CHARLESTON COUNTY
SOUTH CAROLINA

A CITIZENS FINANCIAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020
# Charleston County

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**CHARLESTON THE HOLY CITY**

There are many rumors as to how Charleston came to be known as the Holy City. The earliest settlers came from diverse backgrounds bringing numerous Protestant denominations as well as Judaism and Roman Catholicism. Some say Charleston earned its nickname due to its tolerance for all religions and numerous historic churches.

*Cover photo and photo above by: Kristen Lee*
Mt. Zion AME Church is the first brick building owned by Blacks in the City of Charleston purchased in 1882. Newly elected County Councilmember Rev. Dr. Kylon Middleton is the 33rd pastor of the church and continues its the legacy of social justice and racial equality.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OF FINANCE

To the Citizens of Charleston County:

As management of Charleston County, South Carolina, we offer Charleston County's Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. This report is written to communicate to its readers an understanding of the County's financial condition in a simple, transparent manner. The information is derived from the County's CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) that was audited by Scott & Company, LLC.

We are pleased Charleston County received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Excellence in Financial Reporting and the Distinguished Budget Presentation award for 32 and 31 years, consecutively. Charleston County received an award for its PAFR for the first time last year. Charleston County, through hard work and financial discipline, maintains the highest (AAA) bond rating with all three financial rating agencies. This consistency in financial discipline benefits the citizens of Charleston County with lower taxes and securing better interest rates when borrowing money for capital projects and programs.

This report highlights the County’s finances over the past fiscal year (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020). It shows 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. In addition, this PAFR shows the County’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic. For the full CAFR and other financial reports, please visit the County’s website at www.charlestoncounty.org/financial-reports.php.

Sincerely,
Corine Altenhein, Chief Financial Officer
It is our mission to promote and protect the quality of life in Charleston County by delivering services of value to the community.
Charleston County's Population at a Glance

411,000 Population with a Median Age of 37.2 years

35,000 Job Creation Forecast 2017-2022

$384,000 Median Home Sales Price in 2019

$61,028 Median Income

91.5% People with a High School Diploma

42.8% People with a Bachelor’s Degree or Higher 25 Years or Older

$210 Million Residential Value of Construction Permits

Joint Base Charleston 22,000
Medical University of South Carolina 16,000
Boeing Charleston 6,869
Charleston County School District 5,900
Roper St. Francis Healthcare 5,700
**Charleston County Government** 2,700
Walmart Inc. 2,300
College of Charleston 2,000
City of Charleston 1,700
Mercedes-Benz Vans LLC 1,600

*Approximate values*
CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL

Charleston County Council serves 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, solid waste fund, and several 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.

Back left: Jenny Costa Honeycutt, C. Brantley Moody - Vice Chairman, Teddie E. Pryor, Sr, Dickie Schweers, Herbert Sass III, Anna B. Johnson, A. Victor Rawl
Front Left: Joe Dawson - County Attorney, Kristen Salisbury - Clerk of Council, J. Elliott Summey - Chairman, William Tuten - Administrator
Not pictured: Henry E. Darby

District 1: Herbert Sass III
District 2: Dickie Schweers
District 3: J. Elliott Summey, Chairman
District 4: Henry E. Darby
District 5: Teddie E. Pryor, Sr.
District 6: A. Victor Rawl
District 7: C. Brantley Moody, Vice Chairman
District 8: Anna B. Johnson
District 9: Jenny Costa Honeycutt
ELECTED OFFICIALS

- Treasurer
  Mary Tinkler
- Auditor
  Peter J. Tecklenburg
- Probate Judge
  Irvin Condon
- Sheriff
  Al Cannon
- Coroner
  Rae Wooten
- Solicitor
  Scarlett Wilson

- Register of Deeds
  Michael Miller
- Clerk of Court
  Julie Armstrong

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

- Board of Elections
  Joe Debney
- Veterans Affairs
  David LeBlanc, Sr.
- Master-in-Equity
  Mikell Scarborough
- Chief Magistrate
  Thomas Lynn
- Library Director
  Angela Craig
- Public Defender
  Ashley Pennington
Charleston County has maintained the highest financial rating a government can achieve from the financial rating agencies for the last ten years.

BUDGET

Highlights:

- Total operating budget: $267 million
- Increase to County’s total net position: $61,280
- Combined fund balance increase of $143,152
- The millage rate remained 44.7 with no increase from FY 2019

Charleston County has maintained the highest financial rating a government can achieve from the financial rating agencies for the last ten years.
WHERE DO YOUR TAX DOLLARS GO?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Gov’t</td>
<td>$76,452,987</td>
<td>$84,904,532</td>
<td>$84,377,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Safety</td>
<td>$104,176,006</td>
<td>$109,835,878</td>
<td>$117,771,738</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judicial</td>
<td>$30,657,091</td>
<td>$31,809,574</td>
<td>$32,671,977</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Works</td>
<td>$104,852,425</td>
<td>$51,713,932</td>
<td>$71,203,815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Welfare</td>
<td>$6,316,139</td>
<td>$5,697,777</td>
<td>$7,499,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Dev.</td>
<td>$16,867,813</td>
<td>$6,197,411</td>
<td>$15,077,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture/Recreation</td>
<td>$33,473,893</td>
<td>$35,686,624</td>
<td>$52,402,594</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$7,139,713</td>
<td>$7,451,651</td>
<td>$7,825,694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Servs.</td>
<td>$66,627,047</td>
<td>$75,347,457</td>
<td>$74,725,196</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

- **Intergovernmental** $74,441,354.00 15%
- **Other revenues** $5,882,264.00 1%
- **Property, local option sales, transportation sales, and other taxes** $379,792,508.00 75%
- **Service charges** $30,809,851.00 6%
- **Interest** $10,444,500.67 2%
- **Permits and licenses** $6,021,901.00 1%
- **Fines and forfeitures** $1,719,007.00 <1%
- **Rental and use of property** $243,914.00 <1%
NAVIGATING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
MOBILE COVID-19 TESTING AND VIRTUAL SERVICES

Mobile COVID-19 testing site

Charleston County Facilities building testing booths.

SC National Guard cleaning the Public Services Building as part of a training exercise

Ballot drop box

Virtual community meeting
COVID-19 RESPONSE

• Charleston County offices closed to the public in March.

• The majority of services moved online, by phone or email.

• Drop boxes were provided for real estate transactions, legal services, and for mail-in absentee ballots during the June 2020 primary election.

• Staff created the Live Online Virtual E-Application (LOVE) to process thousands of marriage licenses electronically.

• Economic Development distributed 50,000 face masks and 505 no-contact thermometers to local businesses.

• Received more than a million dollars in CARES Act funding distributed to local community groups.

• 527 VPN accounts, 68 Webex accounts, and 93 loaner computers were issued to employees.

Charleston County Tests Thousands of Citizens

• Partnered with federally recognized non-profit Fetter Healthcare.

• Worked with faith-based community to bring testing to rural and underserved areas.

• More than 6,100 tests administered at 21 different sites. Charleston County Facilities Department built booths to save money and keep citizens and workers safe.

• Outreach done in Spanish and English through social media, churches, and traditional media outlets.

• 60,000 PPE distributed to local public safety and private health care.
PUBLIC SAFETY

Charleston County Government formed the Public Safety directorate consisting of four existing departments, Emergency Medical Services, Consolidated Dispatch, Emergency Management and the Awendaw Fire Department to enhance the safety of our citizens. They respond to emergencies and identify new trends and changing conditions to prepare for emerging threats, both manmade and natural.

Charleston County Consolidated Dispatch received **894,609** calls for service.

Charleston County Emergency Medical Services responded to **58,730** calls with a **9:14** average response time.

Charleston County Emergency Management activated the Emergency Operations Center in response to Hurricane Dorian. There were daily briefings and news conferences to keep the public aware of potential impacts from the storm.

Pictured left: Emergency Management Director Jason Patno participating in a Skype with CNN. This was one of several national and local media interviews
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Charleston County's Greenbelt Program
awarded $6.2 million and protected 677 acres of land. Two featured projects included protecting Boone Hall Plantation (pictured above) and adding 55 acres to the Town of Meggett's Roxbury Park (pictured right).

The Charleston Center for Drug and Alcohol Abuse Strategic Opioid Response
The Center distributed:
• 3,000 packs of drug disposal bags
• 5,000 DisposeRx packets
• 1,600 timer and safe-lock medicine bottles
• 590 lock boxes for safe medicine storage

Charleston County Community Development received federal Housing and Urban Development Funding, helping more than 1,000 citizens with shelter, emergency repairs, legal assistance, medical services, education programs, and other assistance.
PUBLIC SERVICES

Public Works: Transportation

- Treated 61 miles of pavement.
- Over 1 million feet of stormwater pipe added to the County asset management system to begin field verification.
- The State Infrastructure Bank awarded $4,785,500 for the Main Road Segment C Project, a project to improve mobility and pedestrian safety along one of the fastest growing corridors.

Public Works: Mosquito Control

- Spray trucks completed 337 missions covering 952,362 acres.
- About 24,000 acres sprayed by plane for adulticide and larvicide.
- About 9,600 acres sprayed by helicopter for larvicide.
- Responded to 2,274 requests for service.
**Environmental Management**

- Processed **39,507** tons of recycled material.
- Managed the Bees Ferry Landfill and eight staffed convenience center drop-off locations.
- Extensive public education and outreach focused on the importance of “Recycling Right” and avoiding contamination.

**Fleet Services**

- Maintains **994** County vehicles.
- Completed **8,706** work orders, repairs and preventative maintenance.
- Outfitted a new mobile library.
- Built a new fueling site at the Materials Recovery Center.
- Selected as one of the Top 50 Fleets in America.
- Only South Carolina Government fleet "Triple Certified."

**Fuel Cost Accounting System**
Community engagement is one of the Charleston County Library's core principles. The library relied on feedback from the public and staff to help shape each of the new libraries. Before the design process began, the library held community meetings and conducted online surveys for the public to share ideas for how the spaces would be used and for innovations they wanted to incorporate into the new libraries. Their input helped design the spaces and programs so they catered to the interests of the patrons in that particular area.
Teamwork • safety • diversity • customer service excellence

Mt. Pleasant’s Christ Church Anglican has been a place of worship for more than 300 years. In 1708, a small wooden building was built on this site but was destroyed in a fire in 1725. It was rebuilt and burned down again towards the end of the Civil War. It was restored in 1939 and again after Hurricane Hugo in 1989, and again in 2014. Photo by Katy Hunter

AWARDS AND INITIATIVES

Charleston County Council Chairman Elliott Summey raises new Charleston County flag. Employees submitted designs and a ceremony was held to showcase the winner and in memory of recently lost employees.

Charleston County Economic Development wins top honors for video “Charleston Tech: Our Time is Now.”

Charleston County Council hired its first ombudsman, Carter McMillan, who represents the interests of the public by investigating and addressing citizens’ complaints and issues.

Mt. Pleasant’s Christ Church Anglican has been a place of worship for more than 300 years. In 1708, a small wooden building was built on this site but was destroyed in a fire in 1725. It was rebuilt and burned down again towards the end of the Civil War. It was restored in 1939 and again after Hurricane Hugo in 1989, and again in 2014. Photo by Katy Hunter
This brochure is intended to provide a brief summary of Charleston County Government operations for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. A copy of the County’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Report is available at https://www.charlestoncounty.org/financial-reports.php. This report is a summary and certain financial statements, including all GAAP required disclosures are omitted.

Founded in 1749, Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim (KKBE) is one of the oldest Jewish congregations in America and is known as the birthplace of American Reform Judaism. Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1980, KKBE’s sanctuary is the oldest in continuous use for Jewish worship in America, and received a full renovation in 2019.

Photo by: Steven Hyatt