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Special session called by governor

The South Carolina legislature hasn't had a special session since 2023, and lawmakers were expected to return at 11 a.m. on May 15.

MORE INSIDE

South Carolina protesters call on lawmakers to oppose redistricting effort, **3A**

Gov. Henry McMaster has issued an executive order calling a special session of the South Carolina General Assembly. **KEN RUINARD/USA TODAY NETWORK - SOUTH CAROLINA**



McMaster signs executive order so lawmakers can continue redistricting, budget discussions

Bella Carpentier

Greenville News | USA TODAY NETWORK - S. CAROLINA

Gov. Henry McMaster has issued an executive order calling a special session of the South Carolina General Assembly, giving lawmakers the opportunity to continue redistricting and budget discussions.

McMaster issued the order calling lawmakers back for the extended session shortly after the 2026 South Carolina General Assembly's adjournment at 5 p.m. on May 14. The South Carolina legislature has not had a special session since 2023, and lawmakers were expected to return at 11 a.m. on May 15.

Several Republican-led states decided to

take up mid-cycle redistricting in the aftermath of a U.S. Supreme Court decision that limited the Voting Rights Act's protections on minority-majority voting districts. The governor faced immense pressure in recent days to call a special session so South Carolina can redraw its congressional map, especially after the state Senate failed to adopt an amended sine die resolution to continue meeting for redistricting.

The governor cannot mandate which topics lawmakers discuss during a special session, but he cited a need for lawmakers to pass a general appropriations bill and continue discussions of redistricting in his executive order.

See **SPECIAL SESSION**, Page 2A

Examining SC's push to alter voting districts

Travis Jacque Rose and Bella Carpentier

Greenville News | USA TODAY NETWORK - S. CAROLINA

A national redistricting push has put the Palmetto State in the spotlight, driven by a broader effort among Republican-led states to reshape congressional maps across the South.

The redistricting push comes as South Carolina Republicans work to secure additional U.S. House seats ahead of primary elections.

But the issue may be dead in the water.

On May 12, the South Carolina Senate voted 29-17 against extending the legislative session to redraw the state's congressional map using

See **REDISTRICTING**, Page 2A

Fish kill investigation still underway at Lake Greenwood

Nina Tran

Greenville News

USA TODAY NETWORK - SOUTH CAROLINA

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) has released a timeline of the Lake Greenwood fish kill investigation.

Officials from Greenwood County, SCDNR, and the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (SCDES) first received reports from the public of dead fish in the Cross Hill area of Lake Greenwood on April 13.

At the time of the initial report, 15 to 20 dead fish were discovered in a cove

near Morse Landing Road. Multiple fish species were affected, including fish, turtles, and snails, and mixed species such as crappie, yellow perch, flathead catfish, striped bass, and bluegill.

"Fish kills, which are instances when large numbers of fish die suddenly within a body of water, are relatively com-

mon and can be caused by various environmental, biological, and human-related factors," said SCDNR, which cited oxygen depletion, excessive algal blooms, and high water temperatures among common fish kill causes.

See **FISH KILL**, Page 2A

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