

Title: **Library gets \$200,000 for new bookmobile**
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Library gets \$200,000 for new bookmobile

When Colleton County Memorial Library Director Carl Coffin went to Columbia for the annual Colleton Library Legislative Day, he was expecting the trip to be like every other year. The annual event provides an opportunity to talk with local legislators about issues that are important to libraries throughout the state.

What he got was a new bookmobile.

He, library board chairman Jane Brown and circulation clerk Arlene Francis were making the rounds among Colleton's four senators and four House representatives when Rep. Robert Brown asked Coffin, "What can I do specifically for you at the library?"

Coffin thought for a minute, then told Brown about the library's aging bookmobile. At 20 years old, the bookmobile is worn out. Last year, the library paid for \$2,000 in repairs, and bookmobile librarians

Joyce Chaplin and Jane Shaw hold their breath every time they hit the road to bring library services, internet, etc. to rural areas of the county.

Coffin had searched for local funding and for grants to pay for a new bookmobile with no success. So he made his case to Brown, who agreed to spearhead funding for a new vehicle.

And last week, Coffin was notified that the state had appropriated \$200,000 for a brand new bookmobile.

But getting the money wasn't easy. While the funding passed both the House and Senate, it was vetoed by Gov. Nikki Haley, who didn't think the state should pay for a county vehicle.

But Coffin "rallied his troops" from around the state, who called or emailed their representatives. And the legislature voted to override the veto.

Colleton's legislators, however, played the major role in

getting the funding. "Representatives Brown, Kenneth Hodges, Patsy Knight and Justin Bamberg all worked very hard behind the scenes to make this happen," Coffin said. "And Margie Bright Matthews, John Matthews, Brad Hutto and Chip Campsen in the Senate. Little did I know that Margie actually got up on the Senate floor and really pushed for them to do this. If it weren't for her help, and the help of the other representatives, this wouldn't have happened."

Coffin expects the money to be in hand sometime after July 1. But it will take much longer to actually get the new bookmobile. "It takes 6-9 months to build the bookmobile. I'm hoping, if all goes well, we'll have a bookmobile by spring of next year.

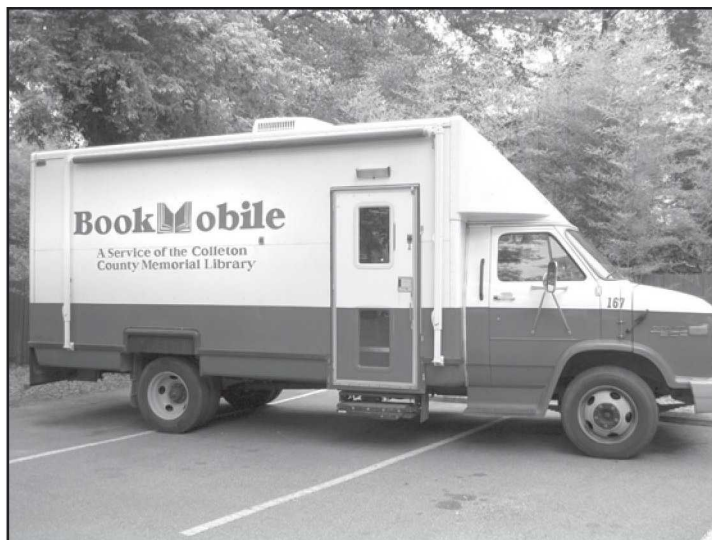
"This is a big win for us and for Colleton County, because we serve those communities that are all around

us. We have such a large county, and there are so many people who depend on us. We provide not only library services, but technology like the internet that a lot of people in the communities out there don't have and they need a place where they can go and use it," he said.

Only a handful of counties in S.C. still have bookmobiles, so this represents a big step for libraries around the state as well. "We support each other, and we know a victory for the Colleton County Library is really a victory for libraries throughout the state," he said.

But in Colleton County, the bookmobile is a tradition. There's been a bookmobile on the county's roads since the 1940s. "We certainly did not want to see that end," Coffin said. "This assures that the bookmobile service for Colleton County will continue for a long time into the future."

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File photos

CURRENT BOOKMOBILE. The current bookmobile, now 20 years old, is only one of the bookmobiles that have served Colleton County residents since the program started in the 1940s.



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Title: **Handful of legislative nominees to be decided today**
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Handful of legislative nominees to be decided today

Associated Press

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

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

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

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

Senate incumbents

Three incumbent senators are in runoffs.

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

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

Republican Mike Fair of

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

Backed by the governor

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

Three of those she supported lost while in a fourth race, incumbent state Sen. Wes Hayes lost his re-election bid to Haley-backed York County GOP Chairman Wes Climer.

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

House races

Among the notable House races, Democratic state Rep. Bill Bowers of Hampton

faces former state Rep. Curtis Brantley in a runoff. Bowers defeated Brantley to win the seat four years ago.

There is also a Republican runoff to decide the party nominee to replace longtime state Rep. Chip Limehouse who is retiring after serving his downtown Charleston and Mount Pleasant district for more than two decades. Businessmen William Cogswell Jr. and Russell Guerard were the top vote-getters in the five-way primary.

Turnout should be light

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

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