

Title: **Schoolaccountability**  
 Author:  
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## School accountability

Lawmakers like to debate whether public schools need more money. Some talk about how “throwing money at problems” won’t fix them. Others acknowledge that paying staff, providing facilities and offering educational programs all cost money — and even more money when those things are increased.

A well-informed governor who has closely overseen the superintendent and education department and who might conclude that additional state money needs to go to schools is more likely to strike a chord with the legislators who need to approve those funds.

And, conversely, the governor would be in a good position to determine if requests for more money are not necessary, or are not being directed correctly.

Gov. Nikki Haley and Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman called on

lawmakers in November to support upcoming bills that would make the top education job part of the governor’s Cabinet. The job is a Cabinet position in all but 13 states.

“Instead of moving the state forward with a common vision for education priorities, this divided leadership structure can result in incompatible positions, a lack of coordination and fragmented accountability for failures in our Pre K-12 education system,” Mrs. Haley told them....

In its Abbeville opinion, the Supreme Court said that education was one of the most important functions of state government.

Putting the superintendent in the governor’s cabinet should allow the state’s efforts to be more efficient, more coherent and more effective in educating children. It’s time to make the change.

— *Post & Courier*  
 Charleston

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## Haley's leadership

(Gov. Nikki) Haley played a key role in pressing for the removal of the Confederate battle flag shortly after the fatal shooting of nine Charleston church parishioners by a white supremacist.

The governor was really on her game during Hurricane Matthew. We were extremely impressed with how she balanced serenity with seriousness in communicating the dangers of the approaching storm.

She didn't tell South Carolinians not to be stupid. She didn't say this storm will kill you. Her poise under pressure exuded leadership, a refreshing break from the normal chest thumping we see from governors who resort to rhetoric.

Perhaps these were the qualities President-elect Donald Trump saw in Haley ....

True, we've butted heads at times with Gov. Haley over her confrontational and occa-

sional single-mindedness on public policy issues.

But no leader enjoys universal adulation, nor should they. Part of being a leader is sticking close to one's ideals and responding to critics.

Nobody can accuse Haley of waffling or flip-flopping. We knew where she stood. Her leadership during potentially dark times shined a

bright light on South Carolina, and we've no doubt she'll represent America admirably in the U.N.

— Aiken Standard

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**HER LEADERSHIP  
 DURING  
 POTENTIALLY DARK  
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Title: **Legislators ready to work with dealmaker McMaster**  
 Author: BY AVERY G. WILKS [awilks@thestate.com](mailto:awilks@thestate.com)  
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## LEGISLATURE

# Legislators ready to work with dealmaker McMaster

BY AVERY G. WILKS

[awilks@thestate.com](mailto:awilks@thestate.com)

COLUMBIA

After 14 years of combative Govs. Mark Sanford and Nikki Haley, S.C. lawmakers are ready for a deal-maker.

They think they have one in soon-to-be Gov. Henry McMaster, a Ronald Reagan Republican, former U.S. attorney and state attorney general known for using his deep Southern drawl to build a consensus.

"He's pragmatic," said state

Rep. Greg Delleney, R-Chester. "He gets people together to reach compromises. He doesn't dig into one position, and you're either with him or you're not."

Publicly, S.C. lawmakers offer mostly guarded assessments of Haley and their optimism about McMaster, who will ascend to the governor's office once Haley is confirmed as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations in a few weeks.

Privately, however, some are giddy to trade in Haley — a 44-year-old Republican who bashed lawmakers in the GOP-controlled Legislature on Facebook and in their hometowns, offered failing "grades" to those who disagreed with her and told a real estate group to "take a good shower" after visiting the



With 2 empty House seats, a look at past resignations in S.C. Legislature. **3A**

SEE MCMASTER, 9A

FROM PAGE 1A

## MCMASTER

State House — for McMaster, a GOP governor they think will work with them.

An S.C. Republican Party mainstay over the past four decades, the 69-year-old McMaster has stayed silent on the top issues facing South Carolina since Haley's nomination as U.N. ambassador. He declined to comment for this story through a spokesman.

But lawmakers hope a different approach in the governor's office proves to be the missing ingredient to finding solutions to the state's crumbling roads, improving the education of rural S.C. students and fixing the state's underfunded pension system.

Some say they look

forward to working with McMaster, a governor with no future political aspirations or need to appease outside groups that could help him climb the ladder to higher office.

"You think sometimes the 40-year-old governor is a breath of fresh air," said state Sen. Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg. "Having somebody who actually has seen government from many different aspects and has watched over the years, I think he's got an opportunity to be a great governor."

### LINES IN THE SAND

While some lawmakers already are drafting their wish lists, most say they have not heard from the

lieutenant governor about the issues he might champion this year.

State Sen. Kevin Bryant, R-Anderson, said McMaster indicated in a recent conversation that he wants to tackle the roughly \$20 billion in unfunded debt in the state pension system. But that talk was void of specifics, Bryant

said. "That is definitely a priority of his and the Legislature."

However, McMaster's stance on a proposed gas tax increase to repair South Carolina's crumbling roads is a mystery. State Rep. Gary Simrill, a York Republican and outspoken advocate of a gas tax hike, said he plans to speak with McMaster

soon about a roads fix, but hasn't yet.

Some lawmakers say they hope for a governor who will not draw lines in the sand, as Haley did in announcing she would veto any gas tax increase that did not come with a much larger income tax cut.

"When the governor made the remarks she made a couple of years ago in the State of the State, it kind of took the wind out of the sails of us accomplishing what we hoped to accomplish with an infrastructure bill," said state Sen. Thomas McElveen, D-Sumter.

Democrats also hope McMaster, a former legis-

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lative aide to the late U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond, will be more open than Haley to other ideas, such as a bond bill to pay for college repairs and buildings.

"Gov. Haley was very clear on what she would and would not do," said state Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, D-Orangeburg. "I am hopeful that Gov. McMaster might not be as rigid in his thoughts about direction and what public policy issues we ought to deal with or not deal with."

#### **'HE CAN SIT DOWN AND TALK ABOUT ISSUES'**

Lawmakers say they have reason to hope.

McMaster is no longer the political novice who vowed to break up the "good ol' boy" network in his unsuccessful 1990 campaign for S.C. lieutenant governor.

A near-decade running the state GOP, eight years as the state's attorney general and two more as its lieutenant governor have molded the Columbia native into a dealmaker, legislators say.

"He understands the nuances, he understands the personalities, and he has relationships that I think will be important," said state Sen. John Courson, R-Richland.

McMaster has been approachable and a good listener as president of the Senate during the past two years, legislators say.

For example, when Sen. Hutto asked if he could bring a class of USC students to meet the new lieutenant governor, McMaster agreed.

McMaster set out milk and cookies, and spoke to

the students about his political career — President Ronald Reagan, who named McMaster as the U.S. attorney for South Carolina, and Operation Jackpot, the flamboyant anti-drug campaign McMaster oversaw as the state's top federal prosecutor, resulting in more than 100 convictions.

"He spent a ton of time with the students, and they really appreciated it," Hutto recalled.

As evidence that McMaster can collaborate, lawmakers point to his work in 2013 co-chairing a Haley-appointed ethics task force with former Democratic Attorney General Travis Medlock.

"They all sat down and they worked together," said state Sen. Katrina Shealy, R-Lexington. "He can sit down and talk about issues. ... He thinks things through before just saying it. I don't think he's going to get on Twitter and tweet at us," as Haley did.

One of McMaster's best qualities, according to former S.C. Democratic Party chair Dick Harpootlian, is that he can "disagree without being disagreeable."

"In all my dealings with him as chairman of the party, where we were

publicly antagonistic, we had a good time traveling around and playing off each other," Harpootlian said. "Never a mean word, never any finger pointing. He's a good guy."

Harpootlian predicted McMaster will spend more time talking shop with legislators, possibly at the Governor's Mansion or at ball games, rather than giving them report cards

or jabbing them by bringing pigs into the State House, as Sanford did to protest what he said was pork-barrel spending.

"He's a warrior," Harpootlian said of McMaster. "He knows how to make a point. He knows how to work a jury. He knows how to persuade people."

#### **'HE'S GOING TO TRY TO GOVERN'**

McMaster has long wanted to be governor.

That could become one of his greatest strengths, some lawmakers say.

A white-haired governor with no desire to move up the political ladder owes nothing to outside groups who can help with that climb, they say.

"He doesn't have any hidden agendas other than what's best for the people of South Carolina," Rep. Delleney said. "You have Gov. Haley, who has aspirations for higher office. We had Gov. Sanford, who had the same things at the time. But, with Henry, we've got someone who is pragmatic, knows how to get things done, and I think we'll get things done with him."

Being governor is McMaster's end game, some say.

"He's going to try to govern," Harpootlian said. "There's no other job he can run for or would run for. He's got the job he's always wanted."

Avery G. Wilks:  
 803-771-8362,  
 @averygwilks

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**HE'S PRAGMATIC.  
 HE GETS PEOPLE**

**TOGETHER TO REACH COMPROMISES. HE DOESN'T DIG INTO ONE POSITION, AND YOU'RE EITHER WITH HIM OR YOU'RE NOT.**

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#### **Henry McMaster**

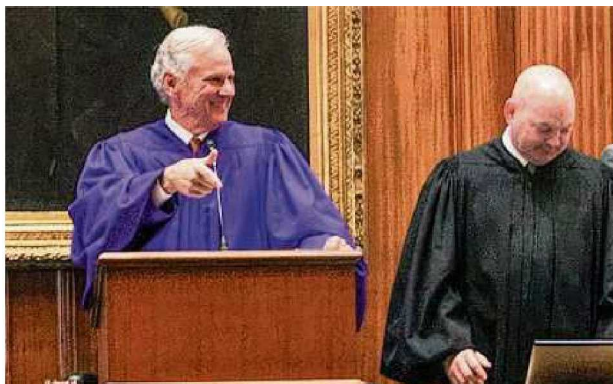
- **Age:** 69
- **Education:** University of South Carolina, bachelor's and law degrees
- **Family:** Married to Peggy McMaster, two children

#### **POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS**

- **2014-present:** S.C. lieutenant governor
- **2010:** Unsuccessfully ran for S.C. governor
- **2003-2011:** S.C. attorney general
- **1993-2002:** Chairman of S.C. Republican Party

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- **1990:** Unsuccessfully ran for S.C. lieutenant governor
- **1981-1985:** U.S. attorney, appointed by President Ronald Reagan
- **1986:** Unsuccessfully ran for the U.S. Senate
- **1973-1974:** Legislative aide to U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond


 TIM DOMINICK [tdominick@thestate.com](mailto:tdominick@thestate.com)

Sen. John Courson, right, gets a laugh from Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster with a teasing remark Tuesday as the 2017 legislative session begins.



Title: **S.C. lieutenant governor succession only seems complicated**  
 Author: By The Editorial Board  
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**COMMENTARY**

# *S.C. lieutenant governor succession only seems complicated*

By The Editorial Board

The governor resigns in the middle of a term and the lieutenant governor takes the No. 1 position – that much is clear – but determining the next lieutenant governor is cloudy because of faulty wording in a constitutional amendment. The S.C. Supreme Court has been asked to straighten out the problem and will hear arguments this week.

This is more than a legal nicety because Gov. Nikki Haley is about to resign – as soon as the U.S. Senate confirms her as ambassador to the United Nations. President-elect Donald Trump named Haley and her confirmation is expected, without much opposition, when the Senate takes up the matter. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster will be sworn in as governor, and South Carolina may be without a lieutenant governor for a period of time. While that may not seem like a great concern, the succession question needs to be resolved sooner, not later.

The state constitution provides that should the lieutenant governor position become vacant, the state senate president pro tempore becomes lieutenant governor. A constitutional amendment, approved in 2014, will put the governor and lieutenant governor candidates on the same ticket beginning in the 2018 election. However, the ratification wording, approved by

the General Assembly, does not specify 2018 as the starting date for the governor to appoint a lieutenant governor when the post is vacant.

S.C. Sen. Tom Davis of Beaufort in December asked the Supreme Court for a ruling that a governor cannot appoint a lieutenant governor until after the 2018 election. Should the court so decide, the president pro tempore, Sen. Hugh Leatherman of Florence, would become lieutenant governor. And there's a catch. Leatherman has made clear he will not be lieutenant governor. He would not give up his powerful Senate positions, including chairmanship of the Finance Committee, which has a big say in the state budget.

Leatherman has been a state senator since 1981 and wielded great power in state government even before he added the pro tem position in 2014. A bit of background is instructive. Lt. Gov. Glenn F. McConnell resigned; Senate President Pro Tem John Courson resigned (so he would not have to be lieutenant governor); Sen. Yancey McGill was elected president pro tempore and became lieutenant governor; Leatherman took the additional pro tem position. McConnell was Senate pro tem, moving to the lieutenant governor position when Ken Ard resigned in 2012.

Leatherman was re-elected pro tem in December, knowing Haley likely would be resigning, but

saying he would not be lieutenant governor. The cagey Leatherman asked the Supreme Court to hold off on the succession question until Haley actually resigns and McMaster is sworn in as governor. Leatherman evidently has his own plan: to temporarily resign as pro tem, stepping aside for Sen. Kevin Bryant of Anderson, who would be pro tem only long enough to become lieutenant governor; then Leatherman would be newly elected pro tem. It will be interesting to see if any senators have the nerve to challenge Leatherman.

Should the Supreme Court decide McMaster can name a new lieutenant governor, Leatherman's set to continue to rule the senate and exercise his considerable power in determining the future of South Carolina.

**A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT, APPROVED IN 2014, WILL PUT THE GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CANDIDATES ON THE SAME TICKET BEGINNING IN THE 2018 ELECTION.**

Title: **S.C. lawmakers giddy to work with key dealmaker**  
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## STATE GOVERNMENT

# S.C. lawmakers giddy to work with key dealmaker

BY AVERY G. WILKS  
[awilks@thestate.com](mailto:awilks@thestate.com)

### COLUMBIA

**A**fter 14 years of combative Govs. Mark Sanford and Nikki Haley, S.C. lawmakers are ready for a dealmaker.

**State Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, D-Orangeburg**

who will ascend to the governor's office once Haley is confirmed as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations in a few weeks.

Privately, however, some are giddy to trade in Haley – a 44-year-old Republican who bashed lawmakers in the GOP-controlled Legislature on Facebook and in their hometowns, offered failing “grades” to those who disagreed with her and told a real estate group to “take a good shower” after visiting the State House – for McMaster, a GOP governor they think will work with them.

An S.C. Republican Party mainstay over the past four decades, the 69-year-old McMaster has stayed silent on the top issues facing South Carolina since Haley's

nomination as U.N. ambassador. He declined to comment for this story through a spokesman.

But lawmakers hope a different approach in the governor's office proves to be the missing ingredient to finding solutions to the state's crumbling roads,

improving the education of rural S.C. students and fixing the state's underfunded pension system.

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While some lawmakers already are drafting their wish lists, most say they have not heard from the lieutenant governor about the issues he might cham-

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Publicly, S.C. lawmakers offer mostly guarded assessments of Haley and their optimism about McMaster,

SEE MCMASTER, 2C

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FROM PAGE 1C

## MCMASTER

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Lawmakers say they have reason to hope.

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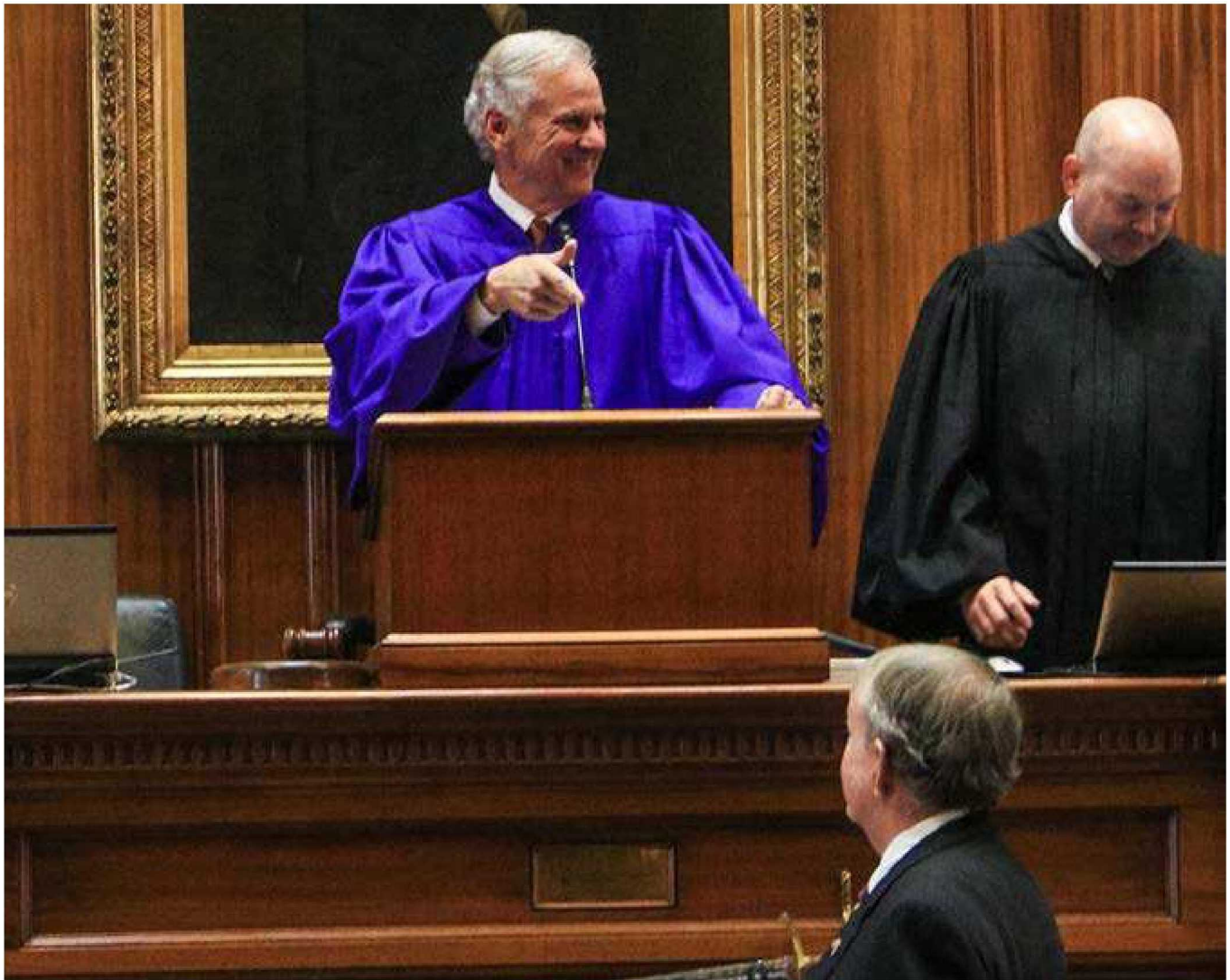
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TIM DOMINICK [tdominick@thestate.com](mailto:tdominick@thestate.com)

The South Carolina 2017 legislative session started on Tuesday. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster began his last days presiding over the state Senate before taking over as governor. Here, Sen. John Courson teases McMaster.

Title: **Suddenly, intrigue over an office of little intrigue**

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CINDI ROSS SCOPPE • ASSOCIATE EDITOR

# *Suddenly, intrigue over an office of little intrigue*

**A** FAVORITE parlor game in Columbia — aside from guessing which legislator will be indicted next — concerns prognostications about the legal battle over the next lieutenant governor, about which there are three insufficiently understood points:

- There could be a lot more at stake

than whether the Senate president pro tempore assumes the office or Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster appoints his replacement if he succeeds Nikki Haley as governor.

- The convoluted language lawmakers passed in 2014 to change how vacancies are filled was not an accident.

- We wouldn't be talking about this but for what one former Senate leader calls "the Jake Knotts gift that keeps on giving."

At issue is whether governors get to fill vacancies in the office now, as the official version of the state constitution says, or not until the end of 2018, as voters overwhelmingly approved in a 2012 referendum. On Wednesday, the state Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in a lawsuit brought by Sen. Tom Davis, which argues (as everyone agrees) that what's in the constitution is wrong. The question is what happens as a result of that.

Former Senate Judiciary Chairman Larry Martin argues

that if the court concludes that the Legislature improperly ratified the change, it won't simply clarify that the Senate president pro tem becomes lieutenant governor if Gov. Haley becomes U.N. ambassador.

"If they declare the ratification is defective, the new amendment will never go into effect," and lieutenant governors will continue to be elected separately, Mr. Martin told me. "It's either ratified correctly, or it's ratified incorrectly."

I don't expect such a seismic decision. It's clear that the Legislature did not intend for governors to fill vacancies until 2018, when they also get to start picking their running mates. There are ways the court can acknowl-

edge that without any unintended consequences.

But there is always some risk that a court order *will* have unintended consequences. Since everyone agrees about what the constitution is supposed to say, those consequences could be worse than the unsettling thought of a constitution that for two more years contains language it's not supposed to contain.

For his part, Sen. Davis says he had to take that chance because without a court ruling, any laws passed at least in the next two years, possibly forever, would be subject to legal challenge. When you try to spin out what would have to happen to make that nightmare scenario a reality (and you *really* don't want me to do that), it seems incredibly far-fetched. But it's how Mr. Davis justifies charging that the Legislature "perpetuated a fraud on the public" by

not joining him in his lawsuit.

I and other critics have pinned the problem with the constitution to the fact that Sen. Martin's 2014 bill ratifying the amendment didn't specify that the governor couldn't fill a vacancy until 2018. But Mr. Martin

insists that wasn't needed because the 2014 bill repeatedly referred to the amendment "prepared under the terms of Joint Resolution 289 of 2012" — which *did* include the 2018 effective date. He blames the error on sloppy work by the Legislative Council, which had the ministerial duty of updating the constitution pursuant to his bill. If he's correct, the problem is easily fixable — or ignorable.

Ordinarily he *would* be correct, but there's this one bit of uncertainty: The ballot question itself was drafted ... inartfully.

And this is where we get to what Mr. Martin refers to as "the Jake Knotts gift that keeps on giving." Mr. Knotts, who from 2002 through 2012 served as one of the premiere obstructionists our Senate has ever known, detested Gov. Haley. So he threatened to block the constitutional referendum unless its effective date was delayed until 2018, so she could never pick her running mate. Without that delay, the language in the constitutional referendum would have been perfect, and the 2014 bill would have needed no reference to 2018.

But when Mr. Knotts' delay was added to the ballot question, we ended up with an awkward sentence in which one section begins with the clause, "upon the joint election" of 2018, and is followed by four changes,

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each separated by a semicolon. And a 1931 state Supreme Court opinion said an introductory clause only applies to the language before a semicolon.

For the record, the 1931 court was completely incorrect about the rules of grammar. But of course that doesn't matter; a Supreme Court opinion is the law, unless or until the law is

changed or the court changes its opinion.

Our current court has focused on making sure it does not read any laws in a way that produces an "absurd result" — even when lawmakers intended their results to be absurd. We can only hope it will ignore that bad grammar lesson and apply the same "no absurd result" standard to the

constitution.

Because throwing out the results of the public referendum over what everyone agrees was a simple and likely even ministerial mistake would indeed be absurd.

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*Ms. Scoppe can be reached at [cscoppe@thestate.com](mailto:cscoppe@thestate.com) or at (803) 771-8571.*

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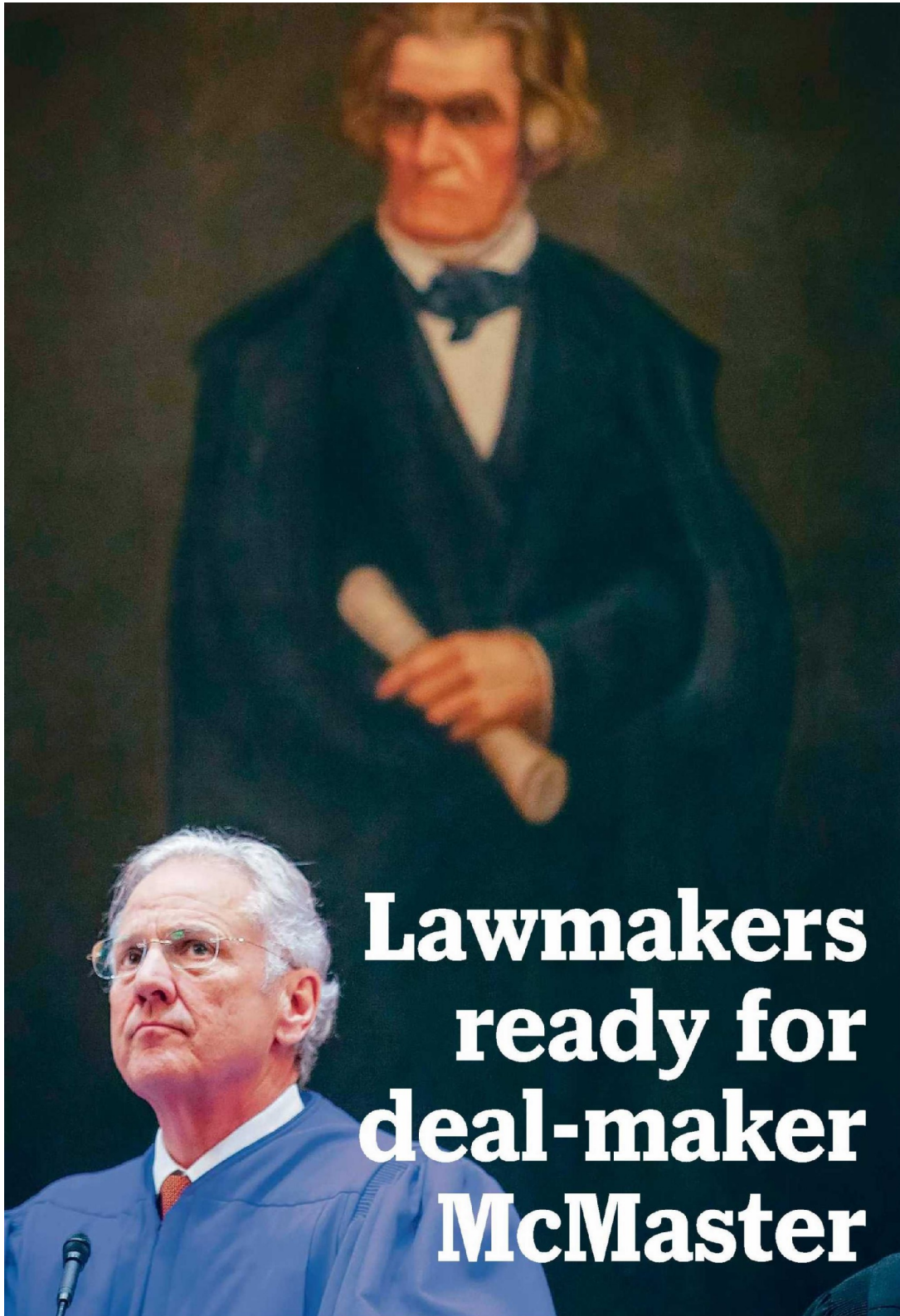


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TIM DOMINICK tdominick@thestate.com

Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster began his last few days presiding over the S.C. Senate last week – as Gov. Nikki Haley departs, he'll soon be assuming new duties in the job he's always wanted: governor.

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## Soon-to-be governor seen as consensus-builder they can get along with

BY AVERY G. WILKS  
 awilks@thestate.com

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They think they have one in soon-to-be Gov. Henry McMaster, a Ronald Reagan Republican, former U.S. attorney and state attorney general known for using his deep Southern drawl to build a consensus.

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**➔ MORE INSIDE**

A look at Donald Trump's key cabinet nominees – and what they say vs. the president-elect, **9A**

President-elect Trump turned already red South Carolina even more Republican: A look at how,

and some of the surprising wheres, **1C**

**SEE DEALS, 7A**

FROM PAGE 1A

## DEALS

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Some lawmakers say they

hope for a governor who will not draw lines in the sand, as Haley did in announcing she would veto any gas tax increase that did not come with a much larger income tax cut.

"When the governor made the remarks she made a couple of years ago in the State of the State, it kind of took the wind out of the sails of us accomplishing what we hoped to accomplish with an infrastructure bill," said state Sen. Thomas McElveen, D-Sumter.

Democrats also hope McMaster, a former legislative aide to the late U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond, will be more open than Haley to other ideas, such as a bond bill to pay for college repairs and buildings.

"Gov. Haley was very clear on what she would and would not do," said state Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, D-Orangeburg. "I am hopeful that Gov. McMaster might not be as rigid in his thoughts about direction and what public policy issues we ought to deal with or not deal with."

### 'HE CAN SIT DOWN AND TALK ABOUT ISSUES'

Lawmakers say they have reason to hope.

McMaster is no longer the



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political novice who vowed to break up the “good ol’ boy” network in his unsuccessful 1990 campaign for S.C. lieutenant governor.

A near-decade running the state GOP, eight years as the state’s attorney general and two more as its lieutenant governor have molded the Columbia native into a deal-maker, legislators say.

“He understands the nuances, he understands the personalities, and he has relationships that I think will be important,” said state Sen. John Courson, R-Richland.

McMaster has been approachable and a good listener as president of the Senate during the past two years, legislators say.

For example, when Sen. Hutto asked if he could bring a class of USC students to meet the new lieutenant governor, McMaster agreed.

McMaster set out milk and cookies, and spoke to the students about his political career – President Ronald Reagan, who named McMaster as the U.S. attorney for South Carolina, and Operation Jackpot, the flamboyant anti-drug campaign McMaster oversaw as the state’s top federal prosecutor, resulting in more than 100 convictions.

“He spent a ton of time with the students, and they really appreciated it,” Hutto recalled.

As evidence that McMaster can collaborate, lawmakers point to his work in 2013 co-chairing a Haley-appointed ethics task force with former Democratic Attorney General Travis Medlock.

“They all sat down and they worked together,” said state Sen. Katrina Shealy, R-Lexington. “He can sit down and talk about issues. ... He thinks things through before just saying it. I don’t think he’s going to get on Twitter and tweet at us,” as Haley did.

One of McMaster’s best qual-

ities, said former S.C. Democratic Party chair Dick Harpootlian, is that he can “disagree without being disagreeable.”

“In all my dealings with him as chairman of the party, where we were publicly antagonistic, we had a good time traveling around and playing off each other,” Harpootlian said. “Never a mean word, never any finger pointing. He’s a good guy.”

Harpootlian predicted McMaster will spend more time talking shop with legislators, possibly at the Governor’s Mansion or at ball games, rather than giving them report cards or jabbing them by bringing pigs into the State House, as Sanford did to protest what he said was pork-barrel spending.

“He’s a warrior,” Harpootlian said of McMaster. “He knows how to make a point. He knows how to work a jury. He knows how to persuade people.”

### ‘HE’S GOING TO TRY TO GOVERN’

McMaster has long wanted to be governor.

That could become one of his greatest strengths, some lawmakers say.

A white-haired governor with no desire to move up the political ladder owes nothing to outside groups who can help with that climb, they say.

“He doesn’t have any hidden agendas other than what’s best for the people of South Carolina,” Rep. Delleney said. “You have Gov. Haley, who has aspirations for higher office. We had Gov. Sanford, who had the same things at the time. But, with Henry, we’ve got someone who is pragmatic, knows how to get things done, and I think we’ll get things done with him.”

Being governor is McMaster’s end game, some say.

“He’s going to try to govern,” Harpootlian said. “There’s no other job he can run for or would run for. He’s got the job he’s always wanted.”

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## Henry McMaster: SC’s perennial best man

*In his political career, S.C. Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster often has been the Palmetto State’s best man, not its bridegroom.*

### THE INFAMOUS DRUG TEST

After being appointed U.S. attorney for South Carolina by President **Ronald Reagan**, McMaster challenged incumbent Democrat **Fritz Hollings** for the U.S. Senate. At the time, Republicans were not South Carolina’s dominant party, and McMaster – hoping to capitalize on his reputation as a drug-busting prosecutor – challenged Hollings to a drug test. Hollings replied, “I’ll take a drug test when you take an I.Q. test.” Hollings won re-election easily.

### FAILED RUN FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

McMaster fared no better in 1990, losing to Democrat **Nick Theodore** in the lieutenant governor’s race.

### ELECTED S.C. ATTORNEY GENERAL

Finally, in 2002, McMaster succeeded politically, winning the first of two consecutive terms as S.C. attorney general by defeating Democrat **Steve Benjamin**, now mayor of Columbia. McMaster was unopposed when he won re-election.

### FAILED BID FOR GOVERNOR, SUCCESSFUL ENDORSEMENT

In 2010, however, McMaster placed third in the GOP primary for governor. Before the Republican runoff, however, McMaster endorsed the front-runner in the GOP primary, then-state Rep. **Nikki Haley**, who went on to win election. Subsequently, Haley appointed her supporter to co-chair a high-profile committee on ethics reform, one of her highest priorities.

### BEATING HALEY’S CANDIDATE

In 2014, McMaster ran again for lieutenant governor, taking on Haley’s favored candidate for the post, developer **Pat McKinney**. McMaster won the GOP nomination in a runoff and defeated Democrat **Bakari Sellers** – more recently, a CNN commentator – in the general election, 59-41.

### ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ENDORSEMENT

As lieutenant governor, McMaster proved once again he could pick a winner, becoming the first statewide-elected politician to endorse **Donald Trump** for the GOP presidential nomination. Subsequently, Trump named McMaster to deliver a presidential nominating speech for the bombastic billionaire at the GOP convention. Then, Trump cleared the way for his supporter to become S.C. governor, nominating Haley – a one-time outspoken Trump critic – to become the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

Staff reports

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## Henry McMaster

*S.C.'s lieutenant governor, who will become governor if Nikki Haley is confirmed as the U.S. ambassador to the United States*

Age: 69

**Education:** University of South Carolina, bachelor's and law degrees

**Family:** Married to Peggy McMaster, two children

### POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS

**2014-present:** S.C. lieutenant

governor

**2010:** Unsuccessfully ran for S.C. governor

**2003-2011:** S.C. attorney general

**1993-2002:** Chairman of S.C. Republican Party

**1990:** Unsuccessfully ran for S.C.

lieutenant governor

**1986:** Unsuccessfully ran for the U.S. Senate

**1981-1985:** U.S. attorney, appointed by President Ronald Reagan

**1973-1974:** Legislative aide to U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond



TIM DOMINICK tdominick@thestate.com

Sen. John Courson gets a laugh from Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster with a teasing remark as the 2017 legislative session begins. Colleagues say McMaster can push his positions while being confrontational.

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# HOLD THAT TIGER

Haley calls on all South Carolinians  
to congratulate Clemson on its title

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — Gov. Nikki Haley is calling on all South Carolinians to congratulate the Clemson Tigers for their national title.

The Clemson graduate designated Saturday as “Clemson Tigers National Football Champions Day.”

Her proclamation encourages “all South Carolinians to join together in

congratulating the Clemson Tigers football team and coaches for their awesome performance” during the 2016 season and Monday’s title game victory over against Alabama.

A Clemson University flag flew over the Statehouse on Tuesday on Haley’s order.

In her farewell State of the State address Wednesday, she said “driving to the Statehouse and raising that orange flag over the Capitol dome with my daughter, Rena, is a memory I will treasure forever.”

Her daughter attends Clemson.

It’s Clemson’s first national football title since 1981.

**More on Clemson’s celebration in Sports, 1B**



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**INSIDE TODAY!**


PHOTOS BY ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clemson head coach Dabo Swinney, right, with his wife Kathleen, and sons, Clay, Drew, and Will ride in a vintage car Saturday during a parade honoring the college football champions in Clemson.

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Clemson alumni and their families march during Saturday's parade.