

County Advisory Referendums

SCAC Survey: March 2012

SCAC Questionnaire: Has your county ever held an advisory referendum? If so, when and what was the question?

Charleston County

November 2011 – *“Should Charleston County Council appoint a consolidated charter commission for the purpose of preparing a proposed charter to establish countywide consolidation of local government function or functions?”*
The Referendum passed with 60% of the vote.

Dorchester

County provided information about three advisory referendums provided (listed below) but also indicated that they have held other advisory referendums.

November 2010 – *“Shall Dorchester County, South Carolina be authorized to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000, for the purpose of protecting and improving land and water by purchasing land from willing sellers on a voluntary basis in order to protect drinking water sources; protect forests, wildlife habitat, and natural areas; reduce flooding; provide parks; preserve historic buildings and sites; protect scenic views; provide new recreational trails for walking, hiking, and biking; and improve the water quality of rivers, lakes, and streams; subject to an annual independent audit of spending?”* The referendum passed.

November 2006 – *“Do you support the County Council of Dorchester County, South Carolina levying not less than 1 mill in additional ad valorem property taxes to be used to operate a Child Advocacy Center in Dorchester County to provide services for Abused and/or neglected children?”*

November 1980 – Referendum question was held within the geographic boundaries of the Givhans Fire District special purpose district and pertained to operations of the fire district. The question was whether the county would operate the fire district or appoint a five-member commission to run the district.

Horry County

Nov 2010 – Referendum question was related to increasing county funding to the local mass transportation organization. The referendum passed.

Lancaster County

2004 and 2010 – Both times related to the creation of a Fire Protection District and fee. The 2010 referendum passed.

Laurens County

Approx. 1990 - Referendum question was whether the county should implement land use planning and zoning. The referendum did not pass.

The following counties indicated that they have not, to knowledge of the current administration, ever held an advisory referendum.

Aiken
Allendale
Barnwell
Berkeley
Chester

Edgefield
Florence
Georgetown
Hampton
Jasper

Lee
Lexington
Newberry
Sumter
Williamsburg