



*Focus on the Future*



# New Initiatives for FY 2027

- Infrastructure & Capital Projects
  - Parks and Recreation prioritization
  - 2026 Transportation Sales Tax Referendum – Transportation Advisory Committee Established
- Strategic Investments & Modernization
  - New County website and data improvements
- Continued Fiscal Responsibility & Accountability
  - Continued County policy revisions
  - Evaluate funding of non-profits and outside agencies through a criteria-based review process

# Key Beaufort County Trends

- South Carolina is the fastest growing state in the U.S. at an average of **1.3% per year**
- Ridgeland area is growing at the incredible rate of **3.8%** followed by South of Broad at **2.4%**
- In 2017, over half of Beaufort County Residents commuted within 10 miles of work, but by 2024, more than half our residents commuted more than 10 miles to work
- Housing affordability continues to be an issue – home values have surged (ex: in 29902) averages went from \$110,000 in 2000 to \$407,000 in 2010
- Need to balance development pressures with land conservation



# What We're Doing - Conservation

## Green Space Program

- Approved by voters in 2022
- Collection ended in 2025, when funding goal of \$100m was reached
- Eight funded projects so far protecting approximately 7,100 acres through conservation easements and fee simple purchases
- Approximately \$75m remains available for qualified conservation projects



# What We're Doing - Conservation

## Plastics Ordinance Updates

- Original Ordinance Passed in 2018
- Working Group Brought Together in 2025 to Evaluate Plastic Reduction Efforts and Recommend Changes if Necessary
- Survey was Conducted for Community and Business Input with over 6,000 Responses
- Working Group is Sharing Initial Recommendations and Survey Results with Municipalities for Additional Input Before Coming Back to County Council



# What We've Done – Housing Initiatives

- BJHT – Beaufort County Council has partnered with Beaufort Jasper Housing Trust (BJHT) to find solutions for the affordability crisis
  - ARPA Funding - \$600,000 to establish BJHT plus over \$300,000 in funding to create new housing opportunities
  - A-Tax – over \$450,000 allocated to BJHT from state and local Accommodations Tax
- Beaufort Memorial Partnership – LiveWell Terrace
  - Workforce housing project that will create 120 affordable housing units
  - Made possible through land purchase by the County that was donated to the project
  - Project partners include St. Andrew By-The-Sea, BMH, Town of Bluffton



# What are we planning?

## Transportation Sales Tax Referendum

- A 1% local option sales tax
- Paid by residents and visitors
- Funds transportation improvement projects
- No increase in property taxes
- Requires voter approval



# How to Submit a Project

- Contact your TAC member at:

[Proposed 2026 Transportation Referendum – Beaufort County One Cent Sales Tax Program](http://www.beaufortcountypenny.com) – [www.beaufortcountypenny.com](http://www.beaufortcountypenny.com)

- Attend a meeting
  - One Community Input / Working Meeting coming up on April 22

## Stay Informed

Visit [www.beaufortcountypenny.com](http://www.beaufortcountypenny.com) to track project statuses, follow the TAC progress, watch previous meetings, and more

