



“For the four years I’ve been in office, we’ve always gone to districts and educated [residents] whether it was on policy, where it was on the actions of their legislators, this was nothing new.”

-Governor Haley regarding her highly publicized recent comments on members of the General Assembly.

Volume VIII

March 23, 2015

Presidential Candidates in SC

Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush made stops across the Palmetto State last week. While here, he spent time criticizing President Obama’s policy and touting the job he did with education reform as the chief of the executive branch in Florida. The former GOP governor toured a women’s shelter in Cayce with Governor Haley and attended other events in Columbia, Charleston, Myrtle Beach, and Greenville. Although Bush has yet to announce his candidacy, observers expect him to do so soon. He’s already raised tens of millions of dollars for two political action committees as he prepares to run.

In addition to Jeb Bush, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker was in South Carolina last week attending a dinner in Greenville and a lunch in Columbia as well as events in Charleston and Rock Hill. While speaking in South Carolina, Governor Walker frequently mentioned the support he’s gained in his state for defunding Planned Parenthood, backing voter ID laws, loosening gun restrictions, and signing a right-to-work law. So far Governor Haley has yet to endorse any presidential candidate and has stated she does not intend to do so any time soon.

Tax Cuts

In an apparent attempt to find some middle ground with Governor Haley on road funding, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Brian White introduced legislation on Thursday to cut income taxes for the average S.C. taxpayer by \$48 a year. It is expected that the House will start debating competing road-repair plans this week, but the proposed tax cut may not be enough for Governor Haley who has indicated she wants to see “massive cuts”. Chairman White’s plan would amend the state’s tax brackets over two years to result in a \$51 million income tax cut for taxpayers. The proposal would apply the state’s top-end 7 percent income tax on taxable income of more than \$16,350 a year, once phased-in. Currently, the 7 percent tax rate kicks in at \$14,700. The Governor has proposed cutting the state’s 7 percent tax to 5 percent and a 10-cent-a-gallon increase to the state’s gas tax in exchange.

Senate Transportation to Debate Uber

The Senate Transportation Committee is set to debate a bill this week that would exempt the popular ride-sharing app Uber and similar operations from all regulation by the S.C. Public Service Commission. The commission previously halted Uber’s operations in the state in January. The bill would also address fare disclosures, anti-discrimination procedure, and record keeping requirements among other items. Much of the debate has centered on background checks for drivers and insurance requirements. Opponents of the technology company have been critical of Uber’s exemptions from the same fees and requirements of taxi companies and claim it gives them an unfair competitive advantage. Uber has rapidly expanded in the past few years to be worth billions of dollars but has faced problems with regulatory agencies around the globe and was most recently banned from operating portions of its services in Germany.

803.252.1087

lobbyteam@capconsc.com

www.capconsc.com