

Title: **Mopedsafety**  
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## Moped safety

Nikki Haley's libertarian leanings should not have prevented her from signing a moped safety bill.

The Republican governor said the legislation is government overreach, specifically the requirement that reflective vests be worn for night-time driving and helmets be worn by those under age 21.

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. ...

Fifty people died on mopeds in South Carolina in 2015, more than double the number from just two years before in 2013. Already in 2016, 16 moped drivers and/or passengers have died.

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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### Haley's big loss

Gov. Nikki Haley's efforts to unseat her adversaries in the state Senate contributed to a surprising loss by one long-time incumbent. But it wasn't state Sen. Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence.

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....

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. Her opposition to Sen. Leatherman says her leadership options have become even more limited.

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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**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.**

was elected statewide as South Carolina's chief executive.

And who picked Mr. Leatherman for his overarching position of power? He was elected by 5,942 Republicans in the recent primary. And he is unopposed in November's general election.

— *Post & Courier*  
 Charleston

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**CINDI ROSS SCOPPE**  
**ASSOCIATE EDITOR**  
**THE STATE**

# ***Why popular bills die or get gutted: A mystery — by design***

**F**IRST 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 chamber, 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 allowing them to pass.

So when people ask who's to blame for the fact that the new disclosure law doesn't require legislators to tell us how much income they receive from lobbyists and businesses and organi-

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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.

There's no way to make legislators vote against bills they oppose, and I don't know of any way to make people admit that they worked behind the scenes to water down bills. Negotiation, after all, is and should be central to the law-writing process, and the real negotiations are never going to take place in public.

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 Author: BY BRUCESMITH Associated Press  
 Size: 73.93 column inches  
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## ELECTIONS

# Chester, Rock Hill Senate seat, other runoffs set for Tuesday

BY BRUCE SMITH

Associated Press

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.

Locally, only voters in state Senate District 17 – which includes all of Chester County and parts of southern and western York County – are voting in a runoff election to determine the Democratic nominee.

Incumbent Creighton Coleman of Winnsboro is being challenged by Mike Fanning of Great Falls.

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

A look at some of the other races to be decided Tuesday:

### 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 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.

## Want to vote?

**Who:** Registered voters in state Senate District 17 who either voted in the Democratic primary on June 14, or did not vote at all on June 14. Those who cast ballots in the June 14 Republican primary cannot vote Tuesday.

**What:** Bring a photo ID (S.C. driver's license, S.C. DMV ID card, S.C. voter registration card (w/photo), federal military ID, U.S. passport).

**When:** Polls are open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday.

**Where:** The following precincts are open Tuesday:

### York County

**Bullock Creek** – Bullock Creek Fire Department, 2250 S.C. 97, Sharon

**Cannon Mill** – Central Baptist Church, 110 Ross Cannon St., York

**Catawba** – Catawba Chapel AME Zion Church, 340 Hall Spencer Road, Catawba

**Delphia** – Philadelphia United Methodist Church, 2260 Chester Highway, York.

**Filbert** – St. James United Methodist Church, 1930 Quarry Road, York.

**McConnells** – Olivet Presbyterian Church, 159 Church St., McConnells

**Mt. Holly** – Oakdale Elementary School, 1129 Oakdale Road, Rock Hill

**Ogden** – Antioch United Methodist Church, 930 W Rambo Road, Rock Hill

**Rock Hill No. 2** – Rock Hill City Hall, 155 Johnston St., Rock Hill

**Rock Hill No. 3** – Sunset Park Elementary School, 1036 Ogden Road, Rock Hill

**Rock Hill No. 6** – Parentsmart, 410 E Black St., Rock Hill

**Rock Hill No. 8** – The Children's School at Sylvia Circle, 929 Sylvia Circle, Rock Hill

**York No. 1** – Cotton Belt Elementary School, 1176 Black Highway, York

**York No. 2** – Harold C. Johnson Elementary School, 400 E Jefferson St., York

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**Edgewood** – Hermon Presbyterian Church, 107 Heckle Blvd., Rock Hill

**Lesslie** – Lesslie Elementary School, 250 Neely Store Road, Rock Hill

**Ferry Branch** – Providence Baptist Church, 1947 Old Friendship Road, Rock Hill

**Six Mile** – Providence Baptist Church, 1947 Old Friendship Road, Rock Hill

## Chester County

**Baldwin** – Old Bowling Alley, 604 Brice St., Chester

**Baton Rouge** – West Chester Fire Department, 1690 Pinckney St., Chester

**Beckhamville** – Trinity Baptist Church, 112 Chester

Ave., Great Falls

**Blackstock** – Blackstock First Baptist, 907 Durham Road, Blackstock

**Edgemoor** – Lando Fire Depart/Edgemoor Station, 4487 Edgeland Road, Edgemoor

**Eureka** – The Holy Place, 619 Saluda Road, Chester

**Fort Lawn** – Fort Lawn Community Center, 554 Main St., Fort Lawn

**Halsellville** – St. Paul Baptist Church, 2344 West End Road, Chester

**Hazelwood** – Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church, 1660 Pleasant Grove Road, Chester

**Lowrys** – Lowry's Community Center, 2266 Old York Road, Lowrys

**Richburg** – Richburg Town Hall, 201 N. Main St., Richburg

**Rodman** – Rodman Community Center, 2489 Rodman Road, Chester

**Rossville** – Rossville Community Center, 4361 Great Falls Highway, Great Falls

**Wilksburg** – Wilksburg Baptist Church, 3137 Pinckney Road, Chester

**Chester Ward 1** – Memorial Building, 154 Main St., Chester

**Chester Ward 2** – Chester County Library, 100 Center St., Chester

**Chester Ward 3** – Old Armory, 109 Ella St., Chester

**Chester Ward 4** – Calvary Baptist Church, 130 Walnut St., Chester

**Chester Ward 5** – R. Carlisle Roddey Building, 1476 JA Cochran Bypass, Chester

**Lando/Landsford** – 1966 Westbrook Road, Edgemoor

**Great Falls** – Memorial Building, 401 Dearborn St., Great Falls



Coleman



Fanning

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 Author: BY CASSIE COPE [ccope@thestate.com](mailto:ccope@thestate.com)  
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 Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



# State's 1st openly gay legislator: SC GOP changing

**Incoming state Rep. Jason Elliott's Greenville district includes conservative Bob Jones University**

**Landslide win — against incumbent who authored state's latest abortion restriction — shows voters focused on campaign issues, Elliott says**

**GOP leaders say primary results show party is growing more inclusive, voters focused on more important issues**

BY CASSIE COPE  
[ccope@thestate.com](mailto:ccope@thestate.com)

The S.C. Republican Party is changing, growing more inclusive, says Greenville attorney Jason Elliott.

Elliott says he knows first hand.

Next January, Elliott will become South Carolina's first openly gay lawmaker, representing a portion of Greenville in the S.C. House that includes conservative Bob Jones University.

"You hear that we're a

big tent," Elliott, a former aide to then-U.S. Sen. Jim DeMint, said of the GOP. "Well, we demonstrated that."

In the June 14 GOP primary, Elliott unseated sitting state Rep. Wendy Nanney, best known as the author of the state's new law restricting abortions at 20 weeks of pregnancy. Elliott beat the Bob Jones graduate in a 16-percentage-point landslide.

Elliott says voters in Greenville's House District 22 know he is gay, but his sexual orientation did not play a role in the race.

Other S.C. GOP leaders say Elliott's election demonstrates the party is growing more inclusive and Republicans voters care more about other issues, including the economy.

"Unquestionably and undeniably, I am a Republican and proud to be

one," Elliott said. "I'm also proud of the fact that I'm a white male, 6 foot, 2 inches with too much gray hair for 45 — and also happen to be gay."

## 'THE STATE IS CHANGING'

Elliott does not have an opponent in the November general election.

He defeated Nanney, a four-term state representative, by criticizing

**SEE CHANGING, 4A**

FROM PAGE 3A

## CHANGING

the incumbent's attendance record at the State House, saying she had missed 30 percent of House votes. (Nanney did not return phone calls from The State.)

"With my knowledge and understanding that

people knew of my orientation, the election results tell me that — rightfully — we focused on issues that are relevant to the position for which I was running," Elliott said.

Elliott's political beliefs are conservative.

He is pro-life, and supports the 2nd Amendment, restructuring state government and school choice.

During his campaign, Elliott also pushed his message that S.C. residents deserve better from

state government.

To unseat an incumbent, a challenger has to make the incumbent unacceptable in some form, said Greenville Republican political consultant Chip Felkel, a friend of Elliott's.

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Voters in District 22 saw Elliott as an acceptable alternative, Felkel said, adding, "This was about leadership, experience (and) potential ability to serve."

The majority of District 22 voters "are focused on getting good representation in Columbia," Felkel said. "Some of the other stuff, they're less concerned about."

Republican voters overwhelmingly chose Elliott based on his ideas and vision for serving in office — nothing else, said S.C. Republican Party chairman Matt Moore. "The Republican Party is a big tent party with a diverse coalition of supporters and elected officials."

S.C. House Majority Leader Bruce Bannister agrees.

"The more perspectives we have on different issues, the better and more creative solutions we can find," the Greenville Republican said.

"The state is changing," Bannister said, adding voters want elected officials who are going to work hard. "I don't think they're willing to limit the candidates to one particular look."

### ELLIOTT'S GOP ROOTS

A self-described "big geek," Elliott has been interested in government and politics since middle school. He was student body president at both Wren High School and Clemson University.

After law school, Elliott worked as a prosecutor and, then, as district director for DeMint, R-Greenville, before starting his

own law practice.

This year, Elliott initially supported former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush in the Republican presidential race. Now, he said he plans to support the GOP nominee, Donald Trump.

Trump speaks to the frustration of the American people, Elliott said. "I understand that frustration."

Americans feel like the government has not kept its promises, he said, citing the economy's slow recovery from the Great Recession.

"For the middle class — the people that work paycheck to paycheck — they haven't seen a recovery."

### GOP VOTERS MORE FOCUSED ON ECONOMIC ISSUES

State Rep. Phyllis Henderson, R-Greenville,

attributes Elliott's landslide primary win, in part, to younger voters.

Voters under 40 have had their lives framed by the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and the 2008 economic crisis, said Henderson.

Those voters are most interested in where candidates stand on key issues — jobs, business and lowering taxes, she said. "What a person does when they leave the State House is not necessarily important to people."

Winthrop University political scientist Scott Huffmon notes the GOP long has had gay members, citing the Log Cabin Republicans as an example.

"The mainstream Republican Party and the

libertarian wing of the Republican Party are going to have a lot less of an issue with this than the evangelical wing," Huffmon said.

Many S.C. Republicans remain uneasy about LGBT issues.

Two-thirds oppose gay marriage, according to a 2015 Winthrop Poll, and the state's Republican leaders regularly make headlines for taking anti-gay positions.

For instance, Gov. Nikki Haley and Attorney General Alan Wilson, both Lexington Republicans, filed suit to block gay marriages in South Carolina.

Elliott does not see that stance as being discriminatory. Instead, he says Haley and Wilson were arguing the gay-marriage issue should be left to states to decide.

The Supreme Court resolved the issue in 2015, declaring gay marriage legal.

"I commend our state for our reaction to the decision," Elliott said of South Carolina's acceptance of the court ruling.

### 'SOMEONE THAT THEY CAN WORK WITH'

Among Elliott's supporters was Greenville City Councilwoman Amy Ryberg Doyle, a longtime Republican who represents the district where Elliott lives.

Elliott is a hard worker, good neighbor and good friend, she said.

His sexual orientation was "a non-issue" during the campaign, she said.

"The Republican Party should stay out of bedrooms and, frankly, now

bathrooms," Doyle said, referring to proposals that Republican legislators introduced this year to ban transgender people from using the bathroom of their choice.

Doyle said millennials are more moderate on social issues. If the GOP is going to win more support from those younger voters and women, it has to be more inclusive, she added.

Elliott sees his sexual orientation as a political non-event.

"If someone is not going to not vote for me or support me because of my orientation, there's nothing I can do about that," he said, adding he plans to represent both those who supported him and those who did not. "I believe that the folks who did not support me will find that they have someone that they can work with."

Elliott added he does not think his election signals that all Republicans are in the same place on any issue, including gay rights.

"What I do have hope for is that this signals that the people of this particular district are ... gauging individuals based upon their ability to do the job, their commitment to the job and their ideas."

Cassie Cope: 803-771-8657, @cassielcope

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The State

State Rep. Jason Elliott

Title: **Officials work to foil hate rallies**  
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 Size: 27.74 column inches  
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



# Officials work to foil hate rallies

Pro-Confederate-flag  
 groups to gather at  
 Statehouse July 10

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 hate groups 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 re-

ceived the OK 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."

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# What you need to know about June 28 runoffs

Senate, council, sheriff  
spots are up for grabs

**AMANDA COYNE**  
THE GREENVILLE NEWS

Voters in Greenville and Pickens Counties have another opportunity to cast their ballot on Tuesday, June 28, when multiple county and state offices are up for runoffs.

All registered voters in these counties are eligible to vote in runoff elections. The only restriction is that those who voted on June 14 must vote for the same party's candidates — if you voted for Republicans in the primary, you may only vote for Republicans in the runoff, and the same is true for those who voted for

Democrats.

To find who your legislators are in the S.C. House of Representatives and Senate, go to [scstatehouse.gov/legislators-search](http://scstatehouse.gov/legislators-search). To find who your Greenville County council member is, go to [greenvillecounty.org/county\\_council](http://greenvillecounty.org/county_council) and click "Find your representatives." Pickens County does not have an online tool to find which district or representative is yours, but county council districts are largely divided by towns. We've broken

down each runoff race, from state senate to county council, below

## Senate

### District 2: Pickens County

Incumbent **Sen. Larry Martin** won the most votes in the primary -- 6,284, or 45.09 percent -- but fell short of the 50 percent required to win outright. He will face the second-place finisher, **former state Rep. Rex Rice**, who received 4,641 votes, 33.3 percent. Army veteran Don

See **RUNOFFS**, Page 5A

## Runoffs

Continued from Page 1A

Joslyn received 11.72 percent of the primary vote and retired nuclear weapons expert and rodeo owner Alan Quinn won 9.89 percent, but both were eliminated from the runoff because only the top two finishers move forward. Visit [Rice's website](http://Rice's website), [rexrice.com](http://rexrice.com). Martin does not appear to have a campaign website.

### District 6: Taylors, Berea, Furman, Paris Mountain

**William Timmons** was only 50 votes away from beating 21-year incumbent **Sen. Mike Fair** on primary night, but the two are headed to a runoff after Timmons, an entrepreneur and former prosecutor, came out on top with 49.5 percent of the vote. Fair received 36.3 percent of the vote in the three-way primary, in which businessman Johnny Edwards received the remaining 14.19 percent. Edwards endorsed Timmons after the runoff was announced. Visit the can-

didates' websites, [electmikefairforsenate.com](http://electmikefairforsenate.com) and [www.votetimmons.com](http://www.votetimmons.com), for information.

### District 12: Greer, Thornblade, Sugar Creek, Five Forks and part of Spartanburg County

Incumbent **Sen. Lee Bright** won more than a third of the vote in the district's four-way Republican primary, triggering a runoff with former state

**Rep. Scott Talley**, who received 26.56 percent of the vote. Two days after the primary, Gov. Nikki Haley endorsed Talley, as did businessman David McCraw and Duncan Mayor Lisa Scott, who were also candidates in the district's Republican primary. McCraw received 22.95 percent of the vote and Scott received 12.8 percent. Talley was also endorsed by the S.C. Good Government Committee, an S.C. Chamber of Commerce-aligned political action committee, and the Conservation Voters of South Carolina. Bright says Ha-

ley's endorsement has driven voters that dislike her to support him. Visit their campaign websites for more information: [brightforsenate.com](http://brightforsenate.com) and [scotttalleyforsenate.com](http://scotttalleyforsenate.com).

### Greenville County Council

#### District 21: Eastside, Greer, Pelham Road

Republicans **Rick Roberts** and **Stacy Kuper** are headed to a runoff for the council seat currently held by Councilman Jim Burns, who did not seek re-election. Roberts, a businessman, won 39.92 percent of the vote and Kuper, a technology sales consultant endorsed by Burns, won 34.14 percent. Real estate agent Lance Byars got the remaining 25.94 percent of the vote. You can also visit their campaign websites for more information: [stacykuperforcouncil.com](http://stacykuperforcouncil.com) and [rickrobertsforcounty-council.com](http://rickrobertsforcounty-council.com).

#### District 25: Southside, Welcome, SCTAC

Voters will have to choose between **Ennis Fant** and incumbent

### Councilwoman Lottie Gibson

Fant earned 39.65 percent of the vote and Gibson got 24.70 percent. Bajeyah Eaddy, Martha Evans and Bunk Johnson did not move on to the runoff. Eaddy earned 22.82 percent, Evans earned 8.44 percent and Johnson earned 4.39 percent. Gibson has served the district for 24 years, but has not attended council meetings since having a stroke in January. Fant has questioned Gibson's physical and mental capacity to serve, but Gibson's supporters say she is capable and will return to council meetings on July 5, after the runoff has completed. *The Greenville News* has tried to reach Gibson via phone and in person multiple times since before Memorial Day, but has been unable to reach her. Fant, currently a pastor and a businessman, served on Greenville County Council from 1984 to 1988 and in the South Carolina House of Representatives from 1989 to 1990. He was convicted of conspiracy to commit ex-

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tortion in 1991, in connection with Operation Lost Trust, an FBI sting that convicted 17 General Assembly members on corruption-related charges.

#### **Greenville County Sheriff**

Longtime Sheriff **Steve Loftis** is facing former sheriff's deputy **Will Lewis** in a runoff. Loftis earned 41 percent of the votes, or 13,769 votes, and Lewis earned 19 percent, or 6,216 votes. The two candidates have traded

barbs since the runoff was announced. Lewis paid for a mailer that accused Loftis of indiscretions including daytime drinking and tax evasion, and Loftis releasing Lewis' personnel file, which Lewis accused Loftis of doctoring. Three challengers did not move on to the runoff: Hobart Lewis won 18 percent of the vote, Bruce Cannon earned 16 percent, and Sam Manley earned 5 percent.

#### **Pickens County Council**

#### **District 3: City of Pickens and areas north**

Current Pickens County School Board member **Alex Saitta** and special education teacher **Wes Hendricks** are heading into a runoff for the seat. The two candidates knocked incumbent Councilman Randy Crenshaw out of the race. Saitta received 36.98 percent of the vote and Hendricks received 32.89 percent.

#### **District 4: Liberty**

Sales professional **Roy Costner** will face incumbent **Councilman G. Neil Smith** in the runoff. Smith edged out candidate Keith Culbreath by eight votes to enter the runoff. Costner had the most votes, earning 43.84 percent.

#### **District 5: Easley**

Services operations manager **Chris Bowers** and businessman **Jeff Willis** emerged as the top vote-getters in a five-man Republican primary for the Easley seat.



COURTESY PHOTO

County and state offices are up for runoffs.