



## Charleston County News Release

Release Number: 2891

Date: June 19, 2008

### **Charleston County Council Approves a No-Tax-Increase Budget for 13<sup>th</sup> Straight Year**

Charleston County Council gave final approval on Tuesday, June 3, to a no-tax-increase budget for fiscal year 2008-2009 (July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009). This marks the 13<sup>th</sup> year in a row that Council has adopted a budget for Charleston County Government without raising citizens' taxes.

The \$377.1 million operating budget is the result of county staff preparation beginning in the fall of 2007, followed by two months of County Council meetings where members reviewed the proposed budget, department-by-department, to make adjustments and find ways to meet the county's financial needs.

"This no-millage increase budget is quite a feat! For the 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, staff and council have worked hard on behalf of the citizens of the county," said Tim Scott, Charleston County Council Chairman.

In working toward a balanced budget, Council had to consider several critical items, including rising health insurance, fuel and utility costs.

Also included in the 2008-2009 fiscal year budget:

- Reprogramming of 22 existing positions to create 19 additional Sheriff's Office Detention Center Officer positions to assist with the detainee population, and three positions for the Charleston County Auditor and the Building Services Department to increase revenues.
- State mandate to absorb Ninth Circuit Public Defender as county employees (52 positions).

Visit the Charleston County Web site at [www.charlestoncounty.org](http://www.charlestoncounty.org) for news, services and up-to-date information relating to Charleston County Government.