

WELCOME TO RICHLAND COUNTY



Richland County Mission Statement

The mission of the government of Richland County, South Carolina, is to provide essential services, efficiently and effectively, in order to improve the quality of life for its citizens. Richland County Government shall be accessible to all and shall provide cordial, responsible assistance and information in a prompt, equitable, and fair manner. This mission shall be achieved with minimal bureaucracy, with integrity, and within the parameters and power set forth in applicable federal, state, and local laws.



OUR COMMUNITY

Richland County is located at the geographic center of South Carolina. The County is a unique community that has established an impeccable reputation of excellence, a high quality of life, a vibrant business environment, the heart of the state government, innovative municipal services, and comprehensive accessibility opportunities for its citizens. A short drive (2-3 hours) east to the Atlantic ocean, west to

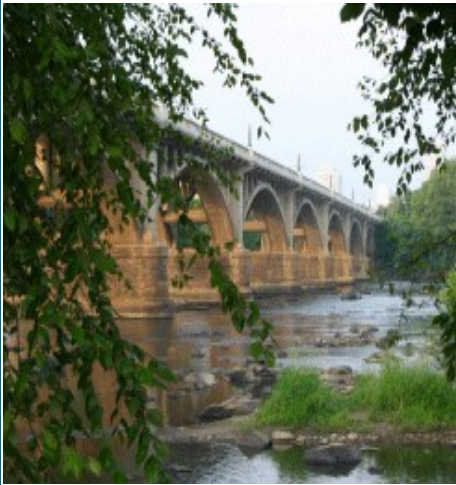
Atlanta, or west to the Appalachian Mountains, the community has developed into a diverse blend of businesses and industries, state government activity, arts and entertainment, and vast educational opportunities to match its diverse citizenry.

Richland County has long been recognized as one of the best counties in the nation and was honored with the All-American County award in 2006. Known as "Uniquely Rural, Uniquely Urban, The Best of Both

Worlds," the County combines the advantages of an attractive suburban residential setting, a very diverse population, metropolitan cultural and educational opportunities, military bases, an intellectual spirit, and a highly technical industrial foundation.

As a great crossroads between commerce and culture, Richland County brings together many attributes that make the region shine. Museums, libraries, national parks, and other recreation facilities; colleges and





universities; and shopping venues unite to make the County a distinctly diverse place to live and work. We exhibit a strong sense of community in our expansive network of hospitals, places of worship, and citizen support services through state and county government.

COUNTY HISTORY

Richland County, which was probably named for its “rich land” made up of lowland, sand hills, and rolling countryside, was created in 1785 as part of the large Camden District (small part of Richland later transferred to Kershaw County in 1791). In 1786, the state legislature decided to move the capital from Charleston to a more central location. A site was chosen in Richland County, the geographic center of the state, and a new town (Columbia) was built along the

banks of the Congaree River.

The County landscape changed after the establishment of South Carolina College (now the University of South Carolina) in 1805, and again in 1841 after the establishment of a primitive railroad network. At that time, Columbia became the largest inland community in the Carolinas, and it remained so until the city was burned on February 17, 1865, during the Civil War. General Sherman made his temporary headquarters on what is now the site of the Clarion Hotel and Restaurant Townhouse on Gervais Street in Columbia.

The turbulent 1930s ushered in an era of rapid change as the County transitioned from an agricultural community to a patchwork of suburbs, shopping centers, and industrial and commercial facilities. By 2000, the County’s population had grown to 320,677, up from 78,000 in 1930.

Today, as the Capital County, Richland County remains a bustling commercial hub for South Carolinians and visitors alike with its easy access to Interstates 20, 26, and 77. It is estimated that nearly 100,000 people travel through Richland County each day.

Richland County’s presence and rich history cannot be defined

with words; you have to experience it to really appreciate what it’s all about. The people of Richland County are what really makes it shine, and to know the people is to understand why they love this County and their neighbors.

The County continues to attract new businesses, and existing companies are expanding their operations in Richland County. Housing is plentiful and affordable in many price ranges.



THE CITY OF COLUMBIA

The City of Columbia, which was one of the first planned communities in the United States, is located in Richland County. Columbia boasts several centers for the performing arts, as well as other entertainment venues that contribute to the rich culture of the County. With 24 local annual festivals, numerous historical sites, and a myriad of sporting events, we always have something to do in and around Richland County. Richland County’s boundaries were formally incorporated on Dec. 18, 1799.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Cultural Events

- Museums
- Theater Companies
- Dance Companies
- Orchestra
- Local Bands

Historical Sites

- Homes
- Churches
- The South Carolina State House
- Monuments

Parks and Exhibits

- The nationally recognized Riverbanks Zoo
- EdVenture Children's Museum
- Congaree National Park

Sporting Venues

- University of South Carolina sports teams
- Minor league baseball
- Minor league hockey

Local festivals, including these:

- Greek Fest Carolina
- Okra Strut Festival
- Lexington County Peach Festival
- Columbia International Festival
- Carolina Down Home Blues Festival
- Lexington Fun Fest
- Kids Day
- Riverfest
- Craftsmen's Classic Arts/Crafts Festival
- Midlands Plant and Flower Festival
- Jubilee: Festival of Heritage
- St. Patrick's Day Festival

MILITARY BASES

Fort Jackson, which is located in Columbia, SC, is the largest and most active initial-entry training center in the U.S. Army.

McEntire Air National Guard Station (ANGS) is located approximately 16 miles southwest of Columbia, South Carolina.

LOCAL HOSPITALS

Palmetto Health Alliance is a 1,138-bed non-profit public benefit corporation that includes *Palmetto Health Richland and Palmetto Health Baptist (Columbia, Easley & Parkridge campuses)*.

Sisters of Charity Providence Hospitals are a 321-bed non-profit organization sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Augustine Health System.

Lexington Medical Center is a 414-bed medical complex that offers an array of medical services.

K-12 EDUCATION

Richland County also boasts several school districts with award-winning K-12 education programs:

- **Richland County School District One**
www.richlandone.org
- **Richland County School District Two**
www.richland2.org
- **Lexington-Richland School**

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Allen University
www.allen.edu

Benedict College
www.benedict.edu

Columbia College
www.columbiacollegesc.edu

Columbia International University
www.ciu.edu

Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary
www.ltss.edu

South University
www.southuniversity.edu

The University of South Carolina (Columbia Campus) was established in 1801 and now offers over 324 degree programs through 14 degree-granting colleges and schools. The Columbia campus has over 31,000 students and has consistently been ranked as one of the best schools in the United States by publications such as *US News and World Report*, *Kiplinger's Personal Finance*, and *Forbes*.

Midlands Technical College (MTC)

is a part of the South Carolina Technical College System and is one of the largest technical schools in the state. The school offers over 120 degree and certificate programs and has four campuses in Columbia and surrounding areas. MTC is a strong college transfer plan into South Carolina's four-year institutions. MTC also has a variety of continuing education programs

COUNTY FACTS

First Charter Adopted: 1799

Incorporation: 1868

County Seat: Columbia, SC

Motto:

Docemus Gubernamus, Augescimus (We educate, we govern, we grow)

Area (square miles): 756.50

Elevation:

332 ft. above sea level

Population:

approx. +390,000

Per Capita Income:

\$13,243 (1990)

\$21,603 (2000)

\$23,653 (2011)

Climate:

- Record high: 109° (June 2012)
- Mean Temperature: 64°F
- Annual snowfall: 2 inches



COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Richland County operates under the Council-Administrator form of government in accordance with the Home Rule Act.

The Richland County Council consists of eleven members (one Council member for each district) who are elected in the November general elections for staggered four-year terms. Council terms begin on January 1st of the year following the elections. The Council elects a Chair and a Vice-Chair for one-year terms at its first meeting every January. The County Council is responsible for adopting and amending ordinances and resolutions; approving the County budget; levying taxes; approving contracts, agreements and bids; and appointing citizens to various boards and committees.

The County Council employs and directs a County Administrator who is responsible for the administration of some of the departments of County government. The Clerk of Council also reports directly to County Council.

The County Administration Building is located near downtown Columbia. Citizens receive a full range of services, including Public Works,

Emergency Services, Animal Care, Detention Center, Register of Deeds, Planning, Community Development, Utilities, Water and Wastewater, and a number of general administrative and support services. Service demands and expectations from citizens are high in Richland County. Below are some of the major issues facing the County (not in priority order):

- Growth, redevelopment, land use, and environmental issues
- Growing social service needs
- Infrastructure replacement
- Funding needs of various agencies
- Intergovernmental relations
- Sustaining excellence in the County Government Organization
- Addressing the escalating cost of health insurance

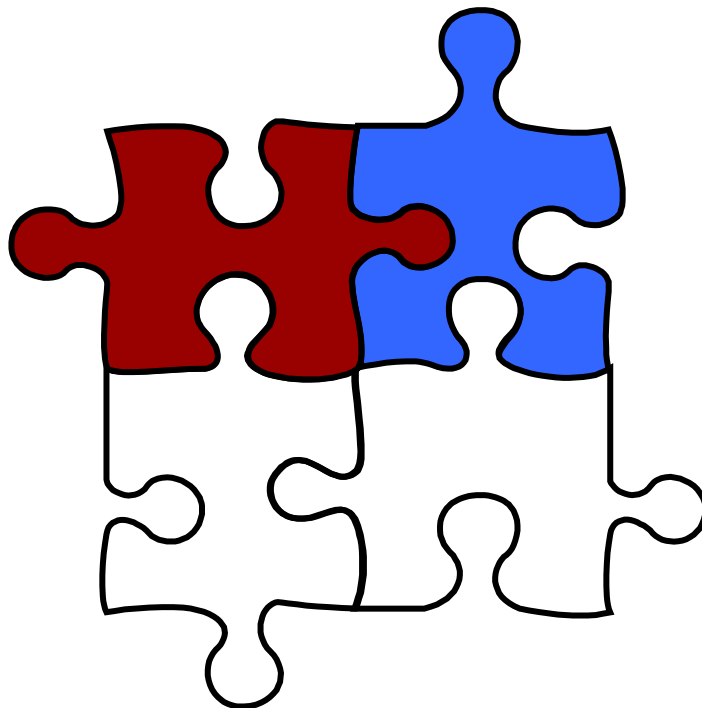


RICHLAND COUNTY'S COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY & INCLUSIVENESS

Richland County is committed to extending its legacy of recruiting employees of all backgrounds and ethnicities, fostering a climate that doesn't just tolerate differences but supports them; and providing rich learning opportunities for all. To that end, each of Richland County's employees endorses the following motto: People, Partnerships, Progress, and Professionalism.

ACCESSING RICHLAND COUNTY ELECTRONICALLY

When you become an employee at Richland County, you receive an ID and password to log on to the Richland County Intranet site. Through the Intranet, you can access Rich Health, Richland County's exclusive wellness program; and you can register for classes provided through Richland County's education program, Richland County University. The Intranet will also inform you of other events and programs available to Richland County employees; and it will provide you with other information you may need, including forms, details on your health benefits, important contact information, and so on.



You are a piece of Richland County.

People ♦ Partnerships ♦ Progress ♦ Professionalism

Prepared by the Employee Development and Training Division

Richland County Human Resources Department

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