

SURVEY RESULTS

COUNTY SUPPORT OF LEGISLATIVE DELEGATIONS

Purpose: The purpose of the survey was to determine how many counties provide support to their county legislative delegations, whether the support is in the form of office space and/or funds to operate the office, or in direct payments to the legislators to offset costs in providing local constituent services.

Participating: 42 counties (91%): Abbeville, Aiken, Allendale, Anderson, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Cherokee, Chester, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Edgefield, Florence, Georgetown, Greenville, Greenwood, Hampton, Horry, Kershaw, Lancaster, Laurens, Lexington, Marion, Marlboro, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Richland, Saluda, Spartanburg, Sumter, Union, Williamsburg, and York.

No Response: 4 counties (9%): Chesterfield, Fairfield, Jasper, and Lee.

SUMMARY: A total of 12 counties (29% of respondents) provide neither office space nor any direct payments or operational funds to their legislative delegations. About one-half provide office space and one-half do not. Six counties provide direct payments to members. One-half (21) provide operational funds which may include some staff. Among those providing either direct payments or operational funding, the average spent per member ranged from a low of \$120 in Hampton to a high of over \$10,000 in Oconee and Richland.

1. Do you provide office space to your county legislative delegation?

Yes: 22 (52%)

No: 20 (48%)

2. Do you provide direct payments to members of your legislative delegation?

Yes: 6 (14%)

No: 36 (86%)

If "Yes", what amount do you provide annually to each member?

Berkeley: Based on formula relating to how much of the county is in the member's district (see below)

Clarendon: \$4,950 to each member

Darlington: Based on formula relating to how much of the county is in the member's district (see below)

Dorchester: Based on formula relating to how much of the county is in the member's district (see below)

Laurens: \$475 to each member

Williamsburg: Two members receive \$4,800 each; one member receives \$1,200

3. Do you provide funds for the operation of the county legislative delegation office (i.e., staff, postage, copying costs, etc.)?

Yes: 21 (50%)

No: 21 (50%)

4. If “Yes”, how much was appropriated this fiscal year for the operation of the county delegation office? (Do not include amount provided as direct payments in no. 2 above.)

Ranges from \$600 in Hampton to \$160,869 in Richland.

5. Does the amount reflected above include funding of office staff? If so, how many full-time staff does the county fund?

Both Charleston and Richland fund the most number of staff: three full-time employees.

RESPONSES

County	# in Del.	Office Space	Direct Payments	Oper. Funds	Staff Included in Operation Funds	Total Expended	Avg. Per Member
Abbeville	5	No	No	No	n/a	0	0
Aiken	9	Yes	No	\$37,369	1 office manager	\$37,369	\$4,152
Allendale	3	No	No	No	n/a	0	0
Anderson	8	Yes	No	\$56,675	1 clerk	\$56,675	\$7,084
Bamberg	2	No	No	No	n/a	0	0
Barnwell	3	No	No	No	n/a	0	0
Beaufort	6	Yes	No	\$47,425	1 full-time employee – this person also assists the Tax Equalization Board.	\$47,425	\$7,904

County	# in Del.	Office Space	Direct Payments	Oper. Funds	Staff Included in Operation Funds	Total Expended	Avg. Per Member
Berkeley	10	No	Rep. Jas. Merrill: \$2,847.32 Rep. Jas. Law: \$1,324.96 Rep. D. Umphlett: \$1,634.60 Rep. T. M. Dantzler: \$1,519.64 Rep. S. Hinson: \$3,323.20 Rep. A. Gourdine: \$3,182.60 Sen. W. Mescher: \$6,224.60 Sen. L. Grooms: \$4,245.28 Sen. W. Branton: \$1,334.44 Sen. J. Kuhn: \$1,715.68	No	n/a	\$27,352	\$2,735
Calhoun	3	No	No	No	n/a	0	0
Charleston	22	Yes	No	\$142,685	3 F-T employees	\$142,685	\$6,486
Cherokee	4	No	No	No	n/a	0	0
Chester	4	No	No	No	n/a	0	0
Clarendon	3	No	3 @ \$4,950	No	n/a	\$14,850	\$4,950
Colleton	6	Yes	No	\$16,666	1 employee @ 30 hrs/wk	\$16,666	\$2,778
Darlington	4	No	Sen. G. Malloy: \$11,730 Rep. J. Hines: \$1,907.40 Rep. J. Lucas: \$1,450.20 Rep. D. Neilson: \$2,642	No	n/a	\$17,730	\$4,433
Dillon	3	No	No	\$800	No	\$800	\$267
Dorchester	7	No	Rep. G. Bailey: \$2,680.52 Rep. C. Chellis: \$2,209.44 Rep. R. Harrell: \$98.64 Rep. Young-Brickle: \$2,463.28 Sen. W. Branton: \$4,903.92 Sen. L. Grooms: \$1,072.08 Sen. G. McConnell: \$348.16	No	n/a	\$13,776	\$1,968
Edgefield	3	Yes ¹	No	No	n/a	0	0

¹ Provide office and phone.

County	# in Del.	Office Space	Direct Payments	Oper. Funds	Staff Included in Operation Funds	Total Expended	Avg. Per Member
Florence	11	No ²	No	No	n/a	0	0
Georgetown	4	Yes	No	\$9,615	1 P-T AA (\$8,005 inc. taxes & retirement)	\$9,615	\$2,404
Greenville	18	Yes	No	\$8,000	1 F-T employee in Administrator's office (paid by the county) also staffs the delegation office. The \$8,000 covers the additional duties transferred to this position. Office supplies and copying expenses are included in the Administrator's budget.	\$8,000	\$444
Greenwood	4	No	No	No ³	n/a	0	0
Hampton	5	Yes	No	\$600	No	\$600	\$120
Horry	11	Yes	No	\$75,174 ⁴	2 F-T employees	\$75,174	\$6,834
Kershaw	5	No	No	\$9,619	1 P-T employee	\$9,619	\$1,924
Lancaster	5	Yes	No	\$1,000	No	\$1,000	\$200
Laurens	4	Yes ⁵	4 @ \$475 each ⁶	No	n/a	\$1,900	\$475
Lexington	13	Yes	No	\$18,162	1 P-T secretary (\$13,888)	\$18,162	\$1,397

² Although we don't have a special designated office for the legislative delegation, we do make arrangements for a meeting room when needed. We also handle notary applications for the legislative delegation.

³ Although we do not provide direct funds to our county delegation, we do provide them with their stationery supplies.

⁴ Does not include utilities for offices.

⁵ One member, Rep. Mike Pitts, shares a small office with the staff of U.S. Rep. Gresham Barrett.

⁶ We have for a number of years allocated direct payment to the four members of the delegation. Most of the members prefer this to the allocation of office space.

County	# in Del.	Office Space	Direct Payments	Oper. Funds	Staff Included in Operation Funds	Total Expended	Avg. Per Member
Marion	4	Yes	No	\$10,207	1 P-T employee	\$10,207	\$2,552
Marlboro	4	No	No	No	n/a	0	0
McCormick	2	No	No	No	n/a	0	0
Newberry	3	Yes	No	No	n/a	0	0
Oconee	4	Yes	No	\$43,264	1 F-T secretary	\$43,264	\$10,816
Orangeburg	6	Yes	No	\$2,285	Deputy Administrator's office provides administrative support.	\$2,285	\$381
Pickens	7	Yes	No	\$23,354	1 P-T secretary	\$23,354	\$3,336
Richland	15	Yes	No	\$160,869	3 F-T employees	\$160,869	\$10,725
Saluda	2	Yes	No	No	n/a	0	0
Spartanburg	12	Yes	No	\$50,329	1 employee	\$50,329	\$4,194
Sumter	7	Yes	No	\$17,896	1 P-T office manager	\$17,896	\$2,557
Union	4	No	No	No	n/a	0	0
Williamsburg	3	No	2 members receive \$4,800 each; one member receives \$1,200	No	n/a	\$10,800	\$3,600
York	11	No	No	\$4,400	No	\$4,400	\$400
TOTAL		Yes: 22 No: 20	Yes: 6 No: 36	Yes: 21 No: 21	Range: 0-3 F-T employees	Range: \$600-\$160,869	Range: \$120-\$10,816