

POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

FY 24



CHARLESTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

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This report is intended to provide a brief summary of Charleston County Government operations for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. A copy of this and the County's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report is available at charlestoncounty.org/financial-reports.php. This report is a summary and certain financial statements, including all GAAP required disclosures, are omitted.

Would you like a copy of this report? Please contact the Deputy County Administrator Finance at: 4045 Bridge View Dr., North Charleston, SC 29405 | 843-958-4062.



Cover: Pineapple Fountain, an iconic symbol of Charleston, is a popular attraction within Waterfront Park. Pineapples are common throughout the city, representing its tradition of hospitality. The fountain itself represents restoration and hope, as it was opened to the public in the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo. - The Pinch





TO THE CITIZENS OF CHARLESTON COUNTY



We present Charleston County's Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. This report is written to communicate to its readers an understanding of the County's financial condition in a simple, transparent manner. The financial information is derived from the County's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report that was audited by Scott & Company LLC.

While Charleston County is in a strong financial position; the County is facing the same challenges as other governments including inflation, higher personnel costs, historically high position vacancies, and greater service demands. Charleston County passed a budget that addresses the community's priorities and maintains service levels while maintaining the tax rate for the average homeowner. We are pleased to inform citizens that Charleston County is a Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) **Triple Crown Winner for Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, Popular Financial Reporting, and the Distinguished Budget Presentation** award for fiscal year 2023. Charleston County Government maintains the highest bond rating (AAA) with all three financial rating agencies. This consistency in financial management benefits the citizens of Charleston County in lower taxes and the government in better interest rates when borrowing money for capital projects.

This report includes some of the major accomplishments of the County as well as highlights of Charleston County's finances over the past fiscal year. This report displays where the money comes from for operations and where the money goes when carrying out the mission of the County. Demographic, economic, and performance information is included with the financial highlights to be helpful and informative to our citizens. The Annual Comprehensive Report and other financial reports are available at the County's website at <https://www.charlestoncounty.org/>

GFOA Triple Crown Winner



Government Finance Officers Association

GFOA's Triple Crown recognizes governments that have received GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award, and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mack Gile
Chief Financial Officer

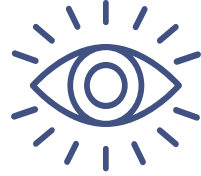
ABOUT CHARLESTON COUNTY

Charleston County was established in 1800 and is included in the Charleston-North Charleston, SC Metropolitan Statistical Area. It is located on the southeastern coast of South Carolina's Lowcountry. It encompasses approximately **1,358 square miles** of land, marshes, rivers, and wetlands with a coastline that stretches nearly 100 miles along the Atlantic Coast.



MISSION

To promote and protect the quality of life for everyone in Charleston County by providing services of value to the community while preserving the unique natural, cultural, and historical identity of the Lowcountry.



VISION

Charleston County Government aims to be extraordinary, recognizes that our values are integral to successfully accomplishing our mission, and strives to uphold those values in every decision.



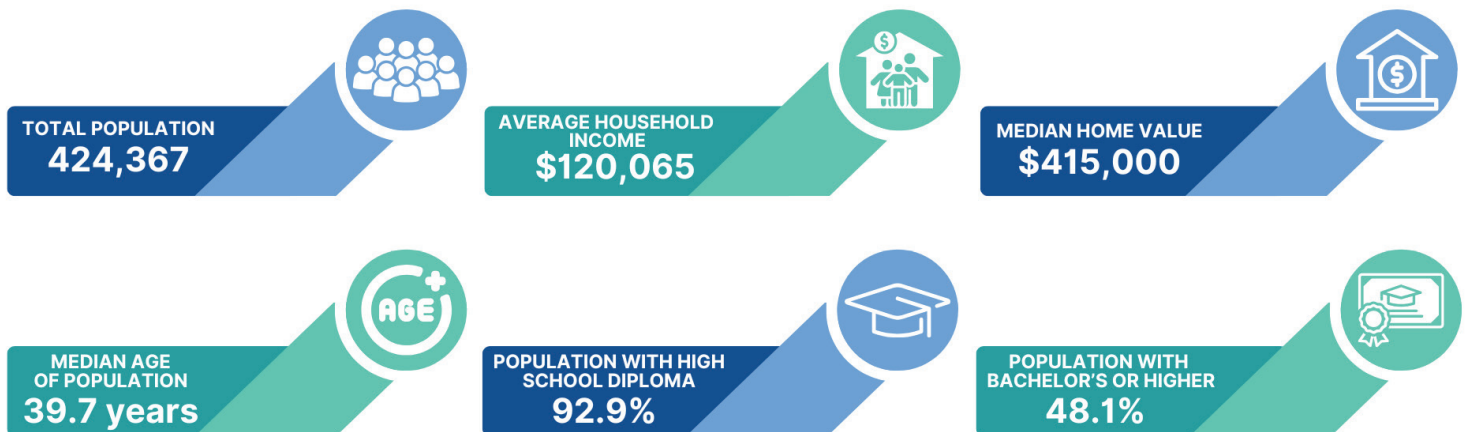
VALUES

- Accountability
- Adaptability
- Communication
- Diversity
- Excellence
- Safety
- Trust

MUNICIPALITIES

City of Charleston	Town of Awendaw	Town of Lincolnton	Town of Ravenel
City of Folly Beach	Town of Hollywood	Town of McClellanville	Town of Rockville
City of Isle of Palms	Town of James Island	Town of Meggett	Town of Seabrook Island
City of North Charleston	Town of Kiawah Island	Town of Mount Pleasant	Town of Sullivan's Island

DEMOGRAPHICS



RECOGNITIONS

Charleston County continues to be recognized as the country's best city for living, working, and playing. Charleston County has a diverse population, rich history, and expansive cultural atmosphere, along with an entrepreneurial spirit that draws others to our region. Whether it's the beautiful beaches and tree-lined roadways, close-knit neighborhoods, excellent health care services, and robust recreational opportunities, there is something for everyone in Charleston County.

- Annual number of tourists - **7.79 million**
- Conde Nast Traveler - Readers' Choice Awards
Best U.S. Small City 2024 #1 for the 13th time
- Conde Nast Traveler - Readers' Choice Awards
Top U.S. Islands #2 Kiawah Island
- Travel + Leisure World's Best Awards
Best City in the U.S. #1 for the 12th time
- Southern Living - **The South's Best Cities #1**
- Travelers' Choice Awards Best of the Best 2024 Charleston - **#2 on list of 'Best Food Destinations' in the U.S. 2024**
- Six Charleston area chefs named **James Beard Award semifinalists** for 2024
- Charleston International Airport: **6.13 million passengers, a 15% increase from previous year.**
- This spring, Air Canada launched its new **nonstop flight to Toronto, Canada.**

TEN LARGEST EMPLOYERS

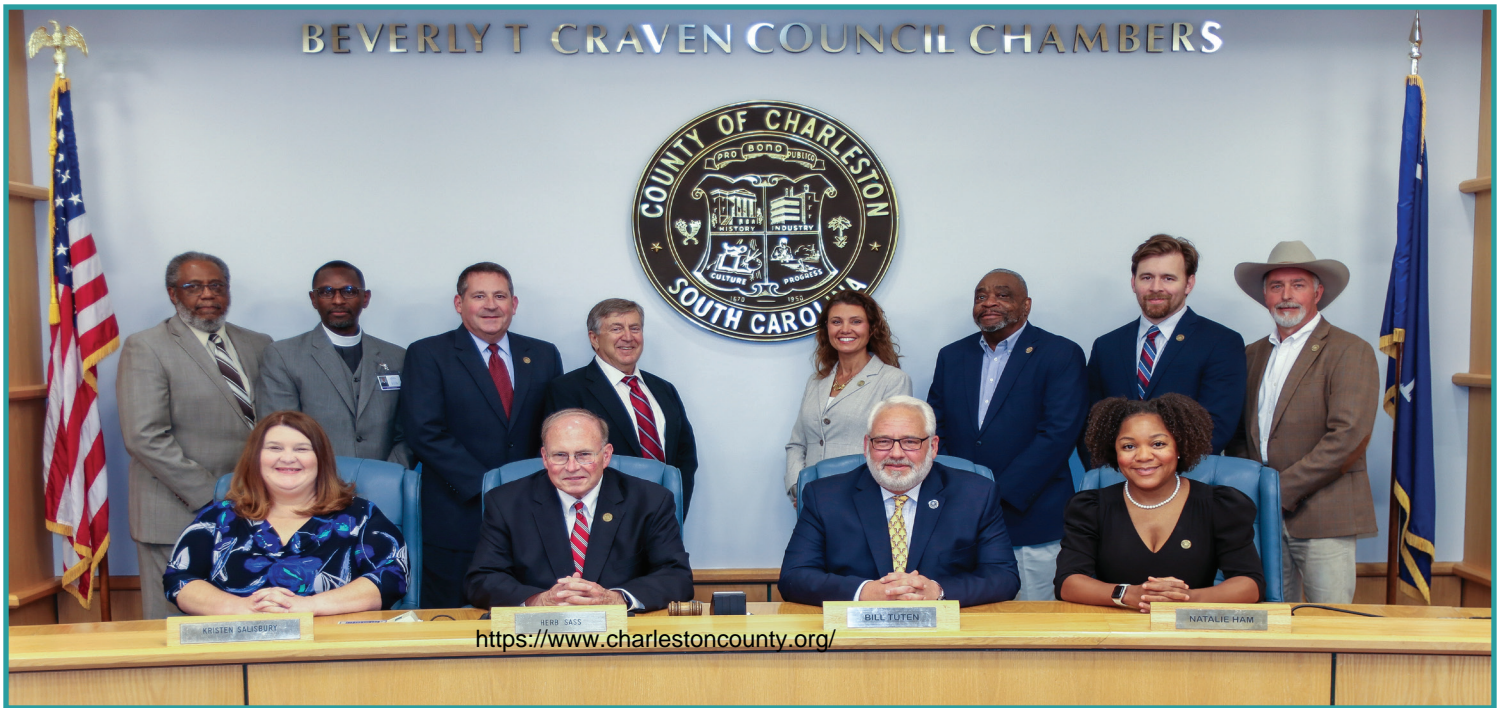
1. Joint Base Charleston: **24,900 employees**
2. Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC): **17,000 employees**
3. The Boeing Company: **7,864 employees**
4. Charleston County School District: **7,100 employees**
5. Roper St. Francis Healthcare: **6,100 employees**
6. Wal-Mart, Inc: **3,900 employees**
7. RH Johnson VA Medical Center: **3,250 employees**
8. Trident Health Systems: **3,100 employees**
9. Charleston County Government: **2,800 employees**
10. US Postal Service: **2,500 employees**



Joint Base Charleston remains the County's largest employer.



Waterfront Park in downtown Charleston



<https://www.charlestoncounty.org/>

Charleston County Council. From Left to Right (back row): Henry E. Darby, Rev. Kylon Jerome Middleton, C. Brantley Moody, Larry Kobrovsky, Vice-Chair Jenny Costa Honeycutt, Teddie E. Pryor, Sr., Robert Wehrman, Joe Boykin. (Front row) Clerk of Council Kristen Salisbury, Chairman Herbert Ravenel Sass, III, Administrator William L. Tuten, Attorney Natalie Ham.

CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL

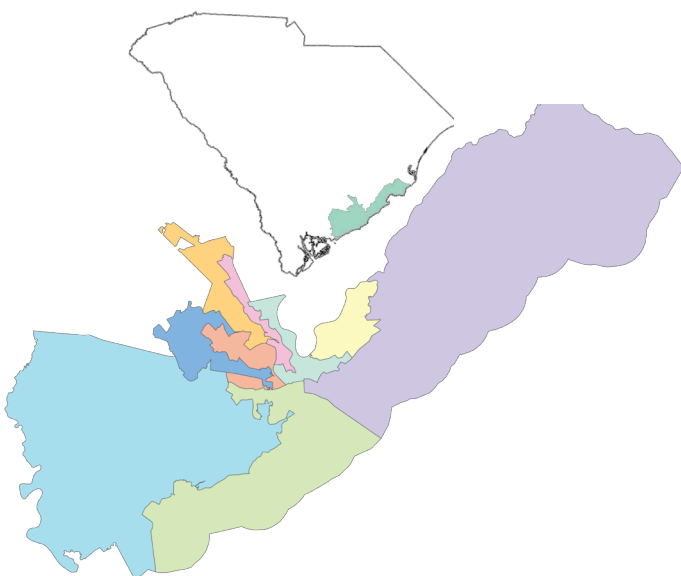
- District 1: Herbert Ravenel Sass, III**
- District 2: Larry Kobrovsky**
- District 3: Robert L. Wehrman**
- District 4: Henry E. Darby**
- District 5: Teddie E. Pryor, Sr.**
- District 6: Rev. Kylon Jerome Middleton**
- District 7: C. Brantley Moody**
- District 8: Joe Boykin**
- District 9: Jenny Costa Honeycutt**

Charleston County Council members are elected to represent individual districts and serve as the legislative, policy-making body of county government through the adoption of ordinances and resolutions. Council annually approves budgets for the County’s general fund, environmental management fund, 2004 and 2016 transportation sales tax, and several other funds. Charleston County operates under the Council-Administrator form of government. The Administrator is hired by the Council to carry out the directives and policies of Council.

Council Meetings

Attend the meetings in person on the second floor of the Public Services Building (PSB), 4045 Bridge View Drive, North Charleston.

[Click here](https://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/county-council/index.php) or go to <https://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/county-council/index.php> to stream council meetings, view meeting dates, agendas, strategic plans, and more.



ELECTED OFFICIALS



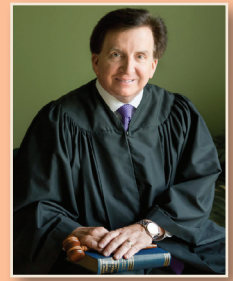
Auditor
Peter J. Tecklenburg



Clerk of Court
Julie J. Armstrong



Coroner
Bobbi Jo O'Neal



Probate Judge
Irvin G. Condon



Register of Deeds
Karen Hollings



Sheriff
Kristin Graziano



Solicitor
Scarlett A. Wilson



Treasurer
Mary Tinkler

APPOINTED OFFICIALS



Director of Elections
Isaac Cramer



Chief Magistrate
Richardine Singleton-Brown



Library Director
Angela Craig



Master-In-Equity
Mikell Scarborough



Public Defender
Cameron J. Blazer



Veterans Affairs
David LeBlanc, Sr.

GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

Three-Year Revenues and Expenditures (2022 - 2024) Does not include component units.

Revenues	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Property, Local Option Sales, Transportation Sales, and Other Taxes*	\$462,637,578	\$468,409,334	\$483,905,355
Intergovernmental	\$93,976,192	\$91,623,912	\$77,405,347
Permits and Licenses	\$8,279,978	\$10,575,299	\$10,880,253
Fines and Forfeitures	\$2,089,084	\$1,649,320	\$1,854,730
Interest**	\$3,746,795	\$45,644,257	\$66,724,719
Service Charges	\$46,303,778	\$42,938,187	\$44,319,496
Rental and Use of Property	\$97,934	\$196,102	\$202,746
Other Revenues	\$5,670,275	\$6,024,706	\$9,815,504
Total Revenues	\$622,801,614	\$667,061,117	\$695,108,150

Expenditures	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
General Government	\$84,687,044	\$89,535,534	\$104,888,069
Public Safety	\$117,663,908	\$127,880,578	\$133,393,122
Judicial	\$35,519,017	\$37,627,266	\$41,379,434
Public Works***	\$57,992,762	\$58,904,473	\$104,427,075
Health and Welfare	\$43,269,705	\$31,039,049	\$21,739,595
Economic Development	\$10,378,818	\$12,588,850	\$9,683,132
Culture and Recreation***	\$47,085,016	\$59,644,493	\$78,517,416
Education	\$8,568,736	\$9,074,662	\$9,653,407
Capital Outlay***	\$50,080,272	\$31,420,616	\$48,159,361
Debt Service****	\$79,252,717	\$121,406,173	\$93,146,599
Total Expenditures	\$534,497,995	\$579,121,694	\$644,987,210

Brief explanation regarding featured revenues and expenditures

Revenue Increases

*Property Taxes: Increase from new construction and property sales.

**Interest: Increase due to higher interest rates.

Expenditure Increases:

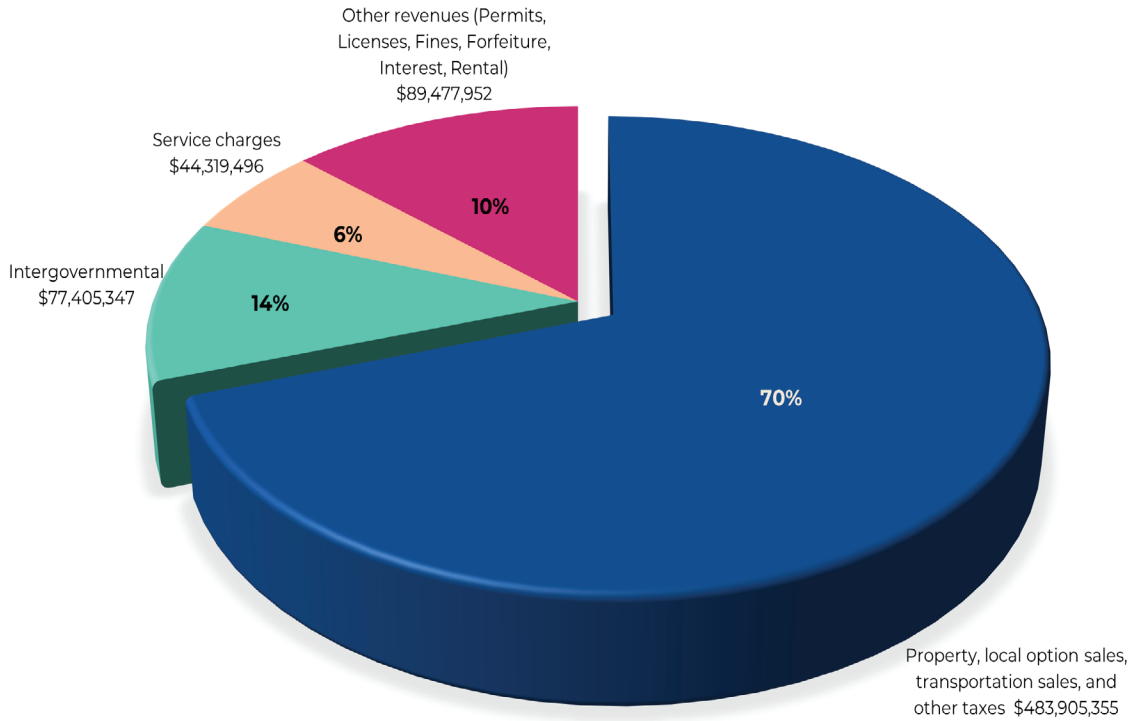
***Public Works, Culture and Recreation, and Capital Outlay: Increase in roads, green space, and facilities construction.

****Debt Service: Decrease for scheduled payments.

To review the FY 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and other Charleston County financial reports, go to: <https://www.charlestoncounty.org/financial-reports.php>.

Revenues and Expenditures

- WHERE YOUR TAX REVENUES COME FROM -



- WHERE YOUR TAX DOLLARS GO -



PROGRAMS + DEPARTMENTS

The following programs and department provide a range of excellent services to the citizens of Charleston County. You can find contact info at <https://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments.php>.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND REVITALIZATION (CDR)



CDR administers Urban Entitlement Funds, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds, and a MacArthur Foundation Grant.

Urban Entitlement Funds are awarded to nonprofit agencies (sub-recipients) to support programs aligned with priorities established in Charleston County's 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan. The County receives three types of grants: **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**, **Emergency Solutions Grant Program (ESG)**, and **Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME)**.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) - \$1.7 million

- **3,038** low-to-moderate income individuals received public services.
- **8** low-to-moderate income households provided access to clean water and sanitary sewer.
- **48** households received emergency repair.
- **60** low-to-moderate households received housing public services.
- **140** persons received overnight shelter.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) - \$287k

- **292 persons** Provided overnight shelter.
- **12 households** Provided rental assistance.

HOME Investment Partnership Program - \$809k

- Constructed **1 unit** for homeownership
- Rehabilitated **1 unit** for rental

American Rescue Plan Act

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), signed into law by President Biden, allocated approximately **\$80 million** for Charleston County. This funding assists the Charleston community in recovering from the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. CDR manages \$50 million of the County's ARPA funds. The County Council's ARPA priority in FY 2024 was developing new affordable housing units and preserving existing stock.

Gap Financing/Infill Program - \$7 million

Assists in closing the financial gap for the development of affordable homes in the County.

- **Archer School Apartments** - 89 units developed for senior citizens
- **Esau Jenkins Village** - 72 units developed for senior citizens
- **North Bridge Townhomes** - 20 units developed

Critical Home Repair Program - \$2.2 million

Preserves affordable homes by providing emergency repairs for senior citizen homeowners.

Clean Water and Safe Sewer Program - \$483k

Provided new wells, septic tanks, and connections in the County.

CHARLESTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



- 18 branches welcomed **1.3 million** patrons this fiscal year, a **17% increase**.
- Staff assisted **147,000 patrons** with tech and workforce topics, a **24% increase**, highlighting growing demand in Charleston.
- Staff reached **42,000 people** at 778 outreach events, a **36% increase**.
- **116,000 patrons (+14%)** attended CCPL programs, including Storytimes and author talks.
- The **Summer Reading Program**, which promotes literacy in children, teens, and adults, grew by **32%**.
- CCPL provided nearly **15,000 items** via **Free and Fresh Fridge Community Fridge** and **41,729 meals and snacks** through Summer Feeding and **Kids Cafe**



Several blood pressure monitoring kits distributed to residents



Story time is good for children and adults alike



Meet Owlette, Summer Reading Program mascot

PUBLIC SAFETY

Consolidated Emergency Communications Center and Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

- 9-1-1 handled **336,361 calls and texts** for service
- EMS handled **76,014 calls** for service and added **eight** Basic Life Support Ambulances and **nine** Quick Response Vehicles.

Awendaw-McClellanville Fire Department

In FY24, Awendaw-McClellanville Fire Department welcomed new fire safety equipment, including Engine 904 and Squad 902, and had **1,588 calls for service**.



Awendaw-McClellanville Fire's new Engine 904.

Emergency Management Department

Charleston County Emergency Management had **six partial activations** of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in FY24. The County:

- Received one Federal Emergency Declaration for Hurricane Idalia.
- Emergency Management received **\$146,115.26 in grant funding**.

CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES INITIATIVES (CSCI) GRANT

Stronger storms, rising sea levels, and flooding are concerns for the communities of Charleston County. A **grant of \$121,821** will support the County and Lowcountry Alliance for Model Communities (LAMC) in collaboration with Fernleaf and Adaapta to develop two key strategies: Expanding and sustaining flood mitigation efforts and advancing community-led, climate-resilient redevelopment of brownfields.

These efforts will prioritize neighborhoods burdened by environmental contamination and address the unique vulnerabilities of historic African American communities and low-income households.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Created in 1993, the Charleston County Economic Development Department is dedicated to recruiting new business, growing existing industry, and improving the Charleston business climate.

Assisted **11** companies with announcements generating:

- **838** new jobs.
- **\$70.7 Million** in capital investment.
- **\$58.2 Million** in new annual payroll.

Two new companies recruited to Charleston County:

- Shipyard Creek Logistics Center - North Charleston
- East Coast Warehouse & Distribution - North Charleston

Eight existing companies expanded in Charleston County:

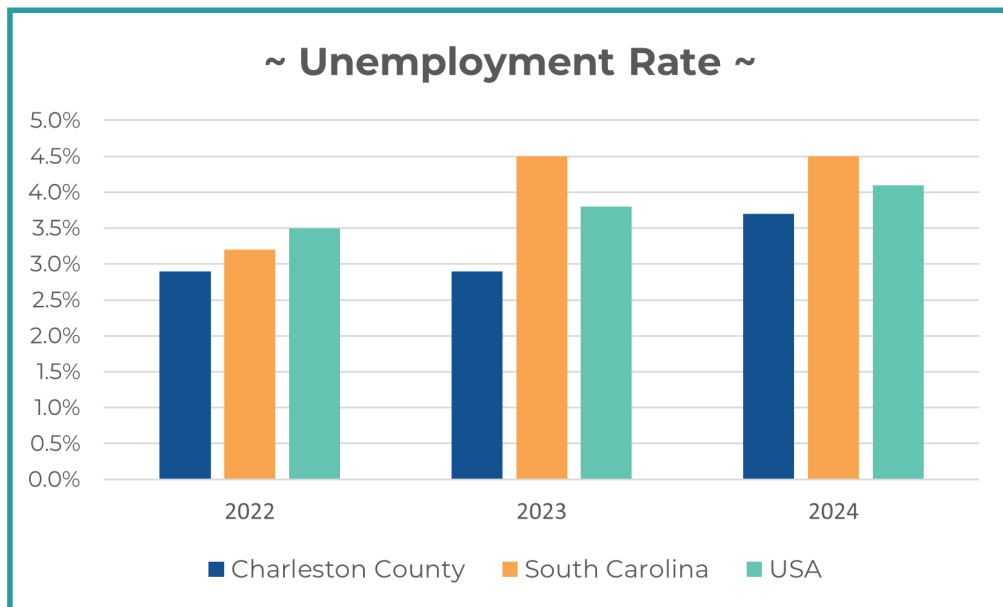
- MOONDOG Animation Studio - Mt. Pleasant
- Gnosis Freight - Charleston
- Tradd Advisory Company - Mt. Pleasant
- TTS Studios - North Charleston
- Allegiance Flag Supply - Charleston
- Portside Technology - Charleston
- Eveon Containers - Charleston
- Smithey Ironware - North Charleston



Mercedes-Benz Vans Business Retention & Expansion visit



Charleston County officially designated as a "Coast Guard Community"



PUBLIC WORKS

Transportation Sales Tax (TST)

Charleston County's Transportation Sales Tax (TST) and a portion of the South Carolina gas tax, allocated by the Charleston County Transportation Committee (CTC), are used to fund transportation infrastructure improvements. Completed improvements include:

- **5,178** linear feet of new sidewalk
- **333,696** linear feet of treated roads
- **8,463** linear feet of installed drainage pipe
- **25,106** linear feet of multi-use path
- **22,200** linear feet of lane miles paved



March 2024 – **Northern Pitchfork Ribbon Cutting Ceremony.** The Northern Pitchfork Project is Phase III of the Maybank Highway Improvement Project. The goal of the project is to increase safety and improve traffic flow throughout the corridor. These new roads also include sidewalks and multi-use paths.



April 2024 - A Transportation Sales Tax featured project, **Glenn McConnell Parkway had its Ribbon Cutting Ceremony** on April 2nd 2024. Between Bees Ferry Road and Magwood Drive, the Parkway expansion will improve travel times and relieve congestion. This was done by widening the road from four to six lanes.



Substantial work has been completed at the **Palmetto Commerce Interchange**, another major TST funded project.

Drainage Improvements

Carol Street Drainage Improvement Project was one of the projects completed this year using Charleston County Stormwater Funds. The project consisted of upsizing pipe and will reduce the duration of flooding within the Woodland Shores drainage basin. The engineering costs were **\$43,000**, and construction costs were **\$954,000** for a total project cost of **\$997,000**.



Before



During



After

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



Perimeter odor misting system located at the Bees Ferry Landfill

Charleston County Environmental Management (CCEM) manages the collection of recycling and disposal of solid waste at the Bees Ferry Landfill, and provides education and outreach to inform communities about proper solid waste disposal practices and procedures. Materials diverted from the landfill:

- **104,229 tons** recycled
- **52,375 tons** composted

Residents recycled **34 tons of electronic waste, 163 tons of used oil, and 3, 287 tons of used tires** at the eight Environmental Management Convenience Centers.

To address potential concerns from nearby communities, Bees Ferry Landfill staff implemented several proactive measures, including:

- A perimeter odor misting system
- Mobile odor cannons
- A bird abatement program

GREENBELT PROGRAMS

Funds are used to acquire land providing public parks, green spaces, greenways, and waterway access as well as preserving natural resources and infrastructure, wildlife habitat, scenic landscapes, historical/cultural sites, and productive lands.

County Council approved **10 Greenbelt projects**:

- **\$6,926,850** rural
- **\$3,244,447** urban
- **\$10,171,297** allocated in fiscal year 2024 to protect **429.5** acres.
- Protected **161 acres** along Oyster House Creek and Wadmalaw Sound from residential development. Instead, the Town of Meggett's Harrell Family Park will provide public access to recreational uses on and off the water.



Beautiful Oyster House Creek and Wadmalaw Sound

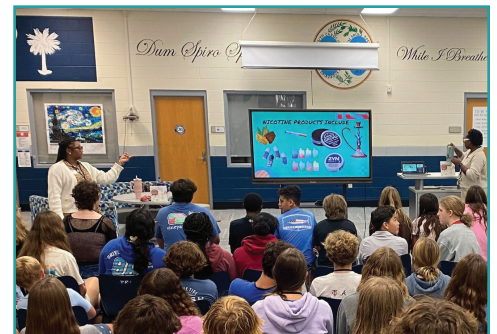
DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG ABUSE SERVICES (DAODAS)

A substance abuse prevention, intervention, education and treatment center.

Charleston County was awarded **\$1,276,759** from the South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund (SCORF) to help with opioid abatement strategies. This funding has gone to continue prevention and education events, collaboration with first responders, expanding opioid treatment, and increased naloxone distribution and other harm reduction strategies.

SCORF: South Carolina Opioid Recovery Fund

- Reached **217 residents** through speaking engagements
- Reached **2,617 residents** through community education events
- **82 Narcan Trainings** Presentations
- Distributed **2,630 Narcan kits** (80% increase from the prior year)
- Distributed **5,650 Fentanyl test strips**
- Completed **355 HIV tests**



The Charleston Center visits Cario Middle School in Mt. Pleasant

BUILDING PROJECTS

Azalea Complex Phase 2

The **\$65 million** Azalea Phase 2 project is a significant development by Charleston County to enhance its operational capabilities. Initiated with a groundbreaking ceremony on May 16, 2023, this phase involves constructing three key buildings:

- Administrative Building: Housing offices for Public Works and Facility Management staff.
- Facility Management Operations and Asset Management Building: Includes shops, warehouses, and a garage for the Unified Mobile Command Unit.
- Public Works Operations Building: Mosquito control, public works operations, offices, laboratories, and field operations spaces.

The project will centralize various county departments, improving efficiency and accessibility, especially during emergencies. Construction began in the summer of 2023 and is scheduled for completion by spring 2026.



The future home of the Facilities and Public Works departments located in North Charleston

Tri-County Biological Science Center

The Tri-County Biological Science Center **received \$7 million dollars in federal appropriations** funding to build a state-of-the-art forensic DNA testing laboratory which will provide timely DNA analysis services to the regional criminal justice system. While the project is a Charleston County initiative, it is the result of a committed partnership between Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester Counties. Targeted completion is expected in late 2025.



Charleston County Council and staff attend the groundbreaking for the future Tri-County Biological Center

Library Projects

The following projects reflect renovations of existing libraries, bringing them up to the same standards as the new libraries recently constructed in the County. New renovations provide increased access to computers with online resources and provide community meeting spaces. The renovations are part of the \$108.5 million referendum-funded project passed by Charleston County voters in 2014.

John L. Dart Library - \$1,129,140

6500 sf library including self check-out, extensive computers, community rooms, separate youth areas, staff rooms, and a tribute display wall for John L Dart. The library renovation included rehabilitation of an exterior mural wall, meaningful to the local community.

- 1067 King Street, Charleston 29403
- Started February 2023, Opening – January 29, 2024



West Ashley (South Windermere) Library - \$986,816

- 45 Windermere Blvd., Charleston, 29418
- Started January 2023, Opening – March 18, 2024



Mt. Pleasant Village Library - \$336,908

- 430 Whilden St, Mt Pleasant SC 29464
- Started March 2023, Opening – October 30, 2023





LET'S CONNECT

There are many ways to connect with Charleston County. Please see below for easy access to many of Charleston County's services and social media sites.

Live Chat

Do you prefer Live Chat or text? These departments have a live chat feature for your questions. You will find them at charlestoncounty.org/departments:

- Meet Cooper, Charleston County's virtual Assistant on the home page.
- Auditor's Office
- Board of Elections/Voter Registration
- Environmental Management
- Treasurer's Office
- Citibot - Text HELLO to 843-800-4121



Geographical System Website (GIS)

The site provides links to the most used GIS data including the County Parcel Viewer as well as links to address, map, and data request forms. [Visit the site here](https://charleston-county-gis-chascogis.hub.arcgis.com/) or go to <https://charleston-county-gis-chascogis.hub.arcgis.com/>

Social Contacts



FACEBOOK
19.6K Followers

@ChasCountyGov



INSTAGRAM
3.3K Followers

@ChasCountyGov



X (TWITTER)
25.6K Followers

@ChasCountyGov



LINKEDIN
4K Followers

@charlestoncountygovernment



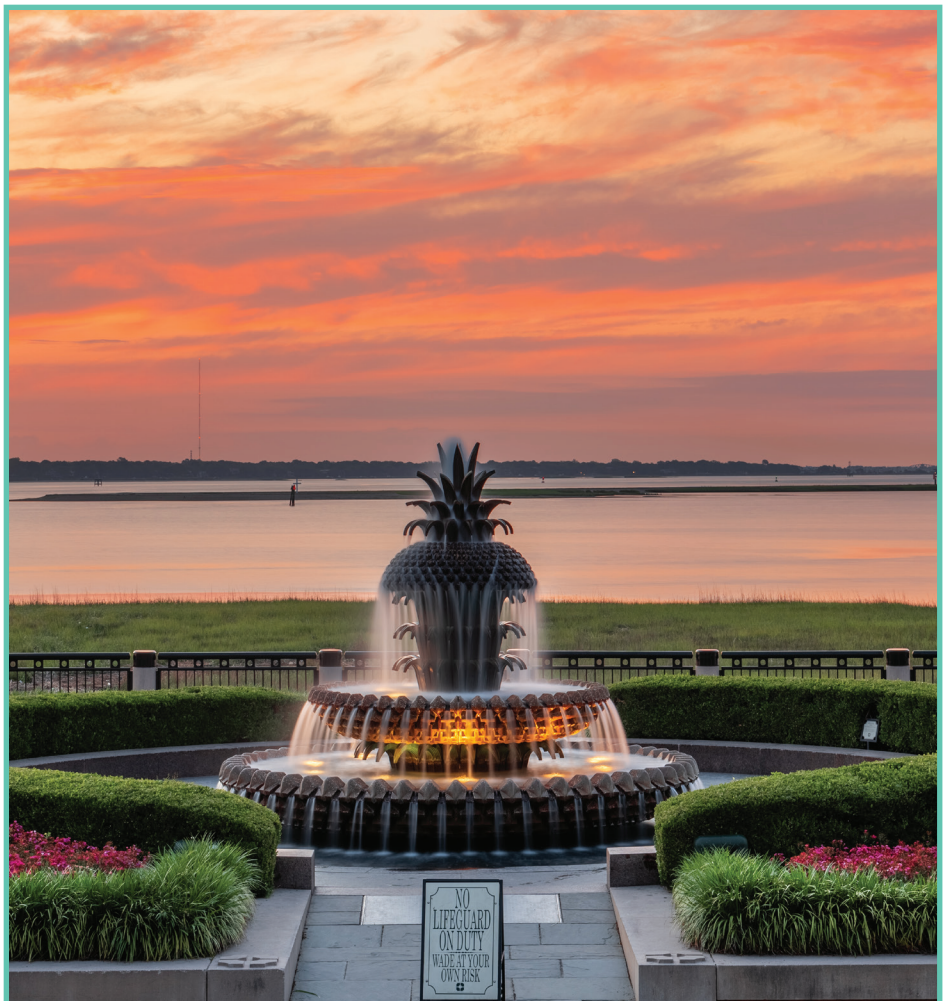
YOUTUBE
1.2K Subscribers

@CharlestonCountyGov



NEXTDOOR
173.6K Followers

@Charleston County Government



Charleston's famous pineapple fountain at Waterfront Park



CHARLESTON
■ COUNTY ■
SOUTH CAROLINA