

BARNWELL COUNTY

Date Formed:	1800
Land Area (square miles):	548
Form of Government:	Council
Council Members:	7
Method of Election:	Single Member
Term Length:	4 yrs.
Council of Government:	Lower Savannah
County Seat:	Barnwell
Other Cities and Towns:	Blackville, Elko, Hilda, Kline, Snelling, Williston



Population Trends

2020 Census	20,589	2021 Pop. Estimate	20,580
2010 Census	22,621	2020 Pop. Estimate	20,567
2000 Census	23,478	Numeric Change 2020-2021	13
Numeric Change 2000-2020	-2,032	Percent Change 2020-2021	0.06%
Persons Per Square Mile	37.6		

Economic Data

2021 Jobs	4,674	Avg. Wage Per Job, 2021	\$39,282
2020 Jobs	4,848	Avg. Wage, % of U.S., 2021	57.1%
2010 Jobs	6,032	Per Capita Personal Income, 2020	\$38,682
Percent Change 2020-2021	-3.7%	Per Capita Personal Income % of U.S., 2020	65.0
Avg. Ann. Growth Rate, 2010-2020	-2.4%	Per Capita Personal Income % of S.C., 2020	80.6
Avg. Annual % Unemployed, 2021	6.5		

Tax Data

Total Assessed Property, 2020	\$60,517,158	Local Sales Tax Rate, if applicable:	
Per Capita Assessed Property, 2020	\$2,939	Local Option	1.0%
County Millage Rate, 2021	0.1583	Capital Projects	1.0%
Value of a County Mil, 2021	\$59,736	School District	*
State Accommodations Tax, FY 2021	\$26,468	Transportation	*
State Admissions Tax, FY 2021	\$6,283	Edu. Capital Improvement	*

County Finance & Employment Data

Total Revenues FY 2020	\$17,123,509	Per Capita Revenues	\$832
Total Expenditures FY 2020	\$28,038,637	Per Capita Expenditures	\$1,362
General Fund Budget FY 2022	\$10,284,003	Per Capita General Fund Budget	\$499
Total Debt Outstanding FY 2021	\$7,322,323	Per Capita Total Debt FY 2021	\$361
Payroll FY 2022	\$7,215,470	County Credit Ratings:	
Full-Time Employment FY 2022	186	Fitch FY 2021	*
Full-Time Employment Per 1,000 Residents	9	Moody's FY 2021	*
Part-Time Employment FY 2022	40	S&P FY 2021	A

County History

Barnwell County and its county seat were named for Revolutionary War leader John Barnwell (1748-1800). The county was originally part of Orangeburg District, and in 1785 it was named Winton County. It was given its current name in 1800. Barnwell County has decreased in size over the years as new counties were created within its boundaries (Aiken in 1871, Bamberg in 1897, and Allendale in 1919). The South Carolina Railroad, which connected Charleston to Hamburg on the Savannah River, was built through this area, creating the towns of Blackville and Williston in the mid-nineteenth century. In more recent years, the county was the home of several powerful state politicians, known collectively as the "Barnwell Ring." Included were state Senator Edgar A. Brown (1888-1975), Speaker of the House Solomon Blatt (1895-1986), and Governor Joseph E. Harley (1880-1942).