

POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023



CHARLESTON COUNTY
SOUTH CAROLINA



2023

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To read the Annual Comprehensive Report and other financial reports, please visit the County's website at <https://www.charlestoncounty.org/>



COVER PHOTO: KYLIE JEFFORDS - GREENBELT PROGRAM



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

To the Citizens of Charleston County:



We present Charleston County's Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. 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.

The County is taking a cautious approach to budgeting and spending during times of high inflation and an uncertain national economic future. With these efforts, the County is minimizing impact to our financial outlook and the services provided to the citizens.

We are pleased to inform citizens that Charleston County is a Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) recipient of the Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, Popular Financial Reporting, and the Distinguished Budget Presentation award for fiscal year 2022. 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 during fiscal year 2023 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. .

We invite you to get in touch if you should have any questions or comments about this report.

Sincerely

Chief Financial Officer



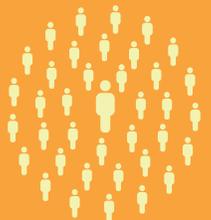
ABOUT CHARLESTON COUNTY

Charleston County 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.

Municipalities

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

Demographics

<p>TOTAL POPULATION 419,279</p> 	<p>MEDIAN AGE 38.4</p> 	<p>AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME \$119,587</p> 	<p>POPULATION 25+ WITH HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA 93.4%</p> 	<p>POPULATION 25+ WITH BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER 43.3%</p> 	<p>MEDIAN HOME VALUE \$410,000</p> 
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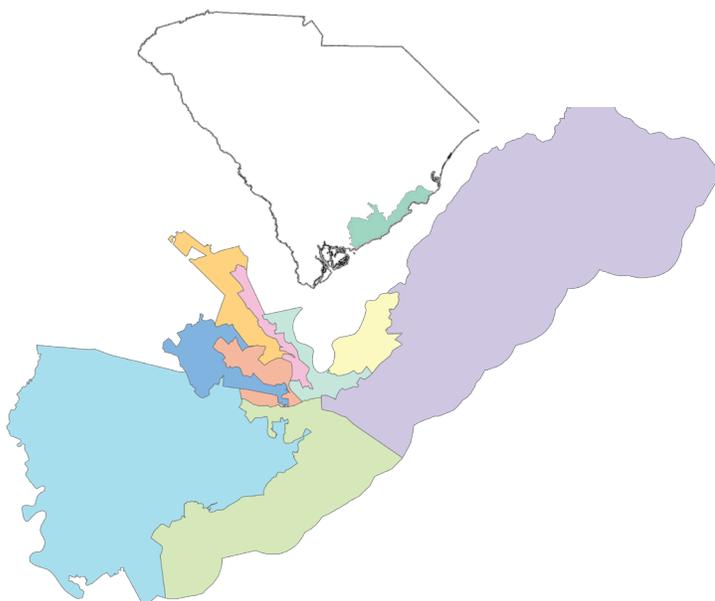
BEVERLY T CRAVEN COUNCIL CHAMBERS



Charleston County Council From Left to Right (back row) C. Brantley Moody, Teddie E. Pryor, Sr., Larry Kobrovsky, Jenny Costa Honeycutt, Joe Boykin, Robert Wehrman. (Front row) Clerk of Council Kristen Salisbury, Chairman Herbert Ravenel Sass, III, Administrator William L. Tuten, Attorney Natalie Ham.
Not Pictured: Rev. Kylon Jerome Middleton, Henry E. Darby

Charleston County Council

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 special revenue 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.



- 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: Kylon Jerome Middleton
- District 7: C. Brantley Moody
- District 8: Joe Boykin
- District 9: Jenny Costa Honeycutt

Elected Officials



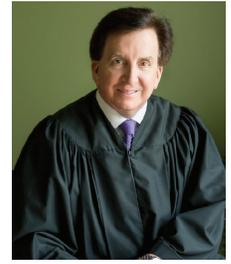
Auditor
Peter J. Tecklenburg



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
JoAnna Summey



Library Director
Angela Craig



Master-In-Equity
Mikell Scarborough



Public Defender
Cameron J. Blazer



Veterans Affairs
David LeBlanc, Sr.

Tourism Awards - 2023

- **The South's #1 Best City in 2023**
Southern Living
- **Charleston Named One of the Best Cities for Food in the U.S.**
Food & Wine: Global Tastemakers 2023
- **#1 Top City in the U.S. in 2023 - 11th consecutive year**
Travel + Leisure
- **#1 Small City in the U.S. in 2023 - second consecutive year and 12th time in the last 13 years**
Condé Nast Traveler Reader's Travel Awards 2023
- **Charleston ranked #5 in the U.S. for Local Restaurants in 2023**
Food & Wine
- **Folly Beach ranked #9 on the list of The South's Best Small Towns in 2023**
Southern Living
- **Charleston #2 on list of 'Best Food Destinations' in the U.S.**
Tripadvisor: Travelers' Choice 2023 Best of the Best



Joint Base Charleston is the County's largest employer.

10 Largest Employers

1. Joint Base Charleston: **24,900 employees**
2. Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC): **17,000 employees**
3. Boeing Charleston **6,500 employees**
4. Roper St. Francis Healthcare: **6,100 employees**
5. Charleston County School District: **6,000 employees**
6. Walmart, Inc.: **3,900 employees**
7. R.H. Johnson VA Medical Center: **3,250 employees**
8. Trident Health Systems: **3,100 employees**
9. County of Charleston: **2,800 employees**
10. U.S. Postal Service: **2,500 employees**

International African American Museum (IAAM)

The International African American Museum is a significant cultural institution spanning 42,300 square feet, dedicated to preserving and showcasing the rich history and contributions of African Americans. This museum was made possible through collaborative efforts, with Charleston County contributing \$12.5 million from accommodations taxes, complemented by support from the State of South Carolina, the City of Charleston, and private donors who collectively covered the remaining costs.



IAAM is located downtown at 14 Wharfside St., Charleston, SC
Courtesy of: Sahar-Coston-Hardy-Esto



GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

Three-Year Revenues and Expenditures (2021 - 2023) Does not include component units.

Revenues	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Property, Local Option Sales, Transportation Sales, and Other Taxes	\$420,767,055	\$462,637,578	\$468,409,334
Intergovernmental	\$75,216,717	\$93,976,192	\$91,623,912
Permits and Licenses*	\$7,021,530	\$8,279,978	\$10,575,299
Fines and Forfeitures	\$1,529,752	\$2,089,084	\$1,649,320
Interest**	\$1,821,556	\$3,746,795	\$45,644,257
Service Charges	\$31,395,488	\$46,303,778	\$42,938,187
Rental and Use of Property	\$170,617	\$97,934	\$196,102
Other Revenues	\$7,822,981	\$5,670,275	\$6,024,706
Total Revenues	\$545,745,696	\$622,801,614	\$667,061,117

Expenditures	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
General Government	\$96,219,780	\$84,687,044	\$89,535,534
Public Safety***	\$112,962,374	\$117,663,908	\$127,880,578
Judicial	\$32,580,047	\$35,519,017	\$37,627,266
Public Works	\$61,852,851	\$57,992,762	\$58,904,473
Health and Welfare	\$21,449,527	\$43,269,705	\$31,039,049
Economic Development	\$9,239,640	\$10,378,818	\$12,588,850
Culture and Recreation	\$49,821,916	\$47,085,016	\$59,644,493
Education	\$8,261,200	\$8,568,736	\$9,074,662
Capital Outlay	\$41,263,130	\$50,080,272	\$31,420,616
Debt Service****	\$95,918,800	\$79,252,717	\$121,406,173
Total Expenditures	\$529,569,265	\$534,497,995	\$579,121,694

Brief explanation regarding featured revenues and expenditures

Revenue Increases

*Permits and Licenses: Increase in revenues from building permits and business licenses.

**Interest: Increase in interest due to higher interest rate.

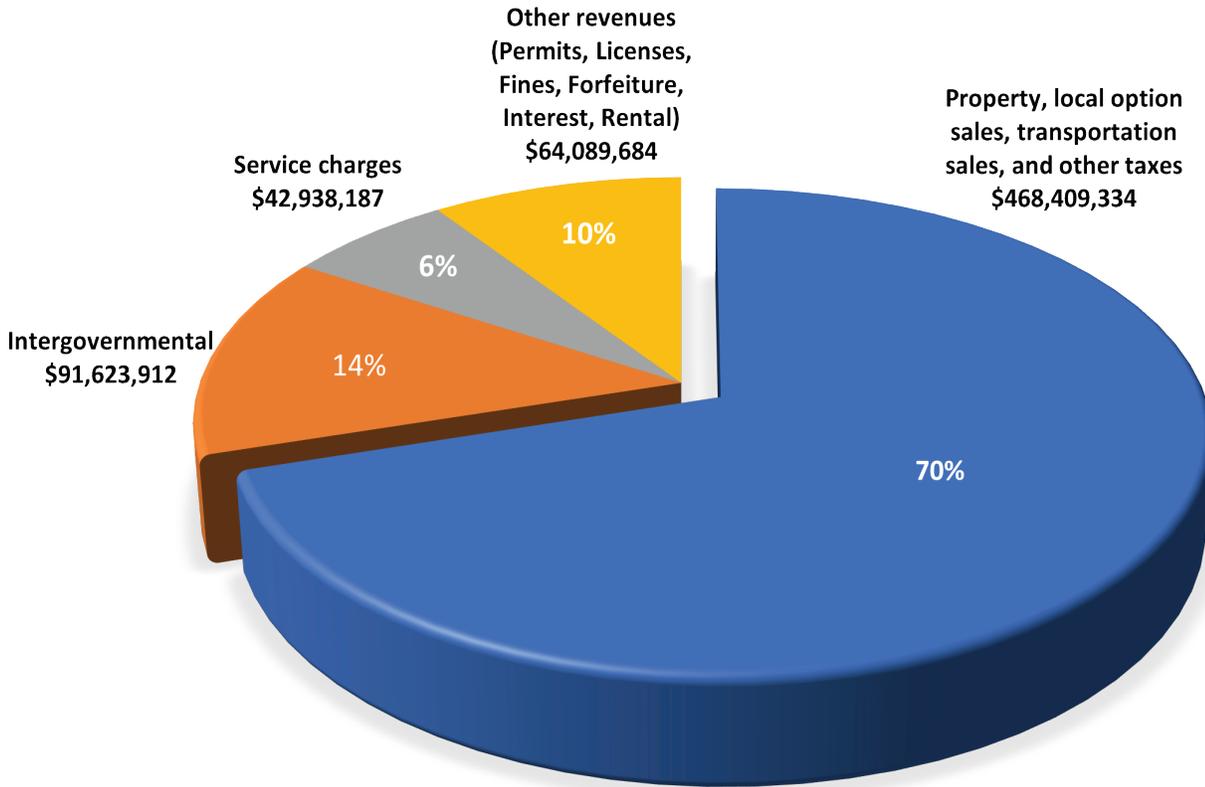
Expenditure Increases

***Public Safety: Increase due to overtime wages paid caused by staff shortages.

****Debt Service: Increase due to County issuing new debt for Transportation Sales Tax and general capital projects.

Revenues and Expenditures

- WHERE YOUR TAX REVENUES COME FROM -



- WHERE YOUR TAX DOLLARS GO -





PROGRAMS + DEPARTMENTS

Community Development and Revitalization

On June 9, 2023, Charleston County's Community Development and Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization departments became one department, Community Development and Revitalization (CDR). CDR administers **Urban Entitlement Funds, American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds, and Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) Funds.**

The **Urban Entitlement Funds** from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development are shared with the City of North Charleston and awarded to non-profit agencies (sub-recipients) to support programming aligned with the priority needs established in the **County's 2021-2025 Consolidated Plan.** The County receives funding for the **HOME Investment Partnership Program, Community Development Block Grant, and Emergency Solutions Grant** programs.

HOME Investment Partnership Program

A total of five affordable dwelling units were added during Program Year 2022:

- 3 new construction units for home ownership.
- 2 rehabilitated units for rental.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

- 6 condemned structures were demolished in the City of North Charleston.
- Public services were provided to 1,191 individuals.
- 101 persons were provided with overnight shelter.
- Emergency housing repairs for 33 Low-to-moderate income (LMI) households.

Emergency Solutions Grant

- Rapid rehousing was provided to 11 families experiencing housing insecurity.
- Overnight shelter was provided to 65 individuals experiencing homelessness.

Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)

This department managed the Emergency Rental Assistance Program funded by the U.S. Department of the Treasury (the program ended in April 2023). In fiscal year 2023, this program:

- Provided an additional \$5 million in rental assistance, for a total of \$35.8 million.
- Provided an additional \$0.3 million in utility assistance, for a total of \$2.1 million.
- Supported 4,416 tenants.
- Served 810 landlords.



New construction by Metanoia in North Charleston

American Rescue Plan Act

The County received close to \$80 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding in 2021 from the U.S. Department of Treasury. The County administers funds that enhance the quality of life for citizens while promoting economic growth. CDR will continue developing programs through December 2024. What follows is a sampling of ARPA-funded programs.

Microbusiness Pandemic Relief Grant

Providing financial relief to microbusinesses negatively impacted by the pandemic.

- 150 businesses received funding.
- \$2.6 million grants provided to microbusiness.

Nonprofit Pandemic Relief Grant

Providing financial relief to nonprofits negatively impacted by the pandemic.

- 38 businesses received funding.
- \$1.2 million grants provided to nonprofits.

Gap Financing/Infill Program

Creating affordable homes.

- 336 estimated number of homes/rental units to be built.
- \$10.2 million allocated.

Critical Home Repair Program

Keeping senior citizens in their homes.

- 121 homes repaired for senior citizens.
- \$3.0 million allocated to the repair of homes.

Wells, Septic Tanks, and Connections Programs

Providing clean water and safe sanitary waste disposal.

- 31 low- to-moderate income (LMI) households were provided access to clean water and sanitary sewer.
- \$5.5 million allocated.



North Bridge Townhomes
Charleston - Gap Financing/Infill
Program



Archer School Apartments
Charleston - Gap Financing /Infill
Program

Charleston County Public Library (CCPL)

- Received a **five-star rating** by the Library Journal Index. CCPL is one of only two library systems in South Carolina with a starred rating and the only five-star library in South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, or Florida.
- Partnered with American Heart Association to **offer Blood Pressure Monitoring Kits** at every library branch in Charleston County.
- Partnered with Lowcountry Food Bank to **provide over 11,000 meals and snacks** to the Kids Café Program and **over 21,000 meals and snacks** to kids and teens for the Summer Feeding Program.
- **32% growth in Summer Reading Program.**
- Launched new Storytime Program to increase literacy.



Flood Premium Discounts

Charleston County's Floodplain Management Division received a **Class 2 score** for its voluntary participation in the Community Rating System (CRS) Program. Participation in CRS through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) **allows residents to receive greater discounts on their flood insurance premiums.**

The Class 2 rating means **residents in unincorporated Charleston County will save \$40 for every \$100 spent on flood premiums.** Discounts went into effect October 1, 2023, and will not automatically update until a flood insurance policy "renews," so **individuals should contact their insurance agent** to ensure the new discount rate is applied as soon as it is available. In total, residents in unincorporated Charleston County will **save about \$5.2 million dollars a year.**



Woodland Shores Road

Not only does participation in the CRS save citizens money on their flood insurance premiums, but it also enhances public safety, reduces damages from flooding, and promotes environmental protection. Charleston County was previously considered a Class 3 community which meant a 35% discount on flood insurance. The Class 2 rating brings the discount up to 40%. **Charleston County is now the highest ranked Floodplain Management Program on the East Coast of the United States.**

Tri-County Biological Science Center

The Tri-County Biological Science Center will provide forensic DNA services for the Tri-County area and the municipalities within them. Berkeley and Dorchester Counties have each committed **\$1 million** while the State of South Carolina has contributed **\$3 million** from state appropriations towards the construction of the Biological Science Center..

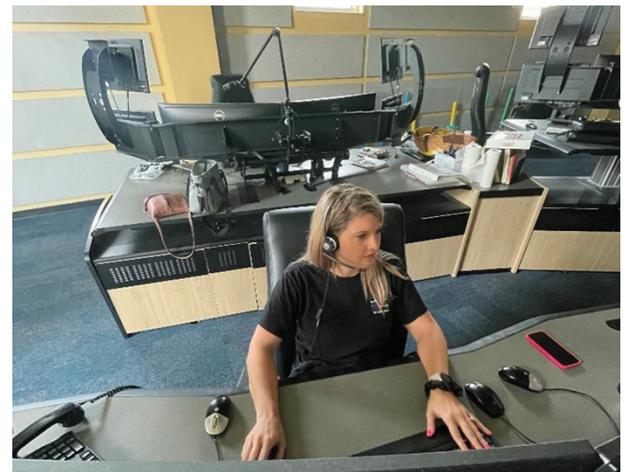


Home of the future Tri-County Biological Center

The Tri-County Biological Science Center will serve as a viable solution to the regional forensic testing needs of the area and provide timely analysis services. The laboratory will provide analysis of physical evidence for law enforcement agencies as well as assist the regional area Coroners Offices.

Consolidated Emergency Communications Center Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

- 9-1-1 handled **315,290 calls for service.**
- EMS handled **62,812 calls for service** and purchased **80 in-car camera systems.**



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 13 companies with announcements generating:

713 new jobs.

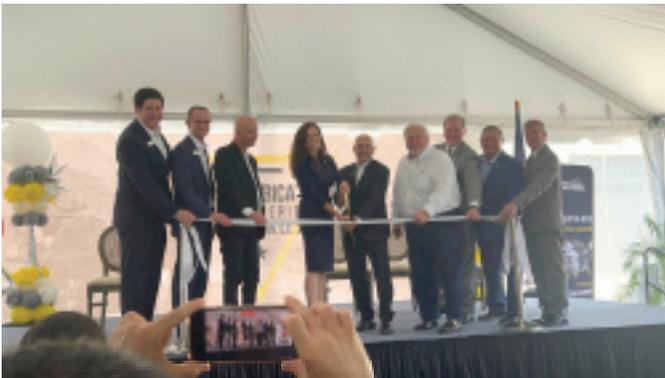
\$160 Million in capital investment.

\$63.4 Million in new annual payroll.

Five new companies recruited to Charleston County:



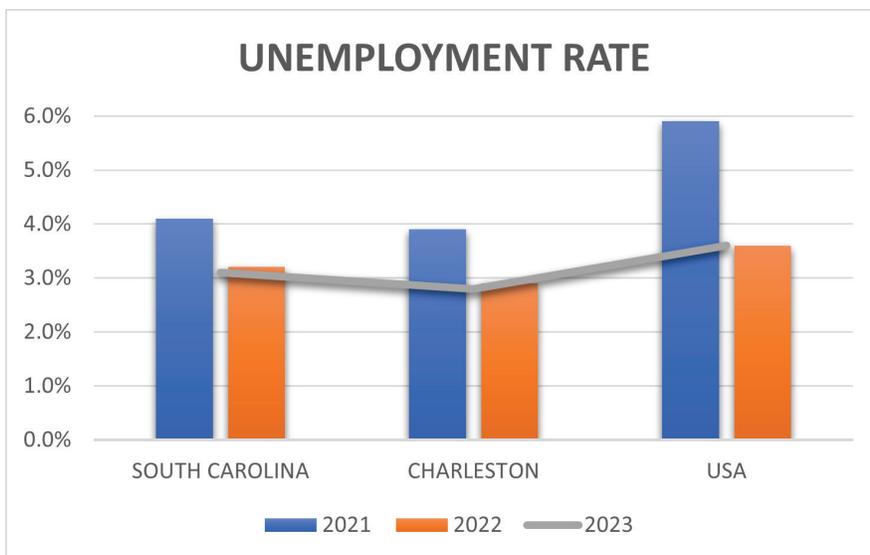
Eight existing companies expanded in Charleston County:



Elbit Systems of America Grand opening



Cummins Turbo Technologies Grand Opening



Public Works

Palmetto Commerce Interchange

A Transportation Sales Tax featured project, Palmetto Commerce Interchange, broke ground in June, 2023. Completing construction by 2027, the new interchange will reduce travel times, improve access options, and increase mobility along the I-26 and Ashley Phosphate corridor.



June 2023 - Palmetto Commerce Interchange Groundbreaking Ceremony

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 transportation improvements include:

- 4,300 linear feet of new sidewalk.
- 4,100 linear feet of dirt to paved roads.
- 25 miles resurfaced roads.
- 1,850 linear feet of installed drainage pipe.
- 350 feet of seawall bulkhead replaced.

Public Works Department Recognitions

Public Works won the 2023 American Public Works Association (APWA) **Technical Innovation Award** for its use of Titanium Dioxide (PlusTi) to preserve roads with high traffic and "heat islands".



The repaving of Murray Blvd won the **Project Delivery Award** from the South Carolina Asphalt Pavement Association. The project was completed ahead of schedule, constructed with minimal traffic delays, and minimal congestion.



The Steamboat Landing Seawall Repair Project on Edisto Island won the **Project of the Year Award** from the South Carolina Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA). The project featured the installation of 330 feet of seawall down a road that services a public boat landing. The project was evaluated based on safety, environmental considerations, public outreach, and its unique construction challenges.

Environmental Management

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:

- 112,972 tons recycled.
- 66,267 tons composted.
- Residents recycled 193 tons of electronic waste, 186 tons of used oil, and 3,126 tons of used tires at the eight Environmental Management Convenience Centers.



In 2022, Republic Services began collecting curbside recyclables which included expanding collection days from four days a week to five days a week.



The Learning Center at the state-of-the-art Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) is available to residents.

Greenbelt Program

Funds are used to acquire land providing public parks, greenspaces, 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 14 Greenbelt Projects:
- \$5,641,730 rural.
- \$7,676,150 urban.
- \$13,317,880 allocated in fiscal year 2023 to protect 871 acres.
- Protected and added 180 acres to the popular SC Dept. of Natural Resources Heritage Preserve at Botany Bay for a total of 4,600 total protected acres.



Botany Bay

Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS)

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

- 16 community Narcan trainings offered.
- 1,580 doses of Narcan distributed.
- 3,466 Fentanyl test strips distributed.
- Completed 91 youth tobacco education programs.
- Performed 60 HIV tests.
- Engaged in 15 community prevention events, reaching 1,187 citizens.
- Implemented a "fast-track" program for Medication Assisted Treatment with Roper St. Francis Emergency Department.
- Co-response models enacted, leading to partnerships with Mount Pleasant Police Department (MPPD) and Charleston County EMS providing 14 EMS and 29 MPPD post incident overdose follow-ups.



DAODAS is located in the Social Services Hub at 3685 Rivers Ave. North Charleston

Board of Voter Registration and Elections

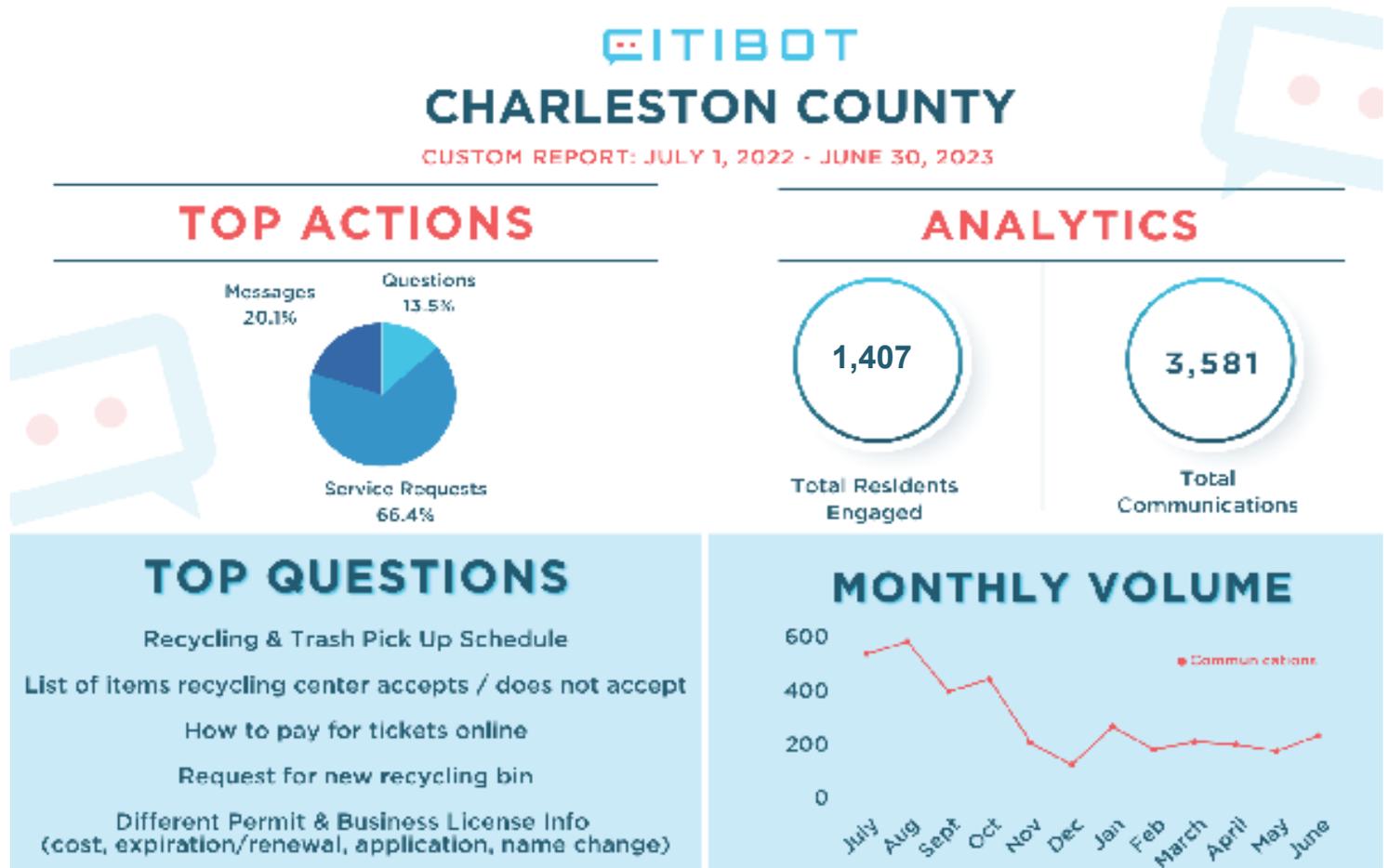
The Charleston County Board of Voter Registration and Elections is responsible for conducting all county, state, and federal elections that are held in Charleston County. The department also holds outreach events to assist and educate current and future voters.

- Won the Clearie Award for the Adopt a Polling Location (APL) and Day for Democracy (DFD) programs, our partnership with the Stingrays hockey team, and our support of the Charleston County Public Library's Free and Fresh program.
- Conducted early voting across seven Charleston County locations for the first time during the 2022 General Election, serving more than 66,000 voters throughout 12 days.
- Reached 58% turnout during the 2022 General Election, which was among the top counties in the state and surpassed the statewide average of 51%.
- Held seven elections, including statewide and municipal contests, all of which offered early voting.
- Successfully launched Adopt a Polling Location (APL) and Day for Democracy (DFD) initiatives, which staffed polling locations --APL raised over \$10,000 amid its six participating organizations, while DFD recruited and trained 128 Charleston County employees to serve as poll workers.



Citibot

With Citibot's smart text messaging, web chat, and interactive text alerts, Charleston County can operate more efficiently and provide **better customer service**. Residents can get answers to questions, make service requests, and send personalized messages. **Text HELLO to 843-800-4121.**





BUILDING PROJECTS

Teddie E. Pryor Sr., Social Services Hub

A 16-acre Charleston County Pinehaven Campus located in the heart of North Charleston, anchored by a three-story, 175,000 sf facility, designed to consolidate local and state social service programs in a single, centralized facility. The Social Services Hub houses the Department of Alcohol and other Drug Abuse Services (Charleston Center), Tricounty Crisis Stabilization Center, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control administration and clinics, the South Carolina Department of Social Services, and South Carolina Connections Medicaid.

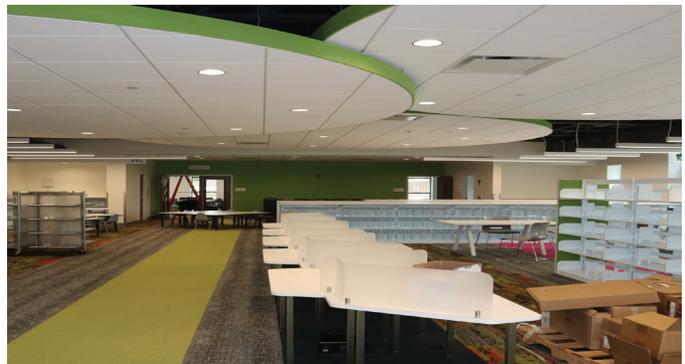
- New building and campus.
- Cost - \$61,409,000.
- Pinehaven Center, 3685 Rivers Ave, North Charleston 29405.
- Started September 23, 2019, Ribbon Cutting/opening – October 14, 2022.



Keith Summey North Charleston Library

20,000 sf library including automated material handling and self check-out, extensive computers, community rooms, separate teen and children's areas. The new library made an adaptive reuse of the Cooper River Memorial Library and includes a tribute wall to its history and the local community.

- New building.
- Cost - \$13,317,210.
- Pinehaven Center, 3503 Rivers Ave, North Charleston 29405.
- Started May 2021, Ribbon Cutting/opening – April 1, 2023.



Library Renovations

The following renovation projects brought existing libraries 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.

Mt. Pleasant Regional Library

- Renovation
- Cost - \$3,022,250.
- 1133 Mathis Ferry Rd, Mt Pleasant SC 29464.
- Started Oct 2021, Ribbon Cutting/opening – Aug 6, 2022.



Dorchester Road Library

- Renovation
- Cost - \$2,852,984.
- 6325 Dorchester Rd, North Charleston 29418.
- Started Oct 2021, Ribbon Cutting/opening – Oct 11, 2022.





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**? These departments have a live chat feature for your questions. You will find them at charlestoncounty.org/departments:

- Auditor's Office
- Board of Elections/Voter Registration
- Environmental Management
- Treasurer's Office (including Athena, a virtual assistant)



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/>

Quick Links



charlestoncounty.org



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[@CharlestonCountyGov](https://www.youtube.com/ChasCountyGov)



[@Charleston County Government](https://www.nextdoor.com/Charleston-County-Government)

Text HELLO to 843-800-4121

This report is intended to provide a brief summary of Charleston County Government operations for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023. A copy of 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:
Deputy Administrator of Finance
4045 Bridge View Drive
North Charleston, SC 29405
843-958-4062

charlestoncounty.org/financial-reports.php