

# Annual Conference & Institute of Government August 4-6, 2025



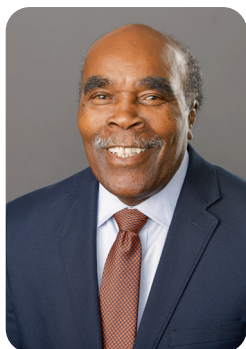
**SOUTH CAROLINA  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

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All event information in this booklet is as of **June 24, 2025**. For the latest information and for full details, please use the SCAC conference app.

# WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT



## William E. Robinson SCAC President Allendale County

Welcome to the South Carolina Association of Counties' 2025 Annual Conference! We're excited you carved out time from your busy schedules to join us for the next few days. This event offers an excellent opportunity to learn from experts in county government and each other.

As you attend classes, presentations and events, take time to connect with colleagues from across the state.

Sharing our challenges and ideas with one another can help us discover innovative solutions to common issues our counties face.

Each year, the SCAC staff builds upon the success of previous events, using your feedback to deliver exceptional programming. Some events of note include:

- The **General Session** on Wednesday will feature a keynote address and include recognition of our Institute of Government graduates.
- The **Legislative Power Hour and Breakfast** on Wednesday morning offers an opportunity to connect with state legislators, hear a panel discussion on statewide issues and ask questions relevant to your counties.
- The **Closing Reception** from 6:30 to 10 p.m. on Wednesday offers a bit more time to network with colleagues during our celebratory wrap-up.

This year we also celebrate the milestone anniversary of the Home Rule Act, which was signed into law in June 1975. This law marks the beginning of modern county government. Be sure to check out our banner displays showcasing the evolution of county government—**50 Years of Home Rule: Local Voice. Lasting Impact.**

Stay up to date on all conference information with the **free conference app**, which includes the full schedule, in-depth speaker bios and SCAC Corporate Partner information. Search for "SC Counties" in the Apple App Store or Google Play. We also want you to share what you've learned via social media. Post your photos and relevant details on your own pages using the hashtag **#SCCounties25**.

And remember, your **presence and participation** make SCAC services and programs engaging and meaningful. Over the next few days, take time to talk with staff about our Association's resources—from publications and legal assistance to advocacy and risk management—all designed to help you better advocate for your county.

It has been an honor serving as your president this year. Enjoy the conference!

# 2024-25 OFFICERS

## **PRESIDENT**

**William E. Robinson**

Allendale County Council Chairman

## **FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**

**Mary D. Anderson**

Chesterfield County Council Chairwoman

## **SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**

**C. David Chinnis**

Dorchester County Council Chairman

## **THIRD VICE PRESIDENT**

**Cecil M. Thornton Jr.**

Calhoun County Council Vice Chairman

## **SECRETARY**

**Charles T. Edens**

Sumter County Council

## **TREASURER**

**Julie J. Armstrong**

Charleston County Clerk of Court

## **IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT**

**Johnnie Wright Sr.**

Orangeburg County Council Chairman



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Terms Expire 2028

**John Q. Atkinson Jr.**, Marion County Council Vice Chairman  
**Alphonso Bradley**, Florence County Council  
**Joseph F. Passiment**, Beaufort County Council  
**Timothy F. Spencer**, Cherokee County Council Chairman  
**Johnnie Wright Sr.**, Orangeburg County Council Chairman

## Terms Expire 2027

**Cam Crawford**, Horry County Council  
**Tim Harper**, Dillon County Administrator  
**Brown Patterson**, Laurens County Council  
**Phillip M. Taylor Sr.**, Colleton County Council

## Terms Expire 2026

**Daniel Alexander**, Barnwell County Council  
**Charles T. Jennings**, McCormick County Council Vice Chairman  
**Sammie Tucker Jr.**, Kershaw County Council

## Terms Expire 2025

**W. Brian Carnes**, Lancaster County Council Chairman  
**Larry Haynes**, Bamberg County Council Vice Chairman  
**Jesica Mackey**, Richland County Council Chairwoman  
**Jason P. Phillips**, Anderson County Treasurer

## SC Counties Insurance Trusts Chairman

**Cecil M. Thornton Jr.**, Calhoun County Council Vice Chairman

## NACo Board Representative

**Waymon Mumford**, Florence County Council

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## APP

The SCAC event app contains the information published in this program, as well as any updated information. Download it from the App Store or Google Play by searching for “SC Counties.” Or scan the QR code below. Visit the registration desk to get assistance with the conference app.

App Store



Google Play



## REGISTRATION

Institute of Government and conference participants are required to register at SCAC's registration desk in the Palms Foyer of the SGP Conference Center. Pick up your registration packet, including your badge at the registration desk.

**Name badges are required at all SCAC events and meetings.**

Participants may register at the following times:

- **Monday, August 4** – 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, August 5** – 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, August 6** – 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

## INCLUDED FOOD AND BEVERAGES

The **Institute of Government** registration fee covers the cost of coffee/beverage breaks (Monday morning/afternoon and Tuesday morning) and a boxed lunch (Monday) for **Institute participants only**.

For delegates, the registration fee for the **Annual Conference** covers the cost of coffee/beverage breaks in the Exhibit Hall (Tuesday afternoon/Wednesday morning and afternoon), breakfast and a boxed lunch (Wednesday). For delegates and their guest, the fee includes the Welcome Reception (Tuesday) and Closing Reception (Wednesday).

**All registered participants and guests must wear a name badge during all Annual Conference and Institute of Government events and food/beverage functions.**

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## Institute of Government

MONDAY  
08.04

**9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

### **Registration Open**

Palms Foyer, SGP Conference Center

**10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

### **Level I: Managing and Conducting Meetings [E]**

Palms 1-5, SGP Conference Center

### **Level II: Measuring and Reporting County Performance**

Osprey 1-4, Sweetgrass Inn

**1 p.m.**

### **Institute of Government Graduation Photos (for those not present 8/6)**

Palms 6-8, SGP Conference Center

**1 – 2 p.m.**

### **Boxed Lunches (Institute Registrants Only)**

Palms 6-8, SGP Conference Center

Lunches sponsored by  
**Charter Communications**

**1 – 5 p.m.**

### **Exhibit Area Open**

Palms Foyer + Tides Ballroom, SGP Conference Center

**2 – 5 p.m.**

### **Level I: Ethical Leadership and Public Service [R]**

Osprey 1-4, Sweetgrass Inn

### **Level I: Public Speaking [E]**

Palmetto Hall, behind the SGP Conference Center

### **Level II: From Concept to Completion: Financing a Public Project**

Palms 1-5, SGP Conference Center



# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## Institute of Government/Conference

8 a.m. – 4 p.m.	<b>Registration Open</b> Palms Foyer, SGP Conference Center
8 a.m.	<b>Worship Service</b> Indigo Room, Sweetgrass Inn (6th floor)
8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.	<b>Exhibit Area Open</b> Palms Foyer + Tides Ballroom, SGP Conference Center
8:45 a.m. – Noon	<b>Probate Judges Meeting</b> Avocet Boardroom, Sweetgrass Inn
9 a.m. – Noon	<b>Level I: Building an Effective County Team [E]</b> Palmetto Hall, behind the SGP Conference Center
	<b>Advanced: Crisis Management Strategies and Communication</b> Osprey 1-4, Sweetgrass Inn
9:15 a.m.	<b>Constitution, Resolutions and Bylaws Committee Meeting</b> (see page 7) Boardroom, Boardwalk Inn
9:30 a.m.	<b>Nominating Committee Meeting</b> (see page 7) Club Room, Boardwalk Inn



*(Continued on pg. 8)*

### Constitution, Resolutions and Bylaws Committee Meeting

Resolutions approved by this committee will be submitted for the approval of the membership at the general session on Wednesday, Aug. 6.

SCAC considers resolutions dealing with all matters that affect county government and the Association. Proposed resolutions should be presented in writing to the committee chairman prior to or at the Aug. 5 meeting.

- **Chairman – Charles T. Edens**  
Sumter County Council
- **Daniel Alexander**  
Barnwell County Council
- **Mary D. Anderson**  
Chesterfield County Council Chairwoman
- **W. Brian Carnes**  
Lancaster County Council Chairman
- **Phillip M. Taylor Sr.**  
Colleton County Council

### Nominating Committee Meeting

Nominations will be accepted for SCAC's 2025-2026 slate of officers and board members at this meeting. Following the submission of nominations, the committee will meet and issue a report, which will be posted at the SCAC registration desk.

Nominations may also be accepted from the floor during Wednesday's general session, immediately before the election by the membership.

- **Chairman – Johnnie Wright Sr.**  
Orangeburg County Council Chairman
- **John Q. Atkinson Jr.**  
Marion County Council Vice Chairman
- **Charles T. Jennings**  
McCormick County Council Vice Chairman
- **Joseph F. Passiment**  
Beaufort County Council
- **Brown Patterson**  
Laurens County Council

TUESDAY  
08.05

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## Conference

**1:30 – 2:30 p.m.**

### **Rural Caucus Meeting**

Palms 4-8, SGP Conference Center

### **Urban Caucus Meeting**

Palms 1-3, SGP Conference Center

**1:30 – 4 p.m.**

### **Councils of Governments Meeting**

Avocet Boardroom, Sweetgrass Inn

**1:30 – 5 p.m.**

### **Clerks to Councils Meeting**

Palmetto Hall, behind the SGP Conference Center

**2:30 p.m.**

### **At The Movies Snack Break**

Tides Ballroom, SGP Conference Center

Break sponsored by  
**Pierce Group Benefits**

**2:45 – 3:45 p.m.**

### **County Managers, Administrators & Supervisors Meeting**

Palms 4-8, SGP Conference Center

**3 – 5 p.m.**

### **SC Coalition of Black County Officials Meeting**

Club Room, Boardwalk Inn

**6 – 7 p.m.**

### **Welcome Reception**

Osprey Ballroom, Sweetgrass Inn

Reception sponsored by  
**The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina**

# CONFERENCE PROGRAM

## Conference

WEDNESDAY  
08.06

8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

### Registration Open

Palms Foyer, SGP Conference Center

8:30 – 10 a.m.

### Legislative Power Hour & Breakfast

Osprey Ballroom, Sweetgrass Inn

10 a.m. – Noon

### Exhibit Area Open

Palms Foyer + Tides Ballroom, SGP Conference Center

10:30 a.m. – Noon

### General Session

Palms Ballroom, SGP Conference Center

Noon

### Institute of Government Graduation Photos

Palms Ballroom, SGP Conference Center

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

### Workshop: Federal & State Legislative Lightning Round with Boxed Lunches (Conference Registrants Only)

Palmetto Hall, behind the SGP Conference Center

Lunches sponsored by  
NACo

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

### Workshop: AI in the County Workplace

Palms 1-3, SGP Conference Center

### Workshop: Agribusiness in Your County: Strategies for Growth

Palms 4-5, SGP Conference Center

### Workshop: Citizen Engagement through Education

Palms 6-8, SGP Conference Center

6:30 – 10 p.m.

### Closing Reception

Osprey Ballroom + Patio, Sweetgrass Inn

# SPEAKERS



## **The Honorable J.D. Clark** **NACo President**

J.D. Clark is currently serving his third term as county judge of Wise County, Texas. He holds a bachelor's degree in English and history from the University of North Texas and a master's degree in Educational

Leadership from Midwestern State University. Prior to his 2014 election as county judge, Clark was a high school history teacher and the mayor of his hometown of Chico.

Clark currently serves as the President of the National Association of Counties (NACo) and as a NACo Representative on the Texas Association of Counties Board of Directors. He also serves his community on the North Central Texas Council of Governments Executive Board, the Regional Transportation Council, and the Wise County United Way Board of Directors.

Clark's current focus in Wise County is "honoring the past and building the future," a vision based on infrastructure/service development for current and projected growth while also restoring the iconic 1895 courthouse and preserving local history.

Clark and his wife, Leah, live near Chico with their three daughters: Claire, Maggie and Zelda.



# SPEAKERS



## **Michael Bonner** **Author/Speaker/Educator**

A renowned leader, innovator and performance booster, Michael Bonner is a trailblazer in leadership and organizational development. He empowers leaders to reflect, strategize and execute in both professional and personal areas. Ellen DeGeneres. NBC Nightly News. The Ashton Kutcher Foundation. People Magazine. 3M. Lego Education. These are just a few of the audiences that have been inspired by Bonner's masterful teaching methods as a keynote speaker, educator and author.

As CEO of Bonnerville and a well-respected team member of the famed Ron Clark Academy, Bonner is keenly focused on creating a learning environment that instills a passion for learning for current and future leaders. A graduate of Elizabeth State University, he was named as one of Ellen DeGeneres's Favorite Teachers as well as one of Atlanta's prestigious 40 under 40.

# CORPORATE PARTNERS

Our thanks to the following corporate partners for their generous support of the Association at the Annual Conference and throughout the year. Their support allows us to provide a quality conference program for our county officials with minimal impact upon county expenditures. \*Visit these **Corporate Partners** and connect with the NACo **representative** in the Exhibit Hall.

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# CORPORATE PARTNERS

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## Special Thanks:

**The Electric Cooperatives of South Carolina** — Welcome Reception Sponsor  
**King Kozlarek Root Law LLC** — Name Badge Lanyard Sponsor  
**Charter Communications** — Monday Boxed Lunch Sponsor  
**National Association of Counties** — Wednesday Boxed Lunch Sponsor  
**Davis & Floyd** — Monday Afternoon Break Sponsor  
**Corporate Pharmacy Services, Inc.** — Tuesday Morning Break Sponsor  
**Stewart - Cooper - Newell Architects, P.A.** — Tuesday Afternoon Break Sponsor  
**Pierce Group Benefits** — At The Movies Snack Break Sponsor  
**Tyler Technologies** — Wednesday Afternoon Break Sponsor

# RESORT MAP

## Palmetto Hall

Standalone Meeting Space

## SGP Conference Center:

Meeting Spaces:

- Palms Ballroom
- Tides Ballroom
- Sea Oats Office



Valet only

## The Sweetgrass Inn

Accommodations

Meeting Spaces:

- Osprey Ballroom
- Avocet Boardroom
- Indigo Room & Rooftop

Pools (2)

Destination Spa

Dining:

- The Laughing Gull
- The Oystercatcher Restaurant & Bar
- The Nest Rooftop Bar



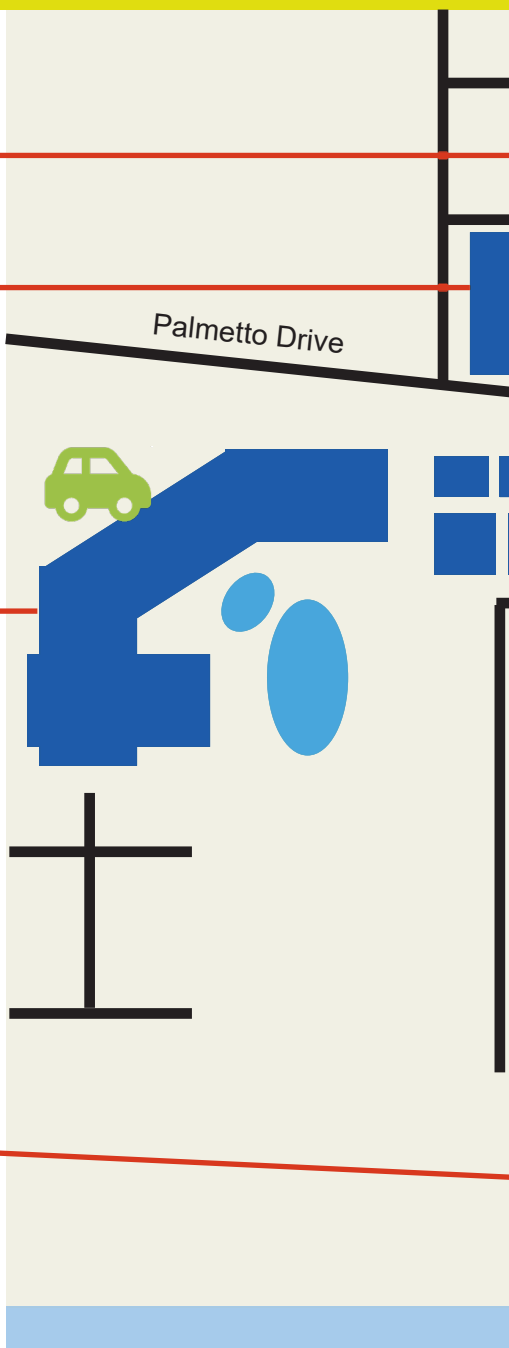
Valet only

## The Grand Pavilion

Pools (2)

Dining:

- Beachside Burgers & Bar
- Duney's Ice Cream Shop





\*Map not to scale

# NOTES





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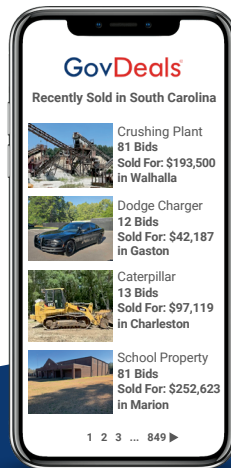
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Future Institute of Government and  
Annual Conference Dates

*Wild Dunes, Isle of Palms*

July 27-31, 2026  
July 26-30, 2027