

Title: **SC agencies say budget trims would cut state jobs**
 Author: BY CASSIE COPE ccope@thestate.com
 Size: 55.49 column inches
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BUZZ

SC agencies say budget trims would cut state jobs

BY CASSIE COPE

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It's unlikely to happen, but if there is a shortfall in revenues, S.C. agencies propose roughly \$200 million in budget cuts that would eliminate hundreds of state workers' jobs.

In August, Gov. Nikki Haley directed state agencies paid for through the general fund budget – largely tax dollars that come from sales taxes and

business and personal income taxes – to include a plan for 3 percent cuts in their spending requests for next year.

View the database of S.C. state employee salaries.

Haley ordered the plans for cuts in case of an economic downturn.

The likelihood of a recession is low, economists

say, particularly since the Nov. 8 election of Republican President-elect Donald Trump, who is promising an economic stimulus package including tax cuts and spending on infrastructure.

But that wasn't known when Haley requested state agencies to prepare for a possible recession.

State agencies responded that if they did have to cut their budgets by 3 percent, they would cut programs and staffing.

For example:

● S.C. schools, through the Department of Educa-

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+

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BUDGET

tion, would cut \$86.4 million. Those cuts would come at the same time that rural schools, having won a 20-plus-year-old lawsuit, are trying to get the state to give them more money.

● The embattled Department of Social Services said it would cut \$4.5 million, which includes more than 300 employees. After the deaths of children under its supervision, Social Services has been spending millions more to add workers so that it could cut the caseloads of overworked child-welfare workers.

● The state's health agency said it would cut \$3.6 million in spending. That agency has been adding staffers to its dam-regulation program in the wake of dam failures in 2015 and earlier this fall.

● The Department of

Juvenile Justice said it would cut \$3.2 million. That agency's Broad River Road campus was racked by a riot last year, caused in part by staffing shortages among underpaid workers.

However, the cuts do not seem likely.

State budget forecasters, who met earlier this month, do not project any cuts will be needed. Instead, they added \$446 million in new revenues to the general fund budget that lawmakers will have to spend next year.

"It's always good to have a plan," state Rep. Brian White, R-Anderson, who chairs the House budget-writing panel, said of Haley's budget-cutting exercise.

But, he added, "I hope there's not a downturn."

If state agencies had to

implement 3 percent cuts, S.C. schools would get hit hard.

The state still has not responded to a S.C. Supreme Court ruling that the state is not doing enough for poor, rural schools.

Until the lawsuit is settled and schools have the resources they need, the Department of Education opposes a 3 percent cut to education spending, said spokesman Ryan Brown.

If a 3 percent cut was imposed, Social Services, which has struggled to hire and retain caseworkers and reduce their caseloads, would cut 336 full-time employees, including 156 caseworkers. The agency also would eliminate a teen pregnancy prevention program.

"The department would reduce administrative and/or state office positions first and the elim-

ination of front line/caseworker positions would be a last resort," said spokeswoman Karen Wingo.

The Department of Health and Environmental Control said its cuts would include funding for a rabies control program, shifting financial responsibility for the program to S.C. counties.

The agency would follow state law and operate the program, said spokesperson Jennifer Read. But it would ask for assistance from county sheriff's deputies and local animal control officers to capture and quarantine animals.

Haley will likely unveil her proposed state spending plan, outlining her priorities, in January.

S.C. lawmakers are not bound by that plan, and sometimes pay little attention to it.

House budget subcom-



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mittees will begin meeting in January to hear state agencies' requests.

"The reason we have (budget) hearings is so we can sort out the needs from the wants," said Assistant GOP Majority Leader Gary Simrill, R-York.

Some state agencies must be treated with care. Social Services, for example, "has been under fire, under funded and under staffed," Simrill said.

Even if budget cuts are needed, state Sen. Darrell Jackson, D-Richland, said he did not anticipate House or Senate budget panels making across-the-board cuts.

That last happened during the Great Recession, when the economy hit rock bottom, Jackson said, adding that across-the-board cuts are irresponsible. Instead, if needed, lawmakers should make cuts strategically, he said.

Simrill agreed.

"It's difficult to go across-the-board" in state budget cuts, Simrill said. "One size does not fit all in state government."

Cassie Cope: 803-771-8657, @cassielcope

**HOUSE BUDGET
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Title: **Friends proud of Haley**
 Author: ASSOCIATED PRESS
 Size: 26.66 column inches
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Friends proud of Haley

Her rise not surprising to those from Bamberg

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ORANGEBURG - The people who grew up with South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said they are going to miss her when she moves to New York City to be the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, but they are proud to see how far she has come.

Haley grew up in Bamberg County and went to high school at Orangeburg Preparatory Schools. Wednesday, she accepted President-elect Donald Trump's

request to serve as an ambassador as long as the U.S. Senate approves.

"I hate that we're going to lose her in South Carolina, but I do see her looking out for America the same way. She'll also look out for us the best way she can — and as often as she can. She never forgets where she comes from," said Renee Jeffcoat, who went to school with Haley in Bamberg.

Jeffcoat, who is a special education

teacher in Bamberg, has stayed close to Haley, even after Haley moved to Lexington, became a state representative and later governor for six years. Jeffcoat is currently a committee member for Haley's nonprofit organization, The Original Six Foundation.

"She was a leader, a good friend who was very loyal, trustworthy and somebody you really wanted to be around. You

See HALEY, Page 4A

Haley

Continued from Page 3A

always felt comfortable with her, and she's still that way today. She just tried to make you feel at ease ... and let you know that she really cared about you," Jeffcoat told *The Times and Democrat* of Orangeburg.

Bamberg County Councilman Trent Kinard also went to school with the governor and said he accomplishments should

help children in the county's schools realize they can be anything they want and go anywhere they desire in life.

"We're all proud of her honestly, but at the same time, some people will be disappointed that she's going to be unable to finish her term as governor of South Carolina," Kinard said.

Cox Industries CEO Michael Johnson was a high school classmate of Haley, and said he has seen firsthand how hard she

works and how fast she analyzes situations. Johnson accepted Haley's request he serve as chairman of the State Workforce Investment Board and vice chairman of the Original Six Foundation.

"She is a quick study and this will serve her well in the extremely fluid ecosystem of global politics," Johnson said. "She thinks about people first, and that has served South Carolina well. She will serve the citizens of the United States well."

Title: **On Nikki Haley leaving S.C. governor post**
 Author:
 Size: 38.90 column inches
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RANTS & RAVES

On Nikki Haley leaving S.C. governor post

On S.C. Gov. Nikki Haley accepting a United Nations appointment from President-elect Donald Trump:

This lady lives in the 21st century. It will be a loss to SC. But an asset to the UN. And I'm not a Republican.

- Margaret Vitale

I am not a Republican either, and I like her.

- Penny Friesen Dougherty

So much for draining the swamp. Looks like we get more of the same. McMaster sounds like a real gem. Career politician, baby boomer, currently in court fighting ethics charges from violating campaign finance laws where he accepted more money than legally allowed so he could pay off his extra debts. In his early years, worked for Strom Thurmond who is most famous for his opposition to the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and worked very hard as attorney general to investigate marijuana traffickers in South Carolina. What a great guy!

- Justin Rohal

What qualifies her for this position, I do not know, but at least she will not be in SC. Of course, as McMaster will assume power, we may not be much better.

- Sarah Hobson

Congratulations, governor! SC will miss you, but well deserved appointment.

- Caroline Offt Grippio

Hate for our state to lose her but good for her.

- Mb Preacher

Good thing Trump doesn't hold a grudge.

- Garrett Tweedy

So excited for her!

- Deana Dean

So is SC! They get to get rid of her!

- Jody Chilton

She deserves it. I just wished it wasn't in association with our new idiocracy.

- Agatha Applewhite

Gov. Haley can't do any worse than the clowns

we've had in that position in the recent past.

- Francis P Burgt

She should have ran for POTUS this past election. Now she's gonna be tainted by Trump's policies.

- Dawn Caesar-Burke

I think it's a no win for her.

- Sarah O'Leary Takacs

The only person in this administration that warrants respect.

- Ken Boynton

Bravo! She did awesome job during the hurricane.

- Brenda Ivey

Good riddance, turncoat.

- Kraig Hanz Heiligmann

Here you go, Senator Tom Davis!

- Jan Rivera

Good bye.

- Linda Love Peace

Great governor. She brought us jobs, she handled every crisis in our state without incident. I don't want to her to leave.

- Mat Paulick

Wow! What a lying hypocrite she is. Can't trust a word she says!

- Vicki Shivers

I will miss her! Great job recently during the hurricane!

- Sandra Harrison

I always liked her and thought she was a good governor until the Confederate Flag removal. I wish her well.

- Gloria Holman Netherland

Will be happy to see her gone.

- Catherine N David Hurlocker

She has done a great job in our state of SC.

- Patti Payton



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Title: **Top5issues McMaster would face as S.C. gov.**
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POLITICS

Top 5 issues McMaster would face as S.C. gov.

BY CASSIE COPE
 ccope@thestate.com

Moving into the South Carolina governor's mansion means Henry McMaster would inherit the Palmetto State's most pressing issues, among them responding to a school equity lawsuit and repairing the state's crumbling roads and bridges.

The lieutenant governor is expected to replace Gov. Nikki Haley if she is confirmed by the U.S. Senate to be President-elect Donald Trump's ambassador to the United Nations.

McMaster's stances on the top issues are not as well known as Haley's. And for now, he's not taking questions, staying quiet since Haley's nomination was announced on Wednesday.

Still, it's certain he'll face the usual decisions of what takes priority as he works with the

General Assembly on how to spend money. And the demands on the state's pocketbook seem to be particularly acute right now.

Here are, arguably, the top five most pressing things South Carolina's next governor faces.

SCHOOLS

This year, lawmakers approved spending \$430 million more in general fund dollars on education than nine years ago, before the Great Recession.

But the state is spending only slightly higher in inflation-adjusted dollars than before the Great Recession, and is educating 6 percent more students than before the recession.

Haley pushed lawmakers to spend more on education in

recent years on reading coaches, technology and students in poverty. But this year, legislators failed to pass Haley's proposal — the first of its kind in nearly two decades — to spend state money to help poor districts build and renovate schools.

For decades, districts have had to raise money locally to upgrade facilities — leaving wealthier districts with strong tax bases with a huge advantage over poorer ones.

McMaster likely will have a role in how the state responds to the Abbeville lawsuit.

State Sen. John Courson, R-Richland, who has chaired the state Senate education commit-

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MCMASTER

tee in the past, said education is the state's No. 1 issue.

"The governor, being the chief executive officer of the state, will be engaged heavily" in education policies and spending, Courson said.

ROADS

South Carolina's roads continue to crumble.

In part, that's because lawmakers have not increased the state's 16.75

cent-a-gallon gas tax, the second-lowest in the nation, in nearly 30 years. That money is one of the state's primary funding sources for repairs.

After winning re-election in 2014, Haley endorsed a 10-cent gas tax increase only if it were paired with a much larger income tax cut. Critics of her plan argue such a tax break would raid the state's budget and force South Carolina to cut

services.

Whether McMaster would sign a proposal increasing the state's gas tax remains to be seen. If he approved a tax hike of any kind, it could be used against him in a GOP primary, should he seek re-election.

However, road-repair advocates hope he will approve spending more money to improve the state's roads and bridges.

"We're very hopeful,

certainly, that governor-to-be McMaster will be looking closely at the highway funding road issue that's been before the Legislature now for a number of years," said Bill Ross of the S.C. Alliance to Fix Our Roads.

STATE BUDGET

Disasters have struck the Palmetto State two years in a row.

First, a historically heavy rainfall caused

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flooding across the Mid-lands and the coast in October 2015, killing 19 people. That flooding cost taxpayers about \$150 million, including \$40 million for grants to farmers whose crops were damaged.

This year, Hurricane Matthew brushed the S.C. coast, causing damage and additional flooding, particularly in Beaufort, Horry and Georgetown counties and parts of the Pee Dee.

However, lawmakers will have only about a third of the added money they had last year. That means any money spent to pay for disaster relief will quickly cut into money to pay for other expenses.

State budget writers also will grapple with how to pay for programs at state

agencies and overdue maintenance at state government buildings, including on college campuses.

STATE EMPLOYEES

The Great Recession forced cuts across state government, eliminating many employees' jobs. In addition, S.C. state workers received no pay increases during four of the past 10 budget years.

However, lawmakers in the spring passed a 3.25 percent pay raise, the largest in a decade.

That raise increased the pay of about 61,000 state employees, according to the state Department of Administration.

McMaster is from Columbia, where many state employees live, which could give him reason to

support more money for state workers.

PENSION

Like governments across the country, South Carolina has a pension problem, and the bulk of the Baby Boomers have yet to retire.

A joint panel of S.C. House members and senators have begun reviewing how to address the state's roughly \$20 billion in pension debt.

That estimate, by consultants for the state, is the difference between the amount the pension fund has to pay for the retirement benefits of state and local government workers, including teachers, and the amount it has promised to pay in the future to current employees and retirees.

To close that gap, law-

makers are looking at whether to spend more taxpayer money or take more money from the paychecks of current workers.

Lawmakers also could close the pension plan to new employees and require them to take part in a defined contribution plan, like a 401(k) investment plan. In the short term, that would increase the pension system's unfunded liability because new workers would not be paying into the system. But, in the long term, it would reduce the state's pension costs.

Whether McMaster will favor one solution over another remains to be seen.

Cassie Cope: 803-771-8657, @cassielcope

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GERRY MELENDEZ gmelendez@thestate.com

Donald Trump got an endorsement from Henry McMaster as he visited Harmon Tree Farm near Gilbert in January.

Title: **The top five issues Henry McMaster would face as S.C. governor**
 Author: BY CASSIE COPE The (Columbia) State
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Haley's nomination was announced on Wednesday.

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SEE MCMASTER, 3C

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MCMASTER

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If South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley is confirmed by the U.S. Senate and begins her new role as ambassador to the United Nations, Henry McMaster will become the state's new governor. In moving into the governor's mansion, he will inherit very pressing issues, including repairing the state's crumbling roads and bridges.

Title: **Planned Parenthood sees a surge in calls**
 Author: BY ROB HOTAKAINEN rhotakainen@mcclatchydc.com
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Planned Parenthood sees a surge in calls

BY ROB HOTAKAINEN

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The phone has been ringing off the hook at Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and North Idaho, with women rushing to make appointments to get long-acting birth control.

In the two weeks since Donald Trump won the presidency, the number of appointments at the organization's 12 clinics has jumped by 81 percent, according to spokeswoman Tiffany Harms.

The most popular requests: intrauterine devices, or IUDs, small plastic birth control de-

vices that are inserted into the uterus and left in place, and hormonal implants.

Planned Parenthood officials say it's a similar situation across the country, with many women braced for the worst. They fear Trump will try to follow through on his promises to limit abortion and scrap the Affordable Care Act, which helps many poor women by providing birth control with no co-pays.

Trump stoked fears on the subject during an MSNBC town

hall forum last March, when he said women who got abortions should face "some form of punishment" if the procedure were banned. (He later backpedaled, saying the abortion provider should be held liable.)

And in an interview with CBS' "60 Minutes" on Nov. 13, Trump said he would appoint conservative justices to the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn the

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ABORTION

landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, which declared a woman's constitutional right to an abortion.

Trump said the abortion issue then could be decided by individual states. And if a state decided to ban abortion, he said, women would "have to go to another state" to terminate pregnancies.

On Capitol Hill, backers of abortion rights are geared up for a full-scale assault in 2017.

"Women's access to reproductive health care shouldn't be dependent on their income or their ZIP code," said Washington state Democratic Rep. Suzan DelBene. "It puts women's health at risk, and these are also women's constitutional rights. ... President-elect Trump has said he'd punish women for exercising their constitutional rights. That is unacceptable and extremely concerning."

While it could take

Trump years to get the Supreme Court to overturn the law, Harms said the more immediate worry in Idaho and Washington state was the prospect of him moving quickly to get rid of the Affordable Care Act, known as Obamacare.

Harms said many women would suffer a big financial hit if Trump tried to junk the national health insurance plan in the first 100 days of his presidency, as he has promised.

Raegan McDonald-Mosley, Planned Parenthood's chief medical officer, said out-of-pocket costs for an IUD could range from \$500 to \$1,000 for a woman without health insurance, creating "a major barrier," for many, especially poor women.

Harms said that since Nov. 8, requests for appointments for long-acting types of birth control have increased from 132 to 239.

With Trump and Republican House Speaker Paul

Ryan of Wisconsin both saying they want to stop funding Planned Parenthood next year, abortion rights will be in the spotlight as soon as the president-elect takes the oath at noon on Jan. 20.

The Women's March on Washington is scheduled for the next morning. Organizers say more than 200,000 people from across the country have signed up for the march from the Lincoln Memorial to the White House.

And Jan. 22 will mark 44 years since the Roe v. Wade decision, an anniversary that's sure to draw heightened attention. Thousands of abortion opponents are expected to turn out for the annual "March for Life," set for Jan. 27, while supporters of abortion are planning a counter-demonstration.

Abortion rights advocates worry Trump will have plenty of abortion opponents in his administration, including Vice

President-elect Mike Pence and his nominee for attorney general, Alabama Republican Sen. Jeff Sessions.

In a speech at Liberty University last month, Pence said the new administration would move to toughen abortion laws and eliminate funding for Planned Parenthood on "the first day we take office."

"I long to see the day that Roe v. Wade is consigned to the ash heap of history, where it belongs," he said.

Ken Blackwell, a former mayor of Cincinnati who's one of Trump's top domestic policy advisers, has angered backers of gay rights and abortion rights alike. In an opinion piece last year in The Washington Times, Blackwell said the nation "is undergoing a major cultural shift in favor of life" by insisting on "equal rights for the unborn."

On Wednesday, Trump

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named two women, both opponents of abortion, to key Cabinet posts: Betsy DeVos, for education secretary, and South Carolina Republican Gov. Nikki Haley, as ambassador to the United Nations. Earlier this year, Haley signed a bill banning abortions after 20 weeks of

pregnancy, and if confirmed she'd have a high-profile plank to oppose nations that promote abortion rights.

Trump tapped Republican Rep. Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee to join his transition team earlier this month. She has drawn fire from Democrats on

Capitol Hill for her work leading the House Select Investigative Panel on Infant Lives, a special committee formed last year to investigate abortion providers.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Wednesday that 664,435 women had abor-

tions in 2013, the latest year for which figures are available. That's a 5 percent decline from 2012.

"We give thanks that more women are rejecting abortion and choosing life for their unborn children," said Carol Tobias, the president of the National Right to Life Committee.

“

WOMEN'S ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE SHOULDN'T BE DEPENDENT ON THEIR INCOME OR THEIR ZIP CODE.”

Rep. Suzan DelBene, D-Wash.



ALEX BRANDON AP

The March for Life takes place every January in Washington, D.C. , on the anniversary of the 1973 Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court ruling.

Title: **SC's 'just in case' budget**
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THE BUZZ

SC's 'just in case' budget

BY CASSIE COPE

ccope@thestate.com

■ **Asked by the governor to imagine a worst case scenario – another recession – state agencies came up with about \$200 million in budget cuts that would slash hundreds of state jobs.**

It's unlikely to happen, but if there is a shortfall in revenues, S.C. agencies propose roughly \$200 million in budget cuts that would eliminate hundreds of state workers' jobs.

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Haley ordered the plans for cuts in case of an economic downturn.

The likelihood of a recession is low, economists say, particularly since the Nov. 8 election of Republican President-elect Donald Trump, who is promising an economic stimulus package including tax cuts and spending on infrastructure.

But that wasn't known when Haley requested state agencies to prepare for a possible recession.

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BUZZ

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However, the cuts do not seem likely.

State budget forecasters, who met earlier this month, do not project any cuts will be needed. Instead, they added \$446 million in new revenues to the

general fund budget that lawmakers will have to spend next year.

"It's always good to have a plan," state Rep. Brian White, R-Anderson, who chairs the House budget-writing panel, said of Haley's budget-cutting exercise.

But, he added, "I hope there's not a downturn."

Title: **SC's 'justin case' budget**
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If state agencies had to implement 3 percent cuts, S.C. schools would get hit hard.

The state still has not responded to a S.C. Supreme Court ruling that the state is not doing enough for poor, rural schools.

Until the lawsuit is settled and schools have the resources they need, the Department of Education opposes a 3 percent cut to education spending, said spokesman Ryan Brown.

If a 3 percent cut was imposed, Social Services, which has struggled to hire and retain caseworkers and reduce their caseloads, would cut 336 full-time employees, including 156 caseworkers. The agency also would eliminate a teen pregnancy prevention program.

"The department would

reduce administrative and/or state office positions first and the elimination of front line/caseworker positions would be a last resort," said spokeswoman Karen Wingo.

The Department of Health and Environmental Control said its cuts would include funding for a rabies control program, shifting financial responsibility for the program to S.C. counties.

The agency would follow state law and operate the program, said spokesperson Jennifer Read. But it would ask for assistance from county sheriff's deputies and local animal control officers to capture and quarantine animals.

Haley will likely unveil her proposed state spending plan,

outlining her priorities, in January.

S.C. lawmakers are not bound by that plan, and sometimes pay little attention to it.

House budget subcommittees will begin meeting in January to hear state agencies' requests.

"The reason we have (budget) hearings is so we can sort out the needs from the wants," said Assistant GOP Majority Leader Gary Simrill, R-York.

Some state agencies must be treated with care. Social Services, for example, "has been under fire, underfunded and understaffed," Simrill said.

Even if budget cuts are needed, state Sen. Darrell Jackson, D-Richland, said, he did not anticipate House or Senate budget panels making across-the-board cuts.

That last happened during the Great Recession, when the economy hit rock bottom, Jackson said, adding that across-the-board cuts are irresponsible. Instead, if needed, lawmakers should make cuts strategically, he said.

Simrill agreed.

"It's difficult to go across-the-board" in state budget cuts, Simrill said. "One size does not fit all in state government."

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Title: **GodspeedGov. Haley; welcomeGov. McMaster**

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CINDI ROSS SCOPPE • ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Godspeed Gov. Haley; welcome Gov. McMaster

GOV. NIKKI Haley, it turned out, has a real gift for knowing what to say and do and *how* to say and do it during times of crisis — the floods of 2015, Hurricane Matthew, the tragedy at

Emanuel
A.M.E.
Church.

She has nudged our state toward providing a decent education for all children, though we still have far to go.

And she has made some very good appointments — most notably but not exclusively Bobby Hitt as the Commerce secretary who worked with her on impressive job recruitment.

But for all the good she has done, she has been unwilling or unable to overcome two overarching flaws:

- Her rigid unwillingness to compromise with lawmakers — most notably but not exclusively in her demand that they cut income taxes by \$1.8 billion in return for raising the gas tax by \$400 million to pay for road

repairs (yes, those crazy numbers are correct).

- Her disdain for the rule of law, which she has manifested in everything from ordering police to arrest demonstrators for crimes that did not exist to excoriating Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster's procedural ruling in the Senate — which he had absolutely no choice but to make — that dealt a temporary setback to an ethics reform they both supported.

Mr. McMaster has his own flaws, which I'm sure we'll come to know if the U.S. Senate confirms Gov. Haley as ambassador to the United Nations, but he definitely does not have those two.

Just the opposite: He has a deep and abiding respect for the rule of law, and he has a fundamental appreciation for the necessity of compromise.

It's hard to disentangle those two qualities, which are at the root of his most distinguishing characteristics of his eight years as South Carolina's attorney general: political courage and independence and the ability to bring people together to work collaboratively toward creative solutions to difficult problems.

When you couple this with his good working relationship with our legislators, it's hard not to be optimistic about a McMaster administration.

Although as attorney general he sometimes involved our state unnecessarily in federal fights — particularly while he was running for the GOP nomination for governor — he was largely apolitical and impressive on strictly South Carolina matters.

Mr. McMaster probably was the first attorney general who fully appreciated that his job was to defend the constitution, not the government. He went so far as to side with a plaintiff who sued over lawmakers' dangerous and unconstitutional practice of stringing unrelated matters together in a single bill, even arguing in court against the Legislature's attorneys. And no, this shouldn't be extraordinary, but in our legislatively dominated state, it was.

Also extraordinary: staking out a position that put him at odds with the then-popular Republican governor and the primary voters whose support he would need a year later in his quest to succeed that governor. In 2009, Mr. McMaster laid out

the legal argument that allowed the Legislature to bypass then-Gov. Mark Sanford's opposition to accepting federal stimulus funds, and then sent his assistant to court to defend that approach. He did this in spite of the political risks — because he was asked what the law required, he answered as honestly as he could, and he was then sued over the resulting law.

All of that — augmented by his charming, almost childlike belief in the great potential for our state — made him the hands-down choice of our editorial board for the Republican nomination for governor in 2010.

Of course he lost that race to Ms. Haley, but two years later he embarked on another important calling: At Gov. Haley's request, he and former Democratic Attorney General Travis Medlock assembled a task force that compiled an impressive roadmap for reforming our ethics and campaign finance laws.

It took nearly four years, but this spring the Legislature enacted a lot (not enough, but a lot) of those reforms — owing much more to Mr. McMaster's efforts than to Gov. Haley's.

Two years ago, our editorial board endorsed him for lieutenant governor, based on our belief that the only reason to even

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have a lieutenant governor is to have someone prepared to step in as governor should we ever need that. As it seems that we now, suddenly and quite unexpectedly, will.

As I wrote in that endorsement: "We don't support all of Mr. McMaster's positions or agree with all of his priorities. But one thing we've learned over the years is that when we're dealing with mainstream candidates, their specific policy

positions are usually less important than their determination to work on our most important problems and their appreciation for the collaborative process that is the foundation of a representative democracy. Mr. McMaster has demonstrated that this is in his DNA."

Nothing he has done since his election has changed any of that.

Well, he *did* endorse Donald Trump, back when there was

still a chance that someone else could have won the Republican nomination, but I have no reason to believe that reflected a change in his essential nature. But perhaps I should take him up on that offer to get together and explain his thinking to me.

Ms. Scoppe can be reached at cscoppe@thestate.com.

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MR. MCMASTER HAS A CHARMING, ALMOST CHILDLIKE BELIEF IN THE GREAT POTENTIAL FOR OUR STATE.



Title: **Haleyrecordmight notflyinD.C.**

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Haley record might not fly in D.C.

How exciting to think that the governess of little ol' South Carolina could be part of Donald Trump's administration.

And why not? She's already checked many of the Republican/alt-right litmus test boxes (suppress minority voting, deny health-care benefits, refuse a use tax to repair infrastructure, deny aid to farmers, etc.).

But she did accept federal funds with all those yucky Obama cooties all over them for our natural disaster relief, and the most unforgivable gaffe of all: She was instrumental in removing the Confederate battle flag from the State House grounds, which will be noted, remembered and not forgiven by Steve Bannon, Mr. Trump's chief strategist.

— Ned Rowe
Little Mounta



Title: **Trumpthewinnerin Haleyappointment**

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Trump the winner in Haley appointment

Politics is like shucking oysters: Sometimes you don't know what you're going to get until you open it.

Congratulations President-elect Donald Trump on selecting a pearl from South Carolina in Nikki Haley.

*- Cal Harrelson
Myrtle Bea*