



South Carolina Election 2010

Felkel Group's Race Report & Analysis

October 26, 2010



South Carolina 2010 Election & Candidate Analysis

Felkel Group offers this assessment of statewide and congressional races across South Carolina as we near the November 2 election day. In the interest of time, we have limited our analysis to only those candidates we believe are viable. All bios were taken directly from each candidate's website unless otherwise indicated. Please visit their website to learn more. We welcome your comments.

SC Governor



Nikki Haley – R

Website: www.nikkihaley.com

About: Nikki Haley, one of the strongest fiscal conservatives in state government, was first elected to represent the 87th District in Lexington County in 2004, when, as a virtual unknown she beat the longest serving state legislator in a Republican primary. In 2008 Representative Haley was sent back to the statehouse with 83 percent of the vote – the highest percentage earned by any lawmaker facing a contested South Carolina election that year. She won the Republican Party nomination for governor of South Carolina on Tuesday, June 22, 2010.

Analysis:

Projected Outcome:

This race has always been Haley's to lose. After all, this IS South Carolina. That said, Haley has done all she can to make it interesting and has seen her lead drop considerably. The latest polls shows her at anywhere from 9 to 14 points. (We think it is closer). If Sheheen had gone on the attack sooner, had a little more money and a couple of extra weeks – he might just catch her. To her credit, Haley has been "on message" throughout, which has helped her detract attention from some of her own personal "issues." She has also weathered an internal uprising from some notable GOP activists. It is no secret that Haley has had difficulty working with her fellow GOP officials in the House over the last six years and one wonders, if it were not for the upcoming redistricting effort, if some of those folks might not have been inclined to vocally support her opponent. Sheheen really seems to have found his voice and his attacks on Haley have allowed him to gain some traction towards the end. This is a "red" state, folks. Bottom line – too little, too late. Haley by 6.



Vincent Sheheen – D

Website: www.vincentsheheen.com

About: Before his election to the state senate in 2004, Vincent served as a city prosecutor and a state representative. Now in his second full term, Vincent represents Chesterfield, Kershaw, and Lancaster counties. He has earned a reputation as a leader in the struggle to fix our dysfunctional state government. Vincent has pushed to overhaul our tax and budgeting systems. He was the lead sponsor of a bill to set up the office of Inspector General to root out waste, fraud, and corruption. He has won the respect of colleagues on both sides of the aisle for his innovative ideas for streamlining state government and making it more accountable.

SC Lieutenant Governor



Ken Ard – R

Website: <http://actionard.com>

About: Born and raised in Pamplico, Ken Ard is a caring father, successful businessman and devoted public servant. Ken served as president of Pamplico truck-body manufacturer Double A Body Builder where he learned first-hand what it takes for business to flourish and for our economy to grow: hard work, common sense, fiscal discipline and freedom from government interference. These conservative values were instilled in Ken by his parents. And Ken put them to work for Florence County when he was elected to county council in 2004. As a county councilman, Ken's passion is improving the quality of life for everyone in Florence County. Ken's philosophy is simple: individual liberty expands, and economic opportunity flourishes, when government is accountable, lean and efficient.

Analysis:

Projected Outcome:

This race has gotten very little attention until the two candidates squared off in a televised debate. Cooper is a super guy, well liked by many and very capable – running as a Democrat in a GOP state. Ard had the advantage of a spirited primary to build his name recognition around the state and seems to have captured more unified GOP support than the party's nominee for governor. We are troubled by the fact that Ard, by his own admission, never took the time to vote until 2004, when he no doubt voted for himself in a county council race. Still, this one will come down to a party line vote and in 2010 that means an Ard win, by 8.



Ashley Cooper – D

Website: <http://cooperforsc.com>

About: Ashley received his undergraduate degree from Clemson and his law degree from the University of South Carolina and began his law practice in Greenville. After practicing law for several years, Ashley went to work for one of South Carolina's leading statesmen, U.S. Senator Fritz Hollings, serving as Legislative Director and Counsel. It was during his tenure with Senator Hollings that Ashley was afforded the opportunity to travel around our state and meet with South Carolinians about the challenges facing our state. Ashley was involved with local issues ranging from improving security at the Port of Charleston to addressing state law enforcement needs and higher ed.

SC Secretary of State



Mark Hammond – R (Incumbent)

Website: www.scsos.com

About: Mark Hammond was born in Lancaster, South Carolina, and grew up in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Following graduation from Dorman High School in Spartanburg, he attended Newberry College, graduating with a B.A. in political science in 1986. Two years later, he earned an M.A. in education from Clemson University. He began his professional career as a juvenile probation officer for the South Carolina Department of Youth Services. From 1990 to 1996, he served as a criminal investigator for the Spartanburg County, South Carolina-based 7th Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office. In 1996, he was elected as Clerk of Courts for Spartanburg County, and was the first Republican to serve in that post since Reconstruction. He was elected to a second term in 2000.

In 2002, he was elected as South Carolina's 41st Secretary of State, after defeating two other candidates in the Republican primary, and winning over 600,000 votes in the general election. He was re-elected in 2006, winning 61% of the vote, the largest margin of victory in a contested statewide election in South Carolina history. (Bio from Wikipedia.org)

Analysis:

Projected Outcome:

This is one of those offices that handle a variety of services that affect us, but yet few people follow, and even fewer understand. We freely admit we don't know much about Marjorie Johnson, though it is clear she has been active in politics, albeit in D.C. and Maryland for many years. Her academic credentials are impressive as well and we applaud her getting involved here in SC since she arrived in 2002. Still, Mark Hammond has served admirably and with out controversy of any kind. Not much has been said about this race and it's not likely that will change before we go to the polls. Given the dynamics in this year's electorate, Hammond should easily best the 61% he got in 2006 and win going away.



Marjorie Johnson – D

Website: www.marjoriejohnson.net

About: Richland County resident Marjorie Johnson is the Democratic candidate running for Secretary of State. Johnson, according to her Web site, is a retired public relations executive. A native Washingtonian, Johnson is president of the Richland Democratic Women and a member of the S.C. Democratic Women's Council. Hammond, 45, was first elected in 2002. Voters will go to the polls in June to choose Democratic and Republican nominees for secretary of state. The general election is in November 2010. Johnson holds a bachelor's degree in English and journalism from the University of Maryland. She also holds a masters in general administrative management from the University of Maryland's University College. Johnson ran for the Maryland state House in 1998 but withdrew from the race before the election. She moved to South Carolina in 2002 and immediately got involved in politics.

SC Treasurer



Curtis Loftis – R (Faces no opponent in November)

Website: www.curtisloftis.com

About: In February, 2007, the state's Lieutenant Governor appointed Loftis as Director of The Office on Aging. Curt's leadership resulted in the reduction of organizational budget by 23%—allowing these funds to be re-directed to services for seniors. In late 2008, the state's Comptroller General asked Loftis to serve as Director of Transparency, responsible for maintaining the state's "transparency" website and working to shed light on state and local government spending. Loftis has come to realize that considerable waste, fraud and abuse of taxpayer dollars occurs in state government. This realization motivated his successful primary challenge in June and is the basis upon which he will operate the state treasurer's office. Curtis has no opposition in the up-coming November election, and will be sworn into office on January 11, 2011.

Analysis:

Projected Outcome:

We are going to go way out on a limb here and go with Loftis.

SC Attorney General



Matthew Richardson – D

Website: <http://richardsonforscag.com>

About: After passing the Bar, Matthew was selected as law clerk for the Honorable Kaye G. Hearn on the South Carolina Court of Appeals in Conway and then as law clerk for the Honorable P. Michael Duffy, U.S. District Court Judge in Charleston. Matthew worked his way to become a partner in one of South Carolina's top law firms, the Greenville-based law firm of Wyche Burgess Freeman & Parham, P.A. Matthew has represented truck drivers, doctors, teachers, builders, and preachers from all over South Carolina; and he has spent the last two years prosecuting violations of state law by an out-of-state mortgage broker that repeatedly violated South Carolina law taking advantage of South Carolinians. He has been an advocate for people and businesses of South Carolina who needed a voice to represent their interests, including public corruption through misuse of public money by an elected official. Matthew has also handled complex matters, like those required of our Attorney General, including consumer protection, securities fraud, commercial and real estate disputes, products liability, intellectual property protection, voting rights, employment rights, and compensation for injuries to workers and families.

Analysis:

Projected Outcome:

Alan Wilson won a run off for the GOP nomination by a large margin over a well financed opponent. His name I.D. is high, thanks to his father's prominence in state GOP politics and given his own campaign efforts which have been impressive. Richardson is less known politically, though probably well connected in state wide legal circles through his role as a partner with Wyche, giving him much more private sector legal experience than Wilson, who has served as a prosecutor in GOP vote rich Lexington county and under current AG Henry McMaster. Wilson's success in the primary makes him a proven vote-getter and his Lexington base of support gives him an even greater edge in this race for the state's top legal official. We have seen nothing to suggest that Richardson has positioned himself effectively to beat Wilson, who should win by 8 to 10 points.



Alan Wilson – R

Website: www.wilsonforag.com

About: A proven prosecutor with a record of keeping South Carolina's streets clean and our tax dollars safe, Alan first discovered his love of the courtroom while working for the late Judge Marc H. Westbrook. Since that time, Alan has spent countless hours as both an Assistant Solicitor in Lexington County and Assistant Attorney General with the South Carolina Attorney General's Office. During his career, Alan has prosecuted crimes across South Carolina including violent crimes, white collar crime, public corruption, DUI, domestic violence and child abuse.

SC Comptroller General



Robert Barber – D

Website: www.barber2010.com

About: Upon graduating from Duke, Robert was ordained as a deacon and served as a supply pastor to two rural churches in Laurens County. In 1983, he returned to the city of his birth to practice law and to help his grandmother Sarah May Bowen run Bowen's Island, the legendary seafood restaurant she started in the 1940s. Since 1990, Robert has proudly upheld the family tradition as owner and operator of this venerable South Carolina institution.

Robert also served several terms in the S.C. General Assembly, representing the James Island and Folly Beach areas of Charleston County. He quickly developed a reputation for his hard work and insight on budgetary and energy issues. Robert was appointed to the House Ways and Means Committee and then as Chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Energy. In these positions, Robert became known as a bipartisan consensus builder and a tough-minded steward of state resources.

Analysis:

Projected Outcome:

If you know what the Comptroller General does, you are already a step ahead of 99.9% of the electorate. This race has led to some "nasty" ads from Barber attacking Eckstrom. In fact, probably some of the toughest of this cycle. It is one of those positions that ought to be appointed by the governor, not elected, and is basically the official check writer for state government. In fact, the most important role this job offers is a vote on the Budget and Control Board, which, until that antiquated institution is dissolved, means it actually matters who wins. Barber is a well respected former House member who has sought statewide office before. Eckstrom also served a stint as State Treasurer (another one of those jobs we ought to appoint, and has created fodder for Barber with some personal mistakes). Both are capable; however, Eckstrom will retain his seat though we suspect not by a large margin.



Richard Eckstrom – R (Incumbent)

Website: www.richardeckstrom.com

About: Richard Eckstrom, a CPA, has served as State Comptroller since 2002, and previously served as State Treasurer. Prior to entering public service, Eckstrom worked with one of the nation's largest public accounting firms, Peat Marwick Mitchell. As South Carolina's Comptroller - the state's chief accountant - Richard Eckstrom has championed fiscal restraint and accountability, and has been a leader in the fight to reign in out-of-control government spending. He is also the state's leading proponent of government transparency: He established the state's first Transparency Website, giving taxpayers click-of-a-mouse access to details about the individual expenditures of more than 80 state agencies. In recent months, he has devoted his efforts to his successful "Local Government Transparency Initiative," encouraging cities, counties and school districts to post their expenditures on the Internet. Eckstrom also serves as co-chairman of the S.C. Military Base Task Force, an advisory commission on military issues which formed to look out for the interests of the men and women in uniform and military installations in South Carolina.

SC Superintendent of Education



Frank Holleman, III – D

Website: www.hollemanforeducation.com

About: Frank Holleman and his wife Anne are graduates of the Oconee County public schools and live in Greenville. Frank was selected by former Governor and U.S. Secretary of Education Dick Riley to be Riley's Chief of Staff and to be the U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education. As Deputy Secretary, Frank was Dick Riley's principal advisor on policy, budget, and programs. With Dick Riley, Frank worked on initiatives to improve early childhood education, to reduce class size, to extend after school programs, to encourage standards and accountability, and to help families pay for college. Frank served under Gov. Hodges as the founding Vice Chair of S.C. First Steps to School Readiness, a statewide initiative to prepare young children to succeed in school. Frank has been Chair of the United Way's early childhood initiative, Success by Six, and received the first Jesse Coles Early Childhood Education Award.

Analysis:

Projected Outcome:

If there is a single race in 2010 that Democrats have a shot to win, it is this one. Why? Because traditionally it is the one office that SC Democrats have managed to hold onto more times than not. Both candidates have extensive and very impressive backgrounds. Mr. Holleman has been a longtime education advocate; General Zais is credited by many with an outstanding stint as head of Newberry College. The State newspaper recently offered tepid endorsement of Zais and that they did not endorse Holleman comes as a surprise. Clearly, we have to cut the waste in our schools, cut back on the bureaucracy and improve the product. Holleman is better connected to the state's education community, which is both good and bad for his candidacy. He will also poll well in the Upstate, usually a lock for most GOP candidates. We think Holleman has a good chance of winning this one, but it will be the closest statewide race this year.



Mick Zais – R

Website: www.mickzais.com

About: The son of a general, Mick grew up in a military family, moving throughout the United States and attending ten public schools in twelve years. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point with an engineering degree. Mick also earned masters and doctorate degrees in social psychology from the University of Washington. During his 31 years of active service in the United States Army, he served as a paratrooper, Ranger and retired as a Brigadier General. He served in a wide variety of infantry units, in Vietnam, the United States, and Korea. For three years, Mick taught organizational behavior, management, and leadership classes to cadets at West Point.

Mick served as the 20th President of Newberry College from August 1, 2000 until July 1, 2010. During his tenure, enrollment has nearly doubled, the endowment more than doubled, facilities have been constructed and renovated, academic programs have been added, and athletic teams now compete for NCAA regional and national titles. For the fiscal year 2008-2009, Newberry College did not raise tuition yet finished with a surplus, and had their strongest financial year ever. For the last two years, the prestigious U.S. News and World Report named Newberry College as one of "America's Best Colleges."

SC Adjutant General



Bob Livingston – R (Faces no opponent in November)

Website: www.generallivingston.com

About: Major General Robert E. Livingston, Jr. is a conservative Republican candidate for the office of South Carolina Adjutant General. As a combat veteran who has led a force of over 9,000 in Afghanistan, General Livingston is uniquely qualified to be South Carolina's next Adjutant General. While the South Carolina National Guard still performs its traditional role as the Governor's emergency forces in the event of disaster, riot or insurrection; since the terrorist attacks of September 11th the Guard has been increasingly asked to serve as a combat force in the War on Terror. General Livingston is running for Adjutant General because the brave men and women of the South Carolina National Guard deserve a leader that not only understands the needs of a combat force but also has the energy and knowledge to fulfill those needs.

Analysis:

Projected Outcome:

Like the race for State Treasurer, this one is tough. We are going to go with our gut and say Livingston in yet another statewide race for a job we ought not to be electing.

SC Agriculture Commissioner



Tom Elliott – D

Website: NA

About: Having taken on the legislature as a young businessman in the case of Elliott vs. Sligh, a The State Newspaper reporter suggested that I ought to consider running for political office. I did, and in 1958 won a seat in the legislature from Richland County, then only eight seats. I was re-elected to a second term, and upon the death of then County Treasurer Joe Berry Sr., Governor Fritz Hollings appointed me to fill out his unexpired term. I remained in that office until 1978, and after sitting out of politics for a couple of years, I served a term on the Richland County Council.

Analysis:

Projected Outcome:

Elliott is well known only in Richland County, where someone referred to him as a "Boss Hogg" kind of character. That sounds kind of harsh; still he does seem to be bit of a throw back to days gone by. Hugh Weathers has done a fantastic job as Commissioner showing innovation, creativity and a real commitment to a key part of SC's economy. We see no reason why voters would see otherwise: Weathers in a big win.



Hugh Weathers – R (Incumbent)

Website: www.hughweathers.com

About: Commissioner Hugh Weathers of Bowman is a third-generation dairy farmer. He was appointed interim Agriculture Commissioner in September 2004 and Commissioner four months later by Gov. Mark Sanford. In November 2006, Weathers was elected to a four-year term as Commissioner.

He is co-owner, with his brother Landy, of Weathers Farms, Inc., a 650-cow dairy operation in Bowman; and Weathers Trucking, Inc., a bulk milk delivery service for over 30 dairies. A former corporate banking officer with C&S National Bank, he is also a partner of Circle W Farms, a row crop farming operation in Bowman.

Commissioner Weathers graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of South Carolina with the BS degree in accounting and finance. Commissioner Weathers has served on the United Dairy Industry Association, the Southeast United Dairy Industry Association, the American Dairy Association of South Carolina, the South Carolina Dairy Association, the South Carolina Farm Bureau legislative committee and political action committee, the South Carolina Conservation Bank, the AgSouth Farm Credit Association, and the Greater Bowman Business Development Council.

US Senate



Jim DeMint – R (Incumbent)

Website: www.jimdemint.com

About: Elected as South Carolina's 55th senator in 2004 after serving six years in the U.S House of Representatives, Jim DeMint has quickly established himself as one of the most effective conservative leaders in Washington. He was recently ranked as the Senate's most conservative member by National Journal and as the number one senator voting for responsible tax and spending policies by the National Taxpayer Union. In late 2006, he was elected by his colleagues as Chairman of the Senate Steering Committee, which is comprised of the majority of Republican senators and works to shape and advance conservative legislation. He also serves on the Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; Foreign Relations and Joint Economic Committees.

Analysis:

Projected Outcome:

Senator DeMint may get as much as 70% of the vote, thanks to the SC Democrats' disastrous handling of their primary process. We are still amazed that no one sought out Mr. Green, when he filed, and discovered that his candidacy lacked a certain "substance". Latest polls show that Mr. Clements, the Green Party candidate (now there's some irony) has overtaken Alvin, too. This race or lack thereof, has freed up DeMint to campaign extensively around the country for like-minded conservatives. In the end, the votes cast here will be more of a referendum on DeMint's national agenda than an actual election. Not even close.



Tom Clements – Green

Website: <http://clementsforusenate.com>

About: Tom Clements, born in Savannah, Georgia, holds a BA from Emory University and a Masters in Forest Resources from the University of Georgia. He worked for [Greenpeace International](#) for 13 years, traveling to Russia, Japan, South Korea and Europe, challenging unwise nuclear power and weapons policies. As Executive Director of the [Nuclear Control Institute](#) [NCI] in Washington, D.C., an organization which has led the fight against nuclear proliferation for decades, Clements worked on a host of issues related to the spread of nuclear materials and technology, and gained extensive foreign policy experience interacting with a host of governments at the United Nations in New York and Geneva. He currently serves as the Southeastern Coordinator for [Friends of the Earth](#) [FOE], an international organization fighting to protect our environment and its least fortunate citizens, where he focuses on issues related to nuclear power and nuclear waste. In this capacity he also serves as the public interest watchdog over the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site near Aiken, S.C., one of the most contaminated and potentially dangerous nuclear waste sites in the country.



Alvin Greene – D

Website: www.alvingreeneforusenate.com

About: Alvin Michael Greene was born in Florence, South Carolina. He grew up in Manning, South Carolina and graduated from the University of South Carolina where he earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science. Alvin M. Greene is a United States Air Force and United States Army Veteran who has served for thirteen years of honorable service.

US House of Representatives – District 1

Counties: Charleston metro area plus upper Charleston County, Moncks Corner, Summerville, Georgetown County and Horry County (Myrtle Beach)



Tim Scott - R

Website: www.votetimscott.com

About: In 1995, Tim was elected to Charleston County Council, becoming the first black Republican elected to county-wide office in South Carolina since Reconstruction. He served on the Council for 13 years, becoming Chairman in 2007. In 2008, Tim Scott was elected to the SC House of Representatives, again becoming the first black Republican to do so. He was elected Chairman of the Freshman Caucus and House Whip.

Analysis:

Projected Outcome:

Mr. Scott is set to win this one going away, and why not? He beat both a Thurmond and a Campbell to win the nomination. Who else can say that? He is a rising star in SC and in national GOP politics. If he does win, and we don't see how he loses, he will possibly be the only black GOP House member. SC Dems simply have no answer for him. By 20 points.



Ben Frasier - D

Website: NA

About: Ben Frasier is a frequent candidate and former aide to Rep. L. Mendel Rivers.

US House of Representatives – District 2

Counties: Columbia and Upper Richland County, Allendale, Barnwell, Beaufort, Upper Calhoun, Upper Colleton, Hampton, Jasper, Lexington and Upper Orangeburg



Rob Miller - D

Website: <http://robmillerforcongress.com>

About: As a freshman at the College of Charleston, Rob made the decision to enlist in the Marine Corps, and in January of 1995, he began basic training at Parris Island, SC. Shortly after his promotion to Sergeant, Rob was selected to become a Marine infantry officer. In his 13 years in the Marine Corps, Rob was deployed to Albania, Yugoslavia, Djibouti, Liberia, and twice to Iraq. In February 2008, Rob left the Marine Corps to offer South Carolina innovative ideas and new leadership. As a Marine, Rob learned the difference a good leader can make in a moment of crisis. His decision to leave the Corps was not an easy one, but Rob deeply believes that South Carolina's Second District deserves a strong leader in Washington. Rob earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of South Carolina, and a master's degree in justice administration from Norwich University.

Analysis:

Projected Outcome:

Since Joe Wilson's famous "you lie" yell last year, this race has taken on lots of national attention. This is Miller's second attempt at unseating Wilson, and this time he has raised millions of dollars, mostly from groups outside the state who took offense at Wilson's slip of the tongue. Wilson too has benefited from his outburst and raised millions. In fact, this is one of the most expensive Congressional seat races in history. TV stations that serve SC-2 are grateful as ads from both candidates have been on constantly. The latest poll shows the race at 7-10 points. We think Wilson wins 52-48.



Joe Wilson – R (Incumbent)

Website: www.joewilson.house.gov

About: Joe Wilson was born in Charleston, South Carolina on July 31, 1947 and attended the High School of Charleston. After receiving his undergraduate degree from Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, Joe went on to earn a law degree from the University of South Carolina and chose to practice as a real estate attorney in West Columbia. Prior to his election to Congress in 2001, Joe served seventeen years as a member of the South Carolina State Senate. During this time, he was the first Republican since Reconstruction to be appointed Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee. In Congress, Joe serves as Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Military Personnel. Additionally, he is a member of the Committee on Education and Labor and the Committee on Foreign Affairs. As a leader in Congress, Joe serves on the Republican Policy Committee and as an Assistant Republican Whip.

US House of Representatives – District 3

Counties: Abbeville, Aiken, Anderson, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Oconee, Pickens and Saluda



Jeff Duncan - R

Website: www.jeffduncan.com

About: Jeff Duncan is a 1988 graduate of Clemson University where he played football for Coach Danny Ford. He is currently the President and CEO of J. Duncan Associates, a South Carolina based, family owned real estate marketing firm which specializes in statewide real estate auctions. Jeff was elected to the South Carolina House of Representatives in 2002, and was named Chairman of the House Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee in 2007 and was appointed by the Speaker of the House to be the Chair of the Education

Analysis:

Projected Outcome:

After surviving a crowded primary and winning a very tight run-off battle, Duncan is now poised to relax a little on election day. His name I.D. far outpaces Dyer's in the District and the 3rd District still remains a conservative stronghold. This seat was held by Sen. Graham, and is currently held by Barrett who ran for governor. Duncan wins in a landslide.

Finance Study Committee and was charged with looking at the state's thirty year old funding formula for public education. Also an advocate for energy independence, Jeff was appointed to the US Department of the Interior's Outer Continental Shelf's 5 year Planning Sub-Committee for making recommendations on oil and natural gas leases on offshore areas. In addition, he served on the state's Natural Gas Offshore Drilling Study Committee and was appointed to represent the state of South Carolina on the Southern States Energy Board.



Jane Dyer – D

Website: <http://janedyerforcongress.com>

About: Easley native

Sixth of 8 children

Father small business owner

Member of Pendleton Street Baptist Church in Greenville

Honors grad of Easley, SC High School

Clemson grad/mechanical engineering, class of '81

First female commander of Air Force ROTC

One of USAF first female jet pilots

Captain USAF

FedEx pilot for last 20 years

Currently, A300 Captain flying across US and Europe

US House of Representatives – District 4

Counties: Greenville, Spartanburg and Union



Paul Corden - D

Website: www.cordenforcongress.com

About: Paul was born and raised in Chattanooga, TN, and since the mid-80's has called the Upstate of South Carolina his home. Together with Lori, his wife of 42 years, they raised two beautiful daughters, and now have an extended family with three grandchildren. A retired executive with over 35 years in business and industry, Paul is a Vietnam combat veteran who volunteered for duty in the United States Navy and believes each citizen owes public service to his country.

Analysis:

Projected Outcome:

Trey Gowdy has probably already ordered curtains for his new office in DC. This seat is not just red; it is "blood" red. Gowdy's walloping of incumbent Bob Inglis was the election, case closed.



Trey Gowdy - R

Website: www.treygowdy.com

About: Trey was born in Greenville, South Carolina in 1964 and graduated from Spartanburg High School in 1982, Baylor University in 1986 with a degree in History, and the University of South Carolina School of Law in 1989 where he was a member of the scholastic honor society "Order of the Wig and Robe". Following law school, he clerked for the late John P. Gardner on the South Carolina Court of Appeals and United States District Court Judge G. Ross Anderson, Jr. in Anderson, SC. He then joined the law firm of Nelson, Mullins, Riley, and Scarborough in the Greenville Office before becoming a federal prosecutor in April of 1994.

For 6 years as a federal prosecutor in Greenville, Trey prosecuted the full range of federal crimes including narcotics trafficking rings, bank robberies, child pornography cases, and the murder of a federal witness. He was awarded the Postal Inspector's Award for the successful prosecution of J. Mark Allen, one of "America's Most Wanted" suspects. He also received the highest performance rating a federal prosecutor can receive – two years in a row. In February of 2000, he left the United States Attorney's Office to run for 7th Circuit Solicitor. He defeated the incumbent Solicitor in the Republican primary and was elected in November 2000 without opposition. He has been re-elected twice – in 2004 and 2008 – without opposition. Since becoming Solicitor, he has led an office of 25 attorneys and 65 total employees.

US House of Representatives – District 5

Counties: Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lee, Marlboro, Newberry, Sumter and York



Mick Mulvaney - R

Website: <http://www.mulvaneyforcongress.com>

About: Mick graduated from Charlotte Catholic High School then attended Georgetown University and majored in International Economics, Commerce and Finance. After graduation, he studied law at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Mick was elected to the SC House in 2006, his first foray into politics, becoming the first Republican ever elected to that position in his District. In 2008 an unexpected retirement created a vacancy in the SC Senate, and Mick ran for and won that office in what was widely regarded to be the hardest fought legislative race in South Carolina that year.

Mick serves on the Judiciary, Labor/Commerce/Industry, Medical Affairs, Agriculture/Natural Resources, and Corrections Committee. He was identified as the Freshman Legislator of the Year in 2006 by the Palmetto Family Council for his work on the South Carolina ultrasound bill. In 2010 he was named Legislator of the Year for his work in support of the State's Emergency Medical Services (EMS). He has received one of only a handful of A+ ratings in the entire legislature. His previous endorsements for office include the NRA and NFIB.

Analysis:

Projected Outcome:

After years of trying, this is clearly the GOP's best chance of knocking off 28 year veteran John Spratt. Not only is Mulvaney the best candidate the GOP has put forward, he has the benefit of changing demographics, the anti-incumbent mood and Spratt's support for all things Obama, and finally money and support from the NRCC which has not done so in the past. The folks in DC know Spratt is highly vulnerable this time around. Spratt has always had a commanding lead in financial resources but this time it might not be enough. We say Mulvaney in a close one.



John Spratt – D (Incumbent)

Website: www.johnsprattforcongress.com

About: John Spratt grew up in York, where he still lives. He graduated from York High School and Davidson College. At both schools, he was president of the student body. He won a Marshall Scholarship to Oxford and earned a law degree from Yale. He served as a captain in the Army from 1969-71, and was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. In 1971, he came home to practice law. He was county and school district attorney, president of the Bank of Fort Mill, owner of a farm and small insurance agency. Active in his community, he was an elder at First Presbyterian Church, president of the Chamber of Commerce and United Way, and chairman of the Board of Divine Saviour Hospital.

First elected to Congress in 1982, John Spratt is chairman of the Budget Committee and a negotiator of the Balanced Budget Agreement of 1997. He serves on the Armed Services Committee andhe co-chairs the Textile Caucus, the Bearing Caucus, and the Nuclear Energy Caucus.

US House of Representatives – District 6

Counties: Bamberg, Berkeley, Lower Calhoun, Lower Charleston, Clarendon, Colleton, Upper Dorchester, Florence, Lower Lee, Marion, Eastern Orangeburg, Lower Richland, Sumter and Williamsburg



James Clyburn – D (Incumbent)

Website: www.clyburnforcongress.com

About: James E. (Jim) Clyburn has spent his entire life living in the current Sixth Congressional District. He graduated from South Carolina State University in Orangeburg with a bachelor's degree in history. After losing a close election to become one of the first African Americans in the South Carolina House of Representative, Jim caught the eye of Governor John West, who brought him to Columbia to serve as the first minority advisor to a South Carolina governor. Under Governor West, he demonstrated his strong leadership skills which led to his appointment as South Carolina Human Affairs Commissioner, a position he retired from after nearly 18 years of service to run for Congress.

Analysis:

Projected Outcome:

On the morning of November 3rd, Jim Clyburn will probably be the remaining Democrat in the state's Congressional Delegation. Not even the national sentiment will be enough for Pratt to defeat Clyburn. The demographics of the 6th are very favorable to Clyburn but if the House goes back to the GOP, he will find himself back in the minority and out of the Whip's office.

While in Congress, Jim has progressively climbed the leadership ladder. He was elected co-President of his Freshman class, and he was unanimously elected Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus in 1999. In 2002, he won an election among three House members to serve as Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus. He rose to the position of Caucus Chair in January 2006, and when the Democrats became the majority in the House after the November 2006 election, Jim became House Majority Whip. It is a position he still holds today, which enables him to have a seat at the table when decisions are being made in Washington and make sure the needs of South Carolinians are considered.



Jim Pratt – R

Website: www.jimprattforcongress.com

About: Education: Awarded a football scholarship to the University of Florida. Earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Recreation with emphasis in Parks and Tourism
Professional: Automotive Industry. Twice earned Salesman of the Year and assisted in Finance and Insurance
Principal, Antelope Valley Christian School. Grades Pre-K thru 12
Appointed by the Dean of Marketing at Pepperdine University
Facilitated an International Students program
Assistant Head Football Coach-Defensive Coordinator. Won the CIF Championship 1995.
Fairway Outdoor Advertising, Sales Manager, Palm Springs, California
Revelation Outdoor Management, Director Sales and Marketing for several South Carolina markets
Deputy Reserve Certification from SC Criminal Justice Academy
Active Reserve Deputy - Lexington County Sheriff's Department/Oath Keeper