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Republicans Add Three Seats to SC Senate

Retirements also add to more turnover

This year's unique Presidential Election, with a large number of mail-in ballots and historic voter turnout, may have had some impact on local South Carolina Senate races, where some long-time prominent senators lost their bid for re-election.

Vincent Sheheen (D-Kershaw)

Sheheen, who is a two-time Gubernatorial candidate and nephew of long-time SC Speaker of the House Bob Sheheen, lost his re-election bid to Republican Penry Guftason.

Glenn Reese (D-Spartanburg)

Owner of multiple Krispy Kreme stores, Reese has been in the SC Senate for nearly 30 years. He lost his re-election bid to Republican and conservative radio talk show host Josh Kimbrell.

Floyd Nicholson (D-Greenwood)

Former Greenwood Mayor Floyd Nicholson has been in the SC Senate since 2009. He lost his bid to attorney and Republican Billy Garrett.

The SC Senate also saw some high-ranking members retire.

John Matthews (D-Orangeburg)

Matthews served in the SC Legislature since 1975; and, in the Senate since 1985. A retired educator, Matthews was most recently the Senate Assistant Minority Leader. Democrat Vernon Stephens from Bowman will replace Matthews.

Paul Campbell (R-Berkeley)

Campbell, a former executive from Alcoa and former CEO of the Charleston International Airport, will make way for Republican Brian Adams.

Greg Gregory (R-Lancaster)

Gregory served twice in the Senate, from 1993 to 2008; and then again from 2011 to 2020. Gregory is replaced by Republican attorney Michael Johnson.

SC House Sees Change for 2021

With 124 members in the SC House, a little over a dozen members either retired or lost their bid for re-election. Here are some of the more notable story lines.

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Charleston and the coastal areas will see significant turnover with Reps. Con Chellis, Alan Clemmons, David Mack, Mike Sottile, and Robert Brown, all from the coastal area, retiring. Also, from the Charleston area, Rep. Peter McCoy resigned to become the United States Attorney; and, Rep. Nancy Mace left and beat U.S. Rep. Joe Cunningham to replace him in Congress.

Reps. Mandy Powers Norrell and Laurie Funderburk, who represent the same area in adjoining Lancaster and Kershaw Counties, both lost to Republicans (Sen. Sheheen, mentioned above from Kershaw, also lost).

From the Upstate, Clemson's Representative Gary Clary and Spartanburg's Representative Eddie Tallon both retired.

In the Midlands, Reps. Jimmy Bales and Kit Spires both lost their bids for re-election.

For more in-depth election information, contact John DeWorken (John@LobbySC.com) or Sunnie Harmon (Sunnies@LobbySC.com).

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