposals are hard to take seriously, he now has a serious shot at winning the GOP nomination.

Post and Courier: One man's costly funding roadblock

<http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20160220/PC1002/160229864>

Ron Brinson

Wonder how many hidden tax dollars have been paid by South Carolina motorists since Tom Davis began his latest filibuster against proposals for critically-needed additional road funding? Or how many vehicle crash injuries have been related to our state's unsafe roads and bridges, while this politically ambitious state senator works his nattering procedural spells upon his colleagues?

Rock Hill Herald: Black lives – and black votes – matter in SC Dem primary

<http://www.heraldonline.com/news/local/news-columns-blogs/andrew-dys/article61551922.html>

Andrew Dys

For the past year or more, all across America, the rallies have had the signs: Black Lives Matter. Many came after a white racist shot nine church-goers in Charleston last June in a crime so horrible it caused the Confederate Flag to come down from the statehouse grounds in South Carolina.

South Carolina News:

Associated Press: States seek private financial help to fix social problems

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=3ewEHco9

Susan Haigh

A growing number of states and local governments are turning to an unconventional method of financing possible fixes to big social problems, motivated by tight budgets and little incentive to take a chance on initiatives without a guarantee of results.

Note: On Tuesday, officials in Connecticut, South Carolina and Colorado announced new public/private arrangements to fund so-called "pay for success" projects that aim to help families struggling with drug addiction, improve health outcomes for poor mothers and their children and reduce chronic homelessness.

The State: Busy Columbiana Mall brought to standstill after reports of shots fired, 2 suspects sought

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/crime/article61552687.html#storylink=cpy>

Rachael Myers Lowe, Sarah Ellis

Areas of the Columbiana Mall in Columbia's Harbison area were evacuated Saturday night after a shooting. No one was injured after two people fired weapons, police said.

Associated Press: No one hurt after guns fired in air at South Carolina mall

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=zsZxJ4XX

Jeffrey Collins

No one was injured Saturday night as police said a fistfight turned into a shooting at a Columbia mall Saturday as several presidential campaigns partied about a dozen miles away. The two men who fired the shots were not immediately arrested, as dozens of police officers searched and as others went from store to store at the Columbiana Mall letting scared shoppers know it was safe to leave, Columbia Police Chief Skip Holbrook said.

Local News:

The State: 'It was like overnight': Heroin flooding Midlands

<http://www.thestate.com/news/local/article61537967.html>

Glen Luke Flanagan

Just a year and a half ago, heroin was a rare thing in the Midlands. Now, it's a "party drug," with several kilos flooding the area each week from Mexican and Colombian cartels. The supply is moving to meet demand. Users are switching to heroin because:

Brian Symmes

Cell: 803-673-9437

Office: 803-734-0304