



JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
Jasper County Clementa C. Pinckney Government Bldg
358 3rd Avenue Ridgeland, SC 29936
Wednesday, April 3, 2024
Minutes

Officials Present: Chairman L. Martin Sauls IV, Councilman Pastor Alvin Adkins, and Councilman John Kemp. **Absent:** Vice Chairwoman Barbara B. Clark and Councilman Coy Garbade

Staff Present: County Administrator Andrew Fulghum, Clerk to Council Wanda Giles, County Attorney David Tedder, Chief Russell Wells, Rose Dobson-Elliott and Videographer Jonathan Dunham.
Others Present: Pegeen Hanrahan, Councilman Bo White and Sam Howell

Call to Order:

Chairman Sauls called the meeting to order. The Report of Compliance with the Freedom of Information Act was read for the records as follows: *In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notice of meetings and agendas were posted and furnished to all news media and persons requesting notification.*

Pledge to the Flag and Invocation: The Pledge to the Flag was given and the Invocation was given by Councilman Adkins.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve: Councilman Kemp

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

Review of 2016 Transportation Sales Tax and the Discussion of the 2024 Transportation Sales Tax Effort: Roads and Greenbelt:

Mr. Fulghum welcomed everyone and introduced the guests that were in attendance. The discussion led off with a review of 2016 Transportation Sales Tax. He said he wanted to briefly run through the items that were in the Council's packet, so everybody knew the language when the terms were referred to. He noted that the following items were included in the agenda e-packet: 1) A revenue estimate from Mr. Frank Rainwater with the South Carolina Office of Revenue and Fiscal Affairs; 2) A detail on the road projects, a narrative and a spreadsheet on those projects that have been defined over the last two years with the municipalities; 3) The updated conservation funding feasibility report recently updated in March; and 4) A Jasper County sales tax timeline. He noted that he had distributed a new timeline for Council since there were a couple changes that had happened in the last few days. He noted that he thought that everyone in the audience had a copy of the latest draft of that timeline. He also mentioned that the last item in the

packet was the Transportation Facility Sales Tax Memorandum from Mr. Howe. He mentioned that the next item was to review the 2016 Transportation Sales Tax.

Mr. Fulghum noted that they were here to discuss the potential 2024 Transportation Sales Tax Effort. He noted that it had two distinct elements, one being the road section and then the other the Green Belt Element. He discussed the road improvement project list. He reminded Council that they just identify the projects they want but encouraged them not to over identify in the event that other funding sources may come down the line for some things. He said that a great example was in 2016 one of the primary reasons for advancing the Transportation Sales Tax was to make improvements to Hwy. 321. However, as soon as the ordinance was passed, SCDOT came forward and said they were going to fix 321 and so then we were kind of stuck with the project. Over time he noted that Council has had to adopted subsequent ordinances that have adjusted your project list. He noted that staff wanted to assist and give Council specificity with the projects but also wanted to give Council the flexibility to pick projects as you go.

Pegeen Hanrahan, Southeast Conservation Finance Director – The Trust for Public Land (Slides from Pegeen; Financial Feasibility Report; Timeline):

Pegeen Hanrahan, Southeast Conservation Finance Director of The Trust for Public Land discussed the Conservation Funding Feasibility Report Update for Jasper County and provided slides for this review. In addition, the Jasper County Tax Timeline draft was provided and discussed. She discussed the potential 2024 Transportation Sales Tax Effort and the potential amount of revenue that this could bring in for the County. She discussed the language for the referendum (Attachment A).

Bonding Questions – Sam Howell, Howell, Linkous & Nettles LLC:

Bonding Questions were discussed by Sam Howell, the County's Bond Counsel of Howell, Linkous & Nettles LLC. He noted that an ordinance was required by County Council to authorize going to the voters for a referendum approval of the sales tax that must be conducted at a General Election. He noted that the ordinance will address certain issues that are the statute requires that the Council decides. A description of the projects or programs must be laid out in the ordinance. Then he discussed the approval of the referendum and what that meant. Then it was discussed about the preliminary policy direction such as the term of the sales tax; the Road Improvement Projects List; the scope and allocation of Greenbelt Element; the bonding question and the approval of the proposed Timeline. He also discussed the bonding issues that would be a separate question on the ballot.

Mr. Fulghum came back to the podium to note that they wanted to give the different varieties to look at. He said they were putting together an ordinance for Council. The term the Council discussed he noted was 15 years, and he asked if they wanted that to remain there. The Council agreed to the 15-year term. He discussed the Road Project List, and mentioned if the Council had any particular projects to let him know as soon as possible so the engineer could get those costed out. Councilman Kemp mentioned Levy Road for the list. In regard to the allocation of Road and Greenbelt, Mr. Fulghum noted that they would propose an percentage to Council for consideration. He discussed the bonding and noted the timeline had changed.

Mr. Tedder noted that it would be implicit that they authorize the administration to take all the necessary steps and implement the action items discussed today so he had the authority to write letters and any other things.

He was asked to frame that into a motion:

Motion to approve the action items for policy decisions as discussed today and authorize the County Administrator to take all necessary administrative actions to move forward for the referendum and ballot questions and bring back to Council the future consideration of the ordinance.

Motion to approve what the attorney talked about and stated in this session: Councilman Kemp

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

For additional information on this meeting please visit our website for this meeting's agenda E-Packet or for the video go to https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBmloqX05cKAsHm_ggXCjIA

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Councilman Kemp

Second: Councilman Adkins

Vote: Unanimous

The motion passed.

The motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

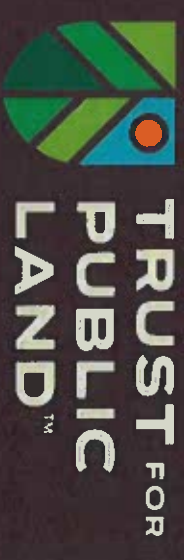
Respectfully submitted:



Wanda H. Giles
Clerk to Council



L. Martin Sauls IV
Chairman



Jasper County, South Carolina

Conservation Funding Feasibility Report Update

April 3, 2024

Pegeen Hanrahan, P.E., Southeast Conservation Finance Director
Jessica Welch, Senior Research Associate, Conservation Finance

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Jasper County Council

354 Third Avenue • Courthouse Square
P.O. Office Box 1149 • Ridgeland, South Carolina 29936

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| L. MARTIN SKULL, IV Chairman | MARBARA B. CLARK Vice Chairman |
| ALVIN VASBERG ALKINS Commissioner | JOHN KARP Commissioner |
| | COY CASBIDE Commissioner |

January 5, 2014

Mr. Will Abberger
Vice President
Director Construction Finance
The Trust for Public Land
300 North Main Street
Tulahoma, TN 37321

Mr. Adam Snyder
The Nature Conservancy
120 19th Street North, Suite 200
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

Dear Mr. Abberger and Mr Snyder:

By this letter, Jasper County requests technical advice and assistance from the Trust for Public Land and The Nature Conservancy in connection with our efforts to develop and sustain valuable, ongoing sources of funding for land conservation, open space, and natural lands protection and stewardship.

As part of your advice and assistance, I understand you will conduct research with selected groups of stakeholders in Jasper County on strategies for supporting designated, ongoing sources of public funds for land conservation and parks.

We are interested not only in the factual information that you can provide, but also your opinions and recommendations on public funding issues available to us and strategies to carry such measures. That would include understanding the public's priorities and attitudes concerning land conservation, water quality, and natural areas—including parks, trails, and fish and wildlife habitat—and how the public would respond to different methods of presenting those issues.

Information provided to Jasper County will be public record as a matter of law. This request does not in any way constitute an offer of assistance to the Trust for Public Land and The Nature Conservancy, nor does it require public disclosure of any confidential information of either organization.

PHONIC, (643) 715-5666

This request will continue in effect for any advice you offer or presentations you submit for the use of that body related to such matters. In addition, we would like to take this opportunity to request that you continue to be available to provide technical advice and assistance in this area and on related matters in the future.

Jasper County Council

Thank you,

 L. Martin Skull, IV
 Chairman, Jasper County Council

The Trust for Public Land's Jasper County work is funded by the Donnelley Foundation and the Doris Duke Foundation. DDF Funding is administered in partnership with The Nature Conservancy.

This service is provided at no cost to Jasper County.



Connecting everyone to the outdoors.

Jasper County Requested TPL's Technical Assistance
 Thank YOU!

Background on Trust for Public Land

Process

- Feasibility Study
- City Leadership Feedback
- Public Opinion Research
- Election Decision
- Ballot Language Development
- Ballot Language Adoption
- Citizen-Led Campaign

Review Feasibility Options

County Council and Staff Questions

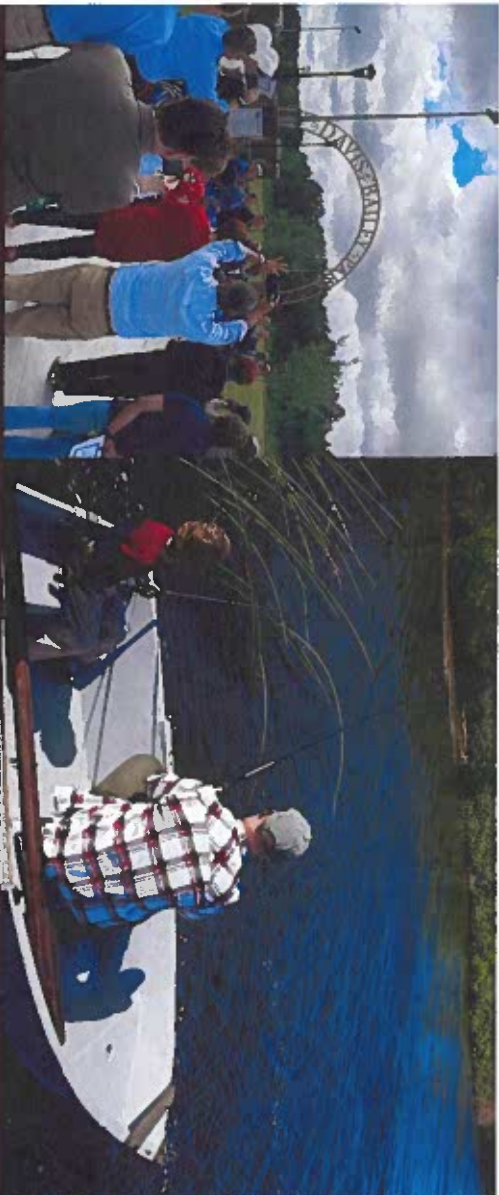
Next Steps



Jasper County, South Carolina
Public Finance Feasibility Study
March 2024



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TRUST FOR
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LAND™

We work to help communities like yours protect the places they love and improve access for people to enjoy them.

Connecting everyone to the outdoors™



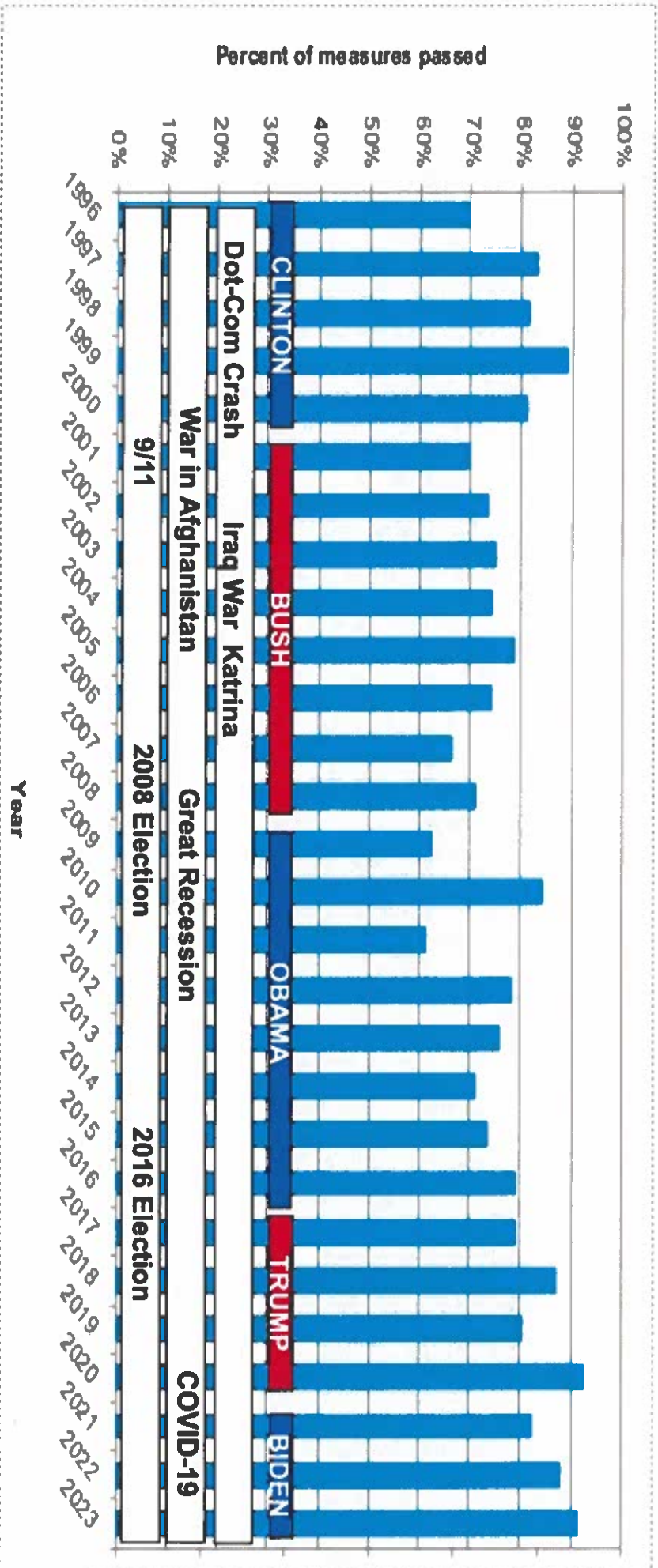
The Trust for Public Land has helped pass nearly 650 ballot measures for parks, land, trails and schoolyards since 1996, representing over \$93 billion in funding.

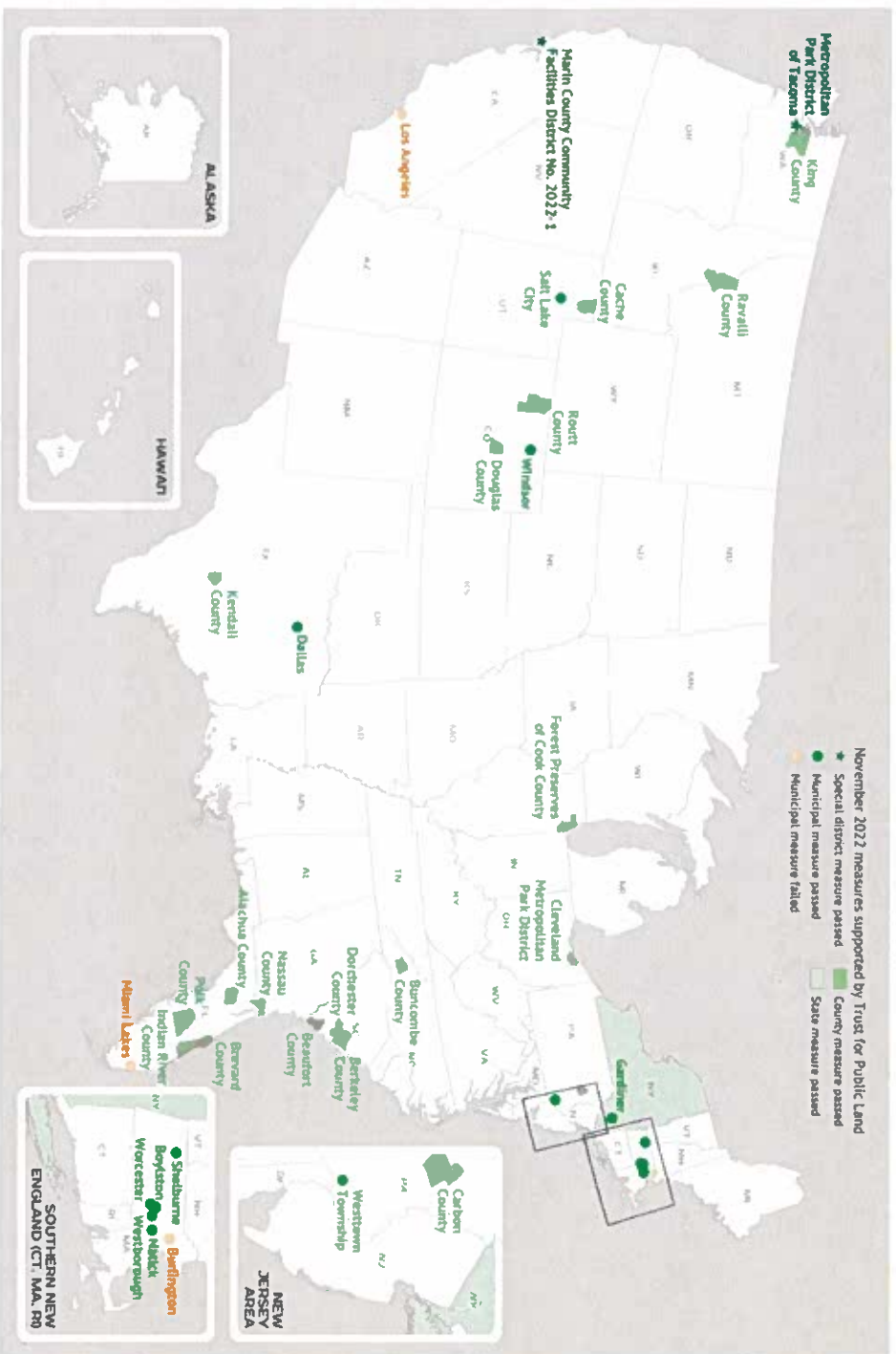




**TRUST FOR
PUBLIC
LAND™**

Proof of Concept: 77% long-term approval rate, good times and bad





LandVote

NOVEMBER 2022 STATE, COUNTY, MUNICIPAL, AND SPECIAL DISTRICT MEASURES SUPPORTED BY TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

December 9, 2022. Copyright © Trust for Public Land. Trust for Public Land and Trust for Public Land logo are trademarks registered marks of Trust for Public Land. Information on this map is provided for purposes of discussion and visualization only.



We follow a well-tested road map to help you assess these options to see if there is one that your community will embrace.

Feasibility Research

Public Opinion Survey

Program Recommendations

Ballot Language

Campaign



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KEY Ingredients to Voter Approved Funding Sources

Projects can be selected either before or after a referendum.

If selected before, it is best to have keystone parcels (critical to any project) under contingent contract.

If selected afterwards, it's ideal to have a transparent, accountable process for making choices.



Ideally we want all parts of the community (different neighborhoods, urban/suburban, different constituencies to be able to see value in the projects. "Put the voters in the picture."

Community support, and support from advocacy groups, is important.

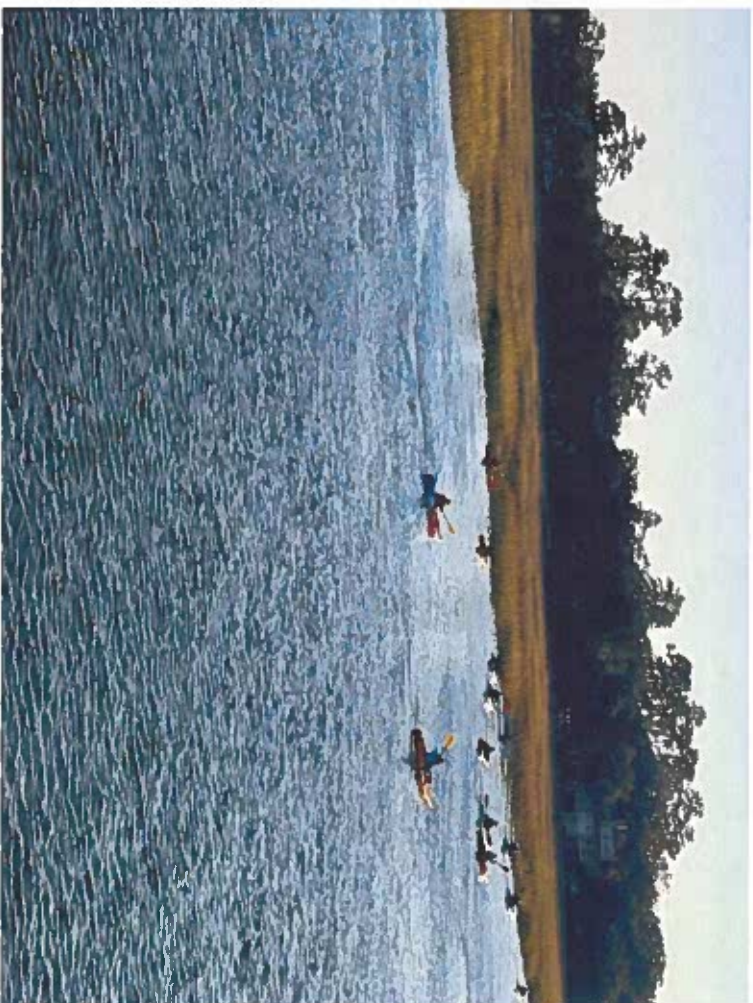
Clear, Legal, Descriptive Ballot Language

Approved by Voters for those Demonstrated Needs

Jasper County, South Carolina

Jasper County Demographics

| | Jasper County | South Carolina |
|---|---------------|----------------|
| Population | | |
| Population Estimate, July 1, 2022 (V2022) | 32,038 | 5,282,965 |
| Population estimate base, April 1, 2020 (V2022) | 28,806 | 5,118,422 |
| Population, percent change - April 1, 2020 (estimate base) to July 1, 2022 (V2022) | 11.2% | 3.2% |
| Population, Census, April 1, 2010 | 24,777 | 4,625,364 |
| Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2022 | 28.3% | 14.2% |
| Race and Hispanic Origin | | |
| White alone, percent | 60.6% | 68.9% |
| Black or African American alone, percent (a) | 35.8% | 28.3% |
| American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent (a) | 1.1% | 0.6% |
| Asian alone, percent (a) | 0.8% | 2.0% |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent (a) | 0.1% | 0.1% |
| Two or More Races, percent (b) | 1.6% | 2.2% |
| Hispanic or Latino, percent (b) | 14.6% | 6.8% |
| White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent | 48.1% | 63.5% |
| Population Characteristics | | |
| Foreign born persons, percent, 2018-2022 | 9.9% | 5.3% |
| Housing | | |
| Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2018-2022 | 73.5% | 70.9% |
| Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2018-2022 | \$243,700 | \$216,200 |
| Median gross rent, 2018-2022 | \$1,259 | \$1,065 |
| Families and Living Arrangements | | |
| Households, 2018-2022 | 11,795 | 2,023,085 |
| Persons per household, 2018-2022 | 2.43 | 2.47 |
| Living in same house 1 year ago, percent of persons aged 1 year+, 2018-2022 | 83.9% | 86.5% |
| Language other than English spoken at home, percent of persons aged 5 years+, 2018-2022 | 15.8% | 7.6% |
| Education | | |
| High school graduate or higher, percent of persons aged 25 years+, 2018-2022 | 89.8% | 89.3% |
| Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons aged 25 years+, 2018-2022 | 23.3% | 30.6% |
| Health | | |
| With a disability, under age 65 years, percent, 2018-2022 | 10.1% | 10.0% |
| Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent | 18.4% | 11.1% |
| Income and Poverty | | |
| Median household income (in 2022 dollars), 2018-2022 | \$60,452 | \$63,423 |
| Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2022 dollars), 2018-2022 | \$31,228 | \$36,072 |
| Persons in poverty, percent | 17.2% | 14.0% |
| Source: US Census QuickFacts | | |
| Notes: (a) Includes persons reporting only one race | | |
| (b) Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories | | |



Local Funding Options for Land Conservation in South Carolina in Addition to State, Federal grants

General Obligation Bonds

1 Beaufort, Dorchester Counties

Single subject, should focus on capital projects, typically backed by ad valorem property tax millage

2 Property Taxes or Budget Allocation

Greenville County – Local Conservation Bank

Council can allocate on their own, without voter approval

3 Sales Taxes - Transportation/Greenbelt, Capital Projects Tax or Greenspace Tax

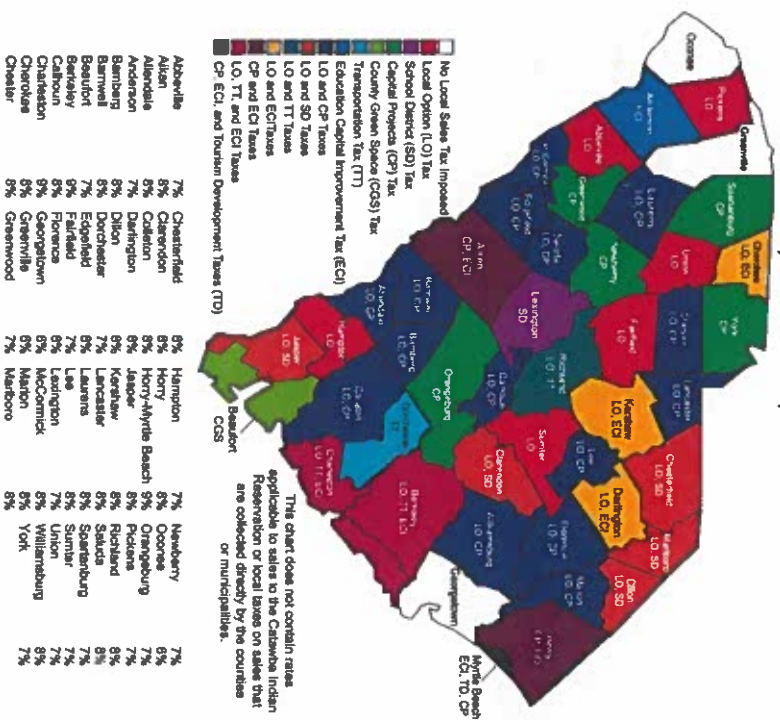
Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester, Beaufort Counties

Referred by County Council for voter approval



South Carolina Has Numerous Types of Sales Taxes

South Carolina Local Tax Designation by County Effective May 1, 2023
Collected by the South Carolina Department of Revenue



Reauthorizing any funding source is easier than starting or renewing one.

Overall, bonds are easier to pass than either property taxes or sales taxes.

Recommended Funding Option to Consider: Transportation Sales Tax Plus Greenbelt

| Jasper County Sales Tax Revenue & Cost Estimates | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|--|
| County Green Space Sales Tax | Annual Revenue* | Annual Cost per Household | Total Revenue Attributed to Resident Spending | % Revenue Attributed to Resident Spending | |
| 0.25% | \$1,516,266 | \$33 | \$392,167 | 26% | |
| 0.50% | \$3,032,532 | \$66 | \$784,334 | 26% | |
| 0.75% | \$4,548,797 | \$100 | \$1,176,502 | 26% | |
| 1.00% | \$6,065,063 | \$133 | \$1,568,669 | 26% | |
| Capital Projects Sales Tax | Annual Revenue* | Annual Cost per Household | Total Revenue Attributed to Resident Spending | % Revenue Attributed to Resident Spending | |
| 1.00% | \$6,065,063 | \$133 | \$1,568,669 | 26% | |
| Transportation Sales Tax | Annual Revenue** | Annual Cost per Household | Total Revenue Attributed to Resident Spending | % Revenue Attributed to Resident Spending | |
| 0.25% | \$1,957,552 | \$41 | \$481,296 | 25% | |
| 0.50% | \$3,915,105 | \$82 | \$962,592 | 25% | |
| 0.75% | \$5,872,657 | \$122 | \$1,443,888 | 25% | |
| 1.00% | \$7,830,209 | \$163 | \$1,925,185 | 25% | |

*Based on FY 2022 net taxable sales of \$606,506,306 in Jasper County (does not include groceries) (SC Department of Revenue).

**Based on FY 2022 transportation sales tax distributions to Jasper County (includes groceries) (SC Department of Revenue).

Voter Authorized Parks/Recreation/Conservation Funding Options: Primarily Bonds, Property Taxes

| Local Conservation Finance Measures 2000-2022 | | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------------------|--|
| Finance Mechanism | # Measures | # Passed | % Passed | Total Funds Approved | |
| Property tax | 1,038 | 730 | 70% | \$19,466,482,345 | |
| Bond | 792 | 666 | 84% | \$25,101,794,090 | |
| Sales tax | 177 | 136 | 77% | \$59,413,275,531 | |
| Other | 93 | 73 | 78% | \$16,016,448,229 | |
| Income tax | 93 | 67 | 72% | \$629,553,012 | |
| Real estate transfer tax | 26 | 24 | 92% | \$3,097,848,561 | |
| Total | 2,219 | 1,696 | 76% | \$123,725,401,768 | |

Source: Trust for Public Land, LandVote®, 2022, www.landvote.org

Across the nation, sales taxes than include land conservation pass 77% of the time.

All measures pass 76% of the time.

TPL overall win rate is 83%.

In South Carolina, measures TPL has assisted (14) have a 100% win rate.

Ballot Language is Very Important

BERKELELY COUNTY SPECIAL SALES AND USE TAX FOR TRANSPORTATION AND GREENBELT PROJECTS

QUESTION 1 I approve the continuation of a special sales and use tax in the amount of one percent to be imposed in Berkeley County for not more than 7 years, or until all projects are funded, currently estimated to cost a total of FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS (\$587,000,000.00), whichever occurs first. The sales tax proceeds will be used for the following existing projects and the following new projects: Project (1): Using ninety percent (90%) of the referenced tax for financing the costs of highways, roads, streets, bridges, and other transportation-related projects, facilities, and drainage facilities related thereto, including but not limited to: Capacity Projects 1. US Highway 52 and US Highway 176 (existing) 2. US Highway 176 Phase 2 Widening (new) 3. Jecburg Road Improvements (new) 4. North Cedar Street Extension (new) 5. Old Mount Holly Road Improvements (new) 6. Cypress Gardens Road Improvements (new) 7. US Highway 52 Corridor Improvements (new) Intersection Improvements 1. Black Tom Road at Black Tom Road Extension (new) 2. Cooper Store Road at Black Tom Road Extension (new) 3. River Landing Drive at Seven Farms Drive (new) 4. US Highway 52 at Old Highway 52 and Rembert C. Dennis Blvd. (new) 5. US Highway 52 at southern terminus of Old Highway 52 (new) 6. Royle Road at Farmington Road and Treeland Drive (new) 7. US Highway 52 at Stephanie Drive and Windsor Mill Road (new) 8. Snake Road at NAD Road (new) 9. Tanner Ford Blvd at Tanner Hall Blvd (new) Resurfacing 1. United Drive (new) 2. Bushy Park Road (new) 3. Gravel Hill Road (new) 4. SC Highway 45 (new) 5. Harristown Road (new) 6. Not less than 200 total miles of local street resurfacing in the Bonneau, Charleston, Goose Creek, Jamestown, Hanahan, Moncks Corner, St. Stephen, Summerville, and unincorporated areas of Berkeley County. Paving Projects 1. Dirt roads throughout the County as determined by the County governing body and staff. Other Transportation Projects 1. Oxford Road Bridge (new) 2. Trinity Road Bridge (new) 3. Bushy Park Dredging and Spoil Site (existing and new) 4. Yeamans Hall Road Improvements (new) 5. Sangaree Parkway Improvements (new) 6. Old Highway 52 at Orion Way (new) 7. Old Highway 52 at Colony Post Loop and Cypress Plantation Road (new) 8. Rivers Reach Drive (new) 9. Clements Ferry Road Multi-Use Path (existing) 10. Pedestrian Facilities (new) Project (2): Using ten percent (10%) of the referenced tax for financing greenbelt initiatives (including, but not limited to, purchasing property for conservation, purchasing conservation easements, creating passive greenspace, creating active greenspace, protecting natural resources, protecting agricultural or heritage landscapes, and protecting scenic corridors). YES NO Instructions to Voters: All qualified electors desiring to vote in favor of continuing the special sales and use tax shall vote "YES;" and All qualified electors opposed to continuing the special sales and use tax shall vote "NO." QUESTION 2 I approve the issuance of not exceeding EIGHTY NINE MILLION DOLLARS (\$89,000,000.00) of general obligation bonds of Berkeley County, payable from the special sales and use tax described in Question 1 above, maturing over a period not to exceed 7 years, to fund completion of projects from among the categories described in Question 1. YES NO Instructions to Voters: All qualified electors desiring to vote in favor of the issuance of bonds for the stated purposes shall vote "YES;" and All qualified electors opposed to the issuance of bonds for the stated purposes shall vote "NO."

YES

NO

YES

Berkeley County

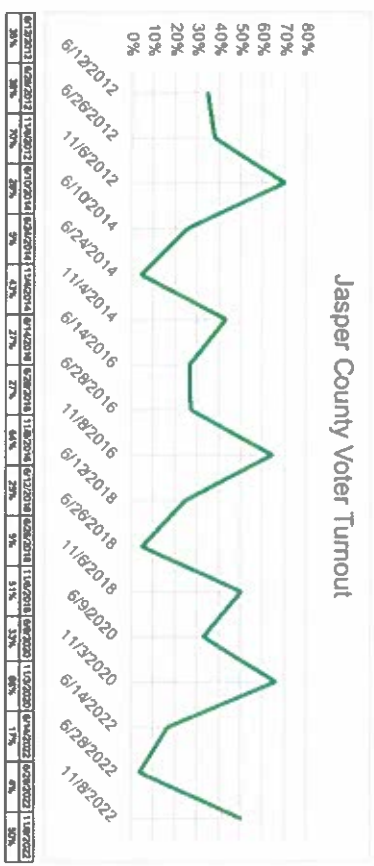
Example: Using ten percent (10%) of the referenced tax for financing greenbelt initiatives (including but not limited to, purchasing property for conservation, purchasing conservation easements, creating passive greenspace, creating active greenspace, protecting natural resources, protecting agricultural or heritage landscapes, and protecting scenic corridors).

Next Steps and Schedule



- **Decide on desired length of levy**
- **Decide on uses for funds**
- **Refine revenue estimates**
- **Privately funded public opinion polling will assess voter attitudes**
- **Consider authorizing citizen oversight, annual independent audit to ensure accountability**

Draft Schedule for November 2024 Election Date – High Turnout Likely



Jasper County Board Tax Worksheet Draft 3 - PUBLIC COMMISSION WITH ELECTIONS SUPERVISOR
2-6-24 AMENDED FROM DRAFT IN SUPPORT FOR MEETING APRIL 1, 2024

County To Do
TR To Do
Commission To Do
Elections
Office To Do

| Start Date | End Date | Initiatives | Impact/Legal/Policy/Comments | Notes |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|--|---|-------|
| 15-Jan-24 | 1-Apr-24 | TR to update feasibility research report to provide options to Jasper County | Final draft complete as of 2-6-24. County staff to review, provide edits | Done |
| 1-Apr-24 | 15-May-24 | TR to conduct preliminary funded public opinion poll to understand voter priorities, make preliminary recommendations to County Administrator and Council on voters' views toward providing production, ballot language, County to conduct these meetings of confidence to address ballot language with SCDEP and/or necessary General prior to third meeting. | Call to show sooner or later if election doesn't come within this time frame, see rest of schedule. | |
| 15-May-24 | 30-Jun-24 | County to conduct these meetings of confidence to address ballot language with SCDEP and/or necessary General prior to third meeting. | Can be done sooner; County may consider workshop/public meetings to assess projects, take input on emergency priorities. | |
| 1-May-24 | 15-Jun-24 | TR and partners to develop campaign plan and budget (mail, partner radio, speaking engagements, letter writing, digital) for 50%+1 majority vote in November 2022. | Advocacy Campaign is commonly pre-funded. This step can also be handled entirely by local political experts. TR can assist if desired and needed. | |
| 1-Apr-24 | 15-Jul-24 | Phone Jasper County citizens to form leadership organization for campaign with broad-based steering committee. | The county can also convene a public advisory board if desired, this is a private committee primarily to raise funds and plan expenditures. | |
| Anything to be ready | 8-15-24 at NOON | Deadline to submit approved ballot language in all required languages to Elections Supervisor (TR) | Final Deadline is Noon on Thursday August 15, 2022 per Section 7-19-386. | |
| 1-Apr-24 | 5-Nov-24 | Phone citizens to carry out campaign for November approval. | Private committee provided TBD | |
| 21-Sep-24 | 1-Nov-24 | Last day for Supervisors of Elections to send absentee ballots to absent electorate unreturned and overseas voters (UDCAVA for the General Election). | Absentee Ballots for UDCAVA voters are sent both by mail and electronically (E-mail/Fax/Online) based on the voter's choice. These ballots are first sent no later than 45 days prior to the election, for November 5, 2024 that date would be 9/21/24. The last days for them to be sent would depend on the method of sending based on the voter's choice. If by mail, the last day we mail ballots is the Friday prior to the Election, so 11/1/2024. If electronically we will continue sending them up until the polls close on Election Day, 7 PM, as UDCAVA voters can return them electronically, 7-15-980 | |
| 6-Oct-24 | 4-Nov-22 | In Person Absentee Voting with Valid Excuse Allowed | There is no statutory requirement of when to Person Absentee Voting begins, the standard practice and the recommendation of the State Election Commission is to open In-person Absentee the Monday following the Registration Deadline, which is 30 days prior to the election. For 2024 that opening day would be Oct 6, 2024. As for when it will, that is in statute, 7-15-389 says: "Applications must be accepted by the county board of voter registration and elections until 500 p.m. on the day immediately preceding the election for those who appear in person." | |
| 8-Oct-24 | | Notice of Public Hearing by Elections Commission to be published | Must be published 14 days prior to the public hearing, 4-37-20 (A)(2) | |
| 15-Oct-24 | | Notice of referendum published 4 weeks prior to election. | Must be published once a week for the four weeks prior to the election. | |
| 22-Oct-24 | | Notice of referendum published 2 weeks prior to election. | Must be published once a week for the four weeks prior to the election. | |
| 29-Oct-24 | | Notice of referendum published 1 week prior to election. | Must be published once a week for the four weeks prior to the election. | |
| CHECK WITH ELECTIONS SUPERVISOR | 4-Nov-22 | Mandatory meeting of Vote By Mail Ballots | Absentee Guidelines for non UDCAVA voters are mailed beginning the week prior to the Registration Deadline, so the week of ____ 2024 they would begin mailing them and continue mailing them as applications come in. The last day they mail ballots is the Friday prior to the election, so 11/1/2024. Any application received prior to 5 PM that Friday is processed, and a ballot mailed. There is a mandatory meeting day, the State Election Commission requires that the 80 days out, mail to absent proceedings for Jasper County. The four times we see mail a ballot or sample is by mail applications to be received, 7-15-389 | |





Public Opinion Polling and Ballot Language

We always suggest completing public opinion polling before making any final decisions about voter-approved options.

There are three main goals:

- (1). Testing viability of the measure;**
- (2). Assessing which projects/purposes are most popular;**
- (3). Understanding the electorate and which messages resonate best.**

Ballot language is finalized after polling.

We Can Help Local Citizens Campaign

- Coalition building
- Strategy/campaign plan
- Campaign committee
- Campaign finance registration and reporting
- Fund raising
- Endorsements
- Communications (media)
 - Earned media
 - Paid media: direct mail, digital Radio, TV (rare)
 - Phones
- Grassroots/Field (GOTV)



Beaufort County has experienced a very high rate of growth during the last decade.

Beaufort County Council recognizes the need to preserve land that has scenic, natural, agricultural, rural, and open space character which is deemed essential to the County's quality of life.

If Approved by the Voters, the Bonds for Land Preservation will:

- Protect water quality
- Protect local waterways, local creeks and rivers such as the Ogeechee, Mays, Broad Rivers, and Port Royal Sound
- Protect coastal areas, beaches, wetlands, wildlife areas, and natural lands
- Purchase military buffers for the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort

Accountability Measures:

- The bond referendum language specifies what the funds can be used for and the funds can only be used for those purposes.
- There will be an annual independent audit of how the funds are spent.

BONDS FOR LAND PRESERVATION TO PROTECT NATURAL LAND, FARMLAND, AND WATER QUALITY

Beaufort County Rural and Critical Lands Preservation Program
Local Question - General Obligation Bonds • On Your Ballot Tuesday, November 6

There are limitations for public funds on ballot issues

| Activity | Citizens/Volunteers/Businesses/ Civic Groups | Elected Officials | Staff | Consultants and Non-Profits |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Participate in Establishing Process to Prioritize Projects, Expenditures | Yes | Yes | Yes | As Requested Only |
| Ensure Public Integrity, Transparency, no Quid pro Quos, etc. | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Research Funding Options, History, Fiscal Impact | Probably Not - Most Don't | Probably Not - Most Don't | Yes | Yes |
| Conduct Public Opinion Polling | Probably Not - Most Don't | Probably Not - Most Don't | Probably Not - Most Don't | Yes |
| Write Ballot Language | Probably Not - Most Don't | Probably Not - Most Don't | Yes | Yes |
| Discourage Opposition | Yes | Yes | Probably Not - Most Don't | Yes |
| Raise Funds for Campaign | Yes | Yes | No | Yes |
| Advocate for YES votes | Yes | Yes | Probably Not - Most Don't | Yes |
| Stay on Key Messages | Yes | Yes - Remain Neutral, Share Costs too | Yes - Remain Neutral, Share Costs too | Yes |
| Respond to Citizen, Press Questions, Speaking Events | Designated Individuals Only | Yes | Yes - Remain Neutral, Share Costs too | As Requested Only |
| Volunteer Time for Campaign | Yes | Yes | Probably Not - Most Don't | Yes |
| Donate to Campaign | Yes | Yes | Probably Not - Most Don't | Yes |
| Access Voter File, Send Mail, Buy Ads, etc. | Yes | Probably Not - Most Don't | No | Yes |
| Put up signs, hand out shirts, staff booths, etc. | Yes | Yes | Probably Not - Most Don't | Yes |
| Offer Anything of Value in Exchange for Support | No | No | No | No |

Once the issue is referred to the ballot, the staff should remain neutral and not spend any public funds for advocacy. Neutral education is ok. Elected officials have a right to speak out, but not spend public funds.

For Further Information



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