

# SC GOP announces debate schedule for candidates for governor

By: Adrian Ashford

COLUMBIA — Republican candidates for governor will face off in at least three debates hosted by the state GOP before voters choose a nominee in the June primaries, South Carolina's dominating party announced Monday.

Next year represents the "first truly open" governor's race in 16 years, said state GOP Chairman Drew McKissick.

"We're looking forward to creating an opportunity for all South Carolinians to hear from our candidates as they consider who to support in the coming campaign," he said in a news release.

The first debate is set for March 17 at Coastal Carolina University in Conway. The next two will follow in five-week intervals: April 21 at the College of Charleston and May 26 at Wofford College in Spartanburg, according to the state Republican Party's announcement.

The primary is two weeks later.

The fourth debate will be June 16 at the Newberry Opera House in the likely event of a runoff. That's mid-way be-

tween the June 9 primary and June 23 runoff.

Five Republicans have announced bids for the Governor's Mansion: Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette, state Sen. Josh Kimbrell, U.S. Reps. Nancy Mace and Ralph Norman, and Attorney General Alan Wilson.

In South Carolina, runoffs are required if no candidate wins at least 50% plus one vote in a primary.

The last time there was no Republican incumbent on the ballot for governor was 2010, when then-Rep. Nikki Haley ultimately won a four-way GOP race in a runoff with then-Congressman Gresham Barrett.

In January 2017, then-Lt. Gov. Henry McMaster ascended to the Governor's Mansion when Haley left her second term early to become President Donald Trump's first ambassador to the United Nations. McMaster has won two terms since, becoming the longest elected governor in state history.

The state GOP is partnering with broadcast company Gray

Media for the debates. They will be moderated by the stations' "on-air talent" and "conservative media personalities," according to the party's release. A spokesperson declined to be more specific.

Coastal Carolina President James Winebrake said the public university is proud to "serve as a forum where ideas are exchanged and democracy is strengthened."

In February 2024, Trump held a rally at Coastal Carolina ahead of the state's presidential primary with Haley, which he won by more than 20 percentage points.

The debates can be watched on the following stations in South Carolina and their on-line platforms:

- Greenville-Spartanburg-Anderson – WHNS FOX Carolina
  - Columbia – WIS NBC 10
  - Charleston – WCSC Live 5
  - Myrtle Beach – WMBF NBC
  - Augusta – Aiken – WAGT NBC
- Two Democrats have announced bids for governor: state Rep. Jermaine Johnson of Richland County and Charleston lawyer Mullins McLeod.

# AJ VS LEWISVILLE BOYS BASKETBALL



AJ #23 Bentley Sturdivant goes up for two points.....AJ BOYS WINS 70-63 (Photo by Gwynn Leaird)

# AJ VS LEWISVILLE GIRLS BASKETBALL



AJ #23 Haven Jordan reaches for the rebound.....AJ GIRLS WINS 74-2 (Photo by Gwynn Leaird)

# AJ VS YORK PREP BOYS BASKETBALL



AJ #0 Kam McGill goes to the basket.....AJ BOYS WIN 60-50 (Photo by Gwynn Leaird)



# LCSO SWEARS ON NEW DEPUTIES

Earlier this week, Sheriff Barry Faile had the honor of swearing in our newest deputies with Corporal Rob Marshall in attendance.

Please join us in welcoming Deputies Jason Wood, Nicholas Wanderscheid, and Shawn Arledge to the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office.

Deputy Arledge brings with him an incredible 29 years of law enforcement experience and joins us after a distinguished career in Chesapeake, Virginia. We are proud to add his knowledge, leadership, and dedication to our LCSO family.

Deputy Wood comes to us as a retired Army National Guard member, bringing a strong foundation of service and discipline, while Deputy Wanderscheid joins our agency all the way from Nebraska, adding a unique perspective and valuable experience of his own.

Each of these deputies brings a different walk of life, a shared commitment to service, and a passion for protecting the citizens of Lancaster County.

Join us in congratulating them and wishing them continued success as they begin their law enforcement journey with LCSO.

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