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POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

SC primaries are Tuesday. What latest polls say in GOP, Dem. races for governor

By [Joseph Bustos](#)June 8, 2026 9:22 AM [🎁 Gift Article](#)

People cast their ballots on the first day of early voting on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at the Richland County voter registration office at Columbia Mall. Tracy Glantz tglantz@thestate.com

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Polling released in the last two weeks leading up to Tuesday's primary in the race for governor show a possible toss-up for first place for the Republican nomination as well as the high likelihood of a June 23 runoff.

The [race for the GOP nomination for governor](#) received a jolt May 29 when [President Donald Trump](#) endorsed Lt. Gov. [Pamela Evette's](#) campaign. It was the most sought after endorsement in the race as Trump continues to have a grip on the GOP and his support is almost a guarantee of victory in a primary.

Still, in the latest polling, and with a crowded GOP field and high amount of undecided voters, a candidate receiving a majority of votes cast in the Republican race appears doubtful leading to the top two advancing to a runoff in two weeks.



Pamela Evette

Nancy Mace

Ralph Norman

Rom Reddy

Alan Wilson

Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette, U.S. Rep. Nancy Mace, U.S. Rep. Ralph Norman, businessman Rom Reddy and Attorney General Alan Wilson.

It appears Evette received an initial Trump bump.

A [Trafalgar Group Poll conducted May 21-24](#), had Evette in the lead with 19.9%, Attorney General [Alan Wilson](#) in second with 19.4%, and businessman [Rom Reddy](#) in third with 19%. U.S. Rep. [Ralph Norman](#) was in fourth with 15.9% and U.S. Rep. [Nancy Mace](#) in fifth with 14.6%.

In a Trafalgar snapshot of the race [conducted May 29-31](#), Evette moved up to 26.3%, Reddy was at 17.2% and Wilson was at 16.9%.

“I’ve added to my message that I’m the only Trump-endorsed candidate in this race,” Evette said during a campaign stop Thursday in Cayce. “I was so honored to have President Trump’s endorsement. (He) called me around quarter to six on (May 29), so I’ve been adding that into my speech.”

However, when Trump endorsed the lieutenant governor, he also alluded to the current governor’s son, Henry D. McMaster Jr., [being Evette’s running mate](#). But Evette has yet to name a running mate and mentioning the governor’s son in the endorsement led to criticism in political circles and from Evette’s rivals.

A Trafalgar [poll from June 2-4](#) saw Evette’s support drop to 23.5%, with Wilson up to 18.5%, and Reddy at 17.9%. The margin of error was 2.9%.

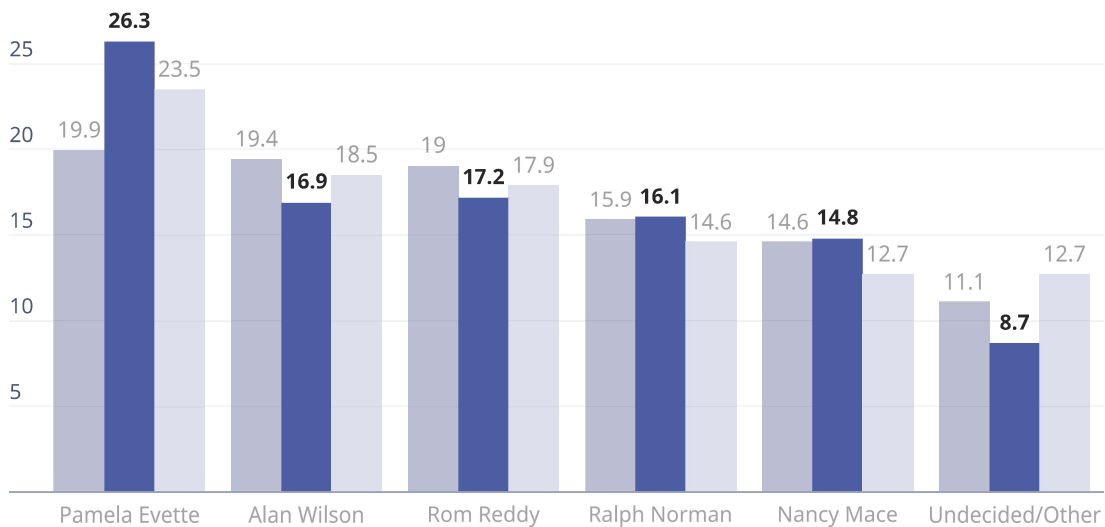
Trafalgar Group tracking poll

The Trafalgar Group released three tracking polls ahead of the Republican primary. The margin of error in the May 21-24 and June 2-4 polls was plus or minus 2.9 percentage points.

5/21-5/24 (1,125 respondents)

5/29-5/31 (Number of respondents not released)

6/2-6/4 (982 respondents)



Source: Trafalgar Group • Chart: The State newspaper

Amid the pushback against the potential running mate pick, and after the new polling came out, McMaster Jr. posted on social media he would not be Evette's ticket.

"I've been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from friends, neighbors, colleagues and even strangers encouraging me to run for public office, but now is simply not the right time for me to be considered for lieutenant governor," [McMaster Jr. posted as he voiced his support for Evette.](#)

An independent poll conducted by [The Tyson Group](#) for P2 Public Affairs, conducted June 1-3, showed Wilson in the lead with 18.8% and Evette in second with 18%.

But when respondents are told about the Trump endorsement, Evette moves up to 24.8% and Wilson drops to 18.4%.

"It raised people's expectations. It didn't raise their chances," Wilson said Thursday of Trump's endorsement of Evette. "When I look, when I think about this endorsement, look, President Trump and Gov. McMaster are good friends. They are loyal to each other. I respect both of those men, but that endorsement was about a friendship."

"I'm looking at internal polling right now, and what I can tell you is I am very comfortable with where I am," Wilson added at the campaign stop on Thursday.

Tyson Group/P2 Public Affairs Poll

The Tyson Group, on behalf of P2 Public Affairs, polled 500 likely Republican primary voters between from June 1-3, 2026. The margin of error was plus or minus 4.4 percentage points.

Support before knowing Trump endorsement Support after knowing Trump endorsement

Pamela Evette	18	24.8
Alan Wilson	18.8	18.4
Ralph Norman	15	14.4
Rom Reddy	11.2	10.2
Nancy Mace	11.1	9.2
Undecided/Declined to answer/Other	25.9	23

Source: The Tyson Group/P2 Public Affairs • Chart: The State newspaper

That Tyson Group poll had a margin of error of 4.4 percentage points. It also showed Wilson had the highest net favorability rating at plus 20 points. Norman was at plus 18 points. Evette was at plus 6 points. Reddy was viewed as almost equally favorable and unfavorable. Mace was underwater by 17 points.

Wilson also had a lead among respondents who voted in all three of three most recent primaries. Evette led among those who voted in one or two of the last three primaries.

Other polling outfits show Evette with a lead.

A poll conducted from June 2-4 by Kansas City-based [Co/Efficient](#), which has previously appeared on Evette's expense reports, found Evette leading with 23%, Reddy with 17%, Wilson with 16%, Norman with 15% and Mace with 11%. The company said on social media no campaign or candidate sponsored the poll.

The survey also showed 77% of respondents knew Evette had the Trump endorsement. Still, she is far from clinching the nomination outright Tuesday.

Co/Efficient Poll

Co/Efficient, a Kansas City-based research and communications firm, polled 879 likely Republican primary voters from June 2-4, 2026. The margin of error was plus or minus 3.31 percentage points.

Candidate	Support
Pamela Evette	23
Rom Reddy	17
Alan Wilson	16
Ralph Norman	15
Nancy Mace	11
Undecided/Other	19

Source: Co/Efficient • Table: The State newspaper

The Reddy campaign, who has put \$5.8 million into his campaign as of May 20, said he, Evette and Wilson are pulling away from others.

“This is now a two-tier race. Pam, Alan, and I are in the top tier, and Nancy and Ralph are in the bottom tier,” Reddy’s [campaign said on X](#).

A poll released Sunday evening by [InsiderAdvantage](#), had Evette in the lead at 19%, with Wilson in second with 16%. Mace and Reddy were both at 13% in the poll.

InsiderAdvantage Poll

InsiderAdvantage surveyed 800 likely voters in the GOP primary. The margin of error was plus or minus 3.46 percentage points.

Candidate	Support
Pamela Evette	19
Alan Wilson	16
Nancy Mace	13
Rom Reddy	13
Ralph Norman	12
Undecided/Others	27

Source: InsiderAdvantage • Table: The State newspaper

Norman, who has put in [\\$3.75 million of his own money into the campaign](#), said everyone in the GOP contest would have wanted Trump’s endorsement, but added the president isn’t a candidate in the race.

“(I) talk to different people that like the Trump endorsement, you have some that don’t like it,” Norman said at a campaign stop in Lexington. “So it’s all a matter of

your perception as a whole. I think it's a positive for Ms. Evette, but everybody's got to make that choice, and Trump's not on the ballot here. Our names are on the ballot."

The attorney general had the lead in a poll conducted by Starboard Communications, which is not working for any campaign for governor.

In the poll of 500 voters conducted on June 3 and 4, Wilson led with 19.4% of support.

The poll, [first reported by FitsNews](#) and confirmed by Starboard President Walt Whetsell, had Evette at 19.2% and Reddy at 14.2%.

Starboard Communications Poll

Starboard Communications, a Lexington-based political consulting firm, polled 500 likely voters from June 3-4, 2026. The margin of error was plus or minus 4.38 percentage points.

Alan Wilson	19.4
Pamela Evette	19.2
Rom Reddy	14.2
Ralph Norman	13.2
Nancy Mace	11
Undecided	22.1

Source: Starboard Communications • Chart: The State newspaper

Another poll reported by FitsNews conducted by [Opinion Diagnostics](#), had Wilson in the lead with 21.6%, Evette in second with 16.9%, Reddy in third with 16.3%, Norman in fourth place with 12%, and Mace in fifth with 11.9%. State Sen. Josh Kimbrell, who has dropped out of the race was at 1.6%. The poll of 675 likely primary voters had 19.8% of voters undecided.

The [Citadel also conducted polls](#) on the races in both major parties. However, it was conducted between May 21-31, mostly before the Trump endorsement.

In the Republican race, Evette polled at 17% in the survey. Mace and Wilson were tied for second with 16%. Reddy was in fourth with 14%. Norman was in fifth with 13%.

The Citadel Poll - Republican race

The Citadel polled 600 likely Republican voters between from May 21-31 of who they planned to support in the June 9 primary for governor. The margin of error was plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Candidate	Support
Pamela Evette	17
Nancy Mace	16
Alan Wilson	16
Rom Reddy	14
Ralph Norman	13
Undecided/Other	24

Source: The Citadel Poll • Table: The State newspaper

One late outlier was released Sunday that showed Mace in the lead.

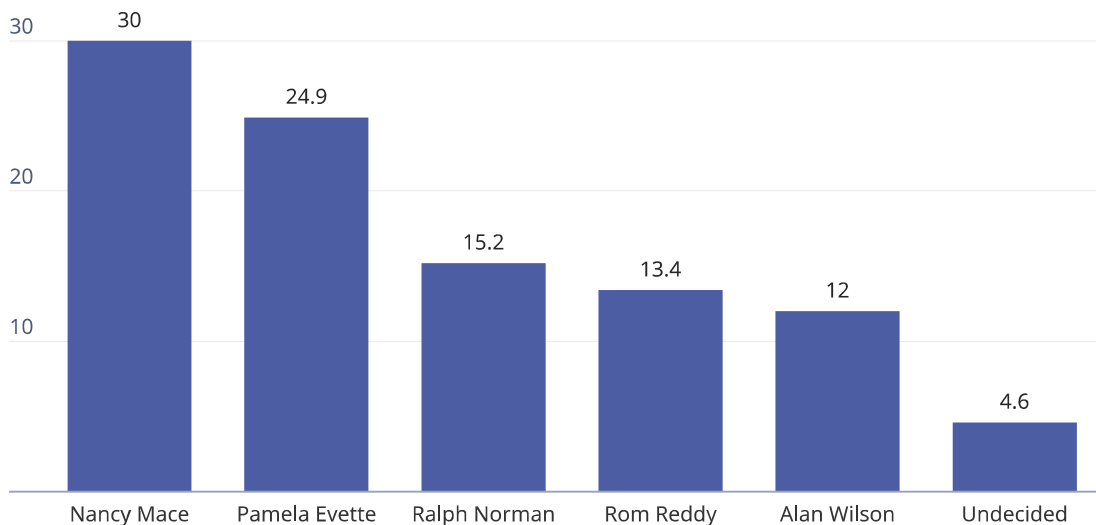
[The Public Sentiment Institute](#) had Mace leading with 30%, with Evette in second with about 25%. However, according to a breakdown of the survey, Evette led among voters who identified themselves as Republicans and Mace led among voters who identified as moderates and Democrats, who have their own primary for governor on Tuesday.

Appearing on CNN on Sunday, Mace called the race a dog fight.

“New independent poll just came out,” [Mace posted on X](#). “We fully intend to make the runoff Tuesday.”

The Public Sentiment Institute Poll

The Public Sentiment Institute polled 388 registered voters on the Republican primary race for governor from June 3-4. The margin of error was plus or minus 5 percentage points.



Source: Public Sentiment Institute • Chart: The State newspaper

Most of the surveys had a significant portion of respondents who were still undecided. If none of the hopefuls receive a simple majority of votes, then the top two finishers advance to a June 23 runoff, leading to two more weeks of campaigning.

“I have never, ever, seen statewide races this close to Election Day with such high numbers of undecided voters,” InsiderAdvantage pollster Matt Towery said in a statement. “This means one of two things. Either voters are apathetic and turnout will be anemic, or there could be some shocking results in some of these races on Tuesday.”

Scant polling in Democratic race

Only two public polls of [the Democratic Party race](#) have been released since Greenville businessman [Billy Webster](#) entered the race in March.

The Citadell poll had State Rep. [Jermaine Johnson](#) leading in the poll with 33% of the support. Webster, who has [invested heavily in television advertising with his personal wealth](#), was in second place with 18%. Charleston attorney [Mullins McLeod](#) was in third place with 6%. The poll found 43% of respondents were undecided.

The Citadel Poll - Democratic race

The Citadel polled 427 likely Democratic voters from May 21 through May 31 for who they would support in the June 9 primary for governor. The margin of error is plus or minus 4.7 percentage points.

Candidate	Support
Jermaine Johnson	33
Billy Webster	18
Mullins McLeod	6
Undecided	43

Source: The Citadel Poll • Table: The State newspaper

A [South Carolina Policy Council poll](#) of 500 Democrats conducted from May 18-21, also had Johnson in the lead. The Richland County Democrat had 27% of the support, Webster was at 14%, and McLeod was at 6%. Undecided voters made up 49% of the respondents.

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State Rep. Jermaine Johnson, Charleston attorney Mullins McLeod and Greenville businessman Billy Webster.



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Joseph Bustos is a state government and politics reporter at The State. He's a Northwestern University graduate and previously worked in Illinois covering government and politics. He has won reporting awards in both Illinois and Missouri. He moved to South Carolina in November 2019 and won the Jim Davenport Award for Excellence in Government Reporting for his work in 2022. Support my work with a digital subscription



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