

State House News: May 22nd – 26th

May 26, 2017

The State Election Commission [certified the results of the May 16 GOP runoff](#) for the 5th Congressional District nomination, naming former Rep. **Ralph Norman** (R-York) as the winner over Rep. **Tommy Pope** (R-York) by a 221 vote margin. Norman will face Democrat **Archie Parnell** and several third-party candidates in the June 20 general election.

Budget Conference Committee Still Negotiating

Due to policy differences between the House and Senate, a compromise on this year's budget has not been reached. On May 23, the Senate met to [pass a continuing resolution to fund state government](#) in the event that a compromise cannot be reached by July 1, 2017, the beginning of the state's fiscal year. Senate Finance Chairman **Hugh Leatherman** (R-Florence) stated that the continuing resolution was just a precaution and the budget conference committee resumed their negotiations on Tuesday afternoon. The Conference Committee announced late Thursday that they would plan to meet on Wednesday, May 31.

Ethics Probe Leader Battling Pretrial Disqualification Motion

On May 23, the legal team representing Rep. **Rick Quinn** (R-Lexington), who faces two counts of misconduct in office, argued to remove Solicitor David Pascoe from the case. Pascoe, a state solicitor for Calhoun, Dorchester, and Orangeburg, leads the team of investigators performing the state's ongoing ethics probe. Rep. Quinn is the third legislator in six months to be indicted during the investigation, and is arguing that [Pascoe wrongfully viewed documents](#) seized in a raid on a business run by Quinn's father that would be constitutionally protected as attorney-client privilege. After an all-day hearing, a judge asked for written arguments on the issue by June 5 before he makes a decision.

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