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SC POLITICS

Poll Position: Alan Wilson Leads 2026 S.C. Governor's Race Entering Homestretch

Top prosecutor enjoys narrow advantage over lieutenant governor Pamela Evette in most surveys, despite her receiving Trump's endorsement...

by Will Folks June 5, 2026 1

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South Carolina attorney general [Alan Wilson](#) is hanging on to a narrow lead over lieutenant governor [Pamela Evette](#) in the battle for the Palmetto State's Republican gubernatorial nomination, per the results of multiple surveys taken in the waning days of the election.

Evette received the coveted endorsement of U.S. president [Donald Trump](#) a week ago, but the bump she received from his support has been diluted by allegations of a [corrupt bargain](#) involving governor [Henry McMaster](#) and his son, Columbia attorney [Henry McMaster Jr.](#)

In addition to allegations of a *quid pro quo* – which we [first reported](#) several weeks ago – there have been [other issues](#) involving the governor's son that have dragged down Evette. On Friday afternoon (June 5, 2026), McMaster Jr. took his name [out of the running](#) to become Evette's lieutenant governor.

A poll released last weekend from the Atlanta, Georgia-based [Trafalgar Group](#) showed Evette opening up a significant lead over Wilson and the rest of the field – but recent surveys have showed the Palmetto State's top prosecutor back in the lead.



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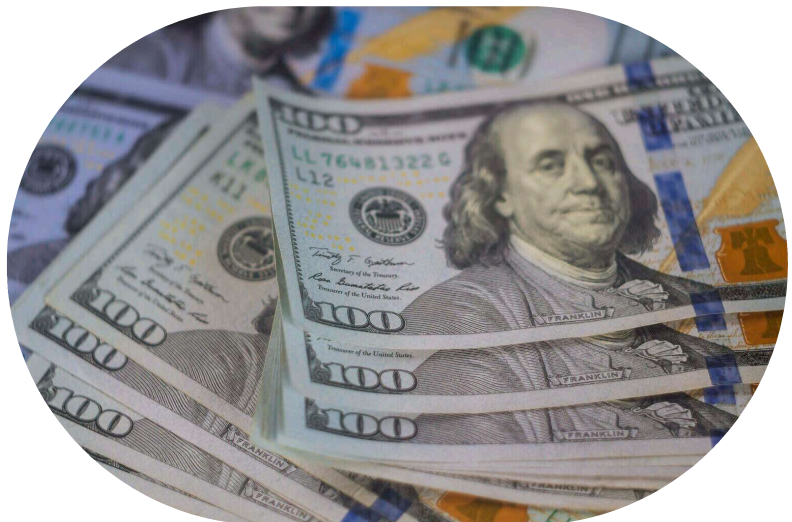
In fact, Wilson led Evette (albeit narrowly) in *three separate surveys* released this week... each taken well after the Trump endorsement had been made.

One survey released by the [Tyson Group](#) showed Wilson drawing the support of **18.8%** of likely GOP primary voters – putting him narrowly ahead of Evette (**18%**), fifth district congressman [Ralph Norman](#) (**15%**), Lowcountry multi-millionaire [Rom Reddy](#) (**11.2%**) and first district congresswoman [Nancy Mace](#) (**11.1%**). That survey listed **24.9%** of likely Republican voters as undecided.

Tyson Group surveyed **500** likely primary voters from June 1-3, 2026. Its margin of error was plus or minus **4.4%**.

Meanwhile, a survey from [Opinion Diagnostics](#) had Wilson at **21.6%** among likely GOP voters, Evette at **16.9%**, Reddy at **16.3%**, Norman at **12%** and Mace at **11.9%**. State senator [Josh Kimbrell](#), who dropped out of the race two days ago and [endorsed Wilson](#), was polling at **1.6%** while **19.8%** of respondents were undecided.

Opinion Diagnostics surveyed **675** likely primary voters from June 1-2, 2026. Its margin of error was plus or minus **3.8%**.



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Starboard Communications, a Lexington, S.C.-based firm run by veteran strategist [Walter Whetsell](#), also has a new poll out this week showing Wilson narrowly in the lead. According to that survey, Wilson was backed by **19.4%** of respondents compared to **19.2%** for Evette, **14.2%** for Reddy, **13.2%** for Norman and **11%** for Mace. Starboard's poll found **22.1%** of respondents were undecided.

Starboard surveyed **500** likely voters from June 3-4, 2026. Its poll had a margin of error of plus or minus **4.38%**.

Then there's the newest Trafalgar survey. While this poll still [showed](#) Evette in the lead, her edge was slipping. The latest Trafalgar results had Evette at **23.5%** among likely GOP voters (**-2.8%** from its previous poll). Wilson was at **18.5%** (**+1.6%**) followed by Reddy at **17.9%** (**+0.7%**), Norman at **14.6%** (**-1.5%**) and Mace at **12.7%** (**-2.1%**). Trafalgar's survey featured **11.1%** of likely voters indicating they were still undecided.

Trafalgar surveyed **982** likely voters from June 2-4, 2026. Its margin of error was plus or minus **2.9%**.

One thing all of these surveys make abundantly clear is that no candidate in the field is remotely close to winning a majority of votes on the first ballot. That means the top two GOP vote-getters – which judging from the results of these surveys would be Wilson and Evette – would advance to a head-to-head runoff election on June 23, 2026.

As we often note, the GOP gubernatorial nomination in South Carolina has been the equivalent of punching one's ticket to the governor's mansion – as no Democrat has won a top-of-the-ticket statewide race since 1998. That streak is unlikely to break in 2026, although

Democrats appear [poised](#) for a much better election cycle than many suspect.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR...

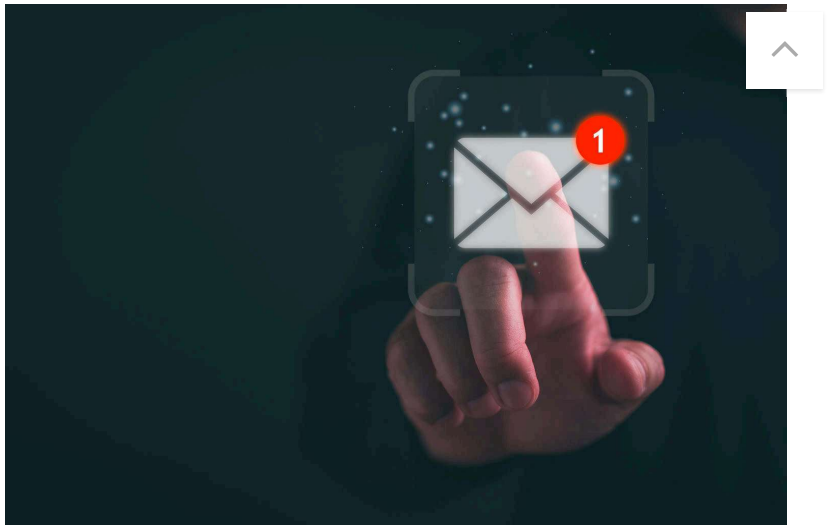


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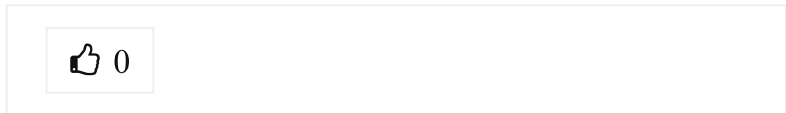
Will Folks is the founding editor of the news outlet you are currently reading. Prior to founding *FITSNews*, he served as press secretary to the governor of South Carolina. He lives in the Midlands region of the state with his wife and eight children.

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