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SCAC Policy Positions Adopted, Economic Outlook Provided at Association's 2019 Legislative Conference

SCAC's legislative committees adopted policy positions for the 2020 Session of the S.C. General Assembly on Friday, December 6 at the Association's 2019 Legislative Conference in

Charleston (Dec. 5 – 6) after reviewing recommendations from four steering committees.

SCAC President Dwight L. Stewart Jr. (Clarendon County Council Chairman) presided over the two-day conference, which included

◀ SCAC President Dwight L. Stewart Jr.

an economic outlook presentation and a legislative panel discussion.

On Friday, December 6, SCAC Legislative Committee Chairman Johnnie Wright Sr. (Orangeburg County Council Chairman) presided as the following SCAC Policy Steering Committee chairmen presented their committee reports:

- **County Government and Intergovernmental Relations**—Chaired by Joseph B. Dill, Greenville County Council Member;
- **Land Use, Natural Resources and Transportation**—Chaired by Charles T. Edens, Sumter County Council Member;
- **Public Safety, Corrections and Judicial**—Chaired by Julie J. Armstrong, Charleston County Clerk of Court; and
- **Revenue, Finance and Economic Development**—Chaired by Belinda D. Copeland, Darlington County.



Johnnie Wright Sr.
Chairman
SCAC Legislative Committee



South Carolina's Economic Outlook

Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director of the S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, provided an economic outlook for South Carolina on Thursday, December 5.

Rainwater said South Carolina's economy has performed very well for the past couple of years, and he expects the state will continue to grow at a very good pace despite some concerns about trade and tariffs.

He explained how the September 2019 revision of personal income growth for the period December 2018 to September 2019 indicated an additional \$700 million more in revenue growth than was forecasted in December 2018. Rainwater also showed charts and graphs to help illustrate many topics related to the state's economy, including personal income growth since 2011, the annual growth in the state's general fund since FY 2000, the growth of the state's Sales and Use Tax since FY 2015-16, and funding of the Local Government Fund since FY 1999-2000.



Frank A. Rainwater
Executive Director
S.C. Revenue and
Fiscal Affairs Office

He then discussed population changes across the nation, using U.S. Census figures showing that South Carolina ranks 10th in the nation for population growth from 2010 to 2018, and population changes for the state's 46 counties during the same period. He also discussed H.3586, Act 60 of 2019, that provides amendments to enable South Carolina's current Wireless E9-1-1 system to transition to a Next Generation or NG9-1-1 system. (See Economic Outlook on SCAC's website at <https://bit.ly/39HPHK9>)

SCAC Recognizes Two Retiring Board Members

At SCAC's Board Meeting, SCAC President Dwight Stewart recognized two retiring board members for their dedicated service and contributions to SCAC's Board of Directors:



(Left) Laurens County Council Member Diane B. Anderson



(Right) Georgetown County Administrator Henry E. "Sel" Hemingway Jr.



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Legislators Discuss Priorities for 2020 Legislative Session

SCAC's Legislative Conference held a panel discussion on Friday, December 6 that provided members of the S.C. General Assembly an opportunity to discuss what they believed would be priorities during the 2020 Legislative Session. Participating in the panel discussion were Sen. Marlon E.

*(Continued on
next page)*



LEGISLATIVE PANEL DISCUSSION—Participating in the legislative panel discussion on Friday, Dec. 6 were: (left to right) Rep. G. Murrell Smith Jr. (District 67) and Sen. Marlon E. Kimpson (District 42). SCAC President Dwight L. Stewart Jr. (at right) chaired the discussion.

County Officials Speak Up and Ask Questions

Shown here are some of the county officials who spoke up and asked questions when given the opportunity to do so during and after the legislative panel discussion on Dec. 6.



Barbara Clark
Jasper County Council Member



Charles Jennings
McCormick County Council Chairman



Dr. Carolyn Prince
Marlboro County Council Chairman



David Chinniss
Dorchester County Council Vice Chairman



Dan Tripp
Greenville County Council Member



SCAC's four legislative policy steering committees presented reports on Friday, Dec. 6. Above, Charleston County Clerk of Court Julie Armstrong (standing), presents the Public Safety, Corrections and Judicial Committee report. SCAC Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel Josh Rhodes (at podium) assists.

Kimpson (District 42) and Rep. G. Murrell Smith Jr. (District 67).

Many county officials asked questions and voiced their concerns when provided an opportunity to do so immediately after the legislative panel discussion.

SCAC developed legislative policy positions this past fall, based upon input received from the four policy steering committees, the County Council Coalition, various association groups and other county officials.

SCAC's Legislative Committee has 75 members, including 29 members of the Association's Board of Directors and council chairpersons (or their designees) representing South Carolina's 46 counties. Steering committees met previously at the SCAC Office in September and November.



2019 S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute 'Very Successful,' More than 200 Attend!

*By Leslie M. Simpson,
SCAC Staff Attorney*

The 2019 Local Government Attorneys' Institute proved, yet again, to be a very successful event. More than 200 attorneys



M. Kent Lesesne, SCAC Director of Governmental Affairs, presides over the 2019 S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute.



2019 S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute, Columbia, Nov. 22

attended the Institute, held on November 22 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Columbia.

A very informative "Year in Review" presentation, concerning Lawyer Ethics and the Discipline Process, was thoughtfully led by University of South Carolina School of Law Professor

Michael J. Virzi, who focused on case law and legal consequences from recent ethical situations and violations.

Keeping with an ethical theme, Chuck Thompson, General Counsel & Executive Director International Municipal Lawyers Association, led a mind-boggling game of "Ethics Jeop-



Speakers at the Local Government Attorneys' Institute



Michael Virzi
Professor
USC School of Law



Chuck Thompson
General Counsel and Executive Director
IMLA



Joan Winters
Attorney
Winters Law Firm



Daina Riley
Staff Attorney
SCAC



Jack Pringle
Attorney
Adams and Reese



Kenneth Roper
Acting County Administrator
Pickens County

ardly" that included several ethical situations that tested (and refreshed) the attendees' knowledge of how to handle complex ethical situations as they arise. Thompson also provided comprehensive updates on recent federal case law followed by Daina Riley, SCAC staff attorney, who provided state case law updates coupled by an in-depth state legislative update.

Perhaps a "high" point of the Attorney Institute was an informative presentation from Joan E. Winters, an attorney from the Winters Law Firm, entitled, "Doobie, Doobie Do—Marijuana in the Workplace," which focused on the impending legal issues surrounding use of marijuana in the workplace as more states start to legalize the drug for recreational use.

Attendees also received a history lesson on Home Rule from Kenneth S. Roper, acting Pickens County Administrator. Jack Pringle from Adams and Reese offered an insightful and much-needed perspective on how attendees can "create a space" with their busy and demanding schedules with additional focus on the importance of "building resilience."

The continued success for the program was evident by comments made during the breaks and the outstanding turnout. Now is the time to go ahead and save the date for next year's S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute—November 20, 2020 at the Columbia Doubletree Hotel.

Hope to see you there!



COUNTY FOCUS

CAROLINA COUNTIES

Do you have a story idea for SCAC's *County Focus Magazine* or *Carolina Counties Newsletter*? If so, please contact SCAC's Public Information Office at 1-800-922-6081 or smorgan@scac.sc



Online Resources for Planning and Zoning Officials

Planning and zoning officials are tasked with making sound decisions that impact the quality of life of their communities. New commissioners, board members and county planning and zoning professionals are required to complete six hours of orientation training and three hours of continuing education each year thereafter. As prescribed in S.C. Code of Laws 6-29-1330, the orientation and continuing education training must be from an approved sponsor of the South Carolina Planning Education Advisory Committee (SCPEAC).

Since becoming an SCPEAC approved sponsor in 2005, SCAC has hosted planning and zoning webcasts free of charge to help county officials and employees meet their annual training requirements. When the Association offers orientation training, it does not host a continuing education webcast that year. The Association is planning to launch online orientation training this year for new planning and zoning officials and employees. Therefore, SCAC will not host a continuing education webcast in 2020. Your county is encouraged to identify how it will provide continuing education training this year for your planning and zoning officials and employees.

Where Can I Find Continuing Education Resources?

- SCPEAC maintains a list of approved sponsors of continuing education training. The following topics when offered by an approved sponsor are preapproved for continuing education: land use planning, zoning, floodplains, transportation, community facilities, ethics, public utilities, wireless telecommunication facilities, parliamentary procedure, public hearing procedure, administrative law, economic development, housing, public buildings, building construction, land subdivision, and powers and duties of the planning commission, board of zoning appeals or board of architectural review.
- If your county has not participated in all of SCAC's continuing education webcasts, the recorded webcasts are available as streaming videos in the Association's online educational library available at www.sccounties.org/planning-and-zoning-education. SCAC does not issue certificates of attendance for viewing pre-recorded webcasts.
- The National Association of Counties (NACo) is an approved sponsor and hosts webinars free of charge on some of the approved topics listed above. To view a list of these resources, visit www.naco.org/resources/programs-and-initiatives/webinars. Please contact NACo directly with any questions.



- The American Planning Association (APA) is also an approved sponsor and has identified its programs that are most relevant for continuing education needs of planning staff and planning/land use commission members. The member and non-member cost and length of the training videos vary. You are encouraged to check with your county staff to determine if they are APA members. If county staff are not APA members, you can create a guest account by selecting the "I am not an APA member and have not created an APA web account" option. Once your account is created, you'll select APA Learn from the Events and Education drop-down menu and then select the Commissioner Education option. Please contact APA directly if you have any questions regarding a guest account or the APA training.

Is There Other Important Information I Need to Know?

- State law requires you to have a live coordinator to facilitate discussion when viewing recorded continuing education programs from approved sponsors. The coordinator must meet the following requirements:
 - Be in a position of authority
 - Have a working knowledge of the subject material as it pertains to the jurisdiction
 - Have knowledge of the jurisdiction(s) attending the presentation
 - Be able to facilitate discussion
 - Be able to confirm attendance of participants
- Coordinators need not meet the exemption requirements as prescribed in state law
- Have the planning and zoning officials and employees who participate in the continuing education complete an attendance form and file a copy with the clerk to council and the county planning department. Please note—SCAC does not keep a record of attendance forms for county officials. A model attendance form is available on the SCAC website at: <https://bit.ly/2uphOxh>

Please visit SCAC's website at www.sccounties.org/planning-and-zoning-education for additional information. If you have any questions regarding planning and zoning training requirements or SCAC training resources, please contact Ryan Tooley either via e-mail at rtooley@scac.sc or by phone at 803-252-7255 or 1-800-922-6081 (in-state only).



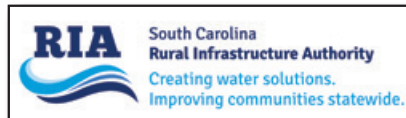


SRF Offers Below Market Rate Financing for County Water and/or Sewer

Over the last three decades, S.C. State Revolving Funds (SRF) have financed more than \$1.7 billion in water, sewer and storm drainage infrastructure investments through low-interest loans.

Jointly administered by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and the S.C. Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA), these long-term loans went to qualified borrowers with the purpose of protecting the public health and environment of S.C. communities by ensuring compliance with water quality standards as well as promoting environmental innovations such as water and energy efficiency.

DHEC has recently issued a "Call for Projects" for FY 2021. Eligible project sponsors interested in using SRF funding for a capital project are asked to submit a Drinking Water or Clean Water project questionnaire (PQ) no later than March 27. To download a PQ and learn more about eligible projects and technical requirements, visit www.scdhec.gov/srf or www.ria.sc.gov/loans.



A free, half-day SRF workshop will be held Wednesday, February 19 at Midlands Technical College – Northeast Campus to provide more information about the two programs that make up the SRF: Clean Water and Drinking Water. The workshop begins at 9:30 a.m. To register, visit www.ria.sc.gov/event/loan-workshop-scheduled/. Deadline to register is February 12.

For FY 2020 borrowers currently listed on the Intended Use Plan, the 2.2 percent interest rate will allow for major investments in water and wastewater treatment plants, pump stations, elevated storage tanks as well as water and sewer lines.

Aiken County Public Service Authority Receives Clean Water Loan



Oxidation ditch at Aiken County's old regional facility

In FY 2017, Aiken County Public Service Authority (PSA) received a Clean Water loan to make improvements to its 40 year old regional facility that treats wastewater from three counties: Aiken, Edgefield and Saluda. According to Mark Cook, director of the Aiken County PSA, "by securing a loan through the SRF program, we were able to address a critical infrastructure need as well as save money on interest payments which provided a maximum benefit for all of our customers." The improvements were needed to address regulatory requirements, growth in its service area and the age and capacity of the facility.



Doris F. Pearson Designated as State's First Master Clerk to Council

Doris F. Pearson, Cherokee County Clerk to Council, recently became the first clerk in South Carolina to receive the Master Clerk to Council designation after graduating from the S.C. Clerk to Council Association's Advanced Certification Program.



Doris F. Pearson
Cherokee County
Clerk to Council

Pearson was recognized for her achievement at Cherokee County's Council Meeting on August 12 after graduating and receiving a certificate designating her as a Master Clerk to Council at the S.C. Clerks to Council Meeting, held on August 5 at SCAC's 52nd Annual Conference.

Pearson is one of South Carolina's longest-serving county clerks to council. During her 39-year-long career as Cherokee County's Clerk to Council, Pearson has

served with eight county administrators, four county attorneys and 29 council members. She graduated from the S.C. Clerk to Council Training Program on August 1995.

The S.C. Clerks to Council Association (SCCCA) offers an initial certification program and an advanced certification. In addition to the clerk-specific courses offered at the SCCCA Winter Conference in February, courses that qualify for credit toward certification are offered at the Institute of Government for County Officials held each year prior to SCAC's Mid-Year Conference, Annual Conference and the fall meeting of the S.C. County Council Coalition in October.

The Clerks to Council Association adopted an Advanced Certification Program in 2014 that offers graduates of its initial certification program an opportunity to continue to enhance their educational experience and receive the Master Clerk to Council designation.

The Clerks to Council Training Program is conducted by the Joseph P. Riley Jr. Center for Livable Communities at the College of Charleston. For more information about the S.C. County Council Coalition Association, visit: <https://www.sccounties.org/association-groups/clerks-council>





Webcasts & Webinars

Webcasts and webinars will be published here when scheduled.
So, please check this schedule whenever you receive
Carolina Counties Newsletter.

For more information, please contact Susan Turkopuls, SCAC,
at (803) 252-7255 or sturkopuls@scac.sc. Or visit SCAC's website
at: www.SCCounties.org/webcasts-and-webinars

SCAC's 2020 Conference Calendar

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Jan. 29 – 30 | S.C. Insurance Trusts Membership Meeting <i>Marriott Grande Dunes, Myrtle Beach</i> |
| Feb. 19 Feb. 20 | Mid-Year Conference Institute of Government <i>Embassy Suites, Columbia</i> |
| Aug. 1 – 2 Aug. 2 – 5 | Institute of Government Annual Conference <i>Hilton Head Marriott</i> |
| August | Setoff Debt/GEAR <i>Date and location TBD</i> |
| September 23 | Continued Education, Update for Risk Managers, Etc. <i>Doubletree by Hilton, Columbia</i> |
| Oct. 21 Oct. 22 | Institute of Government County Council Coalition <i>Embassy Suites, Columbia</i> |
| Nov. 20 | S.C. Local Government Attorneys' Institute <i>Doubletree by Hilton, Columbia</i> |
| Dec. 3 – 4 | Legislative Conference <i>Renaissance, Charleston</i> |
| Dec. 15 | Orientation for Newly-Elected County Council Members <i>Renaissance, Charleston</i> |



NACo's 2020 Conference Calendar

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Feb. 29 – March 4 | Legislative Conference <i>Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C.</i> |
| July 17 – 20 | Annual Conference <i>Orlando, Florida</i> |

South Carolina State Ethics Commission: Did You Know?



Did you know that you are limited in how you expend campaign funds after your election? Pursuant to Section 8-13-1370 of the Ethics Reform Act, a candidate may disperse funds remaining in their campaign account in the following ways: (1) to defray ordinary and necessary expenses incurred in connection with his duties in his public office; (2) to contribute to an organization exempt from tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, a political party, or a committee; (3) to maintain the campaign account for a subsequent race for the same elective office; (4) to further the candidacy of the individual for a different elective office. However, after Dec. 31, 1992, the funds must be used in a campaign for a different elective office only as provided for in Section 8-13-1352; (5) to return pro rata to all contributors; (6) to contribute to the state's general fund; or (7) to distribute using a combination of these options. Please note that under no circumstances can you spend campaign money on personal expenses.

For more information, please contact:

S.C. State Ethics Commission
201 Executive Center Dr., Suite 150
Columbia, S.C. 29210
Office: (803) 253-4192
Fax: (803) 253-7539