

Title: **Boots McMaster to join history of S.C. Statehouse animals**
 Author: BY BRISTOW MARCHANT bmarchant@thestate.com
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S.C. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Boots McMaster to join history of S.C. Statehouse animals

BY BRISTOW MARCHANT
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Even before the formal transition is under way, we know one prominent figure that will be following Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster into the S.C. governor's office – his bulldog Boots.

Famous from his appearance in the lieutenant governor's campaign ads, Boots will have space of his own at the governor's office in the Statehouse once his owner replaces Gov. Nikki Haley early next year, McMaster said.

"He'll have more than a corner," McMaster said. "I bring him up here now. Not during the session, but when the traffic's not heavy."

Boots is already enough of a celebrity that he's been recognized on his jaunts through the capitol building.



McMaster

"Tour guides will stop for him," the lieutenant governor said. "Everybody wants to see Boots the bulldog."

Boots will become the latest in a line of famous animal visitors to the Statehouse, including:

- Pork and Barrel, two squealing piglets carried into the Statehouse lobby by then-Gov. Mark Sanford to protest the Legislature's spending priorities. The stunt is blamed for hurting Sanford's relationship with lawmakers, who were offended both by the piglets' symbolism and the fact they defecated on the Statehouse floor.

- Noel the pony, the name for an animal ridden up the north steps on Christmas Day 1990 and abandoned there. The unidentified rider reportedly said Noel was a Christmas present for George H.W. Bush. Noel, who appeared malnourished, had to be taken out through the building's

main elevator, and eventually found its way to a children's petting zoo.

- Psychedelic vermin. In an effort to eradicate the Statehouse pigeon population, officials spread poison pellets around the grounds. But they abandoned the effort after the pills, likened to LSD in a report in The State at the time, were found to have a "bizarre effect" on the Statehouse squirrels. Also unsuccessful in getting rid of the birds: plastic snakes left on the window sills.

Even if Boots becomes a regular fixture at the governor's office, McMaster doesn't expect him to become a distraction.

"He has bursts of energy, then he'll sleep several times a day," McMaster said. "Often, people will hear him snoring."

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Famous from his appearance in lieutenant governor Henry McMaster's campaign ads, Boots the bulldog will follow McMaster into the S.C. governor's office.

Title: **Haley dismisses request to make McMaster acting governor**
 Author:
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Haley dismisses request to make McMaster acting governor

COLUMBIA

A government watchdog group is asking Gov. Nikki Haley to take a leave of absence as President-elect Donald Trump's pick for U.N. ambassador prepares for the U.S. Senate's confirmation process.

Her office quickly dismissed the request.

In a letter delivered Thursday, John Crangle with Common Cause says the "process of vetting, security clearance, confirmation, briefing and training" for the Cabinet post will "require considerable time and effort on your part" as the Legislature launches its 2017 session.

Crangle wants Haley to make Lt. Gov. Henry

McMaster acting governor immediately.

Haley spokesman Chaney Adams says she has "found no problems in doing her duties as governor" while preparing.

Haley says she will resign if the U.S. Senate confirms her. Under the state constitution, McMaster would then become governor.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

Title: **Haley dismisses plea to step aside now**

Author:

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Haley dismisses plea to step aside now

A government watchdog group is asking Gov. Nikki Haley to take a leave of absence as President-elect Donald Trump's pick for U.N. ambassador prepares for the U.S. Senate's confirmation process. Her office quickly dismissed the request. In a letter, John Crangle with Common Cause says the "process of vetting, security clearance, confirmation, briefing and training" for the post will "require considerable time and effort on your part" as the Legislature launches its 2017 session. Crangle wants Haley to make Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster acting governor immediately. Haley spokesman Chaney Adams says she has "found no problems in doing her duties as governor" while preparing. Haley says she will resign if the Senate confirms her. Under the state constitution, McMaster would then become governor. — AP

Title: **Uptown Greenwood sees growth**
 Author: From staff reports
 Size: 69.90 column inches
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LOOKING BACK

Uptown Greenwood sees growth

Highlights from local government in 2016

From staff reports

In April, city officials opened Greenwood's new Uptown Market pavilion to fanfare and celebration – capping years of planning and construction on a \$2.8 million project designed to spur even more activity in the growing retail corridor.

Courtney Furman, architect of the 160-foot-long by 41-foot-tall pavilion, called it a “place for our community to not only grow greater, but healthier” during an April 21 grand opening. Officials modeled the pavilion after a 1950s-era train depot.

The market's centerpiece – a splash pad featuring 42 spray jets with a maximum capacity of 343 people – opened May 15. The market, however, wasn't the end of Uptown's growth in 2016.

Local developer Tim Burke, who in 2014 acquired the 95-foot tall, 47,000-square-foot 332 Main Street

building and spent years preparing the site for luxury condominiums, sold his first unit in June. But he reserved the ground floor for retail space, bringing in three boutiques.

Then, in September, Mill House owner Gianpaolo “Geep” Bonaca submitted plans to the County Council for a \$700,000 expansion of his restaurant into an adjacent building at 233 Maxwell Ave. – right across the street from the pavilion.

He hopes to open the site by September 2019 with 25 new employees and a 250-percent capacity increase for in-state beer distribution.

Removing blight in Greenwood, Ware Shoals

Greenwood city and county leaders got aggressive in 2016 when it came to targeting blighted areas for upgrades or removal. In the spring, City Council

voted to allocate \$25,000 for the destruction of six dilapidated homes that raised concerns from neighbors about safety and vagrancy. In August, the city was awarded an \$825,000 federal grant to remove nearly 30 blighted properties in the North Edgefield area, with Greenwood Habitat for Humanity planning to use the newly cleared parcels for open space or fresh housing.

That wasn't the last infusion of cash into the Lakelands for urban redevelopment. Just before Thanksgiving, Gov. Nikki Haley confirmed that Greenwood and Ware Shoals received a combined \$725,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant money.

Ware Shoals is using its \$278,670

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2016

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allocation to raze its Fairview Avenue housing unit near Town Hall.

Mayor John Hansen said officials will convert the plot into green space. Removing the structure has long been a priority for the town – especially with improvements to Katherine Hall and planned upgrades to sewer lines in the pipeline through the recently approved capital project sales tax.

Meanwhile, Greenwood will make use of its allocation to convert the Mineral Court Apartments into 15 single-family homes in a partnership with Greenwood Area Habitat for Humanity, which purchased the property in May 2015.

Converting the apartments back into productive use was identified as a priority in the Edgefield/South Main Street Master Plan.

Greenwood County veterans plaza

On a June day, city and county leaders joined residents to celebrate groundbreaking on a \$300,000 Hall of Heroes plaza at the Greenwood County Veterans Center. Paid for through local hospitality taxes, private donations and the sale of pavers, the project includes a courtyard and lighting.

The most distinctive feature went into place on Pearl Harbor Day,

when a 30,000-pound stone base was installed. It will feature two more pieces, a stone with words representing the qualities of veterans and an eagle atop of it.

An unveiling ceremony is planned for February.

Abbeville recognizes racist past

Known as the birthplace and deathbed of the Confederacy, Abbeville did not shy away from the racism of its past in 2016.

Instead, it helped the family of Anthony Crawford — a successful black man who was lynched in 1916 — commemorate the centennial of



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his death with a historical marker at the Abbeville Opera House.

Two months later, the city elected its first black mayor, Santana Delano Freeman.

AAMC works toward expansion

Abbeville Area Medical Center is preparing to move its primary care practices into a new facility at the beginning March.

The hospital plans to complete the 20,000-square-foot building at the end February and use it to house the Abbeville Family Medicine Practice, Abbeville Internal Medicine and the hospital's general surgery practice, according to AAMC CEO Dean Turner.

The facility, located at West Greenwood Street and Thomson Circle,

cost about \$6 million to construct, Turner said, which it received through a United State Department of Agriculture loan.

Calhoun Falls fires police chief

For the second time in as many years, Calhoun Falls fired its police chief, J.T. Galloway.

Town Council unanimously voted to terminate the police chief on Nov. 1.

A letter in Galloway's personnel file, which the Index-Journal obtained through a request made under the Freedom of Information Act, said: "After repeated attempts to have Chief Galloway operate and manage the Calhoun Falls Police Department in a sufficient and effective manner, it has been determined that he has failed in his duties and

that it is in the best interest of the Town to terminate him."

Shortly after Galloway's dismissal, the State Law Enforcement Division opened an investigation into the Calhoun Falls Police Department and a former officer from the department. SLED did not release additional information about the probe or name the former officer under investigation.

Palace Food Inc. coming to McCormick County

Palace Foods Inc. will invest \$5 million in a new McCormick County plant near Plum Branch, which will create a projected 34 full-time jobs.

The S.C. Coordinating Council for Economic Development will give the company \$1.5 million to help it construct a shell facility, Stephen said.

Title: **State's leaders continue to fail us on many fronts**
 Author:
 Size: 25.88 column inches
 Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



State's leaders continue to fail us on many fronts

With all the hub-bub surrounding the transition from one national administration to another, it's easy to lose sight of the ongoing lack of leadership in the South Carolina governor's office and the General Assembly in at least three areas of major concern.

The sad state of educational funding in South Carolina is the first of these. The General Assembly has significantly under-funded per-pupil contributions required by the Education Finance Act for years, and even with more money coming from statewide sales tax collections, the system's continuing reliance upon property taxes results in an inherent imbalance in the funding available to poor, mostly rural school districts.

The consequence is twofold: Teachers make less, and poorer school districts have huge problems attracting qualified teachers.

The state already has difficulty attracting enough teachers: It is training 500 teachers a year through its program of alternative certification for educators because our teacher-education programs fall that much short of supplying teachers for each year's vacancies.

The second area of concern is that the state's employees are being required to pay an increasing share of their paychecks into the Retirement

System *for the sixth consecutive year*. Employees' contributions will now range from 9.2 percent to 9.7 percent of their salaries, a two-thirds larger share than the national average.

Virtually no one in a position of leadership in state government on either side of the political aisle has addressed this issue in anything like a responsible way. Instead legislators and policymakers "study" the problem, while continuing to assume that state investments will return an unrealistic 7.5 percent.

Finally, South Carolinians should be concerned about the state's infrastructure. My wife and I recently drove to Denver and back on the roads of eight different states, and without exception we found the roads in every one of them superior to our own, with fewer potholes, less rough and uneven pavement and fewer traffic disruptions due to on-going repairs.

The problems are clear. The status quo has remained "quo" for too long; leaders possessing a genuine vision for the state's future must emerge.

*- Edwin C. Epps
Spartanburg*



Title: **A Trump backer is succeeding Haley**
 Author: BY SEANNA ADCOX Associated Press
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 Hilton Head Island, SC Circulation: 20015



A Trump backer is succeeding Haley

BY SEANNA ADCOX
 Associated Press

COLUMBIA

If South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is confirmed as President-elect Donald Trump's pick for United Nations ambassador, her successor will be an entrenched veteran of the state's GOP.

Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, a 69-year-old known for his ability to disagree affably,

would get the job he's long wanted in the governorship. His leadership offers a sharp contrast in style if not in substance from Haley, the daughter of Indian immigrants and the nation's youngest governor at 44, who hasn't hesitated to publicly bash legislators who differed with her.

McMaster also was the nation's first statewide officeholder to back

Trump for president, in an endorsement before the state's first-in-the-South presidential primary. The move stunned political observers, but McMaster's support never wavered, despite Democrats' calls to withdraw it.

He told The Associated Press last month he never regretted the endorsement.

"No ma'am, the more it went on, the more confident I was he was the man for the job," he said in his characteristic, genteel drawl. He's revealed little about what he would do as governor, and his office said he wasn't available for an interview.

But as a savvy political insider, McMaster has forged strong relationships statewide.

He's "a commonsense conservative — very reasonable, never abrasive," said House Judiciary

Chairman Greg Delleney, R-Chester. "He's a realist,

and he's a gentleman, and I think he's going to work with the General Assembly to get things done."

Legislators hope McMaster's entry could finally lead to passage of a comprehensive road-funding bill. Haley's threats to veto anything with a gas tax increase stymied efforts for years.

Questioned by reporters after a meeting earlier this month, McMaster said, "We will make progress, great progress," but gave no specifics.

Bakari Sellers, a Democrat who lost to McMaster in the 2014 lieutenant governor's race, contends McMaster "exemplifies the good ol' boy network in South Carolina."

"Henry's been around a very long time. He's the status quo," said Sellers, a former state House member. "Courageous and visionary are not adjectives you use to describe Henry McMaster."

Other longtime political adversaries applaud McMaster's impending move.

"Henry is somebody who wants to do the right thing and move the state forward," said former state Democratic Party Chairman Dick Harpootlian, who's not one to pull punches. "If a good ol' boy means somebody who remembers his friends and has a genial approach to governing, then I would take that as a compliment. He's not going to rant and rave and pick fights. He's not going to denigrate people publicly."

McMaster began his political career in 1973 as an aide to then-U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond. He led the state Republican Party for 10 years, while the GOP took control of the Legislature.

He frequently boasts of being President Ronald

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MCMASTER

Reagan's first appointment for U.S. attorney in 1981 and launched "Operation Jackpot," an investigation into international drug smuggling that resulted in more than 100 convictions.

As state attorney general, he created a task force of officers posing as chil-

dren to catch online sex predators and built an attorney network to prosecute criminal domestic violence. In 2010, he helped lead a multi-state challenge of President

Barack Obama's health care overhaul that allowed states to opt out of its intended Medicaid expan-

sion — as South Carolina has steadfastly done.

Legislators say his decades-long relationship with many of them is an asset. GOP Senate Education Chairman John Courson, who met McMaster while at the University of South Carolina in the 1960s, said it helps that McMaster "understands

the personalities in the Senate."

"Across the board, among Democrats and Republicans, everybody is excited about him coming in — with the belief that he will have a desire to get things done and the ability to do so," said House Minority Leader Todd Rutherford, D-Columbia.

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McMaster

Title: **McMaster s leadership style would be sharp contrast to Haley's**
 Author: BYSEANNAADCOX Associated Press
 Size: 39.37 column inches
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McMaster's leadership style would be sharp contrast to Haley's

BY SEANNA ADCOX

Associated Press

COLUMBIA — If South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is confirmed as President-elect Donald Trump's pick for United Nations ambassador, her successor will be an entrenched veteran of the state's GOP who as attorney general decided not to prosecute then-Gov. Mark Sanford for his spending after his disappearance to rendezvous with his mistress.

Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster, a 69-year-old known for his ability to disagree affably, would get the job he's long wanted in the governorship.

His leadership offers a sharp contrast in style if not in substance from Haley, the daughter of Indian immigrants and the nation's youngest governor at 44, who hasn't hesitated to publicly bash legislators who

differed with her.

McMaster also was the nation's first statewide officeholder to back Trump for president, in an endorsement before the state's first-in-the-South presidential primary. The move stunned political observers, but McMaster's support never wavered, despite Democrats' calls to withdraw it.

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Legislators hope McMaster's entry could finally lead to passage of a comprehensive road-funding bill.

Haley's threats to veto anything with a gas tax increase stymied efforts for years.

Questioned by reporters after a meeting earlier this month, McMaster said, "We will make progress, great progress," but gave no specifics.

In the 2010 GOP primary, Haley trounced McMaster and two other better-known men partly by running against the "good ol' boy" network. Yet days after taking a 32-percent-

age-point beating, McMaster endorsed Haley with an exuberant "I'm all in!" and has been a close ally since. Beyond campaigning with her statewide, he arranged a series of private meetings between Haley and skeptical business leaders a week after she publicly chided the state Chamber of Commerce as a fan of bailouts and corporate welfare.

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AP FILE PHOTO/J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE

South Carolina Lt. Governor Henry McMaster nominated Donald Trump as the Republican candidate for President during the second day of the Republican National Convention in Cleveland. He will replace Nikki Haley as South Carolina governor if she joins Donald Trump's cabinet.

Title: **Jones' legal team files suit re: Stearns' qualifications**
Author: By Bob Stockton
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McCormick, SC Circulation: 2455



Jones' legal team files suit re: Stearns' qualifications

By Bob Stockton

As JR Jones' legal team indicated at a McCormick County Election Commission protest hearing Nov. 21, it has appealed the denial of the protest by filing suit.

Clarke Stearns won the election for McCormick County Sheriff, but Jones contends that Stearns is not qualified to serve based on certification requirements. The election commission was deadlocked, 3-3, at the Nov. 21 hearing, and the result of that deadlock was the

failure of the protest due to lack of majority approval.

Jones, the SC Democratic Party and the McCormick County Democratic Party are plaintiffs. The suit asks the Court of Common Pleas in the 11th Judicial Circuit to require defendants Stearns, the SC Republican Party, the McCormick County Republican Party, the State of SC and Governor Nikki Haley to respond within 30 days or earlier. The complaint was served at the end of last week.

Title: **Was your vote invalidated?**
 Author: BY JERRY BELLUNE jerrybellune@yahoo.com
 Size: 37.04 column inches
 Lexington, SC Circulation: 5652



Was your vote invalidated?

Senate leader keeps power in change to state constitution

BY JERRY BELLUNE

jerrybellune@yahoo.com

Did someone secretly change the constitutional amendment you voted on?

Some state senators, voters and at least one Statehouse watchdog suspect that's what happened.

Voters agreed to change the constitution to let the governor name a lieutenant governor starting in 2018.

But that's not how the amendment reads now.

In other words, what you voted on has been

changed to help one man.

In a contested election, Senate President Pro Tem Hugh Leatherman was re-elected, making him probably the most powerful politician in

the state.

His election should have put Leatherman into line to become lieutenant governor early next year.

Leatherman has said he does not want a powerless lieutenant governor's job.

"The original resolution passed by two-thirds of the legislature said the changes would happen in 2018," said Ashley Landess of the watchdog S.C. Policy Council. "The ballot question approved by voters said the same thing."

But someone tampered with the amendment, deleting the 2018 restriction. That means if Henry McMaster becomes governor when Gov. Nikki Haley goes to the United Nations as ambassador, the new

governor can name someone else and let Leatherman keep his powerful position.

One of Leatherman's fellow Republicans, Sen. Tom Davis of Beaufort, has asked the state Supreme Court to clarify who and how the next lieutenant governor would be chosen.

Davis said the amendment voted on in 2012 and ratified in 2014 does not go into effect until 2018.

Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey who represents Lexington County and eight other senators voted no to Leatherman's election.

Massey told the *Chronicle* that Leatherman enjoys too much power as president pro tem, Senate Finance Committee chairman and member of the Budget & Control Board with influence on how the state spends tax money and government job appointments.

INSIDE

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**Leatherman**

Title: **Did Senate trickery change amendment we voted on?**
 Author: BY ASHLEY LANDESS SC Policy Council President
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WATCH ON THE STATEHOUSE

Did Senate trickery change amendment we voted on?

BY ASHLEY LANDESS

SC Policy Council President

Over several decades, South Carolina's legislature has come to dominate the other two branches of government.

How did it happen? Mostly through procedural tricks and loopholes.

That's why the controversy over the order of succession is disturbing and why the Senate election of President pro tem Hugh Leatherman is more important than ever.

A 2014 constitutional amendment leaves no room for interpretation. The governor has the authority to fill a vacancy in the lieutenant governor's office. Until now, most of us believed the amendment was to put the governor and lieutenant governor on the same electoral ticket. It wasn't to go into effect until 2018.

But that only has to do with the legislation ratifying the amendment – not the amendment itself. The original resolution passed by two-thirds of the legislature said the changes would happen in 2018. And the ballot question approved by voters said the same thing.

Somehow the language now in the constitution says that when the lieutenant governor resigns that office, the governor appoints his replacement effective immediately.

So where's the problem?

One sentence is missing from the amendment ratified by the legislature. That sentence mandated all changes occur in 2018.

The omission of that sentence – deliberate or not – completely changes what may happen in the expected vacancy in the lieutenant gov-

ernor's office. This would occur if Gov., Nikki Haley goes to the United Nations and Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster succeeds her.

Not only that. Thanks to the absence of that sentence, the order of succession is no longer spelled out in the constitution at all. It's only addressed in state law. And the law says if both the governor and lieutenant governor leave office, the Senate president pro tem would assume the duties of the governor – without resigning from the Senate.

As Senate president pro tem, Leatherman has said he has no interest in doing what the constitution says he must do.

Clearly this is a matter for the Supreme Court to decide. Legislators do not – and absolutely should not – have the authority to change what the people voted for.

The process has to be explored publicly and quickly to figure out how something as dire as nullifying the people's vote could happen, and how to ensure it never does again.

The court could order the original language be restored. That would mean the Senate president pro tem will be called on to assume the lieutenant governor's office.

Senators must ensure that the president pro tem is prepared to fulfill his constitutional duty. It's bad enough that one lawmaker has so much power. To put someone in that position who defies the constitution would be reckless.

We've had enough blatant defiance of the rule of law in this state.