

***Celebrating
41 Years
of Service***



**South Carolina
Association of Counties**

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**What is
SCAC?**

The South Carolina Association of Counties was chartered on June 22, 1967, and is the only organization dedicated to statewide representation of county government in South Carolina. Membership in SCAC includes all 46 counties, which are represented by elected and appointed county officials who are dedicated to improving county government.

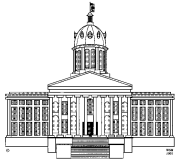
SCAC is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that operates with a full-time staff in its Columbia offices. It is governed by a 29-member Board of Directors composed of county officials from across South Carolina, selected by county officials at the Association's Annual Conference.

The Association strives to "Build Stronger Counties for Tomorrow" by working with member counties in the fields of research, information exchange, educational promotion and legislative reporting.

**S^{OUTH}
C^{AROLINA}
A^{SSOCIATION}
OF
C^{OUNTIES}**



**2008
LEGISLATIVE
PRIORITIES**

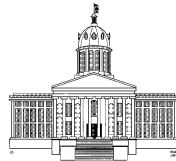


Land Use, Natural Resources and Transportation

OPPOSE — S. C. Department of Transportation efforts to transfer ownership of state-maintained roads to the counties.

SUPPORT — an increase in the state gasoline sales/use tax of up to five cents per gallon to provide funds for the maintenance of existing state roads.

- The largest percentage of most county budgets is spent on law enforcement and detention. It is likely that local government will be unable to keep up with the costs of law enforcement, especially since they will not be able to adjust for population increases.



Public Safety, Corrections and Judicial

SUPPORT — the recommendations of the S. C. 9-1-1 Advisory Committee relating to E-9-1-1 and VoIP (voice-over-internet protocol) charges in order to simplify collections and to hold local jurisdictions harmless in the transition to a uniform surcharge.



County Government and Intergovernmental Relations

OPPOSE — H.3615, the spending cap legislation, that limits a local entity’s increase in total expenditures for all operating purposes only up to the increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) plus the entity’s percentage increase in population in the previous year.

- County governments are already subject to spending caps by Act 388. Act 388 contained a hard cap on the millage rate and a cap on valuation increases upon which the millage is levied. Property taxes remain the biggest source of revenue for county governments.
- It will be difficult to prepare for known future increases in population. Many of the expenditures associated with new residents must occur prior to people moving into a new subdivision, i.e., roads, storm sewers, water, sewer, etc.

SUPPORT — municipal annexation legislation that:

- Makes adhesion contracts null and void.
- Provides a procedure for deannexation in a manner similar to county boundary changes.
- Creates a mechanism to freeze revenue from business licenses upon the annexation of a business.
- Grants legal standing to counties on all annexations within their borders.

- Requires municipalities to notify counties of proposed annexations so that counties can actively participate in the proposed annexation.
- Requires municipalities to analyze the impact of proposed annexations on service delivery to insure that they will be in place after annexation.
- Requires municipalities to submit a development plan outlining how services will be provided in order to avoid gaps in services or overlapping services.
- Provides a mediation process for disputes over whether the annexation is consistent with the comprehensive land use plan.

SCAC PRESIDENT
K. G. “Rusty” Smith, Jr., Florence County Council Chair

SCAC LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
L. Gregory Pearce, Jr., Richland County Council

STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

County Government and Intergovernmental Relations:
Donnie Betenbaugh, Union County Supervisor

Land Use, Planning and Transportation:
L. Gregory Pearce, Jr., Richland County Council

Public Safety, Corrections and Judicial:
Diane B. Anderson, Laurens County Council Vice Chair

Revenue, Finance and Economic Development:
Belinda D. Copeland, Darlington County Treasurer