

Under the Dome Legislative Update

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Under the Dome Legislative Update
June 26, 2026
20 – 2026

- ❖ **June 25th – Session Day Action**
- ❖ **Budget Conf Committee reconvenes next Tues, June 30th**
- ❖ **Primary Runoff Election Results**

June 25th – Session Day Action

The General Assembly convened in statewide session yesterday to consider conference reports, override two gubernatorial vetoes and allow three high profile bills to stall: DUI reform, hemp consumables and the HALO Act. Because Governor McMaster previously called the General Assembly back into session to address redistricting on Friday, May 15th, normal end-of-session rules were suspended. This means the typical procedural restrictions and deadlines which prohibit legislative action on bills after 5:00 pm on the second Thursday in May (unless specifically listed in the Sine Die Resolution) do not apply.

A unanimous consent request from Senate Majority Leader Shane Massey (R, Edgefield) was agreed to, which states the Senate is adjourned subject to the call of the President. Senator Massey highlighted a technical issue in which county magistrate appointments cannot be received or confirmed while the Senate is out of session. To solve this, the Senate will meet in a perfunctory session only each Wednesday, which will allow the body to receive magistrate appointments and permit the Senate Clerk to endorse congratulatory resolutions. A definitive date for the Senate's Sine Die adjournment has been set for Sunday, November 8th.

The House is adjourned subject to the call of the Speaker.

Enrolled for Ratification & Final Passage

- **H.3021 (Small Business Regulatory Freedom Act):** Establishes a "REINS Act" mechanism requiring legislative approval for high-cost regulations submitted for promulgation. *Adopted via Conference Report; Enrolled unanimously (38-0).*
- **H.3387 (Unlawful Occupants of Property):** Establishes an alternative expedited remedy for the ejection of unlawful occupants from residential dwellings. *Adopted via Conference Report; Enrolled unanimously (40-0).*
- **H.4069 (Patient-Friendly Billing):** Implements new transparency requirements regarding patient billing for health services and supplies. *Adopted via Conference Report; Enrolled unanimously (38-0).*
- **H.4248 (Food Labeling):** Standardizes local and state requirements concerning food labeling protections. *Adopted via Conference Report; Enrolled (33-5).*

- **S.11 (Paid Family Leave Eligible State Employee):** Expands and refines parameters for paid family leave eligibility among state workers. *Adopted via Conference Report; Enrolled unanimously (38-0).*
- **S.1043 (Civil Air Patrol Leave Act):** Establishes explicit civil air patrol leave definitions and protections. *House amendments concurred with; Enrolled (37-0).*
- **H.4635 (Physical Fitness Services):** Directs regulatory adjustments for physical fitness facility providers. *Adopted by House and Senate; to be enrolled for ratification.*
- **H.4709 (US Produced Iron and Steel):** Implements procurement rules supporting domestic iron and steel. *Adopted by House and Senate; to be enrolled for ratification.*

Veto Overrides

- **S.238 (Sine Die):** Directly impacts adjournment procedures and conditions for extended legislative sessions.
- **S.428 (Fraudulent Check Expungement):** Amends jurisdiction and penalties for check offenses, providing a clean pathway for historical convictions to be expunged.
- **H.3558 (Commissioners to Article V Convention):** Establishes parameters for state commissioners at an Article V convention.

Bills Failing to Achieve Passage

- **H.3924 (Hemp-Derived Ingestible):** Regulates the framework for ingestible hemp products. *Senate adopted the Conference Report by a vote of 27-11, but the House rejected the Conference Report by a vote of 69-28.*
- **H.4763 (Helping Alleviate Lawful Obstruction [HALO] Act):** Conference Committee needed Free Conference powers to add severability language not included in either version of the bill. *Senate granted free conference and adopted the Free Conference Report; however, the House rejected free conference powers by a vote of 82 – 16, which is ONE vote shy of the required threshold to allow free conference.*

Concurrences and Disagreements

- **H.5538 (Guarantee Banking Act):** House concurred in the Senate Amendment and ordered the bill enrolled. *(Passed: 99 Yeas - 0 Nays)*
- **S.922 (Appointments):** House voted *against* concurrence in the Senate Amendment. *(Failed: 9 Yeas - 90 Nays)*

House – Adjourned Debate

House floor debate was adjourned on the following measures:

- **H.5164 (Hospitals):** Rep. Lee Hewitt --- Governor McMaster vetoed H.5164 because a regulation was adopted which resolved the issue of hospital beds in hallways during emergencies, and H.5164 was deemed no longer necessary.

- **S.52 (Driving Under the Influence):** Sen. Tom Davis --- *One area of contention is intoxication by substances other than alcohol, such as THC.*

Medical Malpractice Reform remains a priority

The final action of the House yesterday before adjournment was nonconcurring in the Senate amendments to [S.922](#), Senator Massey's bill dealing with appointments. The House previously amended the bill with the language of [H.4544](#) addressing medical malpractice caps. House Judiciary Chairman Weston Newton (R, Beaufort) explained the Senate struck H.4544 from S.922 and asked the House to nonconcur, which was agreed to. Chairman Newton said the House must continue reminding the Senate that medical malpractice/tort reform is an issue which will be addressed.

Session in July?

Senator Massey was not optimistic regarding a budget breakthrough before July 1, which means the state will likely begin the new fiscal year operating under S.769, the Continuing Resolution. It has been 6 years since the General Assembly missed the July 1st deadline and started a new fiscal year without a new budget in place. The last time was in 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic forced members to pause the legislative session.

Gridlock remains, as some have said Senate Finance Committee Chairman Harvey Peeler (R, Cherokee) is flexing on funding for his [Homestead Exemption extension initiative](#). The House is insisting upon hundreds of millions in earmarks requested by legislators, as leadership did not allow earmarks in the FY 2025-26 state budget and members expect the opportunity to take funding back to their home districts.

The stage is set ... November 3rd General Election less than 5 months away

The results of Tuesday's primary runoffs officially set the stage for major political party nominations, with the focus now turning to the November 3rd general election. The June 9th primaries drew a historically high turnout, with 25.3% of registered voters voting in the state — 472,956 people voted in the Republican primary, and 371,993 people voted in the Democratic primary. But turnout fell dramatically in the runoff, with only 10% of 3.3 million registered voters turning out to vote, or 351,581 votes cast. Party nominees/candidates moving on to the general election include:

South Carolina Statewide

Governor & Lieutenant Governor

- Alan Wilson / Mike Reichenbach (Republican)
- Jermaine Johnson (Democratic)
- Walid Hakim (Green)

Attorney General

- David Stumbo (Republican)
- Richard Hricik (Democratic)

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Secretary of State

- Mark Hammond (Republican - *Incumbent*)
- Jason Belton (Democratic)

Commissioner of Agriculture

- Cody Simpson (Republican)
- DeShawn Blanding (Democratic)
- Michael Sullens (Libertarian)

U.S. House of Representatives

District 1 – *will succeed Congresswoman Nancy Mace, who opted to run for Governor*

- Jenny Costa Honeycutt (Republican)
- Nancy Lacore (Democratic)
- Bill Reeside (Libertarian)
- Margo Ellis (Alliance)

District 2

- Joe Wilson (Republican – *Incumbent*)
- Zyon Khalifa (Democratic)
- Dayna Alane Smith (Workers Party)

District 3

- Sheri Biggs (Republican – *Incumbent*)
- Eunice Lehmacher (Democratic)
- Brian Corriea (Libertarian)

District 4

- William Timmons (Republican – *Incumbent*)
- Courtney McClain (Democratic)
- Jessica Ethridge (Libertarian)

District 5 – *will succeed Congressman Ralph Norman, who opted to run for Governor*

- Wes Climer (Republican – submitted his resignation from the SC Senate on June 22nd)
- Mallory Dittmer (Democratic)
- Andy Kaplan (Forward Party)

District 6

- James Clyburn (Democratic – *Incumbent*)
- John Peterson (Republican)
- Joseph Oddo (Alliance)

District 7

- Russell Fry (Republican – *Incumbent*)
- John Vincent (Democratic)

State House of Representatives

- District 8 (REP): Don Chapman (incumbent) defeated Sherry Hodges with 54.49% of the vote.
- District 96 (REP): Hunter Hackett secured a commanding victory against Scotty Whetstone with 67.31%.
- District 99 (REP): Jarrod Brooks won the nomination over Kristy Gore with 64.61% of the vote.

2026 Legislative Meetings and Important Dates

[Scheduled Live Broadcasts link](#)

Click this link for all notations of Live Broadcast

[Archive Video](#)

All Live Broadcasts are Archived here for later viewing

Tuesday, June 30th

Budget Conference Committee

- [FY 2026-27 State Budget](#)

11:00 am

105 Gressette – Live Broadcast

State Agency Meetings of Interest

South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office

[State Board of Economic Advisors](#)

- Thursday, August 27th – Web Conference at 9:00 am

[Monthly General Fund Revenue Reports](#) ---- [Forecast Data](#)

[Local Government Finance Reports / Legislative Fiscal Impact Statements](#)

9:00 am unless otherwise noted

[Web Conference](#)

[Meeting Agenda and Materials](#)

[BEA Information Page](#)

South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

[Medical Care Advisory Committee \(MCAC\)](#)

- Tuesday, August 11th
- Tuesday, November 10th

10:00 am unless otherwise noted

DHHS – 1801 Main Street

Columbia, SC 29201

- [Link for Meeting Materials](#)

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