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Statewide South Carolina Poll Shows GOP Gov. McMaster with a Double-Digit Lead; Democrats Smith & Noble Tied at the Top

LANSING, MI - A statewide survey, of South Carolina **gubernatorial** primary voters released today reveals that Republican Gov. Henry McMaster has a **22-percentage point lead**, over his closest Republican challenger, former state agency head Catherine Templeton, with other challengers significantly behind. Democrats State Representative James Smith and Businessman Phil Noble **are tied**; with corporate anti-trust attorney Marguerite Willis **06 percentage points behind**.

President Donald Trump's support of Gov. McMaster is still benefitting the Republican front runner, leading up to the June primary, is among dozens of findings in a recent survey conducted April 03-05, 2018 by [Target-Insyght](http://Target-Insyght.com)—a nonpartisan, independent consulting and research firm.

Gov. McMaster's lead is supported by Republican primary voters, who give him a **59 percent favorable opinion**, while voters mainly have no opinion or awareness of his competitors. On the Democratic side, most Democrat primary voters **have no opinion** or don't know the candidates.

Key findings of the South Carolina gubernatorial primary survey include:

- **Republican primary:** McMaster – 46%; Templeton – 22%; Bryant – 06%; McGill – 04%; Warren – 01% and Undecided/don't Know – 22%
- **McMaster rating:** Favorable opinion – 59%; Unfavorable – 26%; Undecided – 16%
- **Templeton rating:** Favorable opinion – 35%; Unfavorable – 16%; Undecided – 49%
- **Bryant rating:** Favorable opinion – 26%; Unfavorable – 13%; Undecided – 61%
- **McGill rating:** Favorable opinion – 15%; Unfavorable – 10%; Undecided – 75%
- **Warren rating:** Favorable opinion – 09%; Unfavorable – 13%; Undecided – 78%
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- **Democrat primary:** Smith – 27%; Noble – 27%; Willis – 21% and Undecided – 24%

- **Smith rating:** Favorable opinion – 21%; Unfavorable – 08%; Undecided – 70%
- **Noble rating:** Favorable opinion – 15%; Unfavorable – 09%; Undecided – 76%
- **Willis rating:** Favorable opinion – 10%; Unfavorable – 09%; Undecided – 80%

Target Insyght conducted the study of 800 gubernatorial June primary voters. (400 Republicans & 400 Democrats) via live dial and automated interviews. Interviews included both cell phones and landlines. The statewide random sample study has a margin of error of +/- 5.0 percent.

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