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**Subject:** Hurricane Matthew Recovery, USC Aiken, and Absentee Voting -- Update from Sen. Tom Young -- September 7 to October 17, 2016

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**Hurricane Matthew Recovery, USC Aiken, and Absentee Voting -- Update from Senator Tom Young -- September 7 to October 17, 2016**

Hurricane Matthew came and went and for the most part, those of us in Senate District 24 were spared the onslaught of the storm. However, other parts of our state and the Southeast were hit very hard with damage estimates in the U.S. expected to exceed \$10 Billion and nearly 900,000 in South Carolina without power. Meanwhile, flood waters continue to rise in some parts of our State. Please read below for more information and remember to pray for our State and its citizens during this time in need. If I can help you with an issue, please let me know. Thank you for allowing me to serve our District!

**Hurricane Matthew -- Disaster Recovery Information**

**S.C. Emergency Management Division** : To see the latest on the hurricane and other information related to the severe flooding and the state's recovery efforts, go [here](#). Specific county emergency management office contact information can be found [here](#).

**Federal Disaster Declarations:** To date, 13 counties have been issued a Major Disaster Declaration by the President, which means that local governments and certain nonprofits can seek reimbursements for costs associated with debris removal or emergency protective measures. Those counties are as follows: Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Jasper, Marion, and Williamsburg counties. Additional counties or categories of reimbursement may be added at a later date, depending on the results of Preliminary Damage Assessments as conducted by local, state, and federal representatives. Currently, assessments are ongoing in 25 counties total: Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Florence, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, Orangeburg, Lee, Marion, Marlboro,

Richland, Sumter, and Williamsburg Counties. As of late Friday, October 14, no South Carolina resident is eligible to apply for Individual Assistance from FEMA. For additional information, go [here](#).

**Road Closures:** To view a map of road and bridge closures in the state, go [here](#). Citizens are urged not to drive around barricades and should prepare for fallen trees, downed power lines and standing water in and around roadways. Some roadways that are not flooded today may be flooded in another day or later this week, depending on rising river levels, especially in the Pee Dee area.

**Price Gouging:** If you suspect price gouging, tweet pictures and documentation to [@SCPriceGouging](#), call [803-737-3953](#), or email [pricegouging@scag.gov](mailto:pricegouging@scag.gov). For more information, go [here](#).

**Insurance Claims:** The South Carolina Department of Insurance will host Catastrophe Claims Centers in affected areas to help constituents with processing insurance claims. For more information, go [here](#).

**Employment Concerns:** If you have concerns questions about your employment or pay being affected by Hurricane Matthew, please call [1-866-831-1724](#) or go [here](#).

**Dam Status:** To check the status of dams or to proactively report the status of private dams, please contact the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) at [\(803\) 898-4312](#).

**State Tax Deadlines :** The S.C. Department of Revenue is extending certain South Carolina tax deadlines for taxpayers in counties declared a federal disaster area. Aiken County is NOT one of those counties. To learn more, go [here](#).

**Farm Damage Assessment :** Officials from the South Carolina Department of Agriculture, Clemson University, South Carolina Farm Bureau, Farm Credit, and United States Department of Agriculture are working together to get an estimate of the scope of the damage. So far, the cotton and soybean crops appear to have been damaged as well as fall fruits and vegetables including peanuts. Meanwhile, power outages and other storm related issues have killed more than 200,000 birds and some chicken farmers are still using generators to power their coops. To assist in damage evaluations, farmers are asked to complete Clemson's online damage assessment form found [here](#).

**Property Repair Alert :** The S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation issued an alert as to post-hurricane property repairs which can be seen [here](#).

### **Hurricane Matthew Recovery -- Ways to Help**

Many residents in our District have asked for a list of ways to help -- Here are some:

**Monetary Donations :** Officials say that damage assessments are ongoing and more will known about needs in the coming days and weeks. Because donations of products for disaster relief require transportation, warehousing, and distribution, the most effective offer is a monetary donation through the One SC Fund or any of the

SC Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters. You can make a contribution to the following:

- One S.C. Fund by going [here](#);
- Golden Harvest Food Bank [here](#);
- Harvest Hope Food Bank [here](#);
- Lowcountry Food Bank [here](#);
- Second Harvest Food Bank [here](#);
- Feeding America [Here](#);
- Adventist Community Services [here](#);
- American Red Cross [here](#);
- Community Foundation of the LowCountry [here](#);
- Lutheran Disaster Response [here](#);
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance [here](#);
- Salvation Army [here](#);
- Samaritan's Purse [here](#);
- Southern Baptist Convention Disaster Relief [here](#);
- United Methodist Committee on Relief [here](#);
- United Way of South Carolina [here](#);
- Water Missions International [here](#).

**Volunteer Services:** With assessments ongoing, the extent of volunteer services is not yet known and more will be known in the coming days and weeks. Meanwhile, the United Way is coordinating volunteer services for those not associated with any group. To learn more, go [here](#). Please keep in mind that many volunteer opportunities require specialized training and South Carolina Emergency Management as well as the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters want to ensure that all volunteers are safe as recovery operations begin and continue.

### November 8 Elections

**Absentee Voting Ongoing:** For the November 8 elections, in person absentee voting is underway at the Aiken County Voter Registration and Elections Office in the County Administration Building from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm from Monday through Friday through November 7 and on Saturday, November 5 from 9 am to 1 pm. Other locations for absentee voting in the County and the applicable dates and times are as follows:

- Jackson Town Hall, 106 Main Street, Jackson -- October 17 & 18 from 9 am to 4 pm
- Wagener Town Hall, 113 Railroad Avenue, Wagener -- Oct. 19 & 20 from 9 am to 4 pm
- North Augusta Community Center, 495 Brookside Avenue, North Augusta -- October 24 through 28 from 9 am to 4 pm

To learn more about absentee voting by mail or in person, go [here](#). If you have questions, call [642-2028](tel:642-2028).

**Veterans Policy Advisory Committee:** In late September, Governor Haley, by Executive Order, created the Veterans Policy Advisory Committee to make recommendations for policy changes to the S.C. Military Base Task Force and to the Governor about state government can best serve veterans' needs. To see the Executive Order, go [here](#).

**State Retirement System :** Recently, the solvency of the state's retirement system has been back in the news. Earlier this year in April, the State Fiscal Accountability Authority heard testimony on the state's retirement system. After the meeting, the Governor and others stated that changes are needed to maintain the system's solvency. To see the meeting from last April, go [here](#). Last December, the Legislative Audit Council released its audit of the operations of South Carolina's state-administered pension funds. The Audit Council reviewed federal and state law, accounting and actuarial standards, investment returns, funded status, contributions, asset allocation, transparency, and conflicts of interest. The pension system is administered by the Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA), while the assets are invested by the Retirement System Investment Commission (RSIC). As of FY 13-14, the five state-administered pensions reported \$29.9 billion in assets and \$49.2 billion in liabilities. The system is comprised of approximately 70% local public employees and 30% state employees. Changes were made in 2012 and more changes are needed to keep the system properly funded. The audit report recommends decreasing the time the system pays off new pension debt and potentially capping alternative investments. To see the summary, go [here](#). To see the full report, go [here](#). In view of the audit report and the April presentation to the State Fiscal Accountability Authority, significant changes are likely forthcoming and necessary for the long term health of the system. Currently, there is a joint committee of Senators and Representatives holding hearings on the issue. To see their online postings, go [here](#). One of the potential ways to address the problem that will be back on the table like it was in 2012 is whether the state should prospectively switch to a defined contribution plan versus a defined benefit plan for new employees hired as of a certain date. Many companies in the private sector have done this in the past to address some of the same issues. In fact, I have heard from several constituents who worked for private companies when those companies switched their plans. There will be much more on this during the coming legislative session as the state cannot afford to avoid addressing the problem soon. I welcome your feedback.

**State's Economic Outlook :** To see the latest economic outlook report from the State's Department of Commerce, go [here](#).

**State Ranked High for Business :** *Area Development* magazine has ranked South Carolina number 2 in the nation for doing business. The article notes our state's low corporate income taxes and the strength of its incentives, government, and permitting processes. To learn more, go [here](#).

**State Insurance Departments Ranked:** Recently, state insurance departments were ranked in a number of areas including customer service. Our state's Dept of Insurance ranked well. To learn more, go [here](#).

**Petroleum Pipeline Study Committee:** In June, the Governor signed into law

legislation that the General Assembly passed placing a 3 year moratorium on the ability of unregulated private for profit petroleum pipeline companies to use eminent domain to take private property. Companion legislation also established a Petroleum Pipeline Study Committee to look at South Carolina's laws in this area many of which have not been updated since the early 1950's. The Petroleum Pipeline Study Committee met for the first time last week. The Committee will meet again later this fall at a date to be determined. Senator Shane Massey, Rep. Bill Hixon, and I are all members of the Committee. Links to the Committee's agendas and other materials can be seen [here](#).

**DHEC -- Zika Virus** : South Carolina DHEC has a Zika virus information page on its website. As of October 14, 2016, there are 52 confirmed travel-associated cases of Zika virus in South Carolina. To learn more at the DHEC information page, go [here](#). To see the toolkit and outreach materials from DHEC, go [here](#).

**Planning for the 2017 Legislative Session** : The 2017 legislative session begins on the second Tuesday in January. I appreciate input from constituents on the issues facing our state and area. Your input is welcome on any issue important to you. Please email me back or contact me by phone or in person.

**Top Honors College Programs** : Both USC-Columbia and Clemson had their undergraduate honors college programs ranked in the top 10 in the United States. To learn more, go [here](#).

### USC Aiken

**Good News – USC Aiken** : USC Aiken is ranked number one among top public regional colleges in the South in the 2016 edition of *U.S. News & World Report's* guide, "America's Best Colleges." Ever since *U.S. News & World Report* created this ranking category eighteen years ago, the University has been ranked in the top three public regional colleges every year for 19 consecutive years and has been ranked first twelve times: 2002, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016 and now 2017. To learn more, go [here](#).

### Local District News

**Jackson Hook and Cook Festival:** The annual Hook and Cook Festival in Jackson is this coming Friday and Saturday. To learn more, go [here](#).

**North Augusta Jack-O-Lantern Jubilee:** The annual Jack-O-Lantern Jubilee will be in North Augusta on October 28 and 29. To learn more, go [here](#).

**Veterans' Village** : On Saturday, November 5, the Aiken County Veterans' Affairs Office and the Aiken County Veterans Council will host a Veterans Village event at the Aiken Technical College Student Center to promote the numerous veterans service organizations in Aiken County, and what each can provide to our veterans. Additionally, Veterans Affairs representatives will be present from the Vet Center, Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center, and the VA Regional Claims office to answer questions and raise awareness of services available to veterans. There also will be a Vietnam War Commemorative program to recognize those veterans and their

families who served during the Vietnam War. To learn more, call Aiken County Veterans Affairs at (803) 642-1545 or email Major Dwight Bradham at [DBradham@aikencountysc.gov](mailto:DBradham@aikencountysc.gov).

**Whiskey Road Corridor Survey:** If you live in or near our Senate District and travel on Whiskey Road, please consider sharing your thoughts with this 5 minute survey on Whiskey Road which can be seen [here](#).

**Immunization Schedule for Adults and Children :** Staying on top of immunizations is important to your health. To see the recommended immunization schedule for adults, go [here](#). To see the recommended immunization schedule for children, go [here](#).

**Good Story -- Three Brothers Graduate Marine Training :** Recently, three brothers from Barnwell County just south of our Senate District graduated from the Marine Corps Recruit Training at Parris Island near Beaufort. To see the story from the Barnwell paper, go [here](#).

**Hitchcock Woods :** To learn more about the Hitchcock Woods and events, see its latest news letter [here](#).

**Aiken County Habitat for Humanity Update :** To see the latest news, go [here](#).

**Passing of Golf Great Arnold Palmer :** Many people in our district have expressed their sadness over the recent passing of golf legend Arnold Palmer. To see some of the tributes posted by the Augusta National Golf Club, go [here](#).

**Walter Edgar's Journal:** If you are interested in the history, culture, and arts of South Carolina, consider listening to Walter Edgar's Journal which airs at noon on Fridays and Sundays at 4 p.m. on South Carolina public radio. To learn more, go [here](#).

**SRS Heritage Foundation :** To see the latest and past newsletters for the SRS Heritage Foundation, go [here](#). Many residents in Senate District 24 are current or former employees of companies located at SRS.

**SRS Public Tours:** Public tours of SRS are available. They are from 12:30 to 4:30 and are first come, first served basis with up to 50 people per tour. Participants must be at least 18 years old and U.S. citizens. To register for a tour, visit [www.srs.gov/general/tour/public.htm](http://www.srs.gov/general/tour/public.htm) or call 803-952-9472. More information can be obtained about SRS and the tour program at [www.srs.gov](http://www.srs.gov).

**Habitat for Humanity :** To learn more about Aiken County Habitat for Humanity and their latest news, go [here](#).

**Aiken County Veterans Affairs Officer :** Major Dwight Bradham is the Aiken County Veterans Affairs Officer. He and his team are doing a great job for our veterans in Aiken County! He can be reached at 642-1545 by phone and at [dbradham@aikencountysc.gov](mailto:dbradham@aikencountysc.gov) by email. If you have any veteran-related issue, please call the office for assistance. You can follow that office on Facebook at [www](http://www).

[Facebook.com/AikenVA](https://www.facebook.com/AikenVA) and on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/VA\\_Aiken](https://www.twitter.com/VA_Aiken).

**Silver Bluff Audubon Center and Sanctuary** : This 3,250 acre property is located 5 miles Northwest of Jackson in Aiken County along the Savannah River. The property includes numerous Carolina bays, walking trails, and a wide variety of wildlife including 217 bird species such as Bald Eagles, Wood Storks, Cooper's Hawks, and Red-headed Woodpeckers. In addition, a 120 acre area is on the National Register of Historic Sites as the location of George Galphin's Trading post operated from 1750 until the end of the Revolutionary War. To learn more and how to visit, go [here](#).

**Cardiac Arrest** : Recently, a friend sent me a link to this [website](#) with a step by step instruction of how to react in a cardiac arrest situation. Please take a few minutes to review it.

**Grass Cutting in the SCDOT Right of Way** : Grass is growing in right of ways around our district. In Aiken County, DOT contractors have started cutting the grass on the interstates and on secondary roads. If you are aware of an area where high grass is obstructing vision for drivers as they enter or exit certain roads in our County, please call the SCDOT at [641-7665](tel:641-7665) or let me know and I will pass on the information.

**Congressman Wilson's Local Office -- Veteran Assistance** : Congressman Wilson can also assist veterans. The local number to the Aiken County office is [\(803\) 642-6416](tel:803-642-6416).

**SC Help -- Primary Residence Foreclosure Avoidance Assistance** : Several Aiken County residents have received assistance under a federal program instituted in 2011 in several states including South Carolina providing one time assistance to homeowners who risk foreclosure. The program loans up to \$36,000 in one time aid to homeowners who have fallen behind on mortgage payments for a variety of reasons. Acceptable causes include: unemployment, underemployment, a sharp reduction in self-employment income, a divorce, death of a spouse, unexpected medical bills from a catastrophic illness or injury, or damages stemming from the October 2015 floods. The home involved must be the applicant's primary residence and there is a cap on the size of the original mortgage loan amount. The money is collected back from the homeowner after the homeowner is back on his or her feet. To learn more or to apply, go online [here](#) or call [1-855-435-7472](tel:1-855-435-7472).

**Foster Parent Recruitment** : In March, Governor Haley, DSS officials, and foster parents launched a new statewide effort to find more families willing to foster parents for children in need. To learn more, go [here](#).

**FTC website**: The Federal Trade Commission website has helpful information for consumers on a number of topics. To see it, go [here](#).

**Aiken County Legislative Delegation Office** : The local legislative delegation office is staffed by the delegation secretary Jeannie Cadden in the Aiken County Government Building on University Parkway. Ms. Cadden works on both Aiken

County and Edgefield County legislative and constituent matters. One of the services provided by our local delegation office is the processing of paperwork associated with becoming a notary public. If you need help with this or other matters, let me know by responding to this email or call Jeannie in the delegation office at [642-1694](tel:642-1694).

### **Campaign Information**

**Donate to Tom Young for Senate** : If you have not done so and would like to donate to my Senate campaign fund, please go [here](#). Donations can be accepted in any amount up to \$1,000.00 per donor per election cycle. Thank you!

**Facebook** : If you are on Facebook, I have a Facebook page for Senator Tom Young. During the week, I post information from the Senate or elsewhere around the District, State, and County. If you are interested, please “like” the page to receive updates during the week from me on Facebook.

### **Other Topics of Interest**

**Faith Magazine article** : A *Faith* Magazine article about my public service and faith can be seen [here](#).

**SRS Retiree Association – Retiree Resource Center Help** : The SRS Retiree Association has established a SRS Retiree Resource Center in Aiken. To learn more about what services this office can provide, go [here](#).

**SRS Deer Hunts** : To apply to participate in the annual SRS Deer Hunt program at the Savannah River Site, go [here](#).

**Research Charities in South Carolina** : Charitable donors may research organizations registered in South Carolina by visiting the Secretary of State’s website [here](#). You may learn a charity’s total revenue, program expenses, total expenses, net assets, and fundraiser costs. You can also call the Division of Public Charities at [1-888-CHARITI \(242-7484\)](tel:1-888-CHARITI) for more information.

**Unclaimed Property -- Money for You?** : The State Treasurer's Office maintains a link for residents to search for unclaimed property. Examples of unclaimed property include dormant bank accounts, uncashed checks (including paychecks), unclaimed insurance proceeds, forgotten utility deposits, uncashed dividend checks and unexchanged shares of stock. Some local residents have recently found unclaimed money belonging to them on this website. To learn more, go [here](#).

**Medication Assistance Program** : The LSCOG (Lower Savannah Council of Governments) partnering with local physicians and the United Way, has an ongoing free program to assist lower income Aiken County residents with obtaining medications. Participation is generally limited to those families with no prescription insurance and total household income of less than 150% of Federal Poverty Guidelines. To learn more, call [1-866-845-1550](tel:1-866-845-1550), ext. 6 or go [here](#) and scroll down to Medication Assistance Program.

**Nonprofits and Raffles** : Since last April, nonprofits may legally conduct raffles in

South Carolina to raise funds for their charitable purposes. For the new law, the Secretary of State created a frequently asked questions list which can be seen [here](#). If you have more questions, please call the Charities Division of the Secretary of State at (803) 734-1790.

**Cardiac Arrest** : For a step by step instruction of how to react in a cardiac arrest situation, go to [www.heartrescuenow.com](http://www.heartrescuenow.com).

**Special Needs Children – Help for Parents and Caregivers** : The South Carolina Bar developed a handbook for parents of special needs children. An online version of the handbook is available [here](#).

**Teens and Texting** : Texting while driving amongst younger drivers remains a problem. The State of South Carolina's anti-texting law went into effect on December 7, 2014. There is an anti-texting app which parents can use to keep their teen from texting while driving. To learn more, go [here](#).

### Constituent Information

**Legislative Email Updates** : Locally, three members of the House of Representatives, who represent portions of Aiken County within Senate District 24, send regular email updates. Their respective contact information to get on their email lists to receive their email updates are as follows:

- Rep. Bill Hixon (Dist. 83): [bill@billhixon.com](mailto:bill@billhixon.com)
- Rep. Bill Taylor (Dist. 86): [bill@taylorscheuse.com](mailto:bill@taylorscheuse.com)
- Rep. Don Wells (Dist. 81): [dwells29801@gmail.com](mailto:dwells29801@gmail.com)

**Congressman Joe Wilson Contact Information** : Congressman Wilson represents all of Aiken County. He has staff in Aiken County with office hours in Aiken and in North Augusta. His office number is [642-6416](tel:642-6416).

**Speaking with Groups Around the District** : If you are involved with a local group that would like for me to attend a meeting to provide a legislative update, please let me know.

**State Government Resources** : Several online resources are available to you for learning more about our State Government. These resources include the following websites which can be accessed as follows: General Assembly's website -- go [here](#); Executive Budget Office -- go [here](#); State Library -- go [here](#); Legislative Audit Council -- go [here](#); Governor's Office -- go [here](#); and State Fiscal Transparency information, go [here](#).

**Report Waste, Fraud and Abuse in State Government** : To report waste, fraud and abuse in state government, you can call: [1-855-SC-FRAUD](tel:1-855-SC-FRAUD).

**Tom Young's Website** : My website can be reached at <http://www.senatoromyoung.com>. There are links to a variety of constituent services; the status of sponsored

bills; and roll call votes. Please add my web site as a bookmark on your computer.

**Small Business Help – SC Dept. of Commerce** : The South Carolina Department of Commerce has helpful information for small business owners and employees. To learn more, go [here](#).

**Save for College - Future Scholar 529 College Savings Plan** : South Carolina's 529 College Savings Plan Future Scholar offers special tax benefits for South Carolina residents. To learn more or to enroll, go [here](#).

**Donate Life**: You can register as an organ, eye, and tissue donor through the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles or [here](#).

**Child Passenger Safety** : To learn more about ways to keep your children or grandchildren safe in your car, go [here](#). The information at this link is provided in part by the South Carolina Department of Public Safety.

**Request a Flag** : If you would like to request a state or U.S. flag flown over the State Capitol in Columbia, please let me know at [tom@senatortomyoung.com](mailto:tom@senatortomyoung.com). Flags vary in cost according to their size and their material from which they are made.

**State House Tours** : Tours are available for the S.C. State House by calling (803) 734-2430 or by going [here](#). If you set a tour between January and June and it is on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, please let me know so I can do my best to see you. The State House is open on Saturdays for guided and unguided tours from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

**South Carolina Tourism** : To learn more about tourist attractions and tourism opportunities in South Carolina, go [here](#).

**Thoroughbred Country-- South Carolina Regional Tourism Organization** : To learn more about tourism in the four county region of Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, and Barnwell, go [here](#).

**SC BBQ Trail**: According to the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, our state is the birthplace of barbecue in the United States and is the only state that offers all four official barbecue sauces. To see the official map with more than 200 restaurant listings, go [here](#). Another helpful site can be seen [here](#).

**Aiken County Tourism** : To learn more about tourism options in Aiken County, go [here](#).

**Email Updates** : If you know of people in or around District 24 who do not receive my updates but they would like to get them, please email their names and email addresses to me.

**Road Issues** : If you see a road problem such as a pothole needing repair, call the SCDOT at [641-7665](tel:641-7665) or Aiken County at [642-1532](tel:642-1532) to report the problem. You may

also report the repair request online [here](#). If you do not get a prompt response, please let me know at [tom@senatortomyoung.com](mailto:tom@senatortomyoung.com) or call me. Generally, most paved roads in the County are maintained by SCDOT and are identified on the road sign poles by a small black and white sign listing the road number, such as S-2-1669. Most unpaved roads in the County are maintained by the County.

Thank you for the opportunity and the honor to represent you. Please let me know if I can help you in any way or if you have questions about these or other issues. Your feedback is meaningful and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Tom Young  
649-0000 (o)  
215-3631 (cell)

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