

# POLICY POSITIONS

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ADOPTED BY THE  
Legislative Committee

2024



**SOUTH CAROLINA  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

# 2023 SCAC Legislative Committee

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Chairman, SCAC Legislative Committee***

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Cam Crawford, County Council  
Barry Spivey, Assistant County  
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**Lancaster County**

Steven R. Harper, Council Chairman  
W. Brian Carnes, Council Vice Chairman

**Laurens County**

Brown Patterson, Council Chairman  
Jeff Carroll, Council Vice Chairman

**Lee County**

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**Lexington County**

Beth A. Carrigg, Council Chairwoman  
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John Q. Atkinson Jr., Council Chairman

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**McCormick County**

Charles T. Jennings, Council Chairman  
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**Newberry County**

Todd Johnson, Council Chairman

**Oconee County**

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**Pickens County**

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**Spartanburg County**

Justin McCorkle, County Council

**Sumter County**

James T. McCain Jr., Council Chairman  
Charles T. Edens, County Council

**Union County**

Phillip G. Russell II, County Supervisor/  
Chairman

**Williamsburg County**

Kelvin C. Washington, County Supervisor/  
Chairman

**York County**

Christi Cox, Council Chairwoman

# **Policy Positions for the 2024 Session of the South Carolina General Assembly**

**Adopted by the 2023 Legislative Committee  
of the South Carolina Association of Counties**



**SOUTH CAROLINA  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

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**Local Leaders. Statewide Strength.®**

**Cover Photo by John O. Wienges, Jr.**

A view of the South Carolina State House with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in the foreground. Installed in 2006, the memorial is one of the most recent additions to the grounds and honors the role first responders and law enforcement play in our state. Public safety, corrections and judicial is one of the SC Association of Counties' four policy position areas.

# Policy Positions for the 2024 Session of the South Carolina General Assembly

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# Legislative Policy Development Process

## General Statement

The South Carolina Association of Counties (SCAC) has adopted a systematic consensus building legislative policy development process. The central goal in the process is to solicit and develop the expertise of county officials from all 46 counties on legislative issues affecting county government. Through participation in four legislative policy steering committees, county officials meet, discuss, and identify issues to be considered by the Legislative Committee.

## Legislative Committee and Steering Committee System

SCAC has four legislative policy committees: 1) County Government and Intergovernmental Relations Steering Committee; 2) Land Use, Natural Resources and Transportation Steering Committee; 3) Public Safety, Corrections and Judicial Steering Committee; and 4) Revenue, Finance and Economic Development Steering Committee. It is the responsibility of each committee to study the issues and analyze information that is pertinent to its designated policy area. Each committee will develop recommendations in the form of policy statements. Each committee chairman will present the committee's draft policy statements to the Legislative Committee during the Legislative Conference in December.

The Legislative Committee is composed of the 29 members of the SCAC Board of Directors and the chairman of the governing body of the county or his/her designee from each of the 46 counties. The total membership of the Legislative Committee is 75 members. It is the responsibility of the Legislative Committee to review each legislative policy steering committee's recommendations, resolve any conflicts, and adopt the legislative policy positions for the Association. The Legislative Committee is chaired by the Association's First Vice President. The Legislative Committee meets at the SCAC Legislative Conference in December. Once the formal policy statement has been approved by the Legislative Committee, it is the responsibility of the membership of the Association and the Association staff to advocate for its implementation.

During the course of a legislative session, the SCAC Board of Directors is responsible for any revision, modification, deletion, or addition to the legislative policy positions adopted by the Legislative Committee.

## Timeline for Development of Legislative Policy

**Late August** – The membership is notified of the date of the meeting of the four policy steering committees. County officials receive a list of the steering committees and a description of their areas of responsibility. County officials are encouraged to provide their thoughts and ideas on legislative issues for inclusion on a steering committee's agenda. Staff collects this input and prepares it for the steering committee meeting.

**Mid-September** – Each steering committee meets to discuss and analyze legislative policy issues and draft an initial report of proposed legislative policy recommendations.

**Mid-September to Mid-November** – The County Council Coalition meets in October to review and discuss the initial draft of proposed legislative policy recommendations. Each steering committee chairman presents the steering committee report to the Coalition. During the Fall, various groups of county official organizations

meet and determine their group's legislative agenda for the coming session of the General Assembly. This information is collected and assigned to the particular steering committee responsible for that legislative area.

**Mid-November** – Each steering committee meets for the second time to incorporate additional issues into their proposed legislative policy recommendations. Each steering committee adopts a final proposed legislative policy recommendation.

**Early December** – The SCAC Legislative Committee meets at the Legislative Conference to receive the reports of the four legislative policy steering committees. Each steering committee chairman presents his/her committee report at a general session meeting of the Legislative Committee. The members of the Legislative Committee discuss each proposed legislative policy position, and then either amend, adopt, or reject the recommendation. If adopted by the Legislative Committee, those policy positions are incorporated with the other steering committees' reports into an SCAC consensus legislative report. Once the SCAC consensus legislative report has been adopted by the Legislative Committee, it is the responsibility of the membership and the SCAC staff to advocate for its implementation.

## **Rules and Operating Procedures**

### **A. Legislative Committee**

1. **Committee Membership:** The Legislative Committee shall be composed of the members of the SCAC Board of Directors and the chairman of the governing body or his/her designee from each of the 46 counties. The chairman of the Legislative Committee shall be the First Vice President of the Association.
2. **Voting Procedures:** At a Legislative Committee meeting, the Chairman shall call the meeting to order and carry out the committee meeting agenda. Each committee member has one vote. All matters coming before the committee shall be decided by a majority vote of those present and voting.
3. **Proposed Policies and Amendments:** Each steering committee chairman shall present at the Legislative Conference the committee report for the steering committee. No legislative issue shall be considered at the Legislative Conference in December that does not appear in a steering committee report unless two-thirds of those Legislative Committee members present and voting vote to place the issue on the Legislative Committee agenda for consideration.
4. **Procedural Rules:** **The latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be used to govern the conduct of Legislative Committee meetings.**

### **B. Legislative Policy Steering Committees**

1. **Committee Membership:** The Legislative Policy Steering Committees' membership composition is as follows: (a) the SCAC Board of Directors; (b) the Legislative Committee members who are either the chairman of the governing body of the county or his/her designee; and (c) not more than 25 county officials who shall be appointed by the President based on the expertise of the county official in the subject matter of the particular steering committee. The President shall make steering committee assignments on an annual basis. The President shall designate a chairman for each of the four steering committees. Steering committee meetings will be held at the call of the President.
2. **Voting Procedures:** At each steering committee meeting, the committee chairman shall call the meeting to order and carry out the committee meeting agenda. Each committee member has one vote. All matters coming before the committee shall be decided by majority vote of the committee members present and voting.

3. **Proposed Policies and Amendments:** Any committee member may offer a proposed policy or an amendment to an existing Association policy. Any county official may propose a policy issue by submitting it to the Association and asking that it be included on the committee's meeting agenda. The chairman of the committee will call upon members to discuss the proposal as it has been offered. At the conclusion of the discussion, the chairman will call for a vote on the proposal.
4. **Procedural Rules:** The latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be used to govern the conduct of steering committee meetings.



# Statement of Purpose for the 2024 Session of the South Carolina General Assembly

The South Carolina Association of Counties hereby affirms its constitutional premise as stated in Article I, Section 2, that, “The purpose of the organization shall be to promote more efficient county government; to study, discuss, and recommend improvements in government; to investigate and provide means for the exchange of ideas and experiences between county officers; to promote and encourage education of county officials; to collect, analyze, and distribute information about county government; to cooperate with other organizations; and to promote legislation to effect more efficient administration of local government in the State of South Carolina.”

The Association believes that counties cannot exist in isolation because their futures are intertwined. We realize that, as the saying goes, “Together we stand, divided we fall.” Our problems are largely the same: if they are to be solved quickly and effectively, all counties must band together to work for the common good. Many common problems exist among South Carolina’s 46 counties, and to solve these problems, cooperation is necessary.

The South Carolina Association of Counties establishes as a principle the goal of providing control of essential services at the level of government most capable of delivering them. Counties cannot be effective partners with the state and federal governments if their primary revenue source, the property tax, is eliminated or further eroded without replacement with revenue sources that are secure and predictable. Any restructuring of responsibilities should be coupled with a restructuring of revenue sources for counties so that the revenue sources are reflective of the economy in the same proportion as those of the state.

The Association believes strongly in maximum local authority consistent with attainment of statewide objectives. County officials recognize their responsibilities to carry out policies formulated by the General Assembly. At the same time, state policymakers should recognize the limitations of the county revenue base and the need for the state to provide the revenue necessary to implement the increasing number of mandates.

We believe that joint cooperative action between county school board members and county council members is essential to the successful delivery of good public education. Comprehensive and efficient human services, including social services, health and mental health programs, are essential to the wellbeing of our society. These services must be clearly defined and adequately funded. State mandated services delivered at the county level should be financed from state revenue sources in order for every citizen of South Carolina to receive a substantially similar degree of service.

The South Carolina Association of Counties has traditionally maintained that its efforts should not be utilized on behalf of individual counties seeking legislative remedy for problems not statewide in nature. The Association staff will direct its efforts toward the support of sound legislation beneficial to the administration of all counties’ affairs, and to the opposition of legislation detrimental to counties.

# County Government and Intergovernmental Relations Steering Committee



**Joseph R. Branham, Chairman**  
**Chester County Council Chairman**

*The responsibilities of the County Government and Intergovernmental Relations Steering Committee include issues involving the structure of county government and all matters dealing with intergovernmental relations between counties and county officials and the federal, state, and municipal governments. Also included in the responsibilities of this committee are issues related to health and human service delivery and financing. Specific areas of concern include Home Rule authority, consolidation of political subdivisions, elections, ethics, personnel, indigent health care, indigent legal services, veterans' affairs, libraries, social services, and health boards.*

## Steering Committee Members

### **County Representatives:**

**Beth A. Carrigg**, Lexington County Council Chairwoman  
**Matthew Connelly**, Allendale County Council Chairman  
**Christi Cox**, York County Council Chairwoman  
**Jerry R. Creech**, Barnwell County Council Chairman  
**Robert T. Dunn**, Anderson County Council Chairman  
**S. Todd Friddle**, Dorchester County Council Chairman  
**Steven C. Grice**, Dillon County Council Chairman  
**Bill Tuten**, Charleston County Administrator  
**Overture Walker**, Richland County Council Chairman  
**Travis Windham**, Lee County Council Chairman

### **SCAC Board Members:**

**Mary D. Anderson**, Chesterfield County Council Vice Chairwoman  
**W. Brian Carnes**, Lancaster County Council Vice Chairman  
**Joseph F. Passiment Jr.**, Beaufort County Council Chairman  
**Brown Patterson**, Laurens County Council Chairman  
**Johnnie Wright Sr.**, Orangeburg County Council Chairman

### **President's Appointees:**

**Dwight L. Bradham**, Aiken County Veterans Affairs Officer  
**Rose N. Dobson-Elliott**, Jasper County Engineering Services Director  
**Theodore Felder**, Clarendon County Deputy Administrator  
**Blair T. Hinson**, Oconee County Library Director  
**Connie N. Portee**, Orangeburg County Clerk to Council  
**Thomas Reitz**, Beaufort County Council  
**Lynne West**, Laurens County Registration & Elections Director  
**Joanie Winters**, Chester County Attorney

**SCAC Staff Contact: Leslie M. Simpson**

## General Statement of Policy

In November of 1972, the people of South Carolina voted to empower the General Assembly to grant statutory Home Rule powers to county governments. The revised Article VIII (Local Government) to the State Constitution was implemented with the passage of Act No. 283 of 1975 and is known as the “Home Rule Act.” This structural reorganization of government service providers recognized that local elected governing bodies would meet the service needs of their communities in a more efficient and cost-effective manner. The people recognized that counties must be able to respond to changing issues without being limited by inefficient and ineffective restrictions imposed by state law. County Government officials recognize that they are directly responsible for and accountable to the people in their communities for raising and allocating revenues to provide the services that their people demand.

In addition to being providers of essential traditional local government services, counties understand their role to help the state administer state programs at the local level. However, counties are charged with implementing costly state and federal mandates without sufficient appropriations or revenue sources to pay for meeting the state’s or federal government’s objectives. Counties oppose the imposition of unfunded or underfunded state and federal mandates because it breaks the line of accountability that connects the implementing government responsible for the program with the cost required to pay for the program.

Counties are mindful of their obligation to protect and preserve the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of this state. To this end, counties play a vital role in addressing the health and human service needs of the people in their communities. The growing cost of supporting these programs and the restructuring of the role of the federal government through the block grant program are a growing concern of counties.

## Policy Positions

### County Officers and Employees

**County Veterans’ Affairs (CVA) Officers** – (1) Support legislation that would provide a CVA officer is an at-will employee of the county legislative delegation and is considered a county employee; (2) Support legislation that would provide that a CVA officer is subject to removal for cause, at any time, by a county delegation; and (3) Support legislation that would provide that the Secretary of SC Department of Veterans Affairs (SCDVA) may offer recommendations to the county delegation after annual reviews of the local county CVA office.

**Treasurers & Auditors Oversight** – The role of the county treasurer and the county auditor is critical to the financial and economic functions of counties. If those offices fail to perform their duties, there needs to be a legislative mechanism where the county is able to still function effectively and efficiently by carrying out these functions. Therefore, SCAC should support the following:

1. Support legislation that provides penalties for treasurers and auditors who fail to carry out their statutory duties; and
2. Support legislation that provides a procedure for counties to carry out these functions when a treasurer or auditor fails to perform their duties.

**Workers’ Compensation and Health Insurance Coverage for Psychological Injuries** – (1) Support legislation that would expand funding and healthcare to ensure that there is coverage for all first responders needing treatment for mental injuries; and (2) While SCAC opposes legislation that would amend § 42-1-160 to reduce the standard for mental-mental claims, in the alternative, SCAC would support a compromise

reached by stakeholders that requires an employee with mental injuries to be under the care of a treating physician and only be entitled to a claim for workers' compensation after the treating physician makes a determination that the employee is disabled as a result of a work-related mental injury.

**Workers' Compensation Benefits for a First Responder, Healthcare Provider or Correctional Officer contracting COVID** – Oppose legislation that establishes a presumption that a first responder, healthcare provider, or correctional officer contracting COVID-19 is entitled to Workers' Compensation benefits as an occupational disease.

## Elections

**Combining up to Four Voting Precincts** – Support legislation that amends Section 7-7-910 to allow county boards of voter registration and elections and county voter registration and elections directors to combine up to four voting precincts.

**Expediting Voting Tallies** – Support S. 406 to provide that ballots cast during the early voting period may begin to be tabulated simultaneously as absentee ballots.

**Increase Poll Worker Pay** – Support legislation for the following:

1. Amend 102.2 Budget Proviso to include no less than \$100 per day of work (minimum wage) and \$75 for training for poll workers; and
2. Support legislation to fund "standby poll worker" compensation (up to three standby workers per 10,000 voters) to reflect existing poll worker training pay.

**Modify Candidate Filing Deadlines for Special & Municipal Elections** – Support legislation that modifies the candidate filing deadline in Section 5-15-70 in order to mirror the candidate filing deadline in Section 7-13-190 to comply with the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

**Municipal Elections** – Support H. 3734 to provide that all municipal elections must be conducted using a voting system approved and adopted by the Securities Exchange Commission and that municipal general elections be established by ordinance on odd-numbered years as follows:

- On the third Tuesday in March;
- On the first Tuesday in July; or
- On the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November.

## Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

**Avoiding the Rules of Discovery in Litigation** – Support legislation to amend the provisions of FOIA to prohibit the use of FOIA to circumvent discovery in a pending legal action.

**Definition of "Public Record"** – Support legislation to amend the definition of "public record" in Section 30-4-20(c) to provide that a "public record does not include reports, spreadsheets, or compilations that a public body has the hardware, software, or other technological capability to create but has not created or does not have copies of at the time of a public records request."

**Matters Exempt from Disclosure** – Support legislation to amend Section 30-4-40 to provide that ballot images or "cast vote records" are exempt from disclosure from any election.

**Right to Inspect or Copy Public Records** – Support legislation to amend Section 30-4-30(A)(3) to provide the following:

1. A public body is not required to create a record that does not exist at the time a request is made, even if the public body has the capability to create the requested record.
2. The minutes of a public body are not subject to inspection or review under FOIA until approved by the governing body.

## General

**County Elector Challenges and Hearing Timeframes** – Support legislation to amend Section 7-5-230 to specify that the hearing must be scheduled within 10 business days.

**Trespassing on County Facilities & Buildings** – Support legislation to amend the trespass statutes to provide a “public facility” provision that mirrors the language in Section 16-11-625, by providing that a person who enters a public facility or enters public property, without legal cause or good excuse, after having been warned not to do so by a public facility director, a chief administrative officer or their designee in consultation with the county attorney, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than \$200 or be imprisoned not more than 30 days.

**Veteran Surviving Spouse Property Tax Exemption** – Support legislation that would enlarge the meaning of a qualified spouse so that a widow or widower of a deceased veteran, who was never determined permanent and totally disabled as a result of a service-connected disability but whose death resulted from a service-connected injury, will qualify the widow or widower for the relevant tax exemption.

## Intergovernmental Relations

**Library Funding** – Support legislation for State Aid funding for libraries in FY22/23 up to \$3.00 per capita with a minimum grant of \$150,000 per county.

**Municipal Annexation and Adhesion Contracts** – Support legislation that would grant legal standing to county governments to challenge municipal annexations within their jurisdiction. Further, support legislation that would require all municipal annexation, including enclave annexation, by referendum as follows:

- Support legislation prohibiting pre-facto and post-facto adhesion contracts.
- Provide a procedure for municipal deannexation in a manner similar to county boundary changes.
- Create a mechanism to freeze revenue from business licenses upon the annexation of a business by a municipality in the same manner that local hospitality taxes are treated when annexation occurs.
- Grant legal standing to counties for all annexations within their jurisdiction.
- Require municipalities to notify counties of proposed annexations. Notice should be given in time for the county to actively participate and provide input into the proposed annexation.
- Require municipalities to conduct a study to analyze and mitigate the potential impact of proposed annexations on the delivery and level of service of public services and facilities, in order to assure that adequate public services and facilities will be available to serve development after annexation.
- Prohibit the creation of enclaves (donut holes) and provide incentives for municipalities to not create enclaves. The incentives would not require approval from landowners that would be affected by the annexation.
- Strengthen the Priority Investment Act (enacted in 2007 to improve the local government comprehensive planning process) by mandating that any municipal annexation that violates the Act would result in a reduction of the Local Aid to Subdivision funds the municipality receives.



# Land Use, Natural Resources and Transportation Steering Committee

*The responsibilities of the Land Use, Natural Resources and Transportation Steering Committee include growth policies, environmental issues, as well as transportation and other infrastructure issues. Specific areas of concern include issues related to land use; zoning and building code programs; solid and hazardous waste management programs; water resource systems; air quality; wetlands; energy conservation; eminent domain; parks and recreation; and state/federal transportation funding programs, to include “C” funds.*



*Charles T. Edens, Chairman  
Sumter County Council*

## Steering Committee Members

### *County Representatives:*

**Dr. Jonathan Goodman II**, Bamberg County Council Chairman  
**Steven R. Harper**, Lancaster County Council Chairman  
**Alice G. Howard**, Beaufort County Council  
**Justin McCorkle**, Spartanburg County Council  
**Charles P. Midgley Jr.**, Marlboro County Council Chairman  
**Chuck Moates**, Greenwood County Council Chairman  
**James Moore**, Saluda County Council Chairman  
**Steven D. Murdaugh**, Colleton County Council Chairman  
**William C. Norris**, Abbeville County Council Chairman  
**L. Martin Sauls IV**, Jasper County Council Chairman  
**Columbus Stephens**, McCormick County Administrator  
**Dan Tripp**, Greenville County Council Chairman

### *President's Appointees:*

**Shawn Brashear**, Florence County Director of Planning & Building  
**Danny Knight**, Horry County Solid Waste Authority Executive Director  
**Claiborne Linvill**, Pickens County Council  
**Andrea N. Melocik**, Charleston County Planning & Zoning Deputy Director  
**Virginia Merck-Dupont**, Lancaster County Attorney  
**Kenneth S. Roper**, Pickens County Administrator  
**Steve Thigpen**, Charleston County Public Works Director  
**Joyce W. Thomas**, Darlington County Council

**SCAC Staff Contact: John O. Wienges and Avery D. Upchurch**

### *SCAC Board Members:*

**John Q. Atkinson Jr.**, Marion County Council Chairman  
**Dr. Alphonso Bradley**, Florence County Council  
**Barbara B. Clark**, Jasper County Council Vice Chairwoman  
**Larry Haynes**, Bamberg County Council  
**Dwight L. Stewart Jr.**, Clarendon County Council Chairman  
**Cecil M. Thornton Jr.**, Calhoun County Council



## General Statement of Policy

South Carolina's counties have played a vital role in maintaining natural resources, governing the wise use of land, and making public infrastructure decisions. Protection of natural resources must be a shared effort between the state and local governments. Counties recognize the importance of Home Rule and community input regarding land use, natural resources, and infrastructure decisions and have traditionally opposed statewide legislation that would preempt community input and solutions tailored to local situations involving these matters. County officials acknowledge their responsibility to carry out policies formulated by the General Assembly regarding matters of statewide concern. To that end, if state law mandates that local governments assume new or expanded responsibilities, the General Assembly should provide adequate guidance and funding to accomplish legislative aims.

## Policy Positions

### Land Use

Counties and municipalities are the only entities vested with the jurisdiction to adopt and enforce zoning ordinances, development regulations, and other land use measures. County governments encourage adequate open space that contributes to the quality of life of our citizens by providing recreational opportunities, enhancing air and water quality, and preserving and protecting South Carolina's unique natural beauty. Local communities are best able to understand the most beneficial use of land. To that end, local citizens require and expect local governments to establish and enforce local land use and zoning ordinances. The South Carolina Association of Counties believes that the state and other outside entities should avoid interfering in local land use matters.

**Affordable Housing** – (1) Support legislation providing statewide tax benefits for affordable housing or local incentives to developers and landowners; (2) Oppose legislation that would impose limits on impact fees and tap fees.

**Balcony Inspections** – (1) Oppose legislation requiring counties to perform inspections of residential balconies and buildings; (2) Support S. 508 moving balcony inspections under the SC Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation's (LLR) purview.

**Disposal of Lithium-ion Batteries** – Support legislation or regulations providing disposal guidelines for lithium-ion batteries.

**Disposal of Rooftop Solar Panels** – Support legislation or regulations by the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) providing disposal guidelines for rooftop solar panels in landfills.

**Flood Maps and Building Code Requirements** – Support legislation that would provide relief from the Limit of Moderate Wave Action line requirements and restrictions on development within watersheds.

**Lot Cleanup** – Support legislation giving counties the authority to clean up both structures and lots and recover the costs associated with the cleanup from the property owner on the tax bill.

**Permits for Temporary Electrical Power at Manufactured Home Installation Sites** – Oppose legislation requiring counties to issue permits for temporary electric power at manufactured home installation sites.

**Preemption of Land Use Measures** – Oppose legislative preemption of local zoning or other restrictions on local land use regulation.

**Short Term Rentals – Defining Terms to Close Loopholes** – Support legislation that would tighten definitions by distinguishing between “short-term renters” vs. “roommates.”

**Waste Tires** – Support legislation that would address the increasing cost of waste tire disposal that county governments are currently facing, including, but not limited to: (1) Increasing the current \$2 advanced recycling fee. (2) Eliminating the current \$150/ton cap to allow counties across the state to address their local cost of disposal.

## Natural Resources

The task of preserving and maintaining South Carolina’s natural resources encompasses numerous areas of concern and involves the exercise of authority by federal, state, and local governments. Since counties are charged with the task of balancing various interests, local community input and decision-making needs to be preserved. Counties have long recognized that efforts to ensure clean water and air and to protect wetlands transcend governmental boundaries. These efforts require close cooperation between federal, state, and local governments. To that end, the Association of Counties, and those directly impacted counties, should be included in any decisions concerning state and federal efforts to protect natural resources.

**Solar Farm Decommissioning** – Support legislation that would require solar companies to provide forms of financial assurance that would be dedicated to the decommissioning costs of solar farm facilities prior to such a facility locating within a county.

**Solid Waste Flow Control** – (1) Oppose legislative efforts to undermine counties’ authority to address their responsibilities regarding the disposal of solid waste; (2) Support legislation providing counties with increased flexibility and accessibility to solid waste disposal.

## Transportation and Other Infrastructure

As communities across South Carolina grow, many counties are faced with increasing stress on public infrastructure. This has accelerated the demand for new and expanded airports, roads, bridges, water and sewer systems, and solid waste disposal. Counties should take a proactive role in determining the direction of infrastructure and should be included in decisions at the state level affecting local infrastructure.

**Infrastructure Definitions** – Support legislation that would make the state definition of infrastructure match the federal definition and would add solid waste to the definition of infrastructure.

**Transfer of Roads from the SC Department of Transportation (SCDOT) to Counties** – Oppose legislation that would require a mandatory transfer of roads from SCDOT to local governments.

**Transportation Infrastructure Project Funding** – Support legislation providing alternative funding sources and methodologies that would expedite project delivery for transportation infrastructure projects.

**Uniform Process for the Dedication of Roads to Local Governments** – Support legislation that would provide for a statutory scheme of road dedication in order to provide legal certainty and a uniform process for local governments.

# Public Safety, Corrections and Judicial Steering Committee



*Julie J. Armstrong, Chairwoman  
Charleston County Clerk of Court*

*The responsibilities of the Public Safety, Corrections and Judicial Steering Committee include issues relating to the funding and administration of law enforcement; corrections and jails; the judicial system; fire and life safety programs; and emergency disaster preparedness. Specific areas of concern include issues related to law enforcement; adult and juvenile detention; the court system, including clerks of court and registers of deeds, magistrates, and probate judges; E-9-1-1 service programs; fire protection services; emergency medical services; and emergency preparedness programs.*

## Steering Committee Members

### ***County Representatives:***

**Chris Bowers**, Pickens County Council Chairman  
**Gary Bunker**, Aiken County Council Chairman  
**Hattie Burns**, Chesterfield County Council  
**Jeff Carroll**, Laurens County Council Vice Chair  
**Matthew Durham**, Oconee County Council Chairman  
**Bobby C. Hudson**, Darlington County Council Chairman  
**Todd Johnson**, Newberry County Council Chairman  
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**Louis R. Morant**, Georgetown County Council Chairman  
**Douglas Pauley**, Fairfield County Council Chairman  
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**Albert Talbert**, Edgefield County Council Vice Chairman  
**Kelvin C. Washington**, Williamsburg County Supervisor/Chairman

### ***President's Appointees:***

**David Bartholomew**, Beaufort County Council  
**Johnathan W. Bryan**, Sumter County Attorney  
**Doug Bryson**, Spartanburg County Emergency Services Director  
**James C. Campbell**, Sumter County Clerk of Court  
**Brandon Ellis**, Georgetown County Emergency Services Director  
**Mario Formisano**, Dorchester County Deputy Administrator for Public Safety  
**John C. Hicks**, York County Chief Jail Administrator  
**Theo Lane**, Greenwood County Council Vice Chairman  
**Amy McCulloch**, Richland County Probate Judge  
**Bobbi Jo O'Neal**, Charleston County Coroner  
**Timothy L. Nanney**, Greenville County Register of Deeds  
**Carolyn Woodruff**, York County Probate Judge

### ***SCAC Board Members:***

**Cam Crawford**, Horry County Council  
**Waymon Mumford**, Florence County Council  
**William E. Robinson**, Allendale County Council Vice Chairman

## General Statement of Policy

One of the primary responsibilities of government is to protect its citizens from those who threaten their life, liberty, and property. County government resources are being strained to the limit to provide sufficient law enforcement, to deal with the escalating complexities and backlog in the judicial system, and to cope with the crises in jail overcrowding and juvenile crime. Many of these responsibilities fall on the counties as state mandates with either inadequate or no state funding.

County government officials feel that the critical issues facing our counties cannot be solved in a vacuum, but only through partnerships with the federal, state, and local governments; the private sector; volunteer organizations; community groups; and others. The state must take a leadership role in examining the causes of crime so that we do not have to continually build more jails, to find better methods to deal with high recidivism rates, and to make improvements in a judicial system that moves at a less-than-acceptable pace and has not adequately kept up with societal changes. The federal and state governments must not only support these efforts through strong leadership, but sufficient financial support must be provided if we are to solve these issues and improve the quality of life of all South Carolinians.

## Policy Positions

### Public Safety

Public safety services continue to be one of the largest budget items for South Carolina counties. Growth and changes in our communities have necessitated additional expenditures for first-responder services including fire and rescue, emergency management and response, and law enforcement at a time when staff and resources are in short supply. High incidences of crime along with implementation of homeland security safeguards at the federal and state level both have placed additional demands on law enforcement and emergency services personnel.

Continued devolvement of programs at the local level has resulted in more flexibility, but there is insufficient funding to address these critical needs.

**911 Charges** – (1) Support adjusting 911 charges for inflation. (2) Support including radio communications equipment or telecommunications equipment in 911 charges so long as the equipment is for 911 centers or public safety answering points.

**911 Monthly Fee Cap** – Support legislation to increase the current 911 monthly fee cap for wireless phones from \$0.67 to \$1.00.

**Animal Control: Pit Bulls** – Oppose legislation that would mandate dog breed registration by local governments.

**Coroner Qualifications** – Support legislation to amend the coroner qualifications found in § 17-5-130 by: (1) Deleting the provision in § 17-5-130(A)(2) that allows a candidate to run for coroner if they are “enrolled in a recognized forensic science degree or certification program to be completed within one year of being elected to the office of coroner.” (2) Adding a provision that requires a candidate to submit a sworn affidavit along with supporting documents at the time of filing certifying that they meet the qualifications to serve as a coroner.

**Cremation Permits** – Oppose H. 3017 and any legislation that prevents coroners from charging a fee for cremation permits.

**Hazard Mitigation Cost-Sharing** – Support legislation that addresses mitigation cost share with the following provision:

When the President of the United States has declared a major disaster to exist in the state and authorized implementation of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), matching funds to cover up to 25% in non-federal share of eligible HMGP-funded projects will be provided from state funds. Once the Federal Emergency Management Agency has awarded an HMGP project and authorized federal funding to the state, reimbursement of non-federal share under this subsection will be administered by the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) concurrent with reimbursement of federal share funds and in accordance with HMGP regulations and policy.

**Increasing Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs)** – Support legislation to create a study committee composed of the various stakeholders to come up with recommendations of ways to increase the number of EMTs in our state.

**Law Enforcement Officers/Judicial Privacy** – Support legislation to amend Act 56 of 2023 to require law enforcement and members of the judiciary that are requesting that their personal information be redacted to specify which documents contain their personal information. Also, the redaction should be limited to online documents only.

**Non-Emergency 911 Calls** – Support legislation similar to § 16-17-225 to make it a criminal offense to knowingly make a non-emergency 911 call.

**Reimbursement for Firefighter Training Costs** – Support legislation that would require a subsequent hiring governmental entity to reimburse the first entity for the costs of mandatory training of full-time firefighters if the firefighter is hired by the second entity within two years of training completion.

**Seized Animal Cost of Care** – Oppose H. 3682 and similar legislation as long as it's revenue negative to counties.

## Corrections

There must be an equitable relationship between the state and counties to meet increased demands of adult and juvenile incarceration. Problems of jail overcrowding, insufficient staffing, inadequate funding, and increased violence have grown in recent years. Continual expansion and construction of jails are poor and unacceptable answers to jail overcrowding. Improving jail conditions should be solved through a holistic approach to reforming the criminal justice system. The state and federal governments must provide financial support and alternatives to incarceration if we are to make progress in improving the criminal justice system.

**Amending the Safekeeper Statute** – Support amending H. 4002 to include the provisions proposed by the jail administrators and detention facility managers to amend the Safekeeper Statute.

**Assaults on Public Employees** – Support legislation to reinstate §16-3-630 dealing with the assault on state and local correctional facility employees, and to reinstate §16-3-635 dealing with the assault on emergency medical service providers, firefighters, and home health workers.



**Cell Phones in Jails** – Support legislation that would aid in the elimination of cell phone use by inmates.

**Juveniles in Local Detention Facilities** – Support S. 43 that amends the Constitution to change the age of juvenile offenders from “under the age of 17” to “under the age of 18.”

**Medicaid Benefits for Former Inmates** – Support legislation to authorize the Department of Corrections and local detention facilities to suspend, rather than terminate, Medicaid benefits for inmates so that these benefits can resume immediately upon release, and to provide that any benefit received by a pretrial detainee prior to conviction cannot be suspended until a guilty verdict is rendered.

**Operation of Vending Facilities by Commission for the Blind within Detention Centers** – Support legislation that encompasses the compromise language of S. 1017 of 2020 that would only allow blind persons to operate vending machines outside of the secured areas of a detention facility or within if those operations began prior to this legislation.

## Judicial

The operation of the court system is a function performed by counties in their role as an arm of state government. Increased workload demands on county judicial staff and resources has put a strain on county government finances. The state must look at methods to address the overload in the judicial system and to stop mandating additional requirements without providing sources of funding. Counties should not be the last in line to receive their portion of fines, fees, assessments, and surcharges.

**Auditor’s and Assessor’s Endorsements on Deeds** – Support legislation that would repeal of §§ 8-21-130, 30-5-80, 12-37-100, and strike the second sentence of § 12-39-260(A) to remove the requirements that all deeds must be endorsed by the county auditor and assessor before being filed with the register or clerk of court. Additionally, support legislation to amend existing statutes as follows: (1) add a subsection to 30-5-120 that would read: “(B) All conveyances of real estate which were recorded by a clerk of court or register of deeds of any county, where the conveyances meet the prerequisites for recording in SC Code 30-5-30, without the endorsement of the auditor of the county, have heretofore been declared to be valid and binding, to all intents and purposes, as if such conveyances have been endorsed by the auditor of the county.”; and (2) add the following sentence to Section 12-39-260(A): “(A) Each county auditor may keep a record of all sales or conveyances of real property made in the county, in which he shall enter, in columns, the names of the purchaser and seller, the quantity of land conveyed and the location and price of such land, and from such record he shall correct the county duplicates annually. For the purpose of carrying out this provision, the clerk of courts or register of deeds of each county shall have the endorsement of the county auditor on each deed of conveyance for real property that the conveyance has been entered in his office before such deed can be placed on record in the recording office, and the county auditor shall be entitled to a fee of twenty-five cents, for his own use, for making such entry and endorsement. For the purpose of carrying out this provision, provided the county auditor chooses to keep a record of all sales or conveyances of real property made in the county, the clerk of court or register of deeds of each county may have the endorsement of the county auditor on each deed of conveyance for real property either before or after recording.”

**Deed Standardization** – Support legislation that would establish uniform standards for deeds as well as a non-compliance fee if the deed does not meet the proposed statutory requirements.

**State Loan Repayment for Public Service Lawyers and Other Professionals** – Support legislation that creates a State Loan Repayment Assistance Program for lawyers and other college graduates who work in local and state government for at least a period of five years and to support legislation that provides a recurring funding source from existing or additional criminal, civil, and regulatory fees and fines to pay for the program.

## Probate Judges

**Camp LeJeune Water Contamination Litigation** – Support legislation to amend § 62-3-108 to allow a probate action to be brought specifically for death related claims due to exposure to the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, regardless of when the decedent died.

**Changes to Article V of the Probate Statutes** – Support H. 4234 and the recommended changes to the statutory provisions pertaining to the procedures for Guardianship and Conservatorship proceedings.

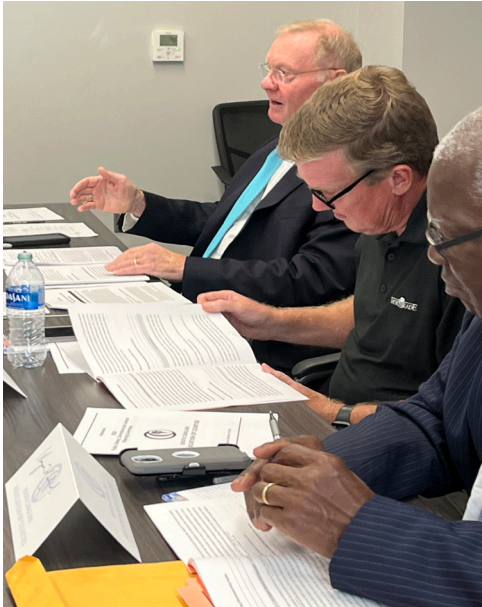
**Probate Court Contempt Orders** – Support legislation to amend § 44-17-580 with the following language:

(A) If, upon completion of the hearing and consideration of the record, the court finds upon clear and convincing evidence that the person is mentally ill, needs involuntary treatment and because of his condition:

1. lacks sufficient insight or capacity to make responsible decisions with respect to his treatment;  
or
2. there is a likelihood of serious harm to himself or others, the court shall order in-patient or out patient treatment at a mental health facility, public or private, designated by the Department of Mental Health and may order out patient treatment following in patient treatment. If the court finds that the person is not mentally ill and not in need of involuntary treatment, the court shall dismiss the proceedings.

(B) If the court orders out patient treatment and the respondent fails to adhere to the prescribed out patient treatment order or program, the treatment facility shall report the failure to the court and the court upon notice to the respondent and his counsel shall order a supplemental hearing and may further order in patient treatment in a designated facility as needed. The probate court issuing the order for out patient treatment shall maintain jurisdiction over the person for the purpose of supplemental proceedings as set forth in this chapter and every order issued pursuant to this subsection must be so conditioned. An order for in patient treatment at a mental health facility does not raise a presumption of incompetency and no rights may be denied a person unless specifically ordered by the court.

(C) If the court determines that the respondent is in contempt of their treatment order and as such places the respondent in a local detention center for that contempt, a review hearing on the contempt must be held at least every seven (7) days to address the respondent's willingness to comply with the treatment order. If the court receives notice from the respondent, respondent's counsel, detention center administration, or respondent's family that the respondent is ready to comply with treatment, the court shall hold a hearing within twenty-four (24) hours on the contempt to address the respondent's willingness to comply with the treatment order.



## Policy Position Development Process in Pictures

**Clockwise from top right:** SCAC President Roy Costner speaks during the **Revenue, Finance and Economic Development Steering Committee** meeting in the SCAC Boardroom; SCAC Legislative Committee Chairman Bill Robinson talks to Director of Governmental Affairs Kent Lesesne during the **Fall Advocacy Meeting** in October; members of the Legislative Committee and county officials attend the **Legislative Conference** in December in Greenville; the **County Government and Intergovernmental Relations Steering Committee** meets in September; **Land Use, Natural Resources and Transportation Steering Committee** Chairman Charles Edens with SCAC Staff Attorneys Avery Upchurch and John Wienges during the Fall Advocacy Meeting; the **Public Safety, Corrections and Judicial Steering Committee** discusses issues at its September 2023 meeting in Columbia.



# Revenue, Finance and Economic Development Steering Committee

*The responsibilities of the Revenue, Finance and Economic Development Steering Committee include issues relating to the ad valorem tax system, to include assessment, collection, and administrative functions; Local Option Sales Tax and other specific authorizations for local use of sales taxes; business license taxes; service and user fees; franchise fees; State Aid to Subdivisions' Local Government Fund; lease-purchase financing; Fee-in-Lieu-of-Tax Agreements; and economic development incentive programs.*



**Jason P. Phillips, Chairman**  
**Anderson County Treasurer**

## Steering Committee Members

### ***County Representatives:***

**Noah O. Alexander**, Hampton County Council Chairman  
**Marvin Bishop Jr.**, Cherokee County Interim Administrator  
**Johnny Cribb**, Berkeley County Supervisor/Chairman  
**Willard Dorriety Jr.**, Florence County Council Chairman  
**Kaitlyn E. Guinn**, Kershaw County Council Chairwoman  
**James E. Haigler**, Calhoun County Council Chairman  
**Johnny Ravenell**, Orangeburg County Council  
**Barry Spivey**, Horry County Assistant Administrator

### ***SCAC Board Members:***

**Daniel Alexander**, Barnwell County Council  
**C. David Chinnis**, Dorchester County Council Vice Chairman  
**Roy Costner III**, Pickens County Council Vice Chairman  
**Tim Harper**, Dillon County Administrator  
**Charles T. Jennings**, McCormick County Council Chairman  
**Herman G. "Butch" Kirven Jr.**, Greenville County Council  
**Debra B. Summers**, Lexington County Council  
**Phillip M. Taylor Sr.**, Colleton County Council Vice Chairman

### ***President's Appointees:***

**Rick Dolan**, Lexington County Assessor  
**Jesica Mackey**, Richland County Council Vice Chairwoman  
**James H. Messervy Jr.**, Dorchester County Auditor  
**Gary M. Mixon**, Sumter County Administrator  
**Anna Maria Tabernik**, Beaufort County Council  
**Brad Valentine**, Union County Auditor  
**Henry Wilson**, Pickens County Council  
**Kevin V. Yokim**, Florence County Administrator

**SCAC Staff Contact: Owen A. McBride**

## General Statement of Policy

The South Carolina Association of Counties is committed to the concept of Home Rule. It is only by allowing the citizens of the state's counties and communities to govern themselves by electing their own local governing bodies, that local communities are able to tailor the governmental services available to each community's individual needs and wishes. An integral part of providing services for the community is the ability to both adequately fund and fund in a fair and balanced manner the services provided.

In the same manner that no two communities want or need the same services or level of services, no two communities need or want the same package of revenue-raising measures. The South Carolina Association of Counties is committed to providing a menu of revenue-raising mechanisms to ensure that local governments can provide the services and levels of service that citizens demand and expect. By allowing each community a range of revenue-producing mechanisms, each community is better able to fund public services in a manner that is fair and balanced for that particular locality.

The South Carolina Association of Counties believes that no matter what revenue-raising mechanisms are used, the mechanisms must be fair to both the individual taxpayer and the community of taxpayers as a whole. Efficiency, manageability, and stability of the revenue sources used must also be factors in determining the proper method of funding locally-provided services.

## Policy Positions

**Annual Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Registration Fees** – Support amending § 56-3-610, et seq., to apply an annual vehicle registration fee by the DMV that is revenue neutral and support language requiring all counties to be compliant with the latest version of the County Issuance of Decals and Registrations System.

**Assessment Ratios** – Oppose any legislation that would reduce the assessment ratio on commercial property from 6% to 5%.

**Assessment Ratio on Vehicles** – Oppose legislation allowing counties, by ordinance, to reduce the assessment ratio for motor vehicles.

**Capital Project Sales Tax Flexibility** – Support legislation to extend the imposition time of the Capital Project Sales Tax for up to 12 years.

**Class Action Lawsuits** – Support legislation affirming that class action lawsuits against taxing authorities in the state are prohibited.

**County and University Economic Development Ventures** – Support legislation granting authority to public institutions of higher education, including two-year technical colleges, to enter into agreements with local governments and have a vested interest in enterprises or ventures that result from these arrangements.

**County Insurance Premium Taxes and Franchise Fees** – Support legislation allowing counties the same authority as municipalities in imposing both insurance premium taxes and franchise fees in the unincorporated areas of the county.

**Delinquent Tax Sales Online** – Support legislation to allow counties to conduct delinquent tax sales online. Support legislation to allow the official responsible for judicial sales the option to conduct sales online.

**Farm Structures Tax Exemption Relief** – Support legislation that would help alleviate the financial burden that the farm exemption in Act 236 of 2022 placed on counties.

**Homestead Exemption Increase** – Support increasing the current \$50,000 threshold as long as the outcome is revenue neutral for counties.

**Homestead Exemption Qualification** – Support legislation to require that a qualifying dwelling for purposes of the homestead exemption also meet all requirements for the 4% special assessment ratio and be receiving the 4% special assessment ratio.

**Impact Fees** – Support legislation allowing South Carolina counties to broaden the allowable scope of impact fees, and to make them more flexible and easier to impose and administer.

**Internet Sales Tax** – Support legislation requiring online retailers to remit all sales taxes to the appropriate taxing authority, including county government in the case of locally imposed sales taxes.

**Legal Residence for Foreign Nationals** – Support legislation to clarify who qualifies for the 4% assessment ratio when it comes to foreign nationals and legal residency.

**License Plates** – Support legislation to require the DMV to put the name of the county where a vehicle is registered on license plates.

**Local Government Fund** – Support the current Local Government Fund formula with a yearly increase in the fund corresponding with the growth in the state general fund, up to 5%.

**Local Option Infrastructure Funding Limitations** – Support legislation to amend the Code to allow for the imposition of local school taxes enacted by the General Assembly, a Local Transportation Tax, and any other penny tax enacted pursuant to Section 4-10, or a combination of any of the above.

**LOST Plus Educational Penny** – Support legislation repealing or amending the Code to allow for the imposition of a Local Option Sales Tax in addition to an Educational Sales Tax, regardless of the amount of each tax.

**Low Income Reporting Requirements** – Support legislation requiring yearly reporting by property owners qualifying for the property tax exemption in § 12-37-220(B)(11)(e) of the S.C. Code in order to continue to receive the exemption.

**Magistrates' Salaries** – Support increasing magistrates' salaries as long as the legislation doing so is revenue positive and the salaries remain decoupled from circuit judges' salaries.

**Masters in Equity Judicial Retirement** - Oppose legislation allowing Masters in Equity to participate in the Judges and Solicitors Retirement System (JSRS) due to the significant fiscal impact this would have on counties.

**Millage Cap Flexibility** – Support legislation to allow counties to exceed the millage cap for fire protection, law enforcement (including detention facilities), and/or emergency medical services purposes.



**Mobile Home Titles** – Support legislation to require mobile homes to be titled similarly to vehicles and support a requirement that the DMV annually notify each county of all mobile homes in the county.

**Municipal Capital Projects Sales Tax** – Oppose legislation creating a Municipal Project Sales Tax.

**Municipal Transfers** – Support legislation to prohibit a municipality from using surplus revenues of any utility owned by the municipality to supplement the municipality's general fund.

**Online Document Storage Fee** – Support legislation giving counties the option to impose a technology fee on recorded instruments and public records for the purpose of defraying the cost of converting records to electronic storage and providing electronic access.

**Online Public Notice** – Support legislation allowing for online publications to meet the requirement of public notice.

**Out-of-State License Tags** – Support legislation to ensure that nonresidents pay their property taxes upon establishing a domicile in this state or operating a vehicle for more than 150 days in South Carolina, with the exception of active-duty military.

**Protection of Delinquent Taxpayers** – (1) Support legislation to amend § 12-51-130 to require a statement signed by the owner of record immediately before the end of the redemption period acknowledging that the owner has been advised that they are entitled to claim any tax sale overage.

(2) Support legislation to add § 30-4-40 (20) allowing a public body to exempt from disclosure the identity or personal identifying information of anyone who bids at a delinquent tax sale unless the bidder consents in writing to the release of such information in a manner satisfactory to the delinquent tax collector who conducted or was responsible for overseeing the conduct of the sale where the bidder's information was obtained; provided, however, that upon the expiration of the redemption period, the identity of the successful bidder of the sale at issue shall be subject to release.

(3) Support legislation to add § 40-5-400 to clarify that any assistance offered or provided for a fee, consideration, or compensation to anyone in the collection of a tax sale overage shall constitute the practice of law.

(4) Oppose legislation requiring the clerk of court or register of deeds to require an affidavit from a delinquent taxpayer stating the amount, if any, of overage generated by a tax sale and acknowledging that the grantor has either received the overage or has at least been advised of the overage.

**Return to Work** – Support legislation removing the \$10,000 earnings limitation and reducing the time period an employee must remain out of work before they can return to work.

**Short Term Rentals** – Support legislation requiring the remittance of local accommodations taxes on short term rentals to counties.

**South Carolina Retirement System** – SCAC understands the dilemma facing the state with regards to the unfunded liability of the retirement system; however, any fundamental change to the system must not affect promises made to current employees and retirees in the existing state pension system. SCAC supports having

county governments be involved in the administration of any new system. If the state decides to go to a defined contribution plan, SCAC supports county governments being allowed to develop and operate their own independent defined contribution plan.

**State Health Plan Employer Premiums** – Support legislation requesting the Public Employee Benefit Authority (PEBA) to reevaluate the three categories for experience rating under the State Health Plan, expanding the small group classification from 100 covered lives to 150 covered lives.

**Tiny Homes** – Support legislation that would standardize the treatment of Tiny Homes for taxation, inspection, and code enforcement.

**Titling of Boats and Motors** – Oppose any legislation that would amend the current process of titling boats and motors separately by only requiring the titling of boats.

**Tort Claims Act** – Although SCAC believes the current tort claims limits are appropriate, SCAC staff will monitor any amendments and ensure county interests are protected to the greatest extent possible.

**User Fees** – (1) Support legislation to protect county user fees and the important revenue they produce.

(2) Support legislation clarifying that since the Supreme Court determined that user fees are taxes, any dispute involving these fees should be governed by the S.C. Revenue Procedures Act.

(3) Support legislation preventing a court or an administrative law judge from staying or preventing the department or an officer of the state or political subdivision charged with a duty in the collection of taxes, from acting to collect a tax, whether or not the tax is legally due.

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# 2023-2024 Officers and Board of Directors

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### **First Vice President**

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### **Immediate Past President**

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Greenville County Council Member



**SOUTH CAROLINA  
ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

# Advocate. Educate. Collaborate.

## SCAC has a strong resume

As members of the SC Association of Counties, all 46 counties, elected officials and employees have access to SCAC's programs and services. Here are some of our offerings designed to build connections, share information, and help counties to better serve their citizens.

## ADVOCATE for County Government

- Monitor legislation moving through the SC General Assembly
- Publish weekly updates during the session via the *Friday Report*
- Send Legislative Alerts when bills require immediate action
- Provide Legislative session wrap-ups and the annual *Acts that Affect Counties* publication
- Work through the county attorney to resolve legal issues that affect county government operations.

## COLLABORATE to Assist Counties

- SC Counties Workers' Compensation and Property & Liability Trusts
- Setoff Debt Program
- Competitive purchasing discounts
- Online Career Center



**SCAC works for YOU**

## EDUCATE and Build Knowledge

- Host conferences including:
  - Annual Conference in August
  - Fall Advocacy Meeting in October
  - Legislative Conference in December
  - Counties Connect: A Legislative Action Day in late winter
- Present the Institute of Government for County Officials – a certificate program with classes offered several times a year
- Offer the Local Government Attorneys' Institute—an annual source for CLE credits
- Provide Orientation for Newly Elected Council Members—held in even-numbered years
- Produce training for planning and zoning officials
- Conduct research and offer technical assistance
  - Property Tax Report—published annually
  - Wage and Salary Report—published every other year
  - Technical research bulletins and surveys
  - Online forum discussions for county officials
- Host our Annual Awards program showcasing counties' successes
- Communicate regularly through:
  - The monthly County COMPASS e-newsletter;
  - Our quarterly County Focus magazine;
  - Social media channels; and
  - The SC Counties events app

**Local Leaders. Statewide Strength.™**

**[www.sccounties.org](http://www.sccounties.org)**



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