

Title: **Do political endorsements matter in S.C. primary?**
 Author: BY BRISTOW MARCHANT bmar chant @hevaldonli ne. com
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DECISION 2016: S.C. REPUBLICAN PRIMARY

Do political endorsements matter in S.C. primary?

Endorsements no predictor of candidate's success

Who endorses whom can serve as a signal to voters

"It's like the Good Housekeeping seal of approval"

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT

bmar chant@heraldonline.com

Who are you voting for? If you haven't decided yet which presidential candidate has your support in South Carolina's primary elections, there are other political pros willing to share their opinion with you.

As primary day drew near, more and more high-profile names have raced to weigh in. Gov. Nikki Haley gave her approval to U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio on Wednesday. On Friday, U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn of Columbia gave Hillary Clinton the state's most coveted Democratic endorsement.

In fact, frontrunner Clinton has wrapped up many

of the state's Democrats, from former governors Jim Hodges and Dick Riley to local elected officials such as Rep. John King of Rock Hill and Sen. Creighton Coleman of Winnsboro. But in recent weeks, more legislators and former state Democratic Party chairman Dick Harpootlian have swung their support to Clinton's primary opponent, Bernie Sanders.

On the Republican side, Jeb Bush seems to lead the "endorsement primary," with backing from U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, state Rep. Ralph Norman of Rock Hill and York County Sheriff Bruce Bryant. But that hasn't seemed to help the

former Florida governor's poll numbers. He trails Donald Trump, who despite picking up an endorsement from Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, has mostly lacked traditional endorsements.

Even as the media keeps track of each candidate's backers and ranks their relative importance, it

raises the question: just how much do endorsements matter once voters actually start voting? Political experts and even party leaders suspect they don't.

"It doesn't hurt, but the question is, does it help?" said Rick Whisonant, political science professor at York Technical College.

"If a race is very close, it can, but a lot of factors come into play."

In a modern media landscape, York County

GOP chairman Wes Climer says who has whose endorsement "matters less and less, but they're not meaningless."

"For some voters, having a local endorsement is like the Good Housekeeping seal of approval," said Climer, who as a party officer can't make an endorsement in a primary race. "A candidate's messaging and organiza-

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FROM PAGE 1A

PRIMARY

tion on the ground is what determines if they win. But where someone is undecided, and they see someone who they may like is endorsing someone, you can see votes flip."

But endorsements can fail to deliver on their

promises. In the case of Bush, endorsements haven't gotten the candidate higher than fifth place in national polls, and in South Carolina, Bush averages around 10 percent in polling.

"Jeb, according to en-

dorsements, had the lead in July of last year," Whisonant said. "But in the establishment of the party, you've got a situation where there are four or five candidates (running) ... they kind of cancel each other out."

To political science professor Michael Bitzer of Catawba College in Salisbury, N.C., divisions among party leaders – both those who have endorsed and those who haven't – shows the uncertainty of the race in

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such a crowded field.

"There's a school of thought that when you get the larger number of endorsements from state party officials, you've secured the nomination," Bitzer said. "But you see so many running this time, leaders are hedging their bets."

"It's emblematic of the problem of too many choices," he said.

Instead, an outsider candidate such as Trump has drawn more attention for endorsements from the likes of former vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin and Liberty University's Jerry Falwell Jr. – endorsements that Bitzer sees as "signals" to specific voting blocs.

"With Palin, there's a certain celebrity factor, but she has a small but devoted following, while Jerry Falwell helps with evangelical voters," he said. "Voters on the Republican side are still making up their minds, and these endorsements are reaffirmations."

A similar dynamic may be playing out on the Democratic side, where

Sanders – a candidate seen as struggling to reach black voters – recently secured the endorsement of state Rep. Justin Bamberg, a former Clinton backer best known as the attorney representing the family of police shooting victim Walter Scott.

"In general, (endorsements) don't make a difference unless they make the news. ... That was in the New York Times," said Amy Hayes, chair of the York County Democrats. "A highly visible endorsement in the African-American community can be influential."

The politician making the endorsement can also gain something from the interaction, especially if they back the right horse.

"They're ingratiating themselves with the next occupant of the Oval Office," Climer said. "That can be beneficial both for you and your constituents."

The best example might be former S.C. House Speaker David Wilkins, who endorsed George W. Bush in 2000 and ended up being named the U.S. ambassador to Canada.

"That was phenomenal for South Carolina," Climer said. "That shows it can make a difference."

Some candidates have fallen by the wayside even after earning a local endorsement. Among the area's legislative delegation, state Reps. Greg Delleney of Chester and Dennis Moss of Cherokee County both endorsed

Mike Huckabee, who dropped out after a ninth-place finish in Iowa, as did Martin O'Malley on the Democratic side, who was backed by Sen. Vincent Sheheen of Camden.

U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney of Indian Land doubted the power of his endorsement after his friend, U.S. Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, gave up his quest for the nomination after the Iowa caucuses.

"I endorsed one guy and it didn't help," Mulvaney said. "I don't know why Ted Cruz or Donald Trump would want my endorsement."

In the meantime, voters will have a lot of other recommendations to go through, from congress-

men, senators, national and local leaders. But if early results in this cam-

paign season are any indication, the voters are going to make up their minds even without a nod from someone important.

"When you really start gaining traction," Whisonant said. "That matters a lot more than endorsements."

Bristow Marchant:
 803-329-4062,
 @BristowatHome

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VOTERS ON THE
REPUBLICAN SIDE
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Political science
professor Michael Bitzer
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Notable endorsements

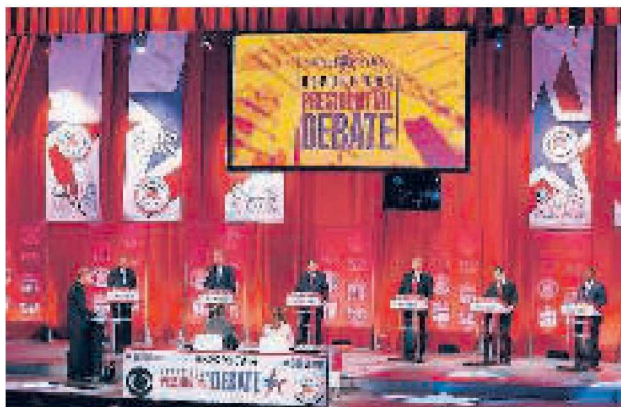
REPUBLICANS

- Jeb Bush: York Co. Sheriff Bruce Bryant, S.C. Rep. Ralph Norman of Rock Hill, U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, State Education Superintendent Molly Spearman, former Congressman Henry Brown
- Ben Carson: Pat White, Fort Mill school board chairman; Helena Miller, Rock Hill school board
- Ted Cruz: U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan, former Attorney General Charlie Condon
- Mike Huckabee*: S.C. Rep. Greg Delleney of Chester, S.C. Rep. Dennis Moss of Cherokee County
- John Kasich: S.C. Sen. Greg Gregory of Lancaster
- Rand Paul*: U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney of Indian Land
- Marco Rubio: U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy, U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, Gov. Nikki Haley
- Donald Trump: Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster

DEMOCRATS

- Hillary Clinton: S.C. Rep. John King of Rock Hill, S.C. Sen. Creighton Coleman of Winnsboro, former U.S. Rep. John Spratt of York, S.C. Rep. Mandy Powers Norrell of Lancaster, Rock Hill Mayor Doug Echols, York County Councilman William "Bump" Roddey, U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, former Gov. Dick Riley, former Gov. Jim Hodges, former S.C. Rep. and 2014 Lt. Gov. candidate Bakari Sellers
- Martin O'Malley*: S.C. Sen. and 2010, 2014 Gov. candidate Vincent Sheheen of Camden
- Bernie Sanders: Chester Mayor George Caldwell, former S.C. Democratic chairman Dick Harpootlian

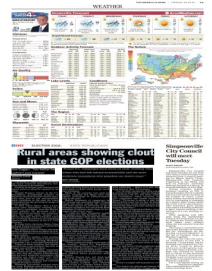
*Campaigns suspended



JOHN BAZEMORE AP

Republican presidential candidates, from left, Ohio Gov. John Kasich, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, businessman Donald Trump, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson participate in a debate at the Peace Center in Greenville.

Title: **Rural areas showing clout in state GOP elections**
 Author: ANDREW SHAIN THE STATE
 Size: 63.08 square inch
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Rural areas showing clout in state GOP elections

Joe Dugan: 'You better be upfront and honest'

ANDREW SHAIN
THE STATE

The areas of South Carolina influencing major statewide Republican elections appears to be shifting.

Clout is no longer just coming from major cities or specific regions of the state.

Donald Trump's victory in the S.C. Republican presidential primary on Saturday marked the third major statewide race won by the non-establishment candidate in the past six years with help from the growing leverage of rural counties.

In 2010, Nikki Haley, then a backbench state lawmaker running as a Tea Party candidate, won the Republican primary for governor over a state attorney general and congressman. Two years later, former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich upset the eventual Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney in the S.C. GOP primary.

In those three elections, Haley, Gingrich and Trump each won the vote in 14 of South Carolina's counties.

The largest is Horry County, the home of Myrtle Beach where an influx of retirees have added their own brands of fiscal conservatism.

But most are smaller, rural counties that rank among the state's poorest and least educated — including Marlboro, Clarendon, Lee, Union and Chesterfield.

Voters in those counties feel disconnected from a government that feel no longer pay attention to them.

"Future South Carolina campaigns must focus on rural, working-class voters who feel left behind economically and the more moderate transplants who populate our state's coast," S.C. GOP Chairman Matt Moore said. "It's a very new and unique coalition that powered Donald Trump to victory."

Winthrop University political sci-

entist Scott Huffman noted findings in a statewide poll that he conducted in December showing Trump supporters were more likely to think white people faced discrimination.

Many of the counties won each by Trump, Gingrich and Haley have the highest percentage of African-Americans in the state.

Before thousands of supporters in S.C. arenas and convention halls, Trump would talk about making the country safe from threats by terrorists or government regulators. He was not the first candidate to address these fears to S.C. voters in the recent years.

"I would say these 'threatened' people had latched on to the Tea Party in 2010 — which helped Haley there after the (Sarah) Palin endorsement — and were channeling the anger against the establishment for not standing up for them in their 2012 anti-GOP establishment vote," Huffman said. "This anger festered after the failure of the GOP establishment candidate to take out Obama in 2012 and has found an outlet with Trump."

After following who had the most endorsements and advertisements in major races over the years, S.C. GOP voters have more recently preferred candidates who promise to overhaul politics in Washington and Columbia.

"These people are angry at the state of the country," former S.C. Republican chairman Katon Dawson said. "I want to be a maverick Republican. I want nothing to do with (the establishment)."

Winning support from the state's biggest political names guarantees little anymore.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush had support from the bulk of the state's Republican establishment, including U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, and finished fourth in the S.C. primary before dropping out of the race. Rubio received en-

dorsements from three top S.C. Republican politicians — Haley, U.S. Sen. Tim Scott and U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy.

"For all their popularity, Rubio came in second on Saturday," said Joe Dugan, who produces the S.C. Tea Party Coalition Convention, which attracted six GOP candidates last month including Trump. "Everyone is going to join the Marco Rubio train, but we saw (in South Carolina) more people climbing onto the train on the other track that's going in the opposite direction."

The Trump, Gingrich and Haley victories showed that candidates can win with a broad base of support across the state. U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, did not win with the evangelical voters that he targeted. Trump, who was known as the most religious candidate, did.

Future campaigns, starting with the 2018 governor's race, could look different.

"It might not mean the end of traditional South Carolina campaign strategies, but it certainly does mean re-considering the assumptions about what motivates voters," Moore said.

Huffman said the New York billionaire's victory showed many voters are not pleased Washington did not change under the Tea Party revolution of 2010. Candidates will have come more to do in future S.C. races.

"You still need to build coalitions that include those groups," Huffman said. "Even though your coalition may have more of one than another doesn't mean you can ignore the others. What this election showed, if anything, is that conservative voters are sick of being pandered to, then ignored until the next election cycle."

Trump's straight-talk appealed to voters.

"You better be upfront and honest or they're going to find out," Dugan said.



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“Future S.C. campaigns must focus on rural, working-class voters who feel left behind economically and the more moderate transplants who populate our state's coast.”

MATT MOORE

STATE GOP CHAIRMAN

Title: **Pastor to oppose Scott for Senate re-election**

Author:

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**Pastor to oppose Scott
for Senate re-election**

CHARLESTON - A North Charleston pastor is challenging U.S. Sen. Tim Scott in his bid for re-election. Thomas A. Dixon announced his decision at a news conference Monday. In a news release, Dixon said he is a "tireless advocate" and will work to reach out to people who feel they are underrepresented. Dixon is a community activist and Democrat. Scott is a Republican and has served since 2013, when he was appointed by Gov. Nikki Haley following the resignation of Jim DeMint. The following year, Scott was elected to the remaining two years of DeMint's term, becoming the first black to win a statewide race in South Carolina since the Reconstruction era. — AP

Title: **State chamber calls out Senate**
 Author: TIM SMITH TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM
 Size: 74.86 square inch
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State chamber calls out Senate

Cites crashes on I-85, failing roads while Senate debates

TIM SMITH

TCSMITH@GREENVILLENEWS.COM

COLUMBIA – The state's business community has heard enough of a Senate filibuster on roads and wants senators to begin voting on something this week.

The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce on Monday asked members to contact senators and demand that they begin voting, citing accidents on Interstate 85 in the Upstate as one reason the state cannot afford to wait any longer.

"There is a wreck every three hours on I-85 in South Carolina," the chamber told its members. "That means, while our state senators debate, eight accidents are happening per day, 56 accidents are happening per week, 240 accidents per month just on I-85 alone. All the while, our state senators continue to debate, filibuster and kick the can down the road."

The plea came on the eve of the Senate returning to a filibuster that began last week by Sen. Tom Davis of Beaufort, who

wants the Senate to give control of the state Department of Transportation to the governor and to overhaul the State Transportation Infrastructure Bank.

One reason no senator has moved to stop Davis from talking, what lawmakers call cloture, is that there is no consensus yet on any plan, including restructuring DOT, senators told *The Greenville News*.

"There's a reluctance to vote cloture on a fellow senator unless there is some end game and I don't see the end game yet," Senate Majority Leader Harvey Peeler of Gaffney said.

If the Senate can work out agreement on DOT governance, he said "the filibuster can take care of itself."

But even his caucus is not united on a governance plan, he said.

One plan passed out by the Senate Transportation Committee would have the state's 10 regional Council of Gov-

ernments each nominate three names to

See CHAMBER, Page 4A

Chamber

Continued from Page 1A

the governor, who would then pick one of them to be a highway commissioner from each area. The commissioners would then have to be screened by a legislative committee and confirmed by the Senate.

The House, in its roads bill passed last April, proposed having the governor appoint highway commissioners from each congressional district.

Currently, legislative delegations in each congressional district choose seven of DOT's eight commissioners, with the governor picking the eighth.

Some senators want to do away with the commission, while others want the commissioners picked from DOT engineering districts.

Sen. Lee Bright, a Spartanburg County Republican whose filibuster last year led to more money for county transportation committees, said he wants to see more of a statewide perspective on road funding from the DOT board.

"What many of us are pushing for is for the governor to appoint with Senate oversight," he said.

He predicted the filibuster could last more than this week.

Sen. Joel Lourie, a Columbia Democrat, said he is optimistic the Senate will start taking some votes this week.

"Our hope is that we get to the point where we start taking some votes and start meshing together hopefully the compromise of a roads bill," he said.

But if that doesn't happen in the next two weeks, he said the Senate could simply address road needs this year in the budget instead of a comprehensive bill.

Gov. Nikki Haley last year told lawmakers she would support a 10-cent gas tax increase if they also scrapped the current method of picking highway commissioners and offered a reduction in the state's income tax.

Sen. John Courson, a Columbia Republican, said he would insist on a tax neutral plan but said he would also go along with a plan that would use the state's new \$1.3 billion surplus toward roads instead of a raised gas tax.

Sen. Kevin Bryant, an Anderson Republican, said what his constituents want is a restructured DOT and use the \$1.3

billion to pay for road and bridge needs.

He said there is no consensus on any plan, including restructuring.

"I support a straight-up cabinet agency," he said. "But I don't see the votes to pass that. If somebody assured Davis we had the votes, he might voluntarily sit down. But I don't think that is going to happen unless folks change their mind."

He said if no agreement can be reached on restructuring, he would like to see the bill fail and use the new money towards roads for country transportation committees.

Peeler said his constituents want their roads fixed using new money instead of a gas tax increase.

He said some senators are talking about just adopting the House-passed bill "and see how many House members would have heart attacks." There also is talk of a plan, he said, to borrow money through bonds for interstate work and use the money that would have been spent there on secondary roads.

He said it is possible the Senate may elect to fund roads this year through the budget, using the surplus funds.

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“That may be where we are headed,” he said. “It’s according to who you talk to and when you talk to them. One day they are frustrated and say to heck with it. And others days they want to charge the hill.”

State Chamber of Commerce President Ted Pitts said businesses are tired

of all the talk on roads but no votes.

“The Senate needs to pass a roads bill this week,” he said. “South Carolinians are tired of hearing our senators tell us they agree that we need to fix our unsafe roads and structurally deficient bridges, but then never seeing a vote on

the issue. The business community is taking notice of the Senate’s continued inaction and we urge senators to do their job and vote to pass a roads package that increases funding, holds the DOT accountable, and fixes our roads and bridges once and for all.”



STAFF FILE

South Carolina’s roads are crumbling and a comprehensive reform plan still isn’t in place.

Title: **HALEY WOULD BE A GOOD VP CANDIDATE, RUBIO SAYS**
Author:
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HALEY WOULD BE A GOOD VP CANDIDATE, RUBIO SAYS

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.

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.

"She is incredibly talented," Rubio said. "I think she is going to be on the top of everyone's list (for vice president)."

Rubio noted that Haley is still busy being governor of the state and has young children, but "whoever the nominee is — and I think it is going to be me — she is someone that people are going to be paying attention to."

— Paul Singer



Title: **The endorsement by Nikki**

Author:

Size: 1.86 square inch

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“The endorsement by Nikki Haley was a big deal. ... I was kind of riding the fence, and with everything that’s going on in South Carolina, I trust her – that’s kind of a big deal for me.”

— **Jason Sims, 33, a teacher from Mount Pleasant who voted for Marco Rubio**

Title: **Rubio, Cruz battle for second spot**
 Author: BY DAN BROWN dbrown @fickenstandard. com
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Rubio, Cruz battle for second spot

BY DAN BROWN

dbrown@aikenstandard.com

Business mogul Donald Trump rolled through the South Carolina Republican primary Saturday, winning both Aiken County and the state easily over runners-up Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz.

In South Carolina, Trump took 32.4 percent of the vote, compared to 31 percent of the vote in Aiken County. Florida Sen. Marco Rubio narrowly edged out Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, with 22.4 percent in South Carolina and Cruz at 22.2 percent.

In Aiken County, Cruz beat Rubio with 24 percent to Rubio's 23 percent.

Speaking at his victory rally

able people."

But Trump didn't leave the stage before taking jabs at South Carolina's Gov.

in Spartanburg. Trump told supporters he is looking forward to the weeks and months ahead as the primary season shoulders onward following his second straight primary win after New Hampshire.

"I want to begin by thanking the people of South Carolina," he said.

"These are very special people here. ... This is a movement. It's an incredible movement with incred-

Nikki Haley, who recently endorsed Rubio for president.

"The lieutenant governor of South Carolina endorsed us early on in the process," Trump said of Henry McMaster, who publicly endorsed Trump for president early on. "I will take the lieutenant governor of South Carolina over the governor of South Carolina any day of the week."

From here, Trump stops today for a quick speech in Atlanta, then heads to Nevada for Monday's Republican caucus before Super Tuesday on March

Please see **TRUMP**, Page 15A

INSIDE

Jeb Bush suspends campaign, **6A**

I want to begin by

thanking the people of South Carolina. These are very special people here.

Donald Trump

TRUMP

CONTINUED from 1A

I, where much of the Southern states will cast their vote. He brings with him a victory given to him by voters angry at the federal government, voters who support a temporary ban on Muslims entering the U.S. and delegates, according to the latest opinion poll.

In an exit poll conducted by Edison Research for The Associated Press and television networks, Trump was backed by nearly four in 10 voters angry at the federal government, and a third of those who feel betrayed. Trump did

best with older voters, men, those without a college degree and veterans.

The poll also said about three-quarters of the state's Republican primary voters support a temporary ban on Muslims who are not U.S. citizens entering the U.S.

Trump also won a majority of the delegates in the state's primary — at least 38 of the 50, according to the poll.

Of the 112,686 registered voters in Aiken County, 28,788 ballots were cast. But in South Carolina, numbers

this primary exceeded those in 2012, with more than 700,000 people casting ballots in the Saturday Republican primary, surpassing the 650,000 people many, including State Republican Party Chairman Matt Moore, predicted, according to the AP.

Despite only 25 percent turnout locally, Aiken GOP Chairman K.T. Ruthven said he wasn't disappointed.

Voter turnout included couple Rusty and Susan Risher, who arrived to their polling location, along with

their 6-month-old daughter, Caroline.

Rusty said he couldn't remember when a primary had so much "nasty mudslinging."

"You just wonder what that does to the American voter," he said. "Once the dust has settled, and you get your two (presidential) candidates, maybe you can forget all that. But it's frustrating."

On the best ground game,

Ruthven said it was very hard to say which GOP candidate had the best, but a majority of

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inquiries to the Aiken GOP were for Trump yard signs.

"Trump was definitely No. 1," Ruthven said. "As far as employees, I think Cruz was second and then as far as a late surge of enthusiasm, I think that was Rubio."

Though former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush took nearly 8 percent of the vote in South Carolina, compared to 7.1 percent for retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson and 7.6 percent for Ohio Gov. John Kasich, Bush ended his White House bid, telling supporters he stood his ground throughout his campaign, "refusing to bend with the political winds."

In Aiken County, Bush saw 4 percent of the vote, com-

pared to Carson with 9 percent and Kasich with nearly 7 percent.

"I expected this to be just about what it was. Trump had a fairly commanding lead in Aiken County, it was just more of a question of where Cruz and Rubio were going to end up," Ruthven said. "I figured the bottom of the card would end up just as it did."

Leaving his stage Saturday night, Trump parted by saying he appreciated the people of South Carolina in setting the tone for the next two months.

"We will never forget you South Carolina," he said. "You are incredible people."

For the Aiken GOP, Ruthven said "I can go clean up at the office."

"We're not going to see any candidates really come back, because right now, the next thing is in October to very early November. We're going to have a get-out-the-vote drive, and come summertime, whoever the nominee is, we will be working full-time for them," Ruthven said. "Right now it's about getting the Republican vote out, and as far as the primary, Aiken County and South Carolina are going to be off the radar for another four to eight years."

Aiken County had no outstanding polling numbers Saturday; however, mail-in

absentee ballots, not walk-ins, were not included in the final number.

Kay McIver, Aiken County Election Commission chairwoman, said the ballot reader responsible for reading mailed-in paper absentee ballots broke down and the paper absentee ballots would not be included in the final tally.

The remaining absentee votes will be counted at 8:30 a.m. Thursday.

Dan Brown is the government reporter for the *Aiken Standard*. Digital News Editor **Maayan Schechter** contributed to this report.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BENGTON

Saturday afternoon around Aiken County found voters taking part in the Republican primary, with New York businessman Donald Trump winning a lopsided victory in South Carolina.

Title: **Trump triumphs in SC GOP primary**
 Author: BY JILL COLVIN AND THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press
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PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Trump triumphs in SC GOP primary

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush drops out of the race after a dismal finish

Second place fight between Rubio, Cruz too close to call by press time

Trump again promises to eliminate health care law, get Mexico to pay for border wall

BY JILL COLVIN AND THOMAS BEAUMONT

Associated Press
SPARTANBURG

Donald Trump scored his second straight Republican presidential primary win, rolling

to victory in South Carolina on Saturday as voters seething about Washington and politicians helped propel the billionaire businessman past GOP establishment candidates.

One of Trump's favorite targets, former Florida Gov. Jeb

Bush, finally threw in the towel, suspending his campaign after a dismal finish. "Thank you for

FROM PAGE 1A

TRIUMPHS

backing of Gov. Nikki Haley, Sen. Tim Scott and Rep. Trey Gowdy; Cruz got the support of former Gov. Mark Sanford, now a House member.

Exit polls showed 4 in 10 voters angry about how Washington is working, and more than half saying they felt betrayed by politicians in the Republican Party.

"I don't like politicians," said Jim Jaruszewicz, a 37-year-old radiology technician who

the opportunity to run for the greatest office on the face of the earth," an emotional Bush told his supporters.

Two freshmen senators — Ted Cruz of Texas and Marco Rubio of Florida — were battling for second place, which would give them bragging rights but might not get them any delegates in the march to the nomination.

In a family-affair victory speech, Trump ticked off his policy promises, vowing to terminate President Barack Obama's health care law and get

Mexico to pay for a wall at the border.

"We're going to start winning for our country because our country doesn't win anymore," said Trump, with his wife, Melania, and daughter Ivanka at his side.

The two-three finish of Cruz and Rubio undercut the value of some coveted South Carolina endorsements. Rubio had the

SEE TRIUMPHS, 5A

Unofficial results

41 of 46 counties reporting:

- Donald Trump: 32.46%
- Marco Rubio: 22.47%
- Ted Cruz: 22.25%
- Jeb Bush: 7.98%
- John Kasich: 7.69%
- Ben Carson: 7.16%

ONLINE

For detailed results, go to islandpacket.com.

voted for Trump. "I don't trust politicians."

Trump's victory capped a week in which he called rivals liars, blamed House Speaker Paul Ryan for the GOP's loss in the 2012 presidential race, and even tangled with Pope Francis.

He was backed by nearly 4 in 10 of those who are angry at the federal government, and a third of those who feel betrayed. He did best with men, older voters, those without

a college degree and veterans.

About three-quarters of Republican primary voters support a temporary ban on Muslims who are not U.S. citizens from entering the United States. Nearly 4 in 10 of those voters backed Trump, while a third who oppose such a ban preferred Rubio.

Trump won a majority of the delegates in the South Carolina primary — at least 38 of the 50 — and has a chance to win them

all.

Trump leads the overall race for delegates with 55. Ted Cruz has 11 delegates, Marco Rubio has 10, John Kasich has five, Jeb Bush has 4 and Ben Carson has three.

It takes 1,237 delegates to win the Republican nomination for president.

While the real estate magnate scored a decisive win in New Hampshire, his second-place finish in Iowa to Cruz illustrated gaps in his less-than-ro-

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bust ground operation, and questions remain about the extent to which he can translate leads in preference polls and large rally crowds into votes.

Trump's win Saturday could answer some of those questions, adding momentum going into the collection of Southern states that will vote March 1.

The election followed days of hostility between the campaigns and their

allies at events and in television ads, automatic calls and mailers.

Trump added to the drama, spending the week threatening to sue Cruz, accusing former President George W. Bush of lying and sparring with Pope Francis over immigration.

At his final election-eve rally Friday night in North Charleston, Trump told the widely discredited story of Gen. John Pershing, who was said to have

halted Muslim attacks in the Philippines in the early 1900s by shooting the rebels with bullets dipped in pigs' blood.

The exit polling of voters was conducted for The Associated Press and the television networks by Edison Research.

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WE'RE GOING TO

**START WINNING
FOR OUR
COUNTRY BECAUSE
OUR COUNTRY
DOESN'T WIN
ANYMORE.**

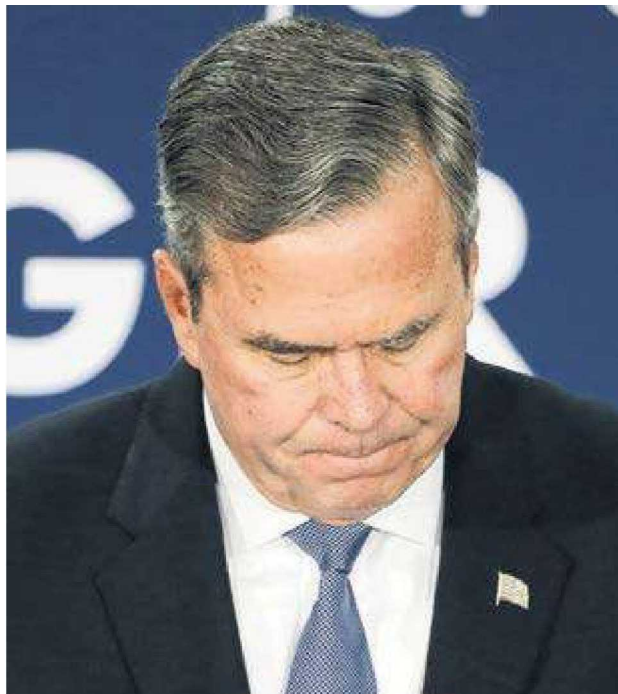
Donald Trump



PAUL SANCYA AP

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a South Carolina Republican primary night event in Spartanburg on Saturday. Trump claimed a big victory in South Carolina's Republican primary Saturday, deepening his hold on the party's presidential field as the contest moved into the South.

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MATT ROURKE AP

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush speaks at his South Carolina Republican presidential primary rally in Columbia on Saturday. Bush has dropped out of the race.