



# 2020 PRESIDENT'S REPORT



**DWIGHT L. STEWART JR., PRESIDENT**  
**SOUTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

# South Carolina Counties



Photos from left to right: Union County Courthouse (photo courtesy of Bill Segars) | Marion County Archives Building | Laurens County Courthouse (photo courtesy of Bill Segars)

# A Letter from the President



**DWIGHT L. STEWART JR., PRESIDENT**

Dear County Officials,

I am honored to share this year's *President's Report*, which reflects SCAC's steadfast commitment to our counties as we face unprecedented and challenging times. Your active involvement and the strong leadership of the SCAC Board of Directors and staff are the reasons our Association is immensely successful each year.

This year, SCAC's legislative advocacy team represented our interests on the Governor's accelerateSC task force and continues to work closely with our counties and the Executive Budget Office to ensure we receive reimbursement from the state's Coronavirus Relief Fund. Additionally, SCAC staff amplified our concerns and interests by fighting for our first responders and other county employees as the health crisis began to unfold in our state.

The Association has worked tirelessly to provide timely information to help us on the front lines of this health pandemic. SCAC staff has equipped our counties with invaluable resources regarding virtual council meetings, county operations and finances, the Governor's Executive Orders, and federal relief packages. This information has proven essential for us to make informed and sound decisions for our counties. Equally important, as we work collaboratively for social justice, the Association is committed to sharing information on successful programs that build relationships among law enforcement and our communities.

For more than 50 years, SCAC's legislative, educational, and financial resources have helped us gain the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to be effective leaders for our citizens. As you read this year's report, I encourage you to learn more about SCAC's diverse service package and ways you can access these resources. Our Association stands ready to assist you and your county.

As I reflect on my term as SCAC President, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for your support. It has truly been a privilege to serve as your president and work side-by-side with you. I look forward to continuing our partnership as we work for the betterment of our counties and our citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dwight L. Stewart Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Dwight L. Stewart Jr., President  
South Carolina Association of Counties  
Clarendon County Council Chairman

## SCAC 2019-2020 Officers



### **PRESIDENT**

Dwight L. Stewart Jr.  
Clarendon County Council Chairman



### **FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**

Johnnie Wright Sr.  
Orangeburg County Council Chairman



### **SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**

Paul A. Cain  
Oconee County Council Vice Chairman



### **THIRD VICE PRESIDENT**

Debra B. Summers  
Lexington County Council



### **SECRETARY**

Steve Willis  
Lancaster County Administrator



### **TREASURER**

Belinda D. Copeland  
Darlington County



### **PAST PRESIDENT**

Charles T. Jennings  
McCormick County Council Chairman

# SCAC Board of Directors

## **TERMS EXPIRE 2023**

Cam Crawford, Horry County Council  
Ray Graham, Anderson County Council  
J. Frank Hart, Union County Supervisor/Chairman  
Joseph G. Mergo III, Lexington County Administrator  
William E. Robinson, Allendale County Council

## **TERMS EXPIRE 2022**

Joseph R. Branham, Chester County Council Vice Chairman  
C. David Chinnis, Dorchester County Council Vice Chairman  
Roy Costner III, Pickens County Council Chairman  
Joseph B. Dill, Greenville County Council  
Charles T. Edens, Sumter County Council

## **TERMS EXPIRE 2021**

Julie J. Armstrong, Charleston County Clerk of Court  
R. Archie Scott, Dillon County Council  
D. Paul Sommerville, Beaufort County Council Vice Chairman  
Cecil M. Thornton Jr., Calhoun County Council  
Robert Winkler, York County Council

## **TERMS EXPIRE 2020**

Mary D. Anderson, Chesterfield County Council  
John Q. Atkinson Jr., Marion County Council  
Alphonso Bradley, Florence County Council  
J. Clay Killian, Aiken County Administrator  
Henry H. Livingston III, Newberry County Council Chairman

## **NACO BOARD MEMBER**

Waymon Mumford, Florence County Council

## **S.C. COUNTIES WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND PROPERTY & LIABILITY TRUSTS CHAIRMAN**

David K. Summers Jr., Calhoun County Council Chairman



# SCAC 2020 President's Report

DWIGHT L. STEWART JR., PRESIDENT

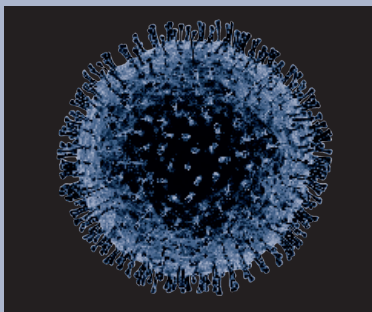
For more than 50 years, the South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC) has worked to empower county officials through advocacy, education, and collaboration. I am proud of the Association's commitment to helping our counties as we have faced unprecedented times this year. From guidance on virtual meetings to summaries of federal relief packages and webinars led by employment attorneys, the Association strives to share real-time information to help us make informed decisions to protect our employees, residents, and business community.

The Association has a rich history of working with county and state leaders to safeguard Home Rule and achieve specific legislative goals. As a legal advocate, SCAC conducts research, provides sound advice, and appears as an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) in cases with statewide impact.

SCAC's educational programs foster close connections between newcomers and seasoned county leaders by equipping them with a fundamental understanding of local government and sharpening the skills needed to make sound, ethical decisions. The Association's research and publications keep county officials and employees abreast of trends and emerging issues. SCAC's insurance trusts, risk management services, and debt collection programs help our counties effectively and efficiently serve our communities.

By bringing together **Local Leaders**, the Association and county officials are able to create **Statewide Strength**. SCAC is honored to be of service to South Carolina's 46 counties. Please explore the pages of this report, which covers the period from August 2019 to August 2020, to learn more about the Association's programs and progress.

## SCAC 2019-2020 Program Highlights



Represented county government on accelerateSC Committee



Provided technical bulletins, survey reports, & FAQs on virtual council meetings and county operations and finances



Published multiple resources explaining COVID-19 federal relief packages, S.C. Governor's Executive Orders, funding resources for counties, and COVID-19 implications for S.C. detention centers



Hosted webinars and virtual meetings on HR implications of federal relief packages and re-opening county offices, and state revenue projections

# Advocates for County Government

## Legislative Advocacy

The foremost reason for starting the Association in 1967 was to provide legislative advocacy and statewide representation for counties. County officials recognized that having a unified voice to express their positions to the General Assembly led to better results. The Association achieved its first major legislative victories in the passage of the local government constitutional amendment in 1972 and the Home Rule Act in 1975.

The Association's development of policy positions spans five months and involves significant participation by county officials. The Legislative Committee has 75 members: each county council chairman or designee (46), and SCAC's Board of Directors (29). Additional members with expertise in various policy areas are appointed by SCAC's president to serve on one of four steering committees (County Government and Intergovernmental Relations; Land Use, Natural Resources and Transportation; Public Safety, Corrections and Judicial; Revenue, Finance and Economic Development).

The Legislative Committee begins its work in July, seeking input from more than 1,200 county officials and employees. This input includes suggestions relating to a specific county department or service, broad policy recommendations concerning county government, and ideas provided by outside groups that affect county government. These suggestions are assigned to the appropriate steering committees for work sessions in September and November.

In October, the County Council Coalition provides input on draft policy positions to the steering committees. After further review and study in

November, the steering committees develop initial policy positions for consideration by SCAC's Legislative Committee in December.

In December, SCAC's Legislative Committee adopts policy positions to set the course for the upcoming legislative year. These positions are published in *Policy Positions for the South Carolina General Assembly*.

Once policy positions are adopted, it is the responsibility of the membership and SCAC staff to advocate for their implementation. The success or failure of policy positions is largely dependent upon participation from county officials.

The Association provides resources to involve county officials in the legislative process and keep them informed of the General Assembly's actions. The *Friday*

*Report* is prepared and distributed weekly during the legislative session to ensure county officials are aware of all legislation that affects their operations.

SCAC staff members attend numerous subcommittee and

committee meetings in order to report on legislative action. The actions of the House and Senate are monitored each day the General Assembly is in session. This includes reviewing each bill or amendment introduced and requesting input from county officials. This feedback is crucial to SCAC staff when advocating for or against legislation. When legislative action is occurring too quickly for the *Friday Report*, special *Legislative Alerts* are sent or individual telephone calls are made.

**The success of the legislative program is the result of the relentless efforts of SCAC staff and the work of hundreds of county officials who remain informed and make timely contact with the members of the General Assembly.**

## SCAC's 2019-20 Legislative Priorities and COVID-19



Although the 2020 session of the S.C. General Assembly has been drastically shortened due to the coronavirus (COVID-19), it has been remarkably successful for SCAC and county government, both as it relates to policy positions that were achieved and harmful legislation that was amended or defeated. This is the second year of a two-year session, and any legislation that is not included in the General Assembly's Sine Die Resolution is likely done for the session. The legislative victories below are policy positions for which SCAC advocated throughout the legislative session.

### **Local Government Fund (LGF) and State Appropriations Bill (H.5201).**

Prior to the shutdown of the General Assembly, the House passed the budget bill and Capital Reserve Fund bill (H. 5202), a total budget of \$10.2 billion. Both bills are now in the Senate Finance Committee. Under the Sine Die Resolution, the General Assembly will reconvene in September. While the state is currently operating under a continuing resolution, the plan is to pass the budget when they reconvene.

Under the budget passed by the House, the LGF is funded with an additional \$11,687,035 over last year's amount. The budget bill also earmarks an additional \$250,000 for County Veterans' Affairs Offices, an SCAC policy position, and provides for a 2 percent merit-based raise for state employees. The budget bill includes an increase of over \$1,500 to the salary supplement for each county coroner, probate judge, clerk of court, and sheriff, as well as a \$550,000 increase for the Councils of Governments (COGs). Finally, \$128 million will be used to provide a one-time income tax credit. Although the financial burden placed on the state by the coronavirus is certain to affect the budget as passed by the House, SCAC will continue to advocate that the LGF be fully funded.

### **Absentee Ballots (Act No. 133).**

In an effort to address voting safely during COVID-19, the General Assembly passed, and the Governor signed, this bill to quickly implement changes regarding absentee ballots that will sunset on December 31, 2021. Beginning at 9:00 a.m. on the day preceding an election, Act 133 allows absentee ballots to

be examined to ensure they are properly signed and witnessed, and allows the outer sealed return-addressed envelope to be removed. Beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Election Day, the absentee ballots may be tabulated. Results of the tabulation may not be reported until the polls close. This Act also has a provision, which sunsets on July 31, 2020, that allows anyone living in an area that has been declared to be in a state of emergency by the Governor with less than 46 days before the election to vote by absentee ballot. This provision, which allows voters to use COVID-19 as an excuse to vote by absentee ballot, only applies to the June primaries and any runoffs from the primaries.

### **Affordable Housing (Act No.137).**

This legislation enacts the "Workforce and Senior Affordable Housing Act," an SCAC policy position. This Act provides a tax credit for those who develop low-income housing.

### **Armed Service Members and Spouses (Act No. 139).**

This legislation enacts SCAC's policy position regarding professional licenses for military personnel and their spouses. SCAC supports allowing active duty military personnel and their spouses to be exempt from state occupational licensing requirements if they maintain a valid occupational license in another state.



**Business Licenses (H. 4431).**

SCAC supports this bill, which would enact SCAC's policy position to standardize the imposition and collection of business license taxes. This bill is revenue neutral, does not inhibit a county's ability to impose a business license tax, and would allow for the use of an online payment portal. Because the House passed this bill prior to May 14, 2020, the Senate may still consider this bill pursuant to this year's Sine Die Resolution.

**Cell Phones in Jails (S. 156).**

SCAC supports this bill, which would aid in the elimination of unauthorized telecommunication use by inmates. Because the Senate passed this bill prior to May 14, 2020, the House may still consider this bill pursuant to this year's Sine Die Resolution.

**Property Assessment (S. 545).**

SCAC opposes repealing a statutory provision that grants county auditors the authority to assess taxes on certain business personal property. This bill, as amended by the Senate, would require a county auditor to use a standardized

form when assessing certain business personal property taxes. Because the Senate passed this bill prior to May 14, 2020, the House may still consider this bill pursuant to this year's Sine Die Resolution.

**Rollback Taxes (H. 3596).**

This bill would reduce the amount of rollback taxes due when agricultural property is changed to another use from five years to three years. Because the House passed this bill prior to May 14, 2020, the Senate may still consider this bill pursuant to this year's Sine Die Resolution.

**Waste Tire Regulations (H. 4504).**

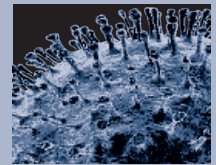
SCAC supports increasing the criminal penalties for violating waste tire regulations and authorizing the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to promulgate additional regulations. Because the House passed this bill prior to May 14, 2020, the Senate may still consider this bill pursuant to this year's Sine Die Resolution.

**CARES Act (Act No. 142).**

Act No. 142 authorizes the Executive Budget Office (EBO) to reimburse expenditures from the federal CARES Act to state and local agencies, institutions of higher learning, and hospitals for COVID-19 related expenses. As part of the reimbursement requests, these entities must submit sufficient information to the EBO and the appointed grants administrator to identify other COVID-19 related funding that they are receiving, regardless of the source, and provide a detailed accounting of how the funding is being used.

State and local government have been authorized to receive \$270 million. However, if the EBO determines the amount of eligible expenditures through June 30, 2020, exceeds the authorized amounts for all entities, the EBO, with notification to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairman of Senate Finance Committee, and the Chairman of the House of Representatives Ways and Means, may increase the total authorization to \$320 million.

Further, the Office of Regulatory Staff has been authorized to receive up to \$50 million to secure vendors for the development of a statewide broadband county-by-county mapping plan and a statewide broadband infrastructure plan. SCAC expects broadband will be discussed further when the General Assembly reconvenes in September. A more thorough summary of Act No.142 will be included in SCAC's *Acts That Affect Counties*.



75

Members who served on SCAC's 2019 Legislative Committee

Bills monitored during the 2020 Session

497

99

Policy positions adopted for the 2020 Legislative Session

County officials receiving the weekly *Friday Report*

1,197

83

County officials who served on tracking groups

## Legal Advocacy

SCAC's legal staff, working through the county attorney, spends hundreds of hours each year providing informal phone consultations; conducting in-depth research on pertinent statutes, case law, and attorney general opinions; and preparing informal advisory opinions. SCAC legal staff also assists counties involved in litigation of statewide interest, including appearing as *amicus curiae* (friend of the court). This year, legal staff assisted with legal research and filed *amicus curiae* briefs before the state appellate courts in the following cases:

### ***S.C. Public Interest Foundation et al. v. Calhoun County Council***

This case involves an appeal from the circuit court's dismissal of the Foundation's efforts to halt the county's imposition of a capital project sales tax (CPST). State law limits actions related to CPST referendums to 30 days after the certification of the referendum. The Foundation failed to file its action until three months after the certification of the referendum results. The circuit court dismissed the case as outside of the statute of limitations, and thus did not consider the merits of the case. The Foundation filed an appeal with the S.C. Supreme Court. Briefing is complete and oral arguments were scheduled for late March but were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A new argument date has not been scheduled.

### ***Georgetown County v. S.C. Department of Transportation***

This case involves the issue of whether a state agency can take the property of county government without paying just compensation required by the state constitution. The S.C. Court of Appeals held that because counties were a creation of the state, any property of the counties could be taken without compensation. The ruling held that county property is state property. The court relied heavily on a more than 100-year old case decided well before the amendments to the state constitution creating local "home rule." The S.C. Supreme Court accepted the county's appeal and scheduled oral arguments by video conference; however, on June 3, 2020, the court dismissed the *grant of certiorari*. The court's dismissal means that county property is not protected from takings by the state.

## Education and Collaboration

SCAC strives to develop skillful and informed county leaders through advocacy, education, and collaboration. The Association offers a strong portfolio of educational programs with opportunities for orientation, certification, e-learning, and collaboration.

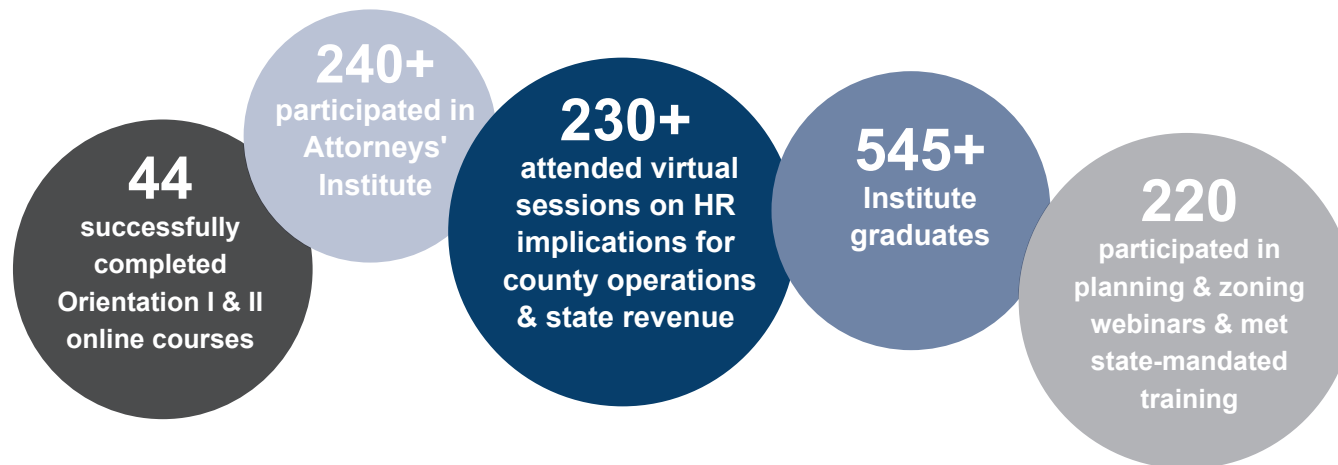
### The Institute of Government for County Officials

SCAC's Institute of Government for County Officials (Institute of Government) provides the knowledge and skills that policymakers and executive staff need to address critical issues, meet the daily needs of their communities, and monitor the county's performance.

The Institute of Government is offered in cooperation with the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities at the College of Charleston. Clemson University's Master of Public Administration Program is a program sponsor. As a result of these partnerships, the Association is able to make enhancements to the Institute of Government curriculum and the pool of instructors used to teach the courses.

The primary curriculum includes two levels of certification and offers advanced courses to permit graduates to stay apprised of current issues impacting county government. Twenty-seven contact hours are required for Level I certification and an additional 18 hours are required for Level II certification. This year, 267 county officials attended Level I and Level II classes, and 89 participated in the advanced courses.

Four of the Institute of Government's courses provide continuing education credit for local planning/zoning officials and employees. Institute of Government courses are also a component of the S.C. Clerks to Council Certification Program.



## Training for Council Officers



In February, SCAC offers a workshop for council chairmen and vice chairmen in conjunction with the Institute of Government. The workshop provides information about the duties, powers, and responsibilities of both leadership positions.

Participants learn strategies for running effective meetings; the importance of rules of procedure; and how a bill becomes state law. The value of building effective working relationships with local delegation members, council members, other elected officials, and the county chief administrative officer is also addressed.

## E-learning



Since 1996, SCAC has provided training to county officials and employees via distance education programs. Today, the Association hosts training via webinars and offers online courses that provide Institute of Government credit. Webinar sessions are made available online for streaming via SCAC's online library. The webinars are an invaluable tool for providing education at no cost to the counties.

SCAC launched its second online course this year as part of the Institute of Government. Orientation to County Government II is now available online and is offered at no cost to elected and appointed county officials. This course builds upon the topics covered in Orientation to County Government I. The course takes approximately one and a half hours to complete and includes several quizzes to reinforce the user's learning. Upon completion, the participant is granted three hours of Level I Institute of Government credit. For additional information, visit SCAC's website at [SCCounties.org](https://SCCounties.org).

**"Instructors were very knowledgeable and engaging. The legal expert and practitioner perspectives they shared were the perfect blend for this topic. The program helped me gain more clarity and understanding of practical and realistic ethical situations we face as county officials."**

— Institute of Government Participant

## Training for Local Planning and Zoning Officials and Employees

Act 39 of 2003 requires appointed officials who serve on a planning commission, board of zoning appeals, or board of architectural review to attend at least six hours of orientation training within the first year of serving.

Three hours of continuing education each year are required thereafter. The requirements also apply to planning professionals, zoning administrators, zoning officials, and deputies and assistants to these positions.

All of the Association's planning and zoning training programs are approved by the S.C. Planning Education Advisory Committee (SCPEAC). The Association provides orientation training and continuing education that addresses current issues and changes in state law. One course fulfills the annual planning and

zoning continuing education requirement. Local planning and zoning officials and employees may also earn continuing education credit from four courses offered by the Institute of Government.

SCAC is currently working on an online planning and zoning orientation course which will meet the requirements set forth by the SCPEAC. This online course will be composed of four one-and-a-half hour modules to meet the six-hour orientation requirement. The training will cover topics such as land use planning, the zoning process, land development regulations, and procedural and educational requirements.

### SCAC's 2019-20 Continuing Education Programs

Due to COVID-19, the SCPEAC waived certain training requirements through June 30, 2020, to allow planning and zoning officials the ability to continue their education remotely. SCAC conducted two webinars in June for planning and zoning officials to take advantage of the SCPEAC changes. The topics were crafted to help local governments with the implications of COVID-19 and the 2020 Census Count.

"Trends in Planning & Zoning Virtual Meetings & Online Services" was offered on June 9, and "Growth Implications for South Carolina Counties" was offered June 18. Nearly 290 planning and zoning officials and employees from 35 local governments participated.

During the past year, the Association also hosted the following virtual programs: "HR Implications of Reopening County Offices during COVID-19" webinar on June 8; "State Revenue Projections and Budgetary Implications" GoToMeeting on April 9; "New COVID-19 Federal Supplemental Packages and HR Implications for Counties" webinar on April 1; and "Preventing Workplace Violence" webinar on December 4. Collectively, the Association received more than 250 registrations from county participants for these events.



## Legal Training



SCAC legal staff is called upon regularly to provide presentations and training for county officials and employees on topics such as the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA); legislative updates; and duties and functions of council and the county chief administrative officer in the various forms of government. This training is provided free-of-charge and can be provided at county sites or the SCAC Office in Columbia.

Each year, SCAC hosts the Local Government Attorneys' Institute (the Institute). The Institute provides local and state government attorneys with timely and important legal information. More than 240 public sector attorneys attended the 2019 Institute on November 22. Topics included: Ethics and the Disciplinary Process; Marijuana in the Workplace; Federal Case Law Update; Resources to Help Create Space and Build Resilience; The Home Rule Act; and S.C. Legislative and Case Law Update.

## Collaborative Learning



SCAC's annual awards competition provides a unique opportunity for county officials to learn about innovative practices, technology, and trends; to strengthen their professional network; and to share ideas and expertise. Counties are invited to submit applications for innovative projects completed during the past fiscal year for SCAC's awards competition.

**The J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award** recognizes counties that address community challenges, implement operational improvements, or enhance their citizens' quality of life in a unique way. First presented in 1973, this award honors the memory of J. Mitchell Graham, who served as SCAC's president from 1969-70.

**The Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation Award** highlights the critical need for regional partnerships, strategies, and solutions. The award is named in memory of Barrett S. Lawrimore, who served as SCAC's president in 2004.

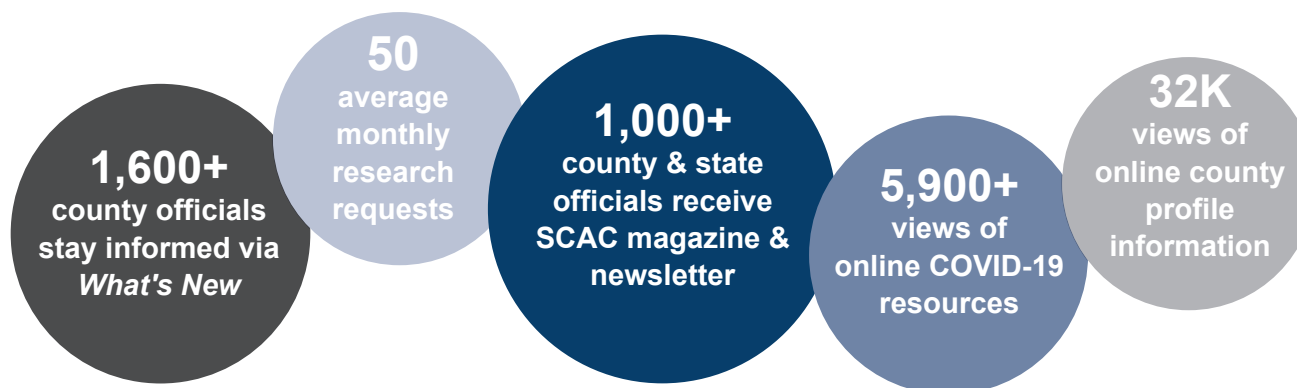
A new award category has been added to SCAC's 2020 Annual Awards Program. **The COVID-19 Response and Resiliency Showcase** will honor the ways our counties have responded to the unprecedented health pandemic. All entries submitted for this year's showcase will receive special recognition.

The Association hosts an online video library of award competition presentations and written entries. SCAC also highlights the projects and summarizes all entries in *County Focus* magazine and on social media.

## Connecting Counties to Resources & Information

### Research and Technical Assistance

Each year, the Association's staff responds to hundreds of inquiries from county and state officials ranging from simple document requests to more complex questions requiring considerable research. The research staff stays abreast of topics and data resources to help county and state officials make informed decisions.



### Online Research Resources

County officials and employees are able to access an abundance of information and resources via SCAC's website. Last year, the Association enhanced its search tool to allow users to quickly and easily access documents and publications by title, topic, and resource type. This search function connects county officials and employees to county statistics, financial documents, council rules of procedure, personnel policies, planning and zoning documents, and county codes of ordinances. Millage rate caps and estimated Local Government Fund allocations are also available.

### *What's New* Monthly Email

The *What's New* monthly email message informs county officials on new or updated information available via SCAC's website. Links are provided to upcoming events and training opportunities, new and updated publications, and timely topics of interest.

### Online Discussion Forums

SCAC administers online discussion forums for five distinct groups of county officials, allowing them to post questions and share county-related information. The Association hosts listservs for county chief administrative officers; the S.C. Association of Auditors, Treasurers and Tax Collectors; the S.C. Association of Assessing Officials; county finance officers; and county personnel directors.

## State Regulations

State Regulations Updates are sent to county chief administrative officers regarding state regulations that may affect counties. Notices of proposed, drafted, and finalized regulations are published by state agencies in the State

Register. SCAC staff ensures that counties are aware of certain regulations as they are proposed and drafted, giving counties an opportunity for input in the development of regulations.

## SCAC Performs Original Research

### SURVEYS

SCAC's research staff conducts statewide surveys and gathers information on policies and practices of individual counties. The results help inform county policymakers and practitioners. The information is also used by the Association's legislative staff, state agencies, and the S.C. General Assembly. A sample of recent surveys includes topics such as COVID-19 county operations, county supplements for poll workers, retiree health benefits, waste tire storage, intrastate motor carrier fees, and jail statistics.

### SPECIAL RESEARCH PROJECTS

Occasionally, the research staff is called upon to assist the Association's executive and legislative staff with timely topics of concern to SCAC and to counties as a whole. These matters often pertain to legislation being considered by the S.C. General Assembly. This year's special topics were dominated by COVID-19. Special research included executive issued stay-at-home orders, as well as county policies for departmental closures to the public, telecommuting, and sick leave.

### PROPERTY TAX REPORT

SCAC publishes *Property Tax Rates by County* annually. This report is the most comprehensive, up-to-date listing of county property tax millage rates. *Property Tax Rates by County* is the primary source of statewide county

property taxes and, as such, is widely used by local and state officials, the legislature, developers, and the public.

### WAGE AND SALARY REPORT

The *Wage and Salary Report* is published biennially and contains the results of SCAC's survey of more than 200 county government positions. In addition to detailed salary data by county and position, the report includes information on annual and sick leave benefits, holidays, budgets, payrolls, employee totals, and classification systems. The *FY2020 Wage and Salary Report* and the companion online searchable wage and salary database were published in November.

### COUNTY PROFILES

The biennial *County Profiles* consists of county statistical information gathered from a variety of state and federal sources. Each county is represented by a one-page profile containing a brief county history, recent population trends, economic data, tax data, and county financial and employment data. An updated version of *County Profiles* will be available later this summer.



## Social Media

SCAC launched its social media presence in February 2020. The Association is focused on three platforms to help develop new connections with counties: Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Social media is an effective tool for reaching county officials, county employees, members of the S.C. General Assembly, and the general public on legislative issues, highlighting award-winning county programs, and boosting the signal for organizations like NACo and the U.S. Census Bureau.

Follow SCAC on Facebook and Twitter: @SCCounties. Or, visit the Association's LinkedIn page: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/south-carolina-association-of-counties>.



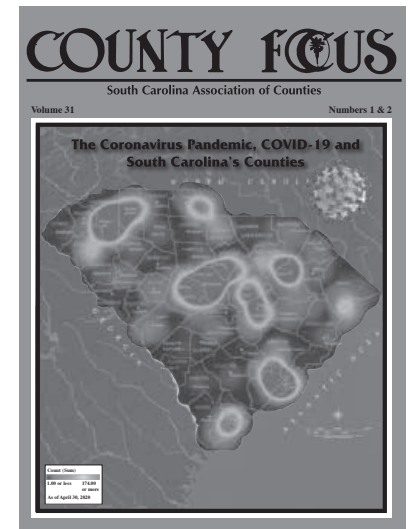
## Publications and Other Resources

SCAC publishes three award-winning publications—*Carolina Counties* newsletter, *County Focus* magazine, and South Carolina's annual *Directory of County Officials*. All are available via [SCCounties.org](https://www.sccounties.org). These publications have received numerous awards from the National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO), S.C. Society of Association Executives (SCSAE), and the S.C. Chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC/SC).

*Carolina Counties* newsletter, the Association's oldest publication, has a circulation of more than 1,000, and is distributed to South Carolina county officials, regional councils of governments (COGs), and SCAC's corporate supporters. *Carolina Counties* informs local leaders of important issues affecting county government and announces upcoming events.

*County Focus* magazine focuses on legislative issues and successful county programs and projects. The magazine is distributed to more than 1,300 county officials, COGs, members of the S.C. General Assembly, other state officials, and SCAC's corporate supporters. A U.S. Senator or Representative usually writes the lead article for the spring, summer, and winter issues, and the magazine's fall issue focuses on SCAC's Annual Conference. The magazine publishes local news submitted by counties and calendars for SCAC and NACo events, including SCAC webinars.

SCAC has published the *Directory of County Officials* since 1973. The directory provides addresses and phone numbers for elected and appointed county officials, COGs, members of the S.C. General Assembly, and other state and federal officials. The publication also identifies SCAC's officers, board of directors and past presidents, and SCAC's corporate supporters. Copies are distributed to all officials and organizations listed in the directory, and to all state associations representing counties, boroughs, and parishes nationwide.



## Career Center

The Association's Career Center is the first place job seekers should visit when looking for local government positions in South Carolina. Job openings are categorized and easily searchable. This is a complimentary service provided to all counties. Over the past year, 30 counties took advantage of this employment advertising tool by posting more than 164 positions, which garnered nearly 12,500 views.

## SCAC Scholarship Program



SCAC has awarded more than \$170,000 in scholarships to 73 students since establishing its scholarship program in 1998. This year, the Association proudly awarded \$2,500 scholarships to five outstanding high school seniors who will attend an in-state college, university, or technical school in the fall.

Each year, SCAC awards a Presidential Scholarship to a graduating high school senior who resides in the same county as the Association's current president.

This year, the Association also awarded four Board of Directors Scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are residents of counties chosen by lot. Anderson, Colleton, Darlington, and Jasper counties were selected for these awards.



# Financial Service Programs

## Self-Funded Insurance Programs

The Association sponsors two self-insurance pools, open to member counties and to agencies with county government-related functions. Both the workers' compensation and the property & liability trusts are governed by boards of trustees appointed by the SCAC Board of Directors. All trustees are either county council members or county chief administrative officers. The trusts employ independent auditors and actuaries to ensure the pools are financially strong. The key to the success of both programs is the implementation of strong risk management programs by participating member counties.

### THE S.C. COUNTIES WORKERS' COMPENSATION TRUST

The S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation Trust (SCCWCT) was formed in 1984 by the SCAC Board of Directors in response to a crisis in the commercial insurance market. The trust currently has 79 members, including 41 counties. All aspects of trust administration, including claims administration, are handled internally by SCAC insurance staff.

### THE S.C. COUNTIES PROPERTY & LIABILITY TRUST

The S.C. Counties Property & Liability Trust was formed in 1995 in response to rapidly rising liability insurance premiums. The trust has 26 members, including 16 counties. Claims administration as well as general administration and risk management are handled in-house by SCAC insurance staff.

## Trust Management

The SCAC insurance staff is comprised of 20 highly experienced insurance professionals. SCAC employs two risk managers who work in the field supplementing the county's risk management efforts through inspections, training, and mentoring. SCAC staff provides claims management services and the flexibility of in-house underwriting. The insurance staff understands the risks faced by counties as evidenced by its customized risk management solutions.

## Boards of Trustees

### S.C. Counties Workers' Compensation and Property & Liability Trusts



**CHAIRMAN**

David K. Summers Jr.  
Calhoun County Council Chairman



**VICE CHAIRMAN**

Waymon Mumford  
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Chester County Council Vice Chairman



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Gary M. Mixon  
Sumter County Administrator



Debra B. Summers  
Lexington County Council



Steve Willis  
Lancaster County Administrator



**SECRETARY/TREASURER**

Timothy C. Winslow  
SCAC Executive Director

## Risk Management Education and Training

The boards of trustees have always placed great importance on the application of sound risk management techniques to control the risks members of the trusts incur in the course of county government operations.

In 2000, SCAC offered the first Certified County Risk Manager (CCRM) training program to educate county employees in the concepts of risk management so they could lead risk management efforts in their counties. Over the past 20 years, hundreds of county personnel have been trained in the concepts of risk management and have worked very effectively with the SCAC insurance staff to reduce risks and lower costs. The current risk management training program, Risk Management Principles, evolved from the CCRM program and is conducted throughout the year at member locations.

The insurance staff provides a variety of risk management services including on-site training and surveys. Because motor vehicle accidents far outweigh all other types of claims, SCAC insurance staff consistently reminds members that focusing on motor vehicle accidents has the

potential to reduce three types of claims—auto liability, auto physical damage, and workers' compensation claims. To address the frequency and severity of motor vehicle accidents, SCAC risk managers trained 559 county employees during 29 defensive driving classes over the past year.

During the 2019-2020 policy period, seven Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) training classes were held, with 287 employees being updated on OSHA's evolving laws and regulations. The S.C. Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation's Office of Voluntary Programs provides instructors for this training.

A variety of onsite training classes were conducted throughout the year and covered topics such as: Risk Management Basics, Employee Harassment Issues, Bloodborne Pathogens, Confined Spaces, Recycling Center Exposures, Silica Exposures, and other member-specific issues. Trust members also have free access to over 700 online videos varying in topic and duration.

# 550+

More than 550 county employees completed defensive driving classes.



# 700+

Members have access to more than 700 streaming risk management training videos



# 285+

employees educated on OSHA laws and regulations

SCAC insurance staff is committed to staying abreast of COVID-19 implications on county operations and sharing resources with counties.



SCAC has developed several training classes to address the unique exposures of law enforcement including "Law Enforcement Risk Management and Liability Issues", "Detention Center Risk Management and Liability Issues", and "Inmate Supervision Issues." More than 800 employees have participated in these classes. Funding has been provided for online training for law enforcement and detention center officers through the "In the Line of Duty" program. Approved by the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy for continuing law enforcement education credit, this complimentary training saves members money through reduced training and travel costs as well as through a reduction in officer injuries and litigation. Over 5,000 officers are registered to receive this training.

A one-day continuing education seminar is held annually for risk managers and workers' compensation claims coordinators. More than 80 risk managers and workers' compensation claims coordinators attended the 2019 seminar.

The Insurance Trusts' Membership Meeting is held annually in January. The 96 county officials in attendance this year heard from speakers on a variety of risk management topics. The purpose of this meeting is to educate and engage risk managers, county chief administrative officers, and county councils in the shared challenge of building and maintaining an effective risk management program, which protects a county's assets and maximizes safety and security for employees and residents.

## Setoff Debt



SCAC assists county entities in two debt collection programs administered by the S.C. Department of Revenue (DOR): the Setoff Debt Collection Program and the Government Enterprise Accounts Receivable Program (GEAR). These programs help county entities recover unpaid liabilities which would likely otherwise go uncollected.

Owed funds are collected by redirecting an individual debtor's state income tax refund to a county entity as payment for the previously uncollected debt. The GEAR program allows DOR to use additional methods, such as payment plans and wage garnishments, to collect the unpaid debt.

SCAC's debt collection programs have proven highly successful in returning monies for county operations such as emergency medical services, court fines and fees, delinquent taxes, hospitals, alcohol and drug treatment centers, business license fees, water and sewer services, and housing services.

The collections for counties have grown significantly from \$29 million in 2002 to over \$100 million in 2019. The number of participating entities has increased from 81 in 2002 to over 300 in 2020. Since the Association's debt collection programs began in 1992, SCAC has returned over \$1 billion to program participants.

SCAC provides numerous services to assist program participants, including free software to help counties manage their data; data searches for potential errors; and error reports and verification totals for all submitted data files. SCAC provides current addresses from state income tax returns to counties, and sends all data electronically using stringent security controls. Finally, participants may choose to receive funds via electronic transfer, allowing counties to receive funds more quickly.

Additional information on the debt collection programs can be found on [SCCounties.org](https://SCCounties.org).

## Cooperative Service Programs



### **SURPLUS EQUIPMENT – GOVDEALS**

GovDeals has provided South Carolina counties an internet auction program for surplus equipment through [GovDeals.com](https://www.govdeals.com) for more than 20 years. GovDeals provides an electronic platform for counties to sell non-essential equipment, vehicles, and other surplus assets via national online auctions. The primary benefits to counties using GovDeals are increased revenue, and reduced asset depreciation and storage costs.

GovDeals is currently working with 42 counties and 442 other agencies in the state. This past year, South Carolina counties netted more than \$1.6 million in revenue. Since the program's inception, counties have generated nearly \$37 million in revenue.

### **FSI OFFICE SUPPLIES PURCHASING PROGRAM**

SCAC sponsors a discount purchasing program for routine office supplies and forms. This program was created by SCAC in cooperation with Forms and Supply, Inc. (FSI), and offers substantial discounts on office supplies.

### **U.S. COMMUNITIES GOVERNMENT PURCHASING ALLIANCE**

SCAC and the National Association of Counties (NACo) are sponsors of U.S. Communities, the leading national government purchasing cooperative. U.S. Communities provides counties with access to a broad line of competitively solicited contracts with national suppliers that have committed to providing their best overall public agency pricing.

### **NACO PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM**

The NACo Prescription Discount Program offers significant savings for uninsured and underinsured county residents. The program is available without charge to NACo member counties and their residents. The cards are accepted by more than 57,000 pharmacies nationwide, and provide savings of up to 35 percent at local pharmacies, and up to 50 percent for mail-order purchases. Citizens do not have to complete enrollment forms, and cards can be distributed with a brochure and used immediately by those who need them.



## Tools for 21st Century Leaders

SCAC has a rich history of providing quality programs and services to counties and county officials. As members of the Association, all 46 counties, county elected officials, and employees have access to SCAC's programs designed to help counties serve their citizens.

As counties continue to face challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic and changing demographics, SCAC remains committed to building knowledge and competency for county officials and employees. SCAC will provide research and educational tools related to emerging issues, and will enhance its educational offerings through e-learning.

The Association will also continue to offer innovative, affordable solutions to help counties serve their citizens—including self-insurance pools, risk management services, debt collection programs, and cooperative service programs.

Local leaders must anticipate and adapt to emerging issues to keep counties safe, healthy, prosperous, and resilient. SCAC will continue to work with state and county officials to improve South Carolina's strength by delivering essential programs and services for 21st century counties and county leaders.

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Mural on cover by Sarah Jeffers Beauchene of Mount Pleasant, SC. Courtesy of the Swamp Fox Murals Trail Society, Manning, SC.

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# SCAC Past Presidents

## 1960s – 1970s

**Charles W. Lawrimore**, Georgetown County\*

**J. Mitchell Graham**, Charleston County

**John L. Greer**, Union County

**J. Hugh McCutchen**, Williamsburg County

**James O. Thomason**, Spartanburg County

**Arthur H. Burton**, Charleston County

**Jack Q. Gerrald**, Horry County

**Harold L. King**, Darlington County

**E.E. Johnson**, Hampton County

**Berry L. Mobley**, Lancaster County

**Marjorie H. Sharpe**, Lexington County

## 2000 – 2009

**James H. Rozier Jr.**, Berkeley County

**Steve S. Kelly Jr.**, Kershaw County

**James A. Coleman**, Laurens County

**Gonza L. Bryant**, Greenwood County

**Barrett S. Lawrimore**, Charleston County

**Waymon Mumford**, Florence County\*\*

**Belinda D. Copeland**, Darlington County

**K.G. “Rusty” Smith Jr.**, Florence County

**L. Gregory Pearce Jr.**, Richland County

## 1980s

**Howard A. Taylor**, Charleston County

**Alfred B. Schooler**, Georgetown County

**Lonnie Hamilton III**, Charleston County

**James P. Whitlock**, Pickens County

**Charlie I. Crews**, Hampton County

**Sue H. Roe**, Aiken County

**O.V. Player Jr.**, Sumter County

**Danny E. Allen**, Spartanburg County

**David K. Summers Jr.**, Calhoun County

**Lowell C. “Butch” Spires**, Lexington County

## 2010 – 2019

**Diane B. Anderson**, Laurens County

**R. Carlisle Roddey**, Chester County

**Joseph B. Dill**, Greenville County

**Charles T. Edens**, Sumter County

**Joseph R. Branham**, Chester County

**James R. Frazier**, Horry County

**John Q. Atkinson Jr.**, Marion County

**Julie J. Armstrong**, Charleston County

**Henry H. Livingston III**, Newberry County

## 1990s

**Kenneth R. Huckaby**, Spartanburg County

**James R. McGee**, Orangeburg County

**Belle J. Kennette**, Greenwood County

**William L. McBride**, Beaufort County

**Raymond C. Eubanks Jr.**, Spartanburg County

**George E. Bomar**, Greenville County

**Betty T. Roper**, Clarendon County

**Alzena Robinson**, Bamberg County

**Robert R. Nash Sr., PH.D.**, Pickens County

**Polly C. Jackson**, Lancaster County

## 2020 to Present

**Charles T. Jennings**, McCormick County

# South Carolina Counties



Photos from left to right: Fairfield County Courthouse (photo courtesy of Bill Segars) | Chester County Transportation Museum |  
Dorchester County Courthouse (photo courtesy of Bill Segars)



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