

Cody Mitchell
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By exempting the first \$10,000 of business personal property taxes, this legislation provides meaningful savings for small businesses across our state, helping families reinvest, hire, and grow. It's a practical step toward a more affordable, competitive South Carolina and sets our state up for long-term economic success.

Roads & Infrastructure
Last week, House leadership filed legislation focused on improving how South Carolina plans for and delivers road projects. This proposal is the result of more than nine months of work by the SC-DOT Ad Hoc Committee, including public hearings held across the state and extensive conversations with citizen stakeholders,

Lawmakers also held a press conference to outline the goals of this effort: cutting red tape, demanding transparency, reducing congestion, and moving road projects faster so families spend less time in traffic and more time at home. This bill reflects a thoughtful, deliberate approach to fixing our roads — one that prioritizes safety, accountability, and responsible growth to keep South Carolina moving forward.

Standing Up for Girls & Students
Last week, the House passed the Student Physical Privacy Act (Bathroom Bill), legislation designed to protect student privacy and maintain clear, common-sense standards in our schools. Every child deserves to feel safe, and no student should have to sacrifice their privacy in locker rooms or restrooms.

We've spoken with parents across our communities, and they've been clear, they don't want their daughters placed in uncomfortable or inappropriate situations. They want schools focused on learning, safety, and respect. The Student Physical Privacy Act reflects that common sense, protects girls, provides clarity for schools, and ensures student privacy as the bill now heads to the Senate.

Protecting Kids & Public Safety
House lawmakers advanced legislation that puts children's safety first by addressing intoxicating hemp products. If a product can impair or intoxicate, it should not be marketed or sold in ways that put our kids at risk. This legislation re-

ceived a favorable report from the House Judiciary Committee and continues moving forward. Throughout the process, lawmakers have worked closely with law enforcement, including SLED, and with the Senate to ensure the policy is enforceable, provides clear protections for children, and gives officers the tools they need to do their jobs. This effort is about public safety, protecting children, supporting families, and making sure the law is clear, enforceable, and effective.

Strengthening Our Courts & Judicial Accountability
Several important reforms advanced to strengthen trust and accountability in South Carolina's judicial system. Legislation moved forward to improve transparency and accountability in how judges are selected, reinforcing the separation of powers and ensuring proper oversight. We also advanced reforms to improve standards for magistrates, the judges many South Carolinians interact with most often. These changes help ensure those serving on the front lines of local justice meet clear qualifications and are held to consistent standards. In addition, lawmakers addressed outdated magistrate court fees that haven't been updated in decades. Bringing these costs into the modern era helps courts function more effectively while maintaining fairness.

A Historic State of the State Address
Last week, I had the honor of attending Governor Henry McMaster's ninth State of the State address. It was a great night for South Carolina and a reminder of the steady, conservative leadership that drives our state forward. Governor McMaster spoke about putting South Carolina first, cutting taxes, strengthening public safety, fixing our roads, and continuing to grow our economy in a responsible, conservative way. His message was clear: "think big, be bold, and keep building a state where families can live, work, and thrive." Because of that leadership, South Carolina is stronger today and well positioned for an even brighter future. As always, I appreciate the opportunity to represent you and to keep you informed about the work being done in Columbia. I welcome your feedback and encourage you to reach out if you have any questions or would like more information on these or other issues before the General Assembly. To keep up with my legislative

Founders Federal Credit Union Names Evan Mathis As President



LANCASTER, SC – The Founders Federal Credit Union Board of Directors and CEO Bruce Brumfield announced today the appointment of Evan Mathis as its new President, effective immediately. "After careful consideration and discussion with our Board, we know Evan is the right person to assume this role and maintain the momentum of the steady growth and strategic goals we have worked hard to achieve," said Brumfield. As Brumfield continues his service to Founders as CEO, Mathis will assume the role of President, effective immediately. Mathis most recently served as Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer at Founders. Roy Hunt, Chairman of the Board of Directors says, "We are fortunate to have Bruce remain with us and continue his steady and visionary leadership while promoting Evan to his role as President. Together, their complementary experience and shared commitment to excellence will drive the next phase of growth."

About Evan Mathis, CPA

A native of Fort Mill, Mathis holds a Bachelors of Science in Accounting and a Masters of Professional Accountancy from Clemson University. He is a member of the Lancaster Breakfast Rotary and a member of the Anne Springs Close Greenway Board of Directors. Mathis joined Founders in 2019 as a Senior Financial Analyst, holding various roles in the credit union since then. He most recently served as Chief Financial Officer/ Executive Vice President. He and his wife, Lauren, reside in Waxhaw, NC, and have two children, Drew and Annie.

updates:
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*Snowy Day
Photos by Gwynn Leaird*

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