

## SURVEY RESULTS

### APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS TO COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR DISCRETIONARY PROJECTS

**Purpose:** The purpose of the survey was to determine how many counties appropriate discretionary funds to council members to use on projects in their districts and/or to fund other projects in the county they support.

**Participating:** 25 counties (54%): Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale, Anderson, Chester, Colleton, Darlington, Dorchester, Georgetown, Greenville, Jasper, Kershaw, Lancaster, Laurens, Lexington, Marlboro, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Pickens, Richland, Spartanburg, Sumter, Union, York

**SUMMARY:** A total of 22 of the 25 responding counties do not appropriate discretionary funds to council members to use on projects in their districts and/or to fund other projects in the county they support. Only Aiken, Greenville and Richland Counties reported that they do appropriate such funds. Greenville County's policy is attached.

County	Discretionary Funds	Amount	Conditions/ Restrictions	Rolled Over	Written Policy
Abbeville	No				
Aiken	Yes	\$5,000/ member	Use must be approved by unanimous vote of council. No more than \$1,000 per agency per year. Agency must be non-profit (i.e., fire department, civic group, church, United Way agency)	Unspent funds roll into general fund balance.	Only written policy is in budget ordinance stating allocation must be approved unanimously. Generally done by resolution at next council meeting.
Allendale	No				
Anderson	No				
Chester	No				
Colleton	No				
Darlington	No				
Dorchester	No				
Georgetown	No				
Greenville	Yes	\$23,500/ member	The funds cover normal business expenses of a council member and can be used for special non-recurring community requests related to infrastructure such as flooding/drainage, roads, lighting, public buildings and grounds, and related studies.	Funds may be encumbered for viable projects only and will lapse at the end of a council member's term.	Yes – Attached
Jasper	No				

<b>County</b>	<b>Discretionary Funds</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Conditions/ Restrictions</b>	<b>Rolled Over</b>	<b>Written Policy</b>
Kershaw	No				
Lancaster	No				
Laurens	No				
Lexington	No				
Marlboro	No				
McCormick	No				
Newberry	No				
Oconee	No				
Pickens	No				
Richland	Yes	\$4,500/ member	None	Funds not used are lost.	No
Spartanburg	No				
Sumter	No				
Union	No				
York	No				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Yes – 3 No – 22</b>				

## Greenville County Council District Expense

### Account Name

### Description

Council District Expense

Funds for a Council Member to address:

- Cost of general business supplies such as pens, paper, stationary, business cards, postage for district mailings, and ink cartridges;
- Cost of special documents, incentives and awards given either to the public or county employees for outstanding service or special recognition and the cost of framing by outside vendors of special documents;
- Cost of periodicals, professional journals, and reference books;
- Cost of per diem and mileage involved in the conduct of county business;
- Costs associated with community functions, conferences and training seminars such as food, gas, mileage, automobile rental, accommodations, tuition, and materials;
- Costs associated with special, non recurring community requests for infrastructure purposes such as:
  - Flooding
  - Roads
  - Lights
  - Sewer and drainage
  - Public buildings and grounds
  - Infrastructure related studies

**Funds may be encumbered for viable projects only and will lapse at the end of a council member's term**