

Introductory Section

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Greenville County's GHS Swamp Rabbit Trail is an award winning 18.7 mile greenway that runs through the heart of the County. Connecting the City of Travelers Rest to downtown Greenville and beyond, the widely popular trail is used by more than 450,000 residents and visitors annually with a direct tourism economic impact of nearly \$7 million.



Joseph M. Kernal
County Administrator
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(864) 467-7105
www.greenvillevcounty.org

October 26, 2015

To the Honorable Chairman, Members of County Council, and Citizens of Greenville County:

We are pleased to present this Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for Greenville County, South Carolina (the County). The South Carolina Code of Laws along with the Federal Single Audit Act of 1984 requires that all general-purpose local governments publish, within six months of the close of each fiscal year, a complete set of financial statements presented in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP) and audited in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America by a firm of licensed certified public accountants.

Management of the County assumes full responsibility for the completeness and reliability of the information contained in this report, based upon a comprehensive internal control framework established for that purpose. Because the cost of internal controls should not exceed anticipated benefits, the objective is to provide reasonable rather than absolute assurance that the financial statements will be free from material misstatement.

Elliott Davis Decosimo LLC has issued an unmodified (“clean”) opinion on Greenville County’s financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015. Their report is presented as the first component in the financial section of this report. The independent audit was part of a broader, federally mandated “Single Audit” designed to meet the special needs of federal grantor agencies. The standards governing Single Audit engagements require the independent auditor to report not only on the fair presentation of the financial statements, but also on internal controls and compliance with legal requirements, with special emphasis on internal controls and legal requirements involving the administration of federal awards. These reports are presented in the Single Audit Section of the CAFR.

Management’s Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) immediately follows the independent auditor’s report and provides a narrative introduction, overview, and analysis of the basic financial statements. This transmittal letter is designed to complement the MD&A and should be read in conjunction with it.

Profile of Greenville County

The County, located in the “Upstate” of South Carolina, is a progressive, high-growth area for high technology manufacturing, corporate headquarters and international business investment. Greenville County, the largest county in South Carolina, occupies a land area of approximately 789 square miles and serves a population currently estimated at 481,317. The County is empowered to levy real and personal property taxes to support government operations for the citizens it serves.

The South Carolina General Assembly established Greenville County in 1786 and County Council in 1967. In 1973, a County Executive was appointed to oversee the daily operation of delivering county government services. In 1976, the County adopted the Council-Administrator form of government in accordance with the “Home Rule Act.”

The County Council consists of twelve members elected for four-year staggered terms and is the legislative, policy-making body. The Council appoints the County Attorney, Clerk to Council and County Administrator. The County Administrator is responsible for day-to-day operations, implementation of Council policy and appointment of senior level county staff. The following seven officials are elected: Auditor, Treasurer, Register of Deeds, Clerk of Court, Sheriff, Coroner and Probate Judge.

Greenville County provides a full range of government services including law enforcement, judicial system, recreation, health services, social services, emergency medical transport, construction, infrastructure maintenance and comprehensive planning. A five-member Soil and Water Commission also serves Greenville County.

In addition to the various operational departments of the County, two blended component units are included within the financial information presented for the primary government. These include the Greenville County Public Facilities Corporation established in 1991 and the Greenville County Tourism Public Facilities Corporation established in 2008. Financial transactions are processed through the County's financial system and are a part of the County's audit.

The County also includes separate financial information for the following two discretely presented component units:

The Greenville County Redevelopment Authority was created in 1969 under the provisions of Act 516 of the South Carolina General Assembly. The Authority's mission is to improve the quality of life for low and moderate-income citizens of the County through improved affordable housing. The Greenville County Council appoints all board members, approves federal grant requests and is financially accountable for any deficits. The Authority issues separate audited financial statements which are available at the Authority's offices located at County Square.

The Greenville County Library was created by County Council in 1979. The Library board consists of eleven members appointed by County Council. The Library issues separate audited financial statements which are available at the main Library.

State law requires that all political subdivisions of the State adopt balanced budgets. Further, each county council is required to adopt annually and prior to the beginning of the fiscal year operating and capital budgets for the operation of county government. Greenville County's biennium budget serves as the foundation for the County's financial planning and control. Although the level of budgetary control (that is, the level at which expenditures cannot legally exceed the appropriated amount) is established by fund, budgetary controls are exercised at lower levels of detail as well. The County Administrator is authorized to transfer budgeted amounts within a department. County Council must approve any revisions that alter the total budget of any department. The County also maintains an encumbrance accounting system as one technique of accomplishing budgetary control. Unencumbered budget amounts lapse at the end of each year, except those established for capital projects or grants that carry over to the next fiscal year.

Economic Condition of Greenville County

Local economy

Greenville County is the centerpiece of the region considered to be the "economic engine of South Carolina." Situated in the northwestern corner of the state, Greenville County is part of one of the nation's fastest growing areas, "The I-85 Corridor." Greenville is located between Atlanta, Georgia and Charlotte, North Carolina on I-85. The Atlantic Ocean and Port of Charleston are 200 miles to the Southeast down I-26, and the Blue Ridge Mountains are just 15 minutes away. The Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport is the busiest in the state and is served by most major airlines.

Greenville has what it takes to attract coveted new jobs and investment: skilled worker availability, exceptional quality of life, top ten Technical College, Blue Ribbon K-12 schools, low cost of living, low cost of doing business, excellent interstate access and numerous colleges and universities. With these competitive advantages, it is easy to understand why an impressive and diverse collection of international and domestic firms has already selected the region for their businesses. From disaster recovery software to polymer technology, biomedical engineering to molecular diagnostics, Greenville is home to a burgeoning tech ecosystem.

Businesses locating or expanding operations in Greenville during the year include the following: O'Neal will expand its engineering and construction headquarters with a \$5 million investment, a \$6.5 million expansion at the Synnex headquarters will allow the hiring of 150 additional employees, and Pantex Americas will establish its first U.S. facility with a \$10.4 million investment.

Greenville County is the most populous county in the state of South Carolina. Below is a trend analysis showing the population growth for the past fifty years.

Greenville County Population

2015 (Estimate)	481,317
2000	379,616
1990	320,167
1980	287,913
1970	240,774
1960	209,776

Source: US Census Bureau

Unemployment rates for Greenville County have consistently remained lower than those of the state of South Carolina. Please refer to the chart of national, state and county unemployment rates for the last seven years below.

Unemployment Rates

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Greenville County	10.7	9.7	9.4	8.2	7.1	4.8	5.6
South Carolina	12.1	10.7	10.5	9.4	8.1	5.3	6.8
United States	9.5	9.5	9.2	8.2	7.6	6.1	5.3

Source: S.C. Employment Security Commission and US Department of Labor

Long-term financial planning

The County's capital improvement program is designed to identify major, infrequent and nonrecurring projects, which should be financed over a period of years. The FY2016 – FY2020 capital improvement program totals about \$144 million in the areas of technological improvements, equipment, recreation projects, facilities, infrastructure, solid waste, and stormwater. The capital improvement program budget totals about \$42 million for FY2016, \$60 million for FY2017, \$14 million for FY2018, \$14 million for FY2019 and \$13.6 million for FY2020. Budgeted facility improvements include the construction of a new County facility in FY2016 and FY2017.

Relevant financial policies

Per County policy, refunding bonds may be authorized by County Council provided such refunding does not result in an increase in the interest rate and does result in a savings over the life of the bonds. During the current fiscal year, the County issued one refunding general obligation bond and two refunding certificates of participation resulting in total economic gain of approximately \$1.5 million.

Another financial policy requires the County to aggressively pursue all grant opportunities after considering all current and future implications of both accepting and rejecting the grant. Total operating grants for the current year increased approximately \$1.3 million over the prior fiscal year due to an increase in judicial and law enforcement grants.

Major initiatives

Greenville County Council established a list of long-term priorities related to public safety, infrastructure, fiscal condition, public transit, economic development, comprehensive planning and employment diversity.

- The County will provide a safe community for citizens by maintaining a manageable detention center population, reducing EMS response time and funding anti-crime efforts.
- Roads, drainage projects and other infrastructure needs will be adequately funded.
- Greenville County will operate within a fiscally responsible framework, maintain a triple A bond rating and review opportunities for streamlining.
- The County will continue to fund the operations of the Greenville Transit Authority (Greenlink). Public transportation availability will be considered in economic development decisions.
- Efforts will be made to increase the quality of the workforce through training and increase the number of jobs (especially high paying jobs).
- A county-wide comprehensive plan will be developed and implemented.
- Greenville County will promote greater diversity in positions of supervision and leadership.

Awards and Acknowledgements

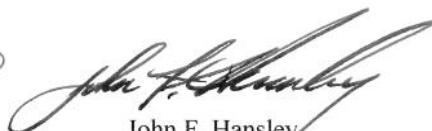
The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Greenville County for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014. This was the 24th consecutive year that Greenville County has received this prestigious award. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, Greenville County published an easily readable and efficiently organized Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). This report satisfied both generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and applicable legal requirements. A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. We believe that our current Comprehensive Annual Financial Report continues to meet the Certificate of Achievement program's requirements and we are submitting it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another certificate.

In addition, the GFOA gave an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to Greenville County for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports. In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understanding and reader appeal. An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to the GFOA.

The preparation of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report could not have been accomplished without the professional and dedicated services of the entire staff of the Financial Operations Division. We would like to express our appreciation to all members of the Division who assisted and contributed to the preparation of this report. We thank the employees of various other County divisions for their assistance in collecting and assimilating data. We also express our appreciation to the County Council for their support for maintaining the highest standards of professionalism in the management of Greenville County's finances.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph M. Kernal
County Administrator



John F. Hansley
Deputy County Administrator



Government Finance Officers Association

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Presented to

**Greenville County
South Carolina**

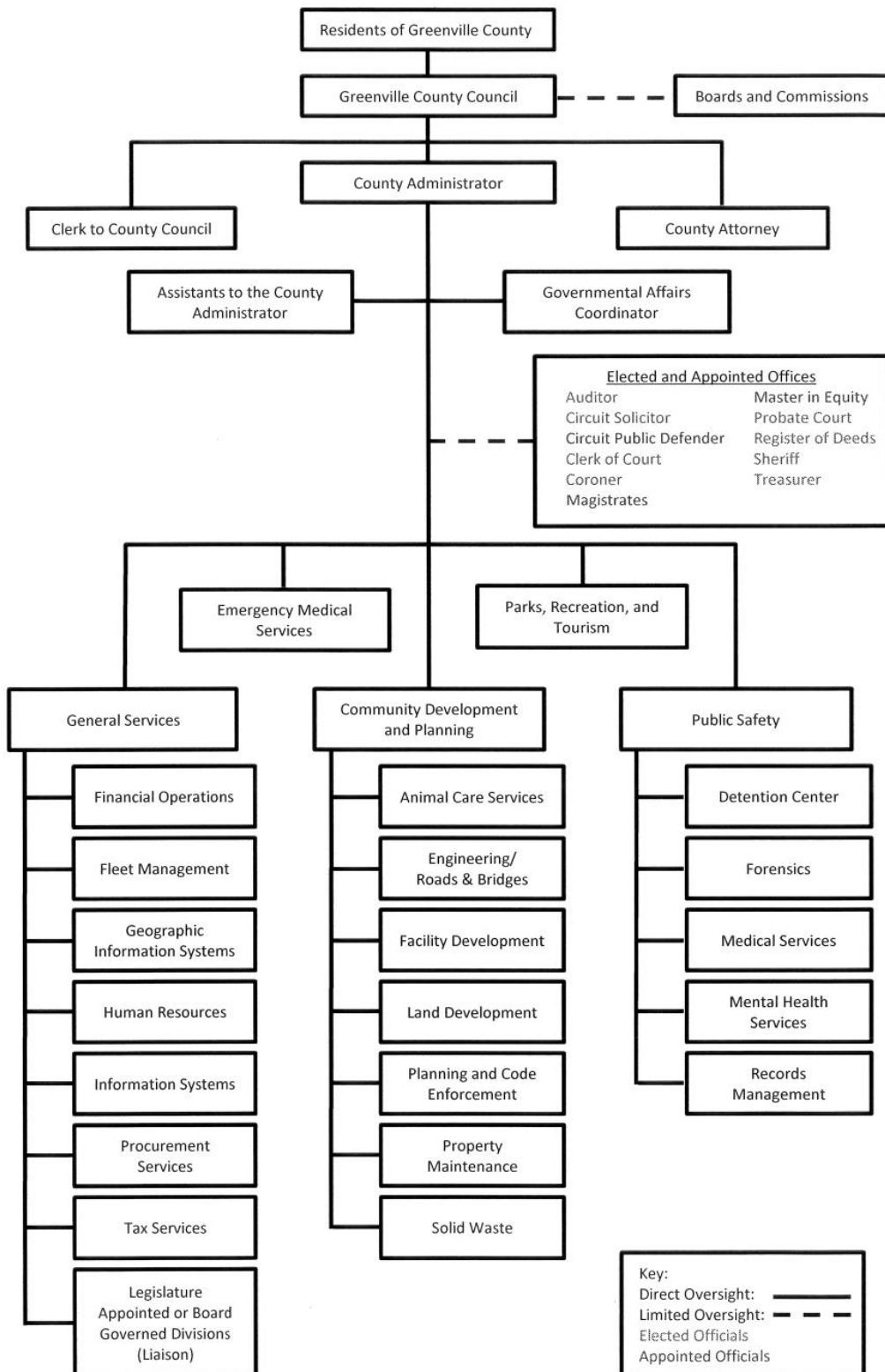
For its Comprehensive Annual
Financial Report
for the Fiscal Year Ended

June 30, 2014

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey P. Ecker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Jeffrey" on top and "P. Ecker" below it.

Executive Director/CEO

COUNTY OF GREENVILLE ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Greenville County Council

District 17 - **Joe Dill**

District 23 - **Xanthene Norris**

District 18 - **Joseph Baldwin**

District 24 - **Liz Seman**

District 19 - **Willis Meadows, Vice Chair**

District 25 - **Lottie Gibson**

District 20 - **Sid Cates**

District 26 - **Lynn Ballard**

District 21 - **Jim Burns**

District 27 - **Butch Kirven**

District 22 - **Bob Taylor, Chairman**

District 28 - **Fred Payne**

Administrative and Appointed Staff

Joseph Kernal – County Administrator

Theresa Kiser – Clerk to Council

Leila Foster – Chief Magistrate

Mark Tollison – County Attorney

Charles Simmons – Master in Equity

John Hansley – Deputy County
Administrator General Services

Paula Gucker – Assistant County
Administrator for Community Planning,
Development and Public Works

John Vandermosten – Interim Assistant
County Administrator Public Safety

Elected Officials

Treasurer
Jill Kintigh

Register of Deeds
Timothy Nanney

Auditor
Scott Case

Circuit Solicitor
Walt Wilkins

Clerk of Court
Paul Wickensimer

Probate Judge
Debora Faulkner

Sheriff
Steve Loftis

Coroner
Parks Evans