LEXINGTON COUNTY

Date Formed 1804 **Form of Government** Council-Administrator

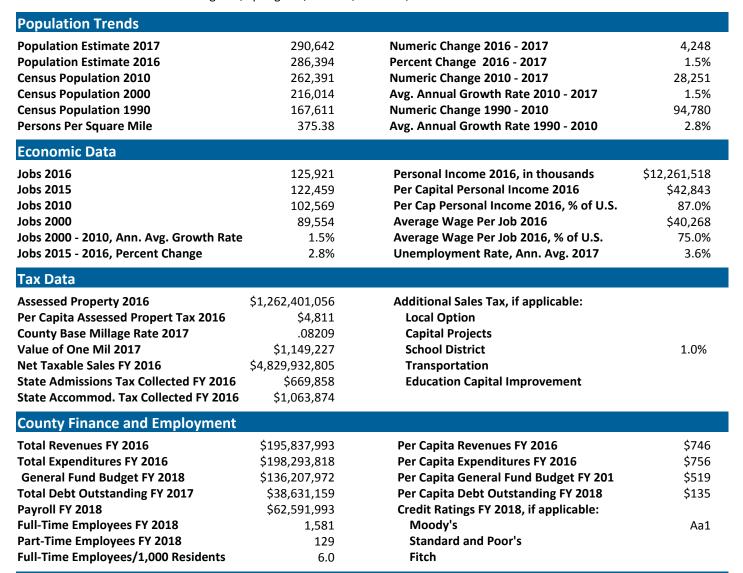
Land Area (Sq. Mi.) 699 Council Members 9

Council of Government Central Midlands **Term Length** 4 years

County Seat Lexington Method of Election Single Member

Other Municipalities Batesburg-Leesville, Cayce, Chapin, Columbia, Gaston, Gilbert, Irmo, Pelion, Pine Ridge,

South Congaree, Springdale, Summit, Swansea, West Columbia



County History

Lexington County was named for the Battle of Lexington, Massachusetts, the first battle of the American Revolution. This part of the state was designated as Lexington County from 1785 to 1791, then was merged back into the larger Orangeburg District. Lexington was eventually made a separate district in 1804. Small parts of the county later went to form Aiken (1871) and Calhoun (1908) counties. European settlement of this area began around 1718 when the British established a trading post on the Congaree River, which eventually became the town of Granby. Beginning in the 1730s many German, Swiss, and Scotch-Irish immigrants moved into the area and established small farms. Granby was the leading town and county seat for many years, but the growth of Columbia across the Congaree led to Granby's decline, and the county seat was moved to the town of Lexington in 1818. General Sherman's troops shelled the city of Columbia from the Lexington side of the Congaree during the Civil War. In 1930 Lake Murray was created on the Saluda River in Lexington County, covering many of the old farms and creating new recreational opportunities.

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.