Date Formed 1785  Form of Government Council-Supervisor
Land Area (Sq. Mi.) 581  Council Members 7
Council of Government Catawba  Term Length 4 years
County Seat Chester  Method of Election Single Member
Other Municipalities Fort Lawn, Great Falls, Lowrys, Richburg

Population Trends
Population Estimate 2016 32,280 Percent Change 2016 - 2017 0.1%
Census Population 2010 33,140 Numeric Change 2010 - 2017 -839
Census Population 2000 34,068 Avg. Annual Growth Rate 2010 - 2017 -0.4%
Census Population 1990 32,170 Numeric Change 1990 - 2010 970
Persons Per Square Mile 57.04 Avg. Annual Growth Rate 1990 - 2010 0.2%

Economic Data
Jobs 2016 9,110 Personal Income 2016, in thousands $1,000,702
Jobs 2015 9,098 Per Capital Personal Income 2016 $31,096
Jobs 2010 8,457 Per Cap Personal Income 2016, % of U.S. 63.1%
Jobs 2000 13,785 Average Wage Per Job 2016 $40,017
Jobs 2000 - 2010, Ann. Avg. Growth Rate -3.9% Average Wage Per Job 2016, % of U.S. 75.0%
Jobs 2015 - 2016, Percent Change 0.1% Unemployment Rate, Ann. Avg. 2017 6.0%

Tax Data
Assessed Property 2016 $114,888,799 Additional Sales Tax, if applicable:
Per Capita Assessed Prop Tax 2016 $3,467 Local Option 1.0%
County Base Millage Rate 2017 .17220 Capital Projects 1.0%
Value of One Mil 2017 $95,867 School District
Net Taxable Sales FY 2016 $152,780,508 Transportation
State Admissions Tax Collected FY 2016 $32,447 Education Capital Improvement
State Accommod. Tax Collected FY 2016 $87,755

County Finance and Employment
Total Revenues FY 2016 $38,539,361 Per Capita Revenues FY 2016 $1,163
Total Expenditures FY 2016 $37,482,269 Per Capita Expenditures FY 2016 $1,131
General Fund Budget FY 2018 $19,156,254 Per Capita General Fund Budget FY 201 $578
Total Debt Outstanding FY 2017 $5,229,000 Per Capita Debt Outstanding FY 2018 $152
Payroll FY 2018 $9,317,961 Credit Ratings FY 2018, if applicable:
Full-Time Employees FY 2018 296 Moody's
Part-Time Employees FY 2018 102 Standard and Poor's
Full-Time Employees/1,000 Residents 8.9 Fitch

County History
Chester County and its county seat were named for Chester County, Pennsylvania. The county was formed in 1785 as part of the larger Camden District but was later transferred to Pinckney District (1791-1800); it became a separate district in 1800. Scotch-Irish settlers from Pennsylvania and Virginia moved into this upstate region beginning about 1755. During the Revolutionary War, American forces under General Thomas Sumter were defeated here at the battle of Fishing Creek in August 1780; the Americans were victorious at Fishham Ford in November of the same year. The Landsford Canal was built in 1823 to allow boats and barges to bypass rapids on the Catawba River; this canal is now open as a state park. In later years, the availability of hydroelectric power encouraged the establishment of textile mills in the area. Governor, U.S. Senator, and Judge Donald S. Russell (1906-1997) lived in Chester as a boy.

County histories obtained from the S.C. State Library Reference Room at www.statelibrary.sc.gov/sc-counties. All other sources listed in the county comparison tables in the appendix.