

2024 TRANSPORTATION SALES & USE TAX REFERENDUM

VOTE NOVEMBER 5, 2024

Yes or No? The decision is yours, Beaufort County Voters.

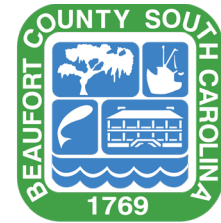
The goals of the proposed 2024 Sales and Use Tax Referendum (the penny tax) are to address Beaufort County infrastructure needs through the completion of transportation and mobility projects amidst growth in our region. According to the latest census data, South Carolina is the fastest-growing state in the nation, and Beaufort County is one of the fastest-growing counties within South Carolina. The referendum question, to be placed on the ballot in November 2024, will ask voters to approve a one percent (1%) sales and use tax in Beaufort County beginning the following year (2025) and continuing for ten (10) years, or until \$950 million in funds are raised, whichever occurs first.

WHAT'S IN QUESTION 1?

- 1% sales tax levied on most retail purchases. Exceptions to the tax include rent/mortgage, fuel, unprepared foods, medical prescriptions, and supplies.
- 10-year authorization or \$950 million in raised funds (whichever comes first)
- 95% to transportation purposes, or \$900 million
- 5% to greenbelt (land and water protection purposes), or \$50 million
- County will seek state and federal matching funds
- All expenditures are subject to full public disclosure
- Establishment of a Citizens Led Oversight Committee representing Beaufort, Port Royal, Bluffton, Hilton Head, and Beaufort County to oversee project prioritization and expenditures

WHAT'S IN QUESTION 2?

Approval to bond \$515 million of funds from Question 1 to potentially build some projects sooner.



VOTE EARLY OR ON ELECTION DAY

You may vote at your precinct from 7 AM to 7 PM on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5. All are eligible to vote early from Monday, October 21 to Saturday, November 2 (except Sunday, Oct 27), from 8:30 AM to 6 PM.

There are four Early Voting Centers in Beaufort County:

- **BEAUFORT** (Main office)
15 John Galt Rd
Beaufort, SC 29906
- **BLUFFTON**
Bluffton Recreation Center Gym
61A Ulmer Rd
Bluffton, SC 29910
- **HILTON HEAD**
USCB - Hilton Head Campus
Room 115
1 Sand Shark Dr
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928
- **ST. HELENA**
St. Helena Branch Library
6355 Jonathan Francis Senior Rd.
St. Helena Island, SC 29920

View your Sample Ballot by visiting scvotes.gov. Beaufort County questions 1 & 2 will be at the end of the ballot.



Visit www.beaufortcountypenny.com to learn more.

BEAUFORT COUNTY SPECIAL SALES AND USE TAX

Question 1

I approve a special sales and use tax in the amount of one percent (1%) to be imposed in Beaufort County for not more than ten (10) years, or until a total of \$950,000,000 in resulting revenue has been collected, whichever occurs first, to fund the following projects:

Project (1) For financing the costs of highways, roads, streets, bridges, and other transportation-related projects facilities related thereto including, but not limited to, drainage facilities relating to the highways, roads, streets, bridges, and other transportation-related projects; and mass transit systems operated by Beaufort County or jointly operated by the County and other governmental entities \$900,000,000.

Project (2) For financing the costs of greenbelt initiatives \$50,000,000.

Instructions to Voters: All qualified electors desiring to vote in favor of levying the special sales and use tax shall vote “YES” and All qualified electors opposed to levying the special sales and use tax shall vote “NO.”

_____ Yes, In favor of the question

_____ No, Opposed to the question

Question 2

I approve the issuance of not exceeding \$515,000,000 of general obligation bonds of Beaufort County, maturing over a period not to exceed ten (10) years and payable from the special sales and use tax described in Question 1 above, to fund completion of projects from among the categories described in Question 1 above.

Instructions to Voters: All qualified electors desiring to vote in favor of levying the special sales and use tax shall vote “YES” and All qualified electors opposed to levying the special sales and use tax shall vote “NO.”

_____ Yes, In favor of the question

_____ No, Opposed to the question

How were the projects chosen?

A 17-member Citizen’s Sales Tax Advisory Committee (STAC 1.0) was first established in January 2022 and provided a recommendation to County Council in May 2022 that included a list of projects throughout the County, but did not move forward due to the Green Space Sales tax being voted on and approved.

In July 2023, County Council re-established a citizens Sales Tax Advisory Committee (STAC 2.0) to develop an updated list of projects for consideration. The STAC 2.0 used the STAC 1.0 recommendations as starting point. They reevaluated and adjusted the project list and presented an updated recommendation to Council in December 2023. Council then held a series of 5 informational sessions, during which citizen feedback was gathered. The Public Facilities and Safety Committee then incorporated that feedback into the modified amounts, project list, and questions you will find on the ballot this November.

What is the CLOC?

If approved, a Citizens Led Oversight Committee would be established, similar to that in use at the Beaufort County School District. This would be a volunteer group representing County municipalities as well as unincorporated Beaufort County, and will oversee the referendum projects, schedules, and expenditures.

PROPOSED COUNTY-WIDE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS



The Triangle (SC 170, US 278, Argent Blvd) (\$120,000,000)

Capacity and safety improvements will be made along the sections of SC 170, US 278, and Argent Blvd that form a triangle. This project will be developed in collaboration with Jasper County.

Ribaut Road Improvements (\$75,000,000)

Enhancements will be made along the Ribaut Road Corridor, between Boundary Street and the Russell Bell Bridge, to improve safety, accessibility, pedestrian access, and streetscaping. The project will also address underground utilities and specific improvements to the Lady's Island Drive intersection for enhanced traffic flow and safety.

SC 46 Improvements (\$50,000,000)

Capacity and safety upgrades will be implemented along SC 46 from SC 170 to Jasper County. Additional safety measures, such as turn lanes at intersections, will be added along SC 46 from SC 170 to Buckwalter Parkway. All improvements will be designed to preserve the South Carolina Scenic Byway designation.

US 278 Corridor Improvements (\$90,000,000)

Capacity and safety enhancements will be made along US 278 from Moss Creek Drive to Spanish Wells Road. This funding will supplement the monies approved in the 2018 Transportation Sales Tax.

Lady's Island Corridor Improvements (\$60,000,000)

Traffic improvements will be implemented along the Lady's Island Corridor, from the Woods Memorial Bridge to Chowan Creek. These funds will supplement the 2018 Transportation Sales Tax monies.

2018 Existing Pathway Projects (\$30,000,000)

Funds will be allocated for the completion and repair of sidewalks and multi-use pathways throughout Beaufort County, addressing projects left unfinished from the 2018 Transportation Sales Tax. This funding will complement the amounts already approved.

Hilton Head Island Municipal Projects (\$30,000,000)

Intersection improvements, including Sea Pines Circle and adjacent corridors, will be prioritized for the safety of motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Projects will align with the Town of Hilton Head's priorities.

Bluffton Municipal Projects (\$30,000,000)

The funds will be used to implement projects prioritized by the Bluffton Town Council, with the exception of Bluffton Parkway 5B (which is defined with limits between Buck Island Road and Buckwalter Parkway). All projects will be based on the town's specific needs.

Visit www.beaufortcountypenny.com to learn more.



North of the Broad Transportation System Improvements (\$30,000,000)

\$10M will be allocated to each the City of Beaufort, the Town of Port Royal, and Northern Beaufort County for improvements, including intersection upgrades, pathways, flood prevention, and other safety and traffic improvements. Projects will be coordinated with the priorities of each jurisdiction.

Mass Transit (\$80,000,000)

This funding will support public transportation for residents, covering operational expenses for existing services, capital improvements, and for the provision of expanded services. Projects may include capacity improvements, new or expanded terminals, parking facilities, route enhancements, or ferry embarkation expansions. Services may involve buses, ferries, or airports.

Safety and Traffic Flow (\$100,000,000)

Funds will be utilized on individual projects throughout the County that improve road safety and reduce congestion. Enhancements may include new traffic signals, signal retiming, turn lane upgrades, corridor improvements, road restriping, new roads, and intersection upgrades.

Emergency Evacuation and Resiliency (\$55,000,000)

Funds will be allocated for roadway improvements aimed at strengthening the County's transportation network against flooding and storm impacts. Projects may involve upgrading causeways and bridges to better withstand severe weather, implementing nature-based solutions to prevent erosion, and reinforcing evacuation routes.

Pavement Resurfacing and Preservation (\$50,000,000)

This project will focus on resurfacing and preserving all public roadways (state, county, and municipally owned) within the County, with the goal of improving overall pavement conditions.

Dirt Road Paving (\$80,000,000)

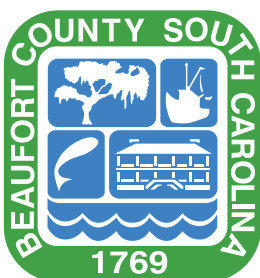
These funds will accelerate the County's goal of paving all county-owned and municipally owned dirt roads. The project will cover design, permitting, right-of-way acquisition, and construction.

Pathways (\$20,000,000)

This project will fund the design and construction of new sidewalks, multi-use pathways, and pedestrian accommodations. Priorities will be based on County-approved planning documents and efforts to improve pedestrian and cyclist connectivity, with a focus on safe access to schools, parks, and walkable communities.

Greenbelts (\$50,000,000)

This project will finance greenbelt initiatives to reduce congestion, promote recreation, and preserve landscapes. Initiatives may include but are not limited to purchasing property for conservation, creating active and passive green space, protecting natural resources, protecting scenic corridors, and developing green spaces for linear parks, trails, and pathways.



For more information on Beaufort County Referendum Questions 1 & 2 on your November 5, 2024 Ballot, please visit www.beaufortcountypenny.com

For more information on voting locations, times and procedures, please visit scvotes.gov or beaufortcountysc.gov/vote