

Election '06

Moore offers 'a unique perspective'

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Herald, the afternoon newspaper. "It taught me a lot of responsibility. You've got to be timely. We didn't have the plastic bags to put them in then. When it rained, we had to put them either behind the door or put them somewhere where they wouldn't get wet."

Moore founded his own business in 1978 and sometimes was unable to pay himself until he got the business established. He likes to joke, "I'm the most qualified boilermaker running for governor."

If elected, Moore says his top priority would be working to create new jobs and economic development and to improve both education and health care.

He sees the issues as being inter-related and doesn't claim to have all the answers, but he suggests his skill is to listen to those who know part of the puzzle. "As governor of this state, I want to convene a bipartisan group to make sure they know while we have problems, we see them as opportunities, and we want everybody's involvement. It's not going to be the same old political gimmickry."

Moore wanted to run for the state House in 1976 but postponed his plans for two years at his employer's request.

After getting elected in 1978, he quickly moved up to the state Senate. As his seniority built up, he has chaired many conference committees that had to reconcile House and Senate versions of thorny issues such as ethics reform, establishing the lottery, and restructuring.

Still, when asked what he considers his most significant accomplishment as a lawmaker, he says, "I've been accessible and responsive to people who call for information or for constituent service."

He backs the idea of expanding charter schools and finding other innovative ideas to make schools better, but he is not in favor of providing a state subsidy to parents who send their children to private schools. "I don't think the answer to our educational problem is to take away from the 700,000 kids in public schools."

Moore says the recent property tax reform efforts likely will be revisited by lawmakers because many of them don't understand every ramification of the bill that passed late last session. Again, that points to another opportunity, he says.

"There are implications that are going to come along that I think we're going to have to react to accordingly or amend," Moore says. "I predict we'll be addressing and redressing the property tax situation for years to come, which I

Tommy L. Moore

AGE: 56

FAMILY: Wife, Dale; two sons; and two grandsons
EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina Aiken

OCCUPATION: Small businessman (Boiler Efficiency Inc.)

PREVIOUS ELECTED OFFICE: S.C. Senate District 25 (1980-present); S.C. House of Representatives (1978-1980).

REASON FOR RUNNING: I'm running for governor to make us One South Carolina by protecting and improving public education, providing better access to health care, and increasing economic opportunities for every South Carolinian.

THE TOUGHEST ISSUE FACING THE STATE: The absence of effective leadership.

In Moore's words

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this vision a reality and lays out three keys to that success: fixing the foundation, investing in our children, and strengthening our families.

We fix the foundation by creating and retaining jobs, making comprehensive tax reform and government restructuring a priority, developing our rural infrastructure to compete, and positioning ourselves to become a leader in renewable energy.

We invest in our children by retooling our education system for the 21st century, expanding SCHIPs (State Children Health Insurance Programs) to provide much needed health care to tens of thousands more children, expanding prenatal and early childhood health screening, enacting statewide prekindergarten, expanding Head Start, and supporting statewide mentoring programs to keep our children on the road to success.

We strengthen our families by fully funding public education, expanding public school choices, helping small businesses afford employee health insurance, advancing workforce retraining and development, and supporting home-based care for the frail, elderly and disabled.

Together, we can make this vision a reality and get One South Carolina back to work for everyone.

think points up the fact that now is the time we've got to have a comprehensive tax review plan for this entire state."

Moore says the growth of state government isn't as dramatic compared with spending levels in 1999, before the recession began taking a big bite out of the state's revenue flow.

"We may be back pretty close to the totals in 1999-2000," he says of the state spending levels. "If you compare in numbers, you have to make sure you're comparing apples to apples, but more importantly, this isn't about numbers. It's about people. You know government has to be a partner."

Gov. Mark Sanford's campaign has referred to Moore as "a Columbia insider," and while Moore bristles at the name calling, he notes, "When they call me an insider, they're calling folks like Glenn McConnell and Arthur Ravenel insiders. Strom Thurmond was the consummate insider, according to their definition. People are less interested in whether somebody is on the inside or outside. They're interested in somebody on their side."

Moore says he isn't opposed to restructuring, including the possibility of eliminating some elected constitutional officers, but he is not as eager as his opponent.

"I have reservations because I hear folks saying, 'Wait a minute, you're going to take away the elected process from us.' It can't

be done with a slingshot. It can't be this office but maybe not that one. You have to look at it and determine which ones are we talking about," he says.

Also, he says some are asking whether there should be more state elected officials, not fewer. For instance, Moore says coastal property owners have asked him why South Carolina's insurance commissioner is appointed, not elected as in Georgia and North Carolina.

As for other restructuring moves, such as placing the Department of Transportation under the governor, he is open to the idea but not necessarily pushing for it.

"There's always room for improvement, but as far as the numbers of miles we maintain with the amount of money we have, we have rating agencies that say our DOT ranks right up there in efficiency, with the amount of money and what they're doing with it," he says.

Perhaps most importantly, Moore is painting himself as a consensus builder eager to work with lawmakers and others not necessarily to enact his particular ideas but to find the best solution.

"We are a democracy. There are 4 million people in this state. There are any number of different ideas, attitudes and perspectives," he says. "I also know that bringing a lot of different ideas to the table means you come out with stronger, better ideas."

Sanford's goals remain the same

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years we have left."

Call it the new pragmatism. But if much of Sanford's agenda remains on the table, he takes comfort in a reading of history.

Sanford notes that two of the state's recent governors whose legacy he respects the most, Republican Carroll Campbell and Democrat Dick Riley, didn't achieve their biggest accomplishments — restructuring for Campbell, an education sales tax for Riley — until their seventh year in office.

"We've plowed a lot of ground. We've planted a lot of crops," Sanford says of his first four years. "We'd like to be around for the harvest."

He would most likely harvest changes in the structure of state government, beginning with having voters decide if they want to keep electing positions such as adjutant general, agricultural commissioner, secretary of state and superintendent of education, or if they want to fold those into the governor's Cabinet.

Sanford said he also would like to see the governor and lieutenant governor run on the same ticket instead of in separate races.

He also would like to see the state's Budget and Control Board — the five member body that handles most of the state's financial moves — dissolved and reconstituted as a department of administration under the governor's office. "It is the no-man's land of accountability," he says of the board. "You've got a five-headed entity that will play from any sheet of music."

Sanford takes heart from the comments of a man he met in Greenville who went on a rant about the board.

"That was really exciting for me because I bet the overwhelming bulk of folks out there still don't know that there is a Budget and Control Board," he says.

Sanford also would like to see restructuring extend to the state's health care system and to the Department of Transportation, where the governor appoints only one of its seven commissioners. "In 47 other states, the governor either appoints the executive director or all members of the highway commission," he notes. "If there's ever a place where you want a statewide perspective, that's it."

If he wins a second term, Sanford said he will begin a new campaign to convince state voters of the need to make these changes.

Sanford's platform also includes vows to cut income taxes, bring new jobs, provide merit pay for teachers and introduce a state income tax credit for part of the cost of enrolling and transporting a child to another South Carolina

Mark Sanford

AGE: 46

FAMILY: Wife, Jenny, and four sons
EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree from Furman University; MBA from Darden School of Business, University of Virginia.

OCCUPATION: Governor of South Carolina

PREVIOUS ELECTED OFFICE: U.S. House of Representatives, 1st District of South Carolina, 1995-2001

REASON FOR RUNNING: I'm running because we live in a period of remarkable global change, and without corresponding change in our state, South Carolina will fall behind in offering opportunities to my boys and other families across our state.

THE TOUGHEST ISSUE FACING THE STATE: How to embrace change in this fast moving, competitive and now global world and be willing to break from "the way things have always been done" so that we better economic, educational and quality-of-life advantages in South Carolina.

In Sanford's words

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Accordingly, we have been pushing for changes that better peoples' lives in four broad categories.

We have advanced an agenda of competitiveness — built on making the soil conditions for business in South Carolina more competitive because economic growth is key to everything else that happens in society.

We believe more individual opportunities come if government doesn't grow faster than the pocketbooks and wallets of the people in our state.

We believe the governmental structure in South Carolina needs to be updated to increase opportunity for all in our state. Changes already made in things like DMV illustrate the importance of an updated structure. Structure is key to impacting how much return we get on our investments in education, health care or in even the protection of the environment and infrastructure.

Finally, we believe more South Carolinians deserve a greater voice in their government. We will continue to look for ways to open our political system to regular South Carolinians.

public or charter school, a private school, or for home school expenses.

Sanford, who maintains a home on Sullivan's Island, is not running only on what he hopes to accomplish in the next four years. He also talks about what the state has accomplished during his tenure, including the erasing of a significant budget deficit, tort reform, reducing income taxes on small businesses, the statewide charter school bill, and the establishment of a statewide conservation bank.

"I'm proud of the fact that more land has been set aside in the past four years than during any governorship in South Carolina history," he says. "We only have one shot in trying to preserve some glimpse of the South Carolina that attracted so many to visit here in the first place."

Sanford's clashes with state lawmakers also have been a hallmark of his first term, particularly the incident in which he appeared at the Statehouse with pigs in his arms to protest the way the General Assembly was handling spending.

To an extent, he makes no apologies, saying, "That goes to the nature of change. Change isn't easy or necessarily pleasant. It involves some level of friction. It's hard. Really, we ought to rejoice in conflict. If nothing is causing any degree of conflict, then nothing is changing."

On the other hand, he also says

his first term has matured him and given him a better understanding of the Legislature's traditions, and idiosyncrasies.

Sanford predicts during a second term, "I suspect you'll see less fireworks."

Sanford says his four years as governor have been a markedly different experience from his more collegial experience during his six years in Congress.

"I guess in the military they call it the loneliness of command," he says, adding that the recent hurricane season underscored his point. He had to make the call whether to issue mandatory or voluntary evacuation as Tropical Storm Ernesto approached the coast. He opted not to issue evacuation orders but let individual counties decide for themselves.

"If I had been wrong, I certainly would have heard about it. Fortunately, we made the right call," he says. "That is a very lonely call."

Sanford says the sacrifices involved in a second term — keeping a busy schedule as his four young boys grow up and not being able to visit his family farm in Beaufort County nearly as often as he would like — will be worth it.

"I'm excited about some of the opportunities to come for some of the things we've been pushing for," he says.

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Growth may affect environment, alter the rural and racial makeup of town

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another Mount Pleasant.

More than a decade later, Awendaw remains decidedly rural, even as Mount Pleasant subdivisions crawl up U.S. Highway 17.

The town doesn't have a single stoplight or fast-food chain. Its town hall is a faded old school house, bedecked with broad colonnades and peeling white paint.

Still, in the back of their minds, many Awendaw residents know that their lifestyle is endangered, like many of the animals and plants in the surrounding national forest and wildlife refuge.

Developers recently received approval from the town to rezone 325 acres on a parcel called the White Tract. They say they had plans to build a gated community of homes selling for between \$400,000 and \$1 million apiece.

The developer, Watertree Properties, a division of Land Consultants Inc., declined to answer any questions for this story. But representatives from the company said at town meetings and in written statements that concern for the environment is a top priority, and that the company will do all it can to ensure a negligible impact on the surrounding area.

But the plans triggered a firestorm. Resident activists canvassed the community, taking signatures and encouraging them to oppose the development. After three days of trying to knock on every door in the town, they came up with 500 signatures protesting rezoning — no small feat in a town of only 1,200.

Resident Samuel Robinson collected signatures, and talked to church congregations and council members on his own.

"Blacks must not isolate themselves but join forces, to preserve this jewel that we call Awendaw," he said. "We know that this is going to be developed. But not at such a massive scale."

Issue that shook the town

Town Council's meeting and public hearing in September was the largest in Awendaw history, Mayor William Alston said.

More than 100 people packed into a room with seats for fewer than half of those who showed up. With no air conditioning, the heat became unbearable while tempers flared in the tiny town hall. Speakers boomed and Bible verses were quoted as residents voiced their concerns to alternating clapping and jeering from the crowd. In the end, the council, with the mayor leading the way, voted 3-1 to approve the rezoning.

Although he is 71 years old, Alston shows no signs of slowing down. He carries a constantly buzzing cell phone and an impeccable reputation in the town where he served as the first, and so far only, mayor. Alston is also pastor at Greater Macedonia AME Church in downtown Charleston, and he incorporates his baritone vocals and sermon-style speeches into his leadership approach.

Alston said it was important for him to "vote his conviction," instead of being swayed by a crowd. "The people who are seated up here are the ones who will make

the final decisions. We respect your input. But don't expect us, as elected officials, to dance to your music," he said at the council meeting.

Alston said opposition to the White Tract comes from a not-in-my-backyard mentality where people are willing to build their own houses in town but won't let someone else sell their land to build houses.

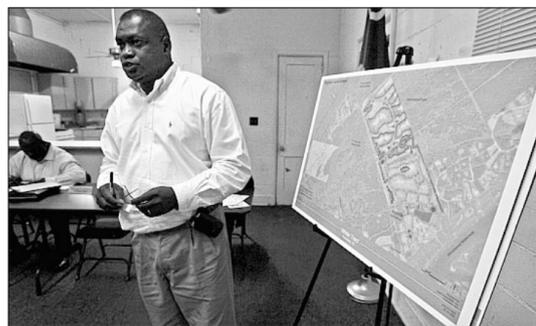
"I want to ask you this, rhetorically," he said at a previous council meeting. "How many of you were born and raised in Awendaw?"

Alston also said it was unfair not to let the Whites sell their land to a developer.

"Individuals who own property should be allowed, as long as they are within the town's comprehensive plan, to use their property," he said. "Some persons raise the concern that it's going to be a gated community. Well, so what? I think the entire community is gated. Because when you think about it, every homeowner has the right to say to another, 'Uh-uh, you can't come in here. This is my driveway, I don't want you in here.' And there are private homes that have fence around their property. That's no different from an area being gated."

Community activist Robinson said that voting your conviction is just another way of saying that you already have made up your mind.

"We knocked on every door, and talked to people in all of the households. We most certainly did," he said. "And then to hear him stand up and say that he's not going to



TYRONE WALKER/STAFF

Awendaw town manager Dan Martin talks at an October meeting about a zoning change to allow a 400-home subdivision.

listen to the will of the people ..."

A larger matter

The development isn't only a local concern. It has attracted attention from environmental groups who fear that the plan threatens shared resources.

In an era where people have flocked to the East Coast — and built it up considerably — the Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge is a welcome respite. This federal parkland encompasses about 65,000 acres of land and water along the coast and draws an estimated 160,000 visitors each year.

The federal government designated the area a Class I wilderness, one of only 158 places in the nation to receive the distinction. The United Nations also recognized the refuge as a top environmental priority. It makes up the largest part of the Carolinian-South Atlantic Biosphere Reserve, one of only 480 in 100 countries. Several endangered animal species call it home, such as the red-cockaded woodpecker and loggerhead turtle.

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control has

deemed water washing into the bay as Outstanding Resource Water, meaning that it is among the purest in the state, which affects the permitting process.

Most residents who spoke out against the development worried that it would spoil the area's natural beauty, and that runoff would pollute the wildlife refuge, which is adjacent to the property.

Jane Lareau, project manager at the Coastal Conservation League, said building in Awendaw was just a way to get around Charleston County's density limits. The town can make its own rules regarding zoning, she said, while unincorporated Charleston must adhere to the urban growth boundary.

"This is the most inappropriate development that we have seen in the region in 20 years," she said.

Because the tract is in such a pristine area, and because the town still does not have water or sewer hookups, the result will inevitably be a "neutron bomb effect" as increased pollution, increased traffic, and predation by cats and dogs harm the local wildlife, she said. "We as a community and in our

public policy are not obligated to fall down in front of these developers and say, 'What else can we give you? How else can we help you make a \$10 million profit off our resources?'" Lareau said.

This also raises the debate about septic tank effects. The developer said he plans to use Orenco Advantex treatment systems, which are 15 times more effective than normal ones. But many residents complained that human waste would still be draining into the national forest.

Leonard Gordon, a wastewater supervisor at DHEC, said that properly maintained tanks should not pose a hazard to the surrounding area. But environmentalists said they worry that tanks expected to be properly maintained in perpetuity will eventually fail.

Also, Awendaw has a checkered past when it comes to providing basic services. The town voted to install a water system in 2001, but after several permitting and budgeting setbacks, the project is over budget and half-completed. The town promises to turn on the tap soon, but many residents have been upset by the lack of progress.

What's next

The developer still has to go through a long permitting process to meet DHEC standards and likely will be mired in lawsuits from environmental groups that vowed to fight the project tooth and nail.

Robinson said he still has hope for Awendaw, even though the mayor pushed the rezoning through. "Maybe we weren't successful in this. Whether he is aware of it or not, he has awakened this community."

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