

Title: **McMaster predicts smooth hand-over from Gov. Haley**
 Author: BY SUSANNE M. SCHAFER Associated Press
 Size: 47.43 column inches
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



McMaster predicts smooth hand-over from Gov. Haley

BY SUSANNE M. SCHAFER
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — As he prepares to take over South Carolina's top job, Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster said Friday there is "much work to be done" on the state's crumbling roads, struggling schools and challenged water supplies, but he shied away from offering any concrete solutions.

"We will make progress, great progress," McMaster predicted in his first public comments since Gov. Nikki Haley was tapped last week to become President-elect Donald Trump's U.N. ambassador. She must be confirmed to the post by the U.S. Senate.

McMaster will assume the governor's role upon Haley's formal resignation. He would serve out the remaining two years of Haley's current term in office.

The lieutenant governor said he and Gov. Haley have staff members meeting in order to plan for the change.

"When she becomes Amba-

sador Haley, we will have a very smooth transition," he said. He declined to answer queries about whom he would like to see serve as his lieutenant governor, and avoided answering a question about whether he'd support an increase in the gas tax to help rebuild the state's roads.

"I think everyone recognizes that our infrastructure, in terms of roads, bridges, highways, are critical to our future, as well as our schools, education, clean water and strong people," McMaster said. "We have much work to be done."

He spoke after standing in for Haley at the governor's annual session with top U.S. military commanders in the state sponsored by her Military Base Task Force. The group was founded to help stave off Pentagon base-closure moves to shed unneeded infrastructure as the size of the uniformed military forces was slashed in the post-Cold War era.

Most of the seven military commanders who spoke asked McMaster for help in getting Congress to reject new Pentagon budget cuts, known by the term "sequestration." Many South Carolina Republican members of Congress have backed the automatic, across-the-board cuts as a means of controlling government spending.

Several of the military commanders also said their service members are looking for improvements in local schools attended by their children.

Although not outright critical of local schools, several officers pointed out that their service families rely on local education because they can't afford private schools. The state's Supreme Court has ruled that South Carolina has denied educational opportunities to poor rural schools and has ordered lawmakers to fix the system.

Fort Jackson commander Maj. Gen. Pete Johnson noted

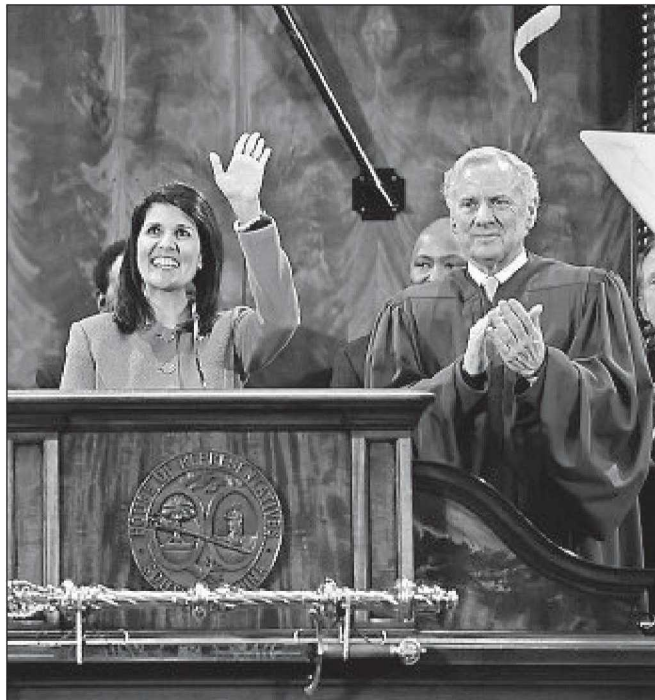
that two-thirds of his military families don't live on his installation, and all service members' middle and high school age children attend local schools.

"Education remains one of the most important factors" for military families as they ponder their constant moves about the country, he said. Military children must transfer six to a dozen times during their early school years, the two-star general said.

Shaw Air Force Base commander Col. Daniel Lasica pointed out that many of his installation's families have chosen to live an hour away in Columbia instead of near the installation so they could have more school choices. Private schools are too expensive for many military families, he said.

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AP FILE PHOTO/RICHARD SHIRO

Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster will take over from South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley if Haley is approved as U.N ambassador under President-elect Donald Trump.

Title: **S.C. roads chairman said McMaster could be an 'infrastructure governor'**
 Author: BY CASSIE COPE ccope@thestate.com
 Size: 23.09 column inches
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



POLITICS

S.C. roads chairman said McMaster could be an 'infrastructure governor'

■ Whether presumptive Gov. Henry McMaster will support an increase to the state's gas tax to pay for road repairs is unknown.

BY CASSIE COPE
ccope@thestate.com

The head of the S.C. Department of Transportation Commission said Thursday he is eager to learn Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster's position on higher spending on the state's roads and bridges.

Whether McMaster will support an increase to the state's gas tax to pay to repair the state's crumbling roads and bridges is unknown.

McMaster is set to become governor if Gov. Nikki Haley is confirmed by the U.S. Senate to become U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. Since Haley's nomi-

nation by President-elect Donald Trump was announced last week, McMaster has been quiet – not responding to media inquiries.

But McMaster could take the lead on addressing the state's crumbling roads and bridges, Transportation commission chairman Mike Wooten said Thursday. "He has a great opportunity to be an 'infrastructure governor,' and we haven't had one in a long time."

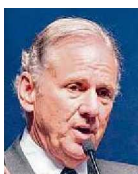
After winning a second term, Gov. Haley endorsed a gas-tax increase but only if it were tied to a much larger income-tax cut. Critics said Haley's plan would have slashed spending on other state services, including education and law enforcement.

Earlier this year, Haley signed a road-spending plan that did not include an increase to the gas tax. However, Haley said that stop-gap plan was "not of the magnitude or sustainability" needed to address the state's highway needs. She added finding a long-term solution would be the state's No. 1 priority when lawmakers returned to Columbia in January for the 2017 legislative session.

"The governor, in a leadership role, can do great things," Wooten said. "I'm hoping that Gov. McMaster, when he is governor, will do that."

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McMaster

Title: **Haley should take a study break**
 Author: By TheHerald Editorial Board
 Size: 36.73 column inches
 Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



OUR VIEW

Haley should take a study break

By The Herald Editorial Board

President-elect Donald Trump reportedly has refused offers from the White House of daily classified intelligence briefings. We hope Gov. Nikki Haley is savvy enough to accept any help she can get in preparing for the challenging post of United Nations ambassador.

The Washington Post reports that a team of intelligence analysts has been prepared to deliver daily briefings on global issues and security threats to Trump during the two weeks since he won. So far, however, he has attended only two briefings.

By contrast, Vice President-elect Mike Pence has arranged to attend nearly all of his briefings.

We are not certain what type of briefings might be offered to Haley, who has been tapped by Trump to serve as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, but she should take advantage of them and other advice she might receive from seasoned foreign policy professionals. She has a chance now to ease off some of her daily official duties as governor to make time to study up for her new job.

One big question facing the governor is how she will square various public opinions she has expressed with differing stances expressed by Trump on the campaign trail. The two notably diverge on the issue of immigration and Muslim immigrants in particular.

In once such instance, the Indian-American governor was chosen to deliver the GOP response to this year's State of the Union speech and used the occasion to take a swipe at Trump.

"Today, we live in a time

of threats like few others in recent memory. During anxious times, it can be tempting to follow the siren call of the angriest voices," she said. "We must resist that temptation. No one who is willing to work hard, abide by our laws, and love our traditions should ever feel unwelcome in this country."

She also vociferously slammed Trump's proposal to ban all Muslims from entering the U.S.: "It's just an embarrassment to the Republican Party," Haley said during a news conference at the Governor's Mansion. "It's absolutely un-American. It's unconstitutional. It defies everything this country was based on, and it's just wrong."

Like many other Republicans, Haley, who originally supported Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida in the Republican primary, has had to back away from many of the critical statements she made about Trump during the primary. In accepting the ambassador's job, she apparently has made peace with Trump and his contrasting beliefs.

But as America's representative to the UN, she is likely to confront any number of sensitive situations involving relations with nations that have large Muslim populations. Her own background as a daughter of Indian immigrants could be a plus in dealing with the racial and ethnic diversity of fellow ambassadors and others at the UN.

But she would be at a severe disadvantage if she is forced to adopt and reflect Trump's views on Muslims and on what he perceives as the disadvantages of admitting immigrants from many nations to the U.S. In short, we wonder whether she will be given the latitude to approach the job based on her own professed beliefs or whether she will merely be expected to serve as a mouthpiece at the UN for the Trump administration.

We hope it will be the former and that she will use this time to expand her knowledge of world affairs before she assumes her new duties.

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Size: 36.73 column inches
Rock Hill, SC Circulation: 34688



Gov. Nikki Haley

Title: The Trenton Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution will hold a wreath placement and proclamation reading

Author:

Size: 4.34 column inches

Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



The Trenton Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution will hold a wreath placement and proclamation reading

sent to the chapter from Gov. Nikki Haley on Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the Aiken Veterans/Memorial Park on Richland Avenue. This commemorative event is in remembrance of those who perished at Pearl Harbor on this date 75 years ago and to honor those few who still remain. "Lest We Forget." The public is cordially invited to attend. For more information, call 803-641-7073.

Title: **rump aces pushback 1 rom allies over Romney**
 Author: BY JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press
 Size: 58.43 column inches
 Aiken, SC Circulation: 19635



Trump faces pushback from allies over Romney

BY JONATHAN LEMIRE

Associated Press

NEW YORK — As President-elect Donald Trump stood on stage during the debut night of his “thank you” tour and teased that he was about to announce a surprise Cabinet pick, some in the Ohio crowd bellowed: “No Romney! No Romney!”

Trump’s administration selections have largely been cheered by close allies and supporters. Many have deep ties to Washington and Wall Street that would seem contradictory to the populist, outsider campaign Trump ran with a promise to “drain the swamp” of corruption and elitism in government.

But the possible selection of Romney, who has been on Trump’s shortlist for secretary of state despite being a forceful critic throughout the campaign, has been met with trepidation from many of the working-class voters that propelled the Republican to his astonishing victory.

Kim Doss loudly cheered Trump at the Cincinnati rally but will not forgive Romney, the 2012 Republican nominee, for the “witch hunt” he held “to make sure Trump wasn’t the nominee.”

“I think he went out of his way to make that happen, which

totally backfired on him,” said Doss, a 46-year-old accountant from Hebron, Kentucky. “He obviously said some really ugly things about (Trump).”

Some of Trump’s most prominent allies, including his campaign manager, have taken the unprecedented step of using national television interviews to bash Romney. And nearly a dozen Trump backers who attended the Ohio victory lap vehemently denounced Romney as a choice to be the nation’s top diplomat.

Then there’s the Russia twist: Russian politicians are concerned about reports that Trump would even consider Romney as secretary of state because of Romney’s harsh stance on Russia. Trump has said he would like to improve U.S.-Russian relations.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview with the NTV channel that Trump’s business accomplishments show him to be a “smart man.”

He added that “if he is a smart man, that means that he will fairly soon become aware of a different level of responsibility. We expect that he act with these considerations in mind.”

Rally-goer Josh Kanowitz said he was willing to give Trump the

benefit of the doubt for some of his establishment-friendly picks — including former Goldman Sachs partner Steve Mnuchin for Treasury secretary — but he

visibly recoiled at the suggestion that Romney would be a team-of-rivals style selection from Trump.

Romney, the GOP’s 2012 president nominee, eviscerated Trump in a March speech, delivering broadsides against the New York businessman who he deemed “a con man” and “a fake.”

“His domestic policies would lead to recession,” said Romney. “His foreign policies would make America and the world less safe. He has neither the temperament nor the judgment to be president and his personal qualities would mean that America would cease to be a shining city on a hill.”

Unlike many establishment Republicans, Romney never wavered in his opposition to Trump during the campaign and did not reveal whether he voted for him. Despite that, Trump, who deeply prizes loyalty and rarely forgives foes, summoned him to his New Jersey golf club last month to interview for secretary of State. After the meeting, Trump was said to be taken

by the way Romney “looks the part” of a globe-trotting diplomat, according to people close to the transition process.

In nominating Romney, Trump would be signaling his willingness to heal campaign wounds and reach out to traditional Republicans who were deeply skeptical of his experience and temperament. The president-elect has added at least one other former critic to his team: South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who attacked the businessman for being slow to denounce support from white supremacists, was Trump’s pick to be ambassador to the United Nations.

Trump’s team last week named four contenders for secretary of State, including Romney. The other three are former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Bob Corker and former CIA director David Petraeus. But on Sunday, the Trump camp said the president-elect had expanded the pool of potential candidates. Vice President-elect Mike Pence on ABC’s “This Week” added a fresh reference to former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations “John Bolton or others who may be added to the list” of candidates.

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AP PHOTO/EVAN VUCCI

President-elect Donald Trump gestures toward reporters as he arrives for a party at the home of Robert Mercer, one of his biggest campaign donors, Saturday.

Title: **McMaster moves toward governor's mansion**
 Author: BRISTOW MARCHANT THE STATE
 Size: 31.62 column inches
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



McMaster moves toward governor's mansion

Security detail is set
up at his residence

BRISTOW MARCHANT

THE STATE

COLUMBIA - Henry McMaster has not yet made any public comment on his move into the Governor's Mansion, but part of the mansion already has come to him.

The lieutenant governor's private residence now has a security detail from the state Bureau of Protective Services, the agency that normally provides security for the governor.

An emergency communications trailer has been set up in the median of Columbia's Senate Street, outside McMaster's home. A Protective Services car could be seen parked nearby.

McMaster will assume the state's highest office if Gov. Nikki Haley is confirmed as the new U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, following her nomination by President-elect Donald Trump.

McMaster and Haley met last week to plan the transition between their two offices, according to a news release Tuesday from the lieutenant governor's office.

McMaster also has named two Columbia-area businessmen, Ed McMullen and Bill

Stern, to lead his transition.

McMullen is a former executive at the conservative Heritage Foundation and the S.C. Policy Council who recently chaired Trump's S.C. presidential campaign. Bill Stern, a developer, is chairman emeritus and a current board member of the state Ports Authority.

While the transition could be months away, the state's security agencies already are treating South Carolina's second-in-command as an incoming chief executive.

"This would be the same protocol that we use for the governor-elect during the transition following an election," said Sherri Iacobelli, communications director for the state Department of Public Safety, which includes the Bureau of Protective Services.

Protective Services will provide security for the next governor's home before McMaster moves into the Governor's Mansion. McMaster also has been provided with a State Law Enforcement Division-led security detail, which also includes officers from Public Safety and

the Department of Natural Resources, for his personal security.

There are other signs McMaster is moving into the governor's role.

McMaster will fill in for Haley as the chair of Friday's meeting of the S.C. Military Base Task Force, which brings together the governor with the commanding officers of the state's military bases.

Public Safety officials did not provide a cost associated with the extra security Tuesday, although Iacobelli said it was "within the normal scope of our duties and would be done with any transfer of power."

"The cost would be absorbed into our day-to-day budget and operating expenses," she said.

SLED spokesman Thom Berry declined to cite a cost difference between the protection McMaster would receive as an incoming governor and the security service he already receives as lieutenant governor. He cited the agency's policy of not disclosing any specifics pertaining to security operations.

Title: **DOT chief hopes for aid with roads, bridges**
 Author: CASSIE COPE THE STATE
 Size: 29.45 column inches
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



DOT chief hopes for aid with roads, bridges

McMaster

remains quiet

on future plans

CASSIE COPE

THE STATE

The head of the state Department of Transportation Commission said last week he is eager to learn Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster's position on higher spending on the state's roads and bridges.

Whether McMaster will support an increase to the state's gas tax to pay to repair the state's crumbling roads and bridges is unknown.

McMaster is set to become governor if Gov. Nikki Haley is confirmed by the U.S. Senate to become U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. Since Haley's nomination by President-elect Donald Trump was announced last week, McMaster

has been quiet – not responding to media inquiries

But McMaster could take the lead on addressing the state's crumbling roads and bridges, Transportation commission chairman Mike Wooten said Thursday. "He has a great opportunity to be an 'infrastructure governor,' and we haven't had one in a long time."

After winning a second term, Gov. Haley endorsed a gas-tax increase but only if it were tied to a much larger income-tax cut. Critics said Haley's plan would have slashed spending on other state services, including education and law enforcement.

Earlier this year, Haley signed a road-

spending plan that did not include an increase to the gas tax. However, Haley said that stop-gap plan was "not of the magnitude or sustainability" needed to address the state's highway needs. She added finding a long-term solution would be the state's No. 1 priority

when lawmakers returned to Columbia in January for the 2017 legislative session.

"The governor, in a leadership role, can do great things," Wooten said. "I'm hoping that Gov. McMaster, when he is governor, will do that."



INDEPENDENT MAIL FILE PHOTO

Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster

Title: **Haley needs to prepare for possible new post**
 Author:
 Size: 45.72 column inches
 Greenwood, SC Circulation: 16494



■ WHAT OTHERS SAY

Haley needs to prepare for possible new post

The following is the opinion of the newspaper represented and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Index-Journal.

On Nov. 22, Gov. Nikki Haley asked us all to pray for South Carolina, which has faced and continues to face significant challenges. Today, we all need to pray for Gov. Haley, as she prepares for a very different and very difficult challenge.

There's a lot of distance between Thanksgiving and Ambassador Haley. And there's no guarantee that the Senate, even a Republican Senate, will confirm someone with no foreign policy experience, much less diplomatic experience, as ambassador to the United Nations.

Although it isn't our most important foreign policy position, it is extremely important. And frankly, it's a stretch. For all that President-elect Donald Trump and the governor's supporters say about her deal-making prowess, we've only seen that on display in deals between corporations that wanted to locate in our state and a state that wanted those corporations to locate here.

The challenge she has met, in other words, was coming up with a deal between two parties that wanted to make a deal. That's very different than the challenges facing a UN ambassador. We certainly hope that her talents can translate to this new role, but we simply don't know because she is untested.

Gov. Haley said Wednesday that she had not anticipated leaving her current job before it's completed. But she noted that, "When the President believes you have a major contribution to make to the welfare of our nation, and to our nation's standing in the world, that is a calling that is important to heed."

She's absolutely right about that. While there are some positions that a sitting governor probably should reject — positions that are more about allowing a loyal supporter to cash in than about serving the nation — this isn't one of them. Anyone has an obligation to seriously consider a president's request

to serve in an important position, regardless of who the president is or how committed that person might be to her current position.

The governor also said she would remain our governor until her confirmation, in part because "We still have much to do in South Carolina, and my commitment to the people of our state will always remain unbreakable."

That is honorable. But while we would not ask her to resign yet, we would urge her to informally turn many of her responsibilities over to Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, sooner rather than later.

We are accustomed to UN ambassadors who have extensive foreign policy experience, and usually diplomatic experience as well. In the absence of either, Gov. Haley owes it to our nation to spend the time between now and her confirmation doing everything she can to make up for that lack of experience — meeting not just with handlers trained to guide her through the confirmation process but also with experts who can help bring her up to speed on all the issues that need to be mastered by the UN ambassador of the most important country in the world.

The Senate, too, owes it to our nation to make sure that Gov. Haley is prepared — that she has the appropriate temperament, judgment and knowledge base to serve in this position. Confirmation hearings for someone with her experience should not be particularly easy — and that is why she needs the next two months to prepare for them.

Gov. Haley is a bright and talented politician, and we hope that she will be able to scale the extremely steep learning curve that lies ahead. Assuming she is able to make the Senate comfortable with her ability to serve our nation in this very different sort of job, we wish her all the best in her new position.

— Nov. 25, *The State*

Title: **Transition from Haley expected to be smooth**
 Author: SUSANNE M. SCHAFER ASSOCIATED PRESS
 Size: 32.70 column inches
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



Transition from Haley expected to be smooth

SUSANNE M. SCHAFER

ASSOCIATED PRESS

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increase in the gas tax to help rebuild roads.

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"Education remains one of the most important factors" for military families as they ponder their constant moves about the country, he said. Military children must transfer six to a dozen times during their early school years, the two-star general said.

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Title: **Sen. Bryant looking at lieutenant governor**
 Author: KIRK BROWN KIRK.BROWN@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM
 Size: 35.18 column inches
 Greenville, SC Circulation: 113473



Sen. Bryant looking at lieutenant governor

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State Sen. Kevin Bryant is maneuvering to become South Carolina's next lieutenant governor.

"I would be honored to serve the people of South Carolina in such a capacity," Bryant said in a text message Friday morning. "I'm humbled to have heard from several members of the South Carolina Senate with positive support."

Bryant is a Republican from Anderson who won a fourth Senate term this year.

The lieutenant governor's seat could become vacant early next year, as President-elect Donald Trump is expected to nominate South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley to become the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. If she is confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster would become the state's governor.

Under existing rules, the Senate president pro tempore would then fill the lieutenant governor's seat. The state's lieutenant governor, a part-time position, presides over the state Senate and serves as the head of the South Carolina Office on Aging.

Sen. Hugh Leatherman, a Republican from Florence who has served as Senate president pro



FILE PHOTO

Sen. Kevin Bryant is considering taking on the lieutenant governor position should Gov. Nikki Haley join the Trump admin.

tempore since 2014, issued a statement earlier this week saying that he has no interest in becoming lieutenant governor.

Bryant said Friday that he has spoken to Leatherman and McMaster about the process that could result in him becoming lieutenant governor until the next statewide election in 2018. Leatherman and McMaster could not be reached for comment Friday.

According to Bryant, Leatherman would resign his leadership post when McMaster becomes governor. Bryant would then seek to replace him as president pro tempore. Once elected by senators to that position, Bryant would immediately become lieutenant governor and Leatherman would return to his leadership

position.

Bryant said the lieutenant governor's job appeals to him because he would not be required to spend additional time in Columbia. Bryant also said he is familiar with the issues facing the state's elderly residents because he serves seniors every day at his family-owned pharmacy in Anderson. He declined to discuss how becoming lieutenant governor would affect his future political aspirations.

Bryant's bid could create a series of political dominoes in Anderson County.

If Bryant becomes lieutenant governor, a special election would be held to fill his Senate seat.

State Rep. Anne Thayer, a Republican from Anderson who won a fourth term last month, said Friday that she would be interested in running for Bryant's Senate seat. Former Pendleton Mayor Carol Burdette, who narrowly lost to Bryant in the June Republican primary, said she also would consider running for the seat again.

Another special election would be needed to fill Thayer's seat in the South Carolina House of Representatives if she becomes a senator.

Follow Kirk Brown on Twitter @KirkBrown_AIM.