

From the Office of Senator Tom Davis:

SUMMARY OF FY 2023-2024 LEGISLATION PASSED BY SC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- S. 39 – Education Scholarship Trust Funds: Benefits financially disadvantaged students
- S. 96 – Boater Education: Boaters born after 7/1/2007 must complete a safety education course
- S. 108 – First Responder Death Benefits: In line of duty, family gets \$75k; \$150k if person killed
- S. 164 – Certificate of Need Repeal: Eliminates CON requirements for health care facilities
- S. 284 – Accommodation Taxes: Locals may use up to 15% of the A-Tax for workforce housing
- S. 424 – Abortion: Bans abortions after heartbeat detected (six weeks), with exceptions
- S. 381 – Constitutional Amendments: General Reserves 5% to 7%, Capital Reserves 2% to 3%
- S. 399 – DHEC Restructuring: Now two departments; Environmental Services and Public Health
- H. 3503 – Fentanyl Trafficking: New crime for sale/manufacture/delivery/purchase of 4 grams
- H. 3532 – Bond reform – enhanced penalties committing another crime while out on bond
- H. 3553 – Adoptions: Eliminate Streamlines proceedings, creates tax credit for adoptive parents.
- H. 3604 – Project Connect: \$1.291B in infrastructure to bring Scout Motors to Richland County
- H. 3726 – Workforce Development: Department of Commerce responsibility transfer to DEW
- H. 3908 – Paid Teacher Leave: Payment follows birth or adoption of child, foster care placement

TOM DAVIS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 2024-2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- Restructuring of all agencies providing public health services
- Reforms to energy generation markets – increase competition.
- Hate Crimes – enhanced penalties can be authorized by judges
- Legalization of medical cannabis, subject to physician oversight
- Reforms to scope of practice – nurse practitioners
- LCI deregulation -- common law vs. state agency regulations
- Jasper port – SC Ports Authority transfer to Southern Carolina Alliance
- Implementation of plan for \$100 million in local greenspace revenues to buy open space
- 278 bridge corridor -- SCDOT, State Infrastructure Bank, Town of HHI, Beaufort County
- Mitchelville, HHI Gullah Neighborhoods CDC, I-95 improvements, HHI airport

SUMMARY OF THE FY 2023-2024 SC GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUDGET

The total general fund revenues were \$12.5 billion; the very first appropriations were:

- \$795 million to property tax relief and \$96.2 million to the 2022 income tax cut
- Increases in general and capital reserves to \$715.2 million and \$390.1 million

Next, of the remaining amount, statewide priorities were addressed that include:

- \$205.7 million (in addition to \$2.5 billion in gas taxes) for roads and bridges
- \$172.9 million to increase K-12 teachers' salaries to above Southeastern average
- Funding increases for school resource officers; now every school has them
- Increases in funding for recruitment and retention pay raises for law enforcement

Then, after funding tax relief and core government functions, there are local priorities:

- \$10,000,000 to USCB for convocation center, \$500,000 for Pritchard's Island
- \$11,500,000 to TCL for a new workforce development center
- \$1,500,000 to Southern Carolina Alliance for the Jasper port
- \$922,000 to Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park
- \$900,000 to the Port Royal Sound Maritime Center
- \$300,000 to Bluffton-Jasper County Volunteers in Medicine
- \$3,000,000 to Beaufort-Jasper Regional Housing Authority
- \$2,000,000 to Hilton Head Regional Habitat for Humanity
- \$500,000 to the Waddell Mariculture Center for renovations
- \$1,000,000 to Osprey Village for special-needs neighborhood
- \$2,000,000 to the Town of Bluffton for a linear walking trail
- \$1,000,000 to the Town of Port Royal for repairs to shrimp docks
- \$500,000 to the Beaufort County Sheriff for a crime lab
- \$300,000 to the Town of Hilton Head Island for bridge improvement study
- \$750,000 to assist with relocation of St. James Baptist Church

That's a total of \$36,672,000 in local appropriations for priorities in Beaufort and Jasper counties. For context, when J started serving in the South Carolina Senate in 2009, these two counties received less than \$1 million in such appropriations.