



2023

**PRESIDENT'S
REPORT**





Photos

On the cover | Lake Murray Dam, photo by and courtesy of Lexington County Sheriff's Department

Top | Riverfront Park, courtesy of County of Lexington

Center | Lexington County EMS ambulance, courtesy of County of Lexington

Bottom | Entering Lexington County, courtesy of Lexington County Sheriff's Department



A Letter from the President



Debra B. Summers
 SCAC President
 Lexington County Council Member

Dear County Officials,

It is my honor to share the 2023 President's Report showcasing our Association's outstanding accomplishments, programs, and services over the past year. Thank you for your dedication to working with your local delegation members throughout the year to advocate for your counties and the importance of the services all county government provides to our state.

This year, the SC Association of Counties (SCAC) advocacy team along with county officials continued to work with members of the General Assembly to champion county government and shape statewide legislation to benefit all South Carolina counties.

One highlight includes full funding to the Local Government Fund (LGF) and the Rural County Stabilization Fund in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget.

The LGF increased by more than \$13 million, and \$12 million will be returned to rural counties in the Rural County Stabilization Fund. In addition, SCAC prevented harmful provisos that would have negatively affected local funding. Other wins include adding a 90-day grace period to the deadline for providing county audits to the state before a county's LGF is impacted; allowing accommodations tax revenue to be used to develop workforce housing; and a law that designates coroners as first responders, an SCAC policy position.

Thank you to the more than 200 county officials who attended our Counties Connect: A Legislative Action Day in February at the State House. Our combined efforts on behalf of our constituents to connect with legislators were successful as Senators and Representatives expressed their appreciation for the time spent with their county officials throughout the day's activities. I am confident the changes made this year to rebrand the annual event will prove effective in the years to come.

Your involvement in advocacy efforts along with participation in SCAC educational and networking events is what makes our Association exceptional. Thank you for giving your time and talents to our amazing Association!

It has truly been a privilege to serve you and work alongside so many dedicated public servants this year. I'm incredibly proud of our collective accomplishments for our counties and the entire state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debra B. Summers". The signature is fluid and cursive, matching the printed name above it.

2022-23 Officers



Debra B. Summers

President
Lexington County
Council Member



Roy Costner III

First Vice President
Pickens County
Council Vice Chairman



William E. Robinson

Second Vice President
Allendale County
Council Vice Chairman



Mary D. Anderson

Third Vice President
Chesterfield County
Council Vice Chairwoman



Charles T. Edens

Secretary
Sumter County
Council Member



Belinda D. Copeland

Treasurer
Darlington County



Johnnie Wright Sr.

Immediate Past President
Orangeburg County
Council Chairman

Board of Directors

Terms Expire 2026

Daniel Alexander
Barnwell County
Council Member

C. David Chinnis
Dorchester County
Council Vice Chairman

Barbara B. Clark
Jasper County
Council Vice Chairwoman

Charles T. Jennings
McCormick County
Council Chairman

Herman G. "Butch" Kirven
Greenville County
Council Member

Terms Expire 2024

John Q. Atkinson Jr.
Marion County
Council Chairman

Alphonso Bradley
Florence County
Council Member

J. Clay Killian
Aiken County
Administrator

Joseph F. Passiment
Beaufort County
Council Chairman

Johnnie Wright Sr.
Orangeburg County
Council Chairman

Terms Expire 2025

Julie J. Armstrong
Charleston County
Clerk of Court

W. Brian Carnes
Lancaster County
Council Vice Chairman

Larry Haynes
Bamberg County
Council Member

Jason P. Phillips
Anderson County
Treasurer

Cecil M. Thornton Jr.
Calhoun County
Council Member

Terms Expire 2023

Cam Crawford
Horry County
Council Member

Dwight L. Stewart Jr.
Clarendon County
Council Chairman

Phillip M. Taylor Sr.
Colleton County
Council Vice Chairman

SC Counties Insurance Trusts Chairman

Joseph R. Branham
Chester County
Council Chairman

NACo Board Representative

Waymon Mumford
Florence County
Council Member



Advocate. Educate. Collaborate.

For more than 50 years, the South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC) has worked to empower county officials through advocacy, education, and collaboration.

As members of the Association, all 46 counties, county elected officials, and employees have access to SCAC's programs designed to build connections, share information, and help counties serve their citizens.

The Association has a rich history of working with county and state leaders to safeguard Home Rule. By partnering with county officials who work with local delegation members throughout the year, SCAC successfully amplifies the voices and concerns of county government at the state and federal levels.

As the legal advocate for South Carolina's counties, Association staff conducts research, provides sound advice to county attorneys and leaders, and appears as a friend of the court in cases with statewide impact.

Our educational programs foster close connections between newcomers and seasoned county leaders and sharpen skills needed to make sound, ethical decisions. SCAC's research and publications keep county officials and employees abreast of trends and emerging issues.

SCAC's customer-focused insurance trusts and risk management services offer significant resources to help counties protect their human and financial resources. Our debt collection programs have been highly successful in returning monies for county operations that would otherwise go uncollected.

Your Association will continue to partner with state and county officials to improve South Carolina's strength by delivering essential programs and services for 21st century counties and county leaders.

SCAC is honored to serve South Carolina's 46 counties. Please explore the pages of this report, which covers August 2022 to August 2023, to learn more about our programs, progress and impact.

Advocate for County Government



LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

The primary reason for starting SCAC 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 with passage of the local government constitutional amendment in 1972 and the Home Rule Act in 1975.

Today, the development of policy positions involves significantly more 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 policy steering committees.

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 for draft policy positions. After further review and study in November, the steering committees develop initial policy positions for consideration by SCAC's Legislative Committee in December. The



final 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 distributed weekly during the legislative session to ensure county officials are aware of all legislation that affects their operations. When legislative action occurs too quickly for the Friday Report, special Legislative Alerts are sent, or individual telephone calls are made.

SCAC staff members attend numerous subcommittee and committee meetings in order to report on legislative action. House and Senate actions are monitored each day the General Assembly is in session. This includes reviewing each bill or amendment introduced and requesting input from county officials.

The 2023 legislative year saw a very small number of bills enacted into law. However, the Association still managed to have great success in passing several important pieces of legislation for county government and defeating or amending several of the 691 bills the Association staff monitored. 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 General Assembly members.



2023 Legislative Highlights

While much of the 2023 session of the SC General Assembly centered around school vouchers, abortion, constitutional carry of concealed weapons, bond reform, and restructuring the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), and while very little legislation was passed, 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 first of a two-year session, and any legislation introduced that did not pass this year still has a chance to pass next year. Following are some of the legislative victories and policy positions for which SCAC advocated throughout the legislative session. While not all of them have become Acts yet, they are in a great position for the next legislative session.

Local Government Fund and State Appropriations Bill – H. 4300

Under the budget adopted by the General Assembly, the LGF is funded with an increase of \$13.21 million statewide. This represents full funding to the LGF under the statutory formula.

The budget also allocates \$12 million for the Rural County Stabilization Fund. Any county

that has a population growth, as determined by the 2020 Census, of less than 5.35% since the 2010 Census is eligible to receive monies from the fund.

The budget also includes \$20 million in additional funding for County Transportation Committees. The budget contains \$155 million to cover a

\$2,500 base pay increase for state employees making under \$50,000 and a 5% base pay increase for state employees

making over \$50,000; \$121.5 million for the state's share of the 3.7% increase in premiums under the State Health Plan, including expanded well visits, prescribed contraceptives for dependents, and annual gynecological visits for women; \$40.1 million to cover the state's share of the 1% retirement contribution increase; \$750,000 for post-traumatic stress disorder treatment for first responders, an SCAC policy position; and \$3.784 million for the Firefighter Cancer Benefit Plan.

Lawmakers included a \$13.21 million statewide increase to the Local Government Fund for FY 2023-2024, representing full funding.

SCAC was successful in preventing two provisos (60.5. PCC: Solicitor’s Office – County Funding Level and 61.1. INDEF: Defense of Indigents Formula) from being amended to withhold LGF revenues if certain funding thresholds aren’t provided to Solicitors’ and Public Defenders’ Offices.

SCAC was also successful in getting a proviso related to bans on short-term rentals removed (Proviso 113.11) by working with legislators and stakeholders to avoid unintended consequences from a penalty provision withholding LGF revenues.

Municipal Audits – Act No. 71

This legislation allows municipalities with less than \$500,000 in total revenues to provide a compilation of financial statements in place of an annual audit report. SCAC worked with stakeholders and members of the General Assembly to include a provision giving counties flexibility in providing their annual audit report to the state before their allotment of the LGF could be withheld. Under the amendment, the annual audit report would have to be provided to the State Treasurer by January 1 of each year. Upon showing proper cause, as determined by the State Treasurer, the county will receive an automatic 90-day extension. To be considered, a request for an extension must be signed by the chair of the council prior to the deadline for filing. Although the Governor vetoed the bill, SCAC was successful in getting both chambers to override the veto.



Coroners as First Responders – Act No. 66

This legislation allows a coroner, deputy coroner, or the coroner’s designee to possess and administer an opioid antidote pursuant

to the requirements of the South Carolina Overdose Prevention Act. DHEC may promulgate regulations related to coroners possessing and administering opioid antidotes, and DHEC’s Bureau of Drug Control must maintain data on coroners and their designees administering opioid antidotes.

Further, the legislation specifies that a coroner or deputy coroner is considered a public safety officer (first responder) if

691 bills were monitored by SCAC staff during the 2023 legislative session.

killed in the line of duty, an SCAC policy position. The Senate adopted an amendment on the floor to require that the medical examiner’s duties be specified in an annual written contract between the county governing body and the medical examiner.

Local Sales Tax for Workforce Housing – Act No. 57

This legislation allows Local Accommodations Tax proceeds, as well as a special fund for tourism, to be used for workforce housing. It also allows local governments to issue bonds to finance workforce housing projects. Proceeds used for workforce housing projects must promote home ownership. Also, if the local government intends to use the funds for workforce housing, the governing body must prepare a housing impact analysis prior to the second reading of the enabling ordinance. All local governments that have adopted a local comprehensive plan must solicit input for their analysis required in Section 6-29-510(D) (6) of the Code from homebuilders, developers, contractors, and housing finance experts.

The legislation also creates a Land Development Study Committee to examine current and future methods to plan for and manage land development in the state. The study committee would be composed of three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate and three members of the House appointed by the Speaker of the House. The study committee would seek assistance from several governmental agencies and private organizations, including SCAC. There is an annual 15% cap on the amount of Accommodations Tax revenues that a local government could devote to workforce housing.

The provisions of this legislation sunset on December 31, 2030. It also requires that on or before the sixth year of the Act's effective date, the directors of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, the Department of Commerce, and the Department of Agriculture shall issue a report to the General Assembly on the effect the legislation has had on tourism and workforce housing. The report's purpose is to assist the General Assembly in deciding whether or not to reauthorize local governments to continue using revenues for workforce housing after the legislation sunsets.

American Rescue Plan (ARPA) – Act No. 6

This legislation authorizes the expenditure of over \$586 million in federal funds disbursed to South Carolina in the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and would specify the way the funds may be expended. Under the bill, the money would be appropriated to the Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) ARPA Water and Sewer Infrastructure Account, with \$100 million made available for projects designated by the Secretary of Commerce as being significant to economic development. Up to \$20 million would be available for each project with no local match requirement. Only existing grant applications, as of January 1, 2023, may be considered in determining disbursements.

The legislation also allows funds from the ARPA Resilience Account as a part of Act 244 of 2022 to be used for projects that mitigate the impacts from potential releases of contamination associated with natural hazards. A provision that would have allowed any members of the General Assembly that opposed the awarding of ARPA grant funds within their respective district to notify the RIA in writing that the Authority must withhold the disbursement was removed before the legislation was enacted into law.

Trafficking in Fentanyl – Act No. 72

This legislation adds fentanyl-related substances to the list of Schedule I controlled substances and would create the felony offense of trafficking in fentanyl. It also increases penalties for trafficking in fentanyl compared to other drugs and establishes a mandatory minimum sentence. It also prohibits a person convicted of trafficking fentanyl from possessing a firearm.

Permit Extensions – R. 78

This legislation provides for extension of certain permits, certificates and other governmental approvals affecting economic development within the state. For development approvals that are current and valid at any point between January 1, 2020, and ending on December 31, 2023, the running of the clock regarding the period of validity and any associated vested rights are suspended. It excludes several state and federal permits that cannot be extended beyond a period of five years. Examples of permits that cannot be extended include approvals of stormwater management plans that are granted by a local



government or DHEC and 401 Water Quality Certification Permits that are issued by DHEC. The legislation was amended so that it does not impact existing county development plans and building permits. It also excludes development agreements entered pursuant to Section 6-31-10 (The South Carolina Local Government Development Agreement Act) from extension.

Veterans' Trust Fund – Act No. 58

This legislation reorganizes the Board of Trustees for the Veterans' Trust Fund of South Carolina by reducing the number of board members from 19 to 11. The board will be composed as follows:

- A total of 11 board members;
- Three of the seven at-large members must be from rural counties;
- At least six of the 11 members must be US Armed Forces veterans;
- No more than one board member can be from a single county; and
- Two of the 11 members must be currently serving as county veterans affairs officers.

Below are bills that have not been enacted into law that SCAC has been successful in amending:

Short-Term Rental Bans – H. 3253

SCAC worked with the bill’s sponsor to amend this bill, which would have affected the LGF and 6% property tax revenues, to not only remove those provisions but to add provisions related to the collection of accommodation taxes on short-term rentals, an SCAC policy position. H. 3253 is currently pending in the House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs Committee.

Commercial Rooftop Solar Property Taxes – H. 3948

SCAC took a bill that provided a 100% property tax exemption to all solar companies, including

solar farms with fee-in-lieu of tax agreements, and rewrote the bill to limit it to rooftop solar to eliminate its fiscal impact on counties. H. 3948 passed the House and has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

Cell Phones in Jails – H. 4002

This bill initially only applied to state prisons, but SCAC leveraged its relationships to extend the prohibition of cell phones in prisons to county jails, an SCAC policy position. H. 4002 passed the House and has been referred to the Senate Committee on Corrections and Penology.



More than 200 county officials attended Counties Connect: A Legislative Action Day in February at the SC State House and USC Alumni Center in Columbia. This offered local leaders an opportunity to engage with legislative delegation members on issues important to their counties.

Legal Advocacy and Training



LEGAL ADVOCACY

SCAC's legal staff, working through the county attorney, spends hundreds of hours each year conducting in-depth research on pertinent statutes, case law, and attorney general opinions; preparing written advisory opinions; and providing informal telephone consultations. Staff also assists counties involved in litigation of statewide interest, including appearing as an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court).

Another service is an update of state regulations and appellate court decisions of interest to counties. The updates are sent to county chief administrative officers and county attorneys for distribution to county departments. 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.

Association staff also reviews appellate court opinions and provides an overview of any decision that will impact county or other local government operations.

LEGAL TRAINING

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.

With the ever-changing rules that came along with ARPA, SCAC provided guidance and training as to what the funds could be spent on. This training is offered free of charge and can be provided at county sites or the SCAC Office in Columbia.

SCAC annually hosts the Local Government Attorneys' Institute (the Institute). The Institute provides local and state government attorneys with timely and important legal information. More than 200 public sector attorneys participated in 2022.

Topics included:

- Keep Calm and Govern Yourself Accordingly; It's A Zoo Here – ADA and Service Animals;
- User Fees;
- Lions, Tigers and Bears – Oh My! Updates on Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility from the US Supreme Court, Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and the SC Supreme Court;
- FOIA – Know When to Hold Them, Know When to Fold Them; and
- 2022 Federal Caselaw Update.



Educate and Build Knowledge

INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS

SCAC launched the Institute of Government for County Officials in 1989 to help policymakers and executive staff address critical issues, meet the daily needs of their communities, and monitor the county’s performance.

The educational program is offered in partnership 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.

In 2022, a record 44 county officials graduated from Level I and 23 graduated from Level II. This year, 58 Institute of Government participants have the potential to graduate.

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 hours are required for Level I certification and an additional 18 hours are required for Level II certification.

ADDITIONAL LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

SCAC partners with the National Association of Counties (NACo) to build strong county leaders

in South Carolina. The NACo High Performance Leadership Academy is an online 12-week program empowering county government professionals with the leadership skills to deliver results for counties. The NACo Enterprise Cybersecurity Leadership Academy is similarly structured and geared for county employees dedicated to cybersecurity, IT, and risk management. Through the SCAC/NACo partnership, South Carolina counties are eligible for a significantly reduced registration fee.

In 2022, 54 SC county employees from 17 counties graduated from one of these academies.

Learn more at naco.org.

ORIENTATION FOR NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Association hosts an orientation program for newly elected council members in even-numbered years. Designed to provide a thorough insight into their new roles and responsibilities, the event also highlights how SCAC programs and services are valuable resources. The training is free-of-charge, and participants earn six hours of Institute of Government credit toward Level I certification.

More than 60 newly elected council members attended the December 2022 session in Columbia where topics covered included rules of procedure, risk management, FOIA, budget basics, and economic development.

PLANNING AND ZONING TRAINING

State law 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 are required annually thereafter.

Requirements also apply to planning professionals, zoning administrators, zoning officials, and deputies and assistants.

SCAC's planning and zoning training programs are approved by the SC Planning Education Advisory Committee (SPEAC). 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 three-hour continuing education requirement. Local planning and zoning officials and employees

may also earn continuing education credit from four specific courses offered by the Institute of Government.

In April 2022, SCAC launched a new online planning and zoning orientation course which includes four one-and-a-half hour modules. The training meets the six-hour orientation training requirement and covers topics such as land use planning, the zoning process, land development regulations, and procedural and educational requirements.

66 planning and zoning officials completed orientation training this year.

235 continuing education classes were taken via SCAC's learning portal.

Annual Awards Showcase Success



The Association's awards program provides an opportunity for county officials to learn about innovative practices, technology, and trends; to strengthen their professional network; and to share ideas and expertise.

The J. Mitchell Graham Memorial Award recognizes counties that address community challenges in a unique way. The Barrett Lawrimore Memorial Regional Cooperation



Award highlights the critical need for regional partnerships, strategies, and solutions.

The Association hosts an online video library of award competition presentations and written entries. SCAC also highlights the projects and summarizes entries in County Focus magazine, on social media and its County COMPASS e-newsletter.

Resources and Technical Assistance

ONLINE RESEARCH RESOURCES

County officials and employees can access an abundance of information and resources via SCAC's website. A search tool allows users to access documents and publications by title, topic, and resource type. The search function connects users 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 LGF allocations are also available.

PROPERTY TAX REPORT

SCAC annually publishes Property Tax Rates by County, a comprehensive, up-to-date listing of county property tax millage rates. This publication is the primary source of statewide county property taxes and is widely used by local and state officials, the legislature, developers, and the public.

WAGE AND SALARY REPORT

This report is published every other year and contains the results of SCAC's survey of more than 200 county government positions. It includes detailed salary data by county and position, information on annual and sick leave benefits, holidays, budgets, payrolls, employee totals, and classification systems.

The FY2022 edition is available online, and the FY2024 report will be available by November 2023.

SURVEYS

Association staff conducts statewide surveys and gathers information on individual counties' policies and practices. The results help inform county policymakers and practitioners and are used by the SCAC legislative staff, state agencies, and the SC General Assembly. Some recent surveys include animal ordinances, broadband funding, cost of living adjustments for magistrates, leave accrual for elected officials, and waste tire management. In addition, SCAC staff assisted with the GetConnectedSC survey, a partnership of the Office of Regulatory Staff and SC Department of Administration to assess internet capabilities, digital inequities, and potential projects at county facilities.

ONLINE FORUM DISCUSSIONS

SCAC administers online discussion forums for seven 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 SC Association of Auditors, Treasurers and Tax Collectors; the SC Association of Assessing Officials; county finance officers; county personnel directors; county risk managers; and county IT directors.

Communications and Outreach

County officials can stay on top of the latest news, events, resources, and tools through a variety of communications channels.

COUNTY COMPASS: NAVIGATE THE LATEST SCAC NEWS

The monthly County COMPASS e-newsletter debuted in May 2023. Delivered directly to county officials' inboxes, the publication includes key news items, funding opportunities, upcoming trainings and events, and spotlight articles on county successes. The newsletter is designed to quickly provide timely information to help county officials. Subscribe at sccounties.org/email.

FRIDAY REPORT

Delivered each week the SC General Assembly is in session, the Friday Report is SCAC's signature advocacy communication. The

Association's Government Affairs team tracks and writes recaps of bills affecting counties and where they are in the legislative process. The report is sent to more than 1,500 subscribers by email and is available online at sccounties.org/friday-reports.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow SCAC on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter for daily photos, videos and stories designed to offer quick bits of informative content.

Our social media channels amplify counties' messages and share details from partner organizations throughout the state as well as organizations like NACo and Government Finance Officers Association.

Follow SCAC at [@SCCounties](https://twitter.com/SCCounties) on Twitter and Facebook and [@South Carolina Association of Counties](https://www.linkedin.com/company/south-carolina-association-of-counties) on LinkedIn.

SC COUNTIES APP

Available in the Apple App Store and via Google Play, the SC Counties app is your one-stop shop for information about SCAC conferences and events.

It includes schedules, maps, details on speakers, links to Corporate Partners and more to make members' meeting experience exceptional.



COUNTY FOCUS MAGAZINE

The quarterly magazine offers in-depth articles on successful county programs and features articles covering timely topics and issues affecting county governments. The magazine is distributed to more than 1,300 county officials, employees, Councils of Governments, members of the SC General Assembly, state officials, and SCAC Corporate Partners. It is also available online.

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, 78 counties, Councils of Governments, and governmental entities took advantage of this employment advertising tool by posting more than 348 positions, which garnered 26,222 views.

Visit sccounties.org/county-jobs.

Scholarship Program Gives Back to Communities Statewide

SCAC has awarded \$220,000 in scholarships to 88 students in all 46 counties 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's scholarship was awarded to a student at Brookland-Cayce High School in Lexington County.

"These scholarships are another way for SCAC's Board and the Association to give back to the communities we serve," President Debbie Summers said. "It is always such an honor to recognize the talented young people in our counties as they prepare for the next steps in exciting futures."



The Association also awarded four Board of Directors Scholarships to graduating high school seniors who are residents of counties chosen by lot. Berkeley, Calhoun, Dillon, and Lancaster counties were selected for these awards.



Collaborate to Assist Counties as Stewards of Public Resources

SELF-FUNDED INSURANCE PROGRAMS

The Association sponsors two self-insurance pools—the SC Counties Workers’ Compensation Trust (SCCWCT) and the SC Counties Property & Liability Trust (SCCP<). Both trusts are open to counties and agencies with county government-related functions. The SCCWCT currently has 88 members, including 41 counties. The SCCP< has 26 members, including 19 counties.

We are pleased to announce that Spartanburg, Florence and Dorchester counties joined the SCCP< since December 2022, and we are actively marketing to several other counties for membership in both trusts.

The 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 counties. The insurance staff understands the risks counties face as evidenced by its customized risk management solutions.

All aspects of trust administration, including claims administration and risk management services, are handled internally by SCAC insurance staff. The Association offers the flexibility of in-house underwriting.

Boards of Trustees SC Counties Workers' Compensation and Property & Liability Trusts



Joseph R. Branham
CHAIRMAN
Chester County
Council Chairman



Waymon Mumford
VICE CHAIRMAN
Florence County
Council Member



Charles T. Jennings
McCormick County
Council Chairman



Gary Mixon
Sumter County
Administrator



Debra B. Summers
Lexington County
Council Member



Cecil M. Thornton Jr.
Calhoun County
Council Member



Timothy C. Winslow
SECRETARY/TREASURER
SCAC Executive Director

RISK MANAGEMENT

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 during county operations. The insurance staff includes risk managers who work in the field supplementing the county's risk management efforts through inspections, training, and mentoring.

The Insurance Trusts Membership Meeting is held in January each year where SCAC insurance staff, trust members and other risk management experts provide training and timely updates on best practices. The roundtable discussions are a popular segment of the meeting. The focus of this year's roundtable was cyber threats to local government.



DEBT COLLECTION PROGRAMS

SCAC assists county entities in two debt collection programs administered by the SC 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.

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.

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 online at sccounties.org.

COST SAVINGS PROGRAMS

FSI Office Purchasing Program

SCAC sponsors a discount purchasing program for routine office, breakroom, and janitorial supplies. This program was created by SCAC in cooperation with Forms and Supply, Inc. (FSI), and offers substantial discounts on these supplies. In the past year, 29 South Carolina counties saved \$1.4 million by participating in the program. Learn more at sccounties.org.

NACo Live Healthy Prescription, Health & Dental Discount Program

The National Association of Counties Live Healthy Prescription, Health & Dental Discount Program is a no-cost plan available to all member county residents. It provides relief to uninsured and under-insured Americans who are facing the growing cost of healthcare offering three keyways to save. While the program is not insurance, it has saved residents more than \$713 million on 51 million prescriptions since 2004.

To learn more or apply, visit naco.org/live-healthy-us-counties.

Risk Management Awards Showcase Safety, Dedication to Public Service

Risk management often means working behind the scenes to mitigate potential losses and minimize the impact of unforeseen events. The SC Counties Insurance Trusts Awards are given annually to recognize counties that have made significant achievements in their risk management and safety programs.



The awards are announced at the Trusts' Annual Membership Meeting, and winners are also often recognized at individual county council meetings.

Outstanding Safety Achievement Award

The award is given to counties or member entities that have made significant progress in a specific area of their risk management and safety program. It recognizes specific projects or achievements rather than general overall improvement.

In 2023, the following counties received this award:

- Barnwell County
- Berkeley County
- Dorchester County
- Georgetown County
- Greenwood County
- Horry County
- Kershaw County
- Lancaster County
- Laurens County

Sustained Excellence in Risk Management Award

The award is given to members who meet or exceed all the Basic Risk Management Standards consistently. Winners in 2023 were:

- Berkeley County
- Colleton County
- Dorchester County
- Horry County
- Lancaster County

Barnwell County received the Most Improved County Award for its response and overall collaboration with other entities to put out a fire at the county landfill, which resulted in no injuries.

Lag Time Awards

Lag Time Awards are given to members in each trust with the lowest average claims reporting time. The SCCWCT Experience Modifier Award is given to members who had the lowest experience modifier in the Workers' Compensation Trust.

SC Counties Property & Liability Trust Lag Time Awards

Sumter County	.69 days
Saluda County	.73 days
McCormick County	1.07 days

SC Counties Workers' Compensation Trust Lag Time Awards

Fairfield County	.08 days
Colleton County	.12 days
Spartanburg County	.12 days
Lancaster County	.26 days

SC Counties Workers' Compensation Trust Experience Modifier Awards

Spartanburg County	.55
Abbeville County	.62
Calhoun County	.64
Saluda County	.64

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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*

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*

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*

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*

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*
 Charles T. Jennings, *McCormick County*

2020-Present

Dwight L. Stewart Jr., *Clarendon County*
 Johnnie Wright Sr., *Orangeburg County*
 Paul A. Cain, *Oconee County*

*Presidents are listed in chronological order for each decade. *Waymon Mumford served as president for two terms in 2005 and 2006 due to the untimely death of SCAC President Barrett S. Lawrimore.*

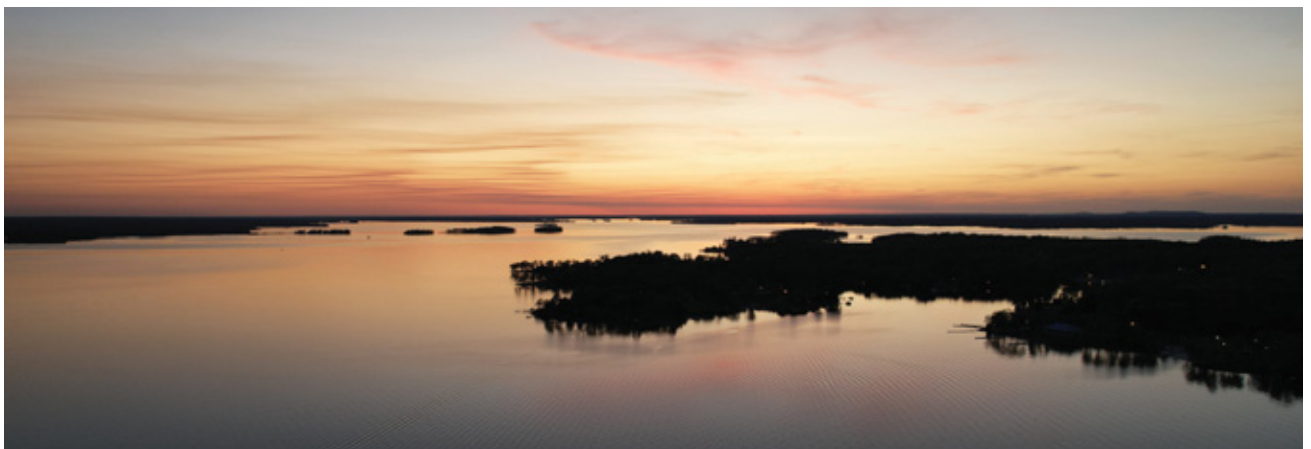


Photos

Top | Lexington Square, courtesy of County of Lexington

Center | Aerial view of Lake Murray Dam, courtesy of Lexington County Sheriff's Department

Bottom | Sunset over Lake Murray, courtesy of Lexington County Sheriff's Department



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