

Legal notice

PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Kershaw County Council of Kershaw County, South Carolina, at 6:00 p.m. on June 23, 2026 in Council Chambers, Kershaw County Government Center, 515 Walnut Street, Camden, SC. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider adoption of the proposed budget for Kershaw County for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Pursuant to South Carolina Code 6-1-80 the information below is being published in this notice.

Total Revenue and Expenditures	FY 2025/2026	Proposed FY 2026/2027	% Change
County Operating Funds Revenues	34,787,701	38,032,676	9.33%
County Operating Fund Expenditures	34,787,701	38,032,676	9.33%
Sheriff Fund Revenues	9,538,017	10,623,974	11.39%
Sheriff Fund Expenditures	9,538,017	10,623,974	11.39%
Capital Fund Revenues	9,658,413	10,276,010	6.39%
Capital Fund Expenditures	9,658,413	10,276,010	6.39%
County Debt Service Fund Revenues	1,720,048	2,198,757	27.83%
County Debt Service Fund Expenditures	1,720,048	2,198,757	27.83%
Fire Service Operating Fund Revenues	6,124,880	5,465,505	-10.77%
Fire Service Operating Fund Expenditures	6,124,880	5,465,505	-10.77%
Emergency Medical Service Fund Revenues	8,035,426	8,829,803	9.89%
Emergency Medical Service Fund Expenditures	8,035,426	8,829,803	9.89%

Millage Rate	FY 2025/2026	Proposed FY 2026/2027	
County Operating Fund	55.1	55.1	0.00%
Sheriff Fund	24.6	24.6	0.00%
Capital Fund	3.5	3.5	0.00%
County Debt Service Fund	5.1	5.1	0.00%
Fire Service Fund	11.7	11.7	0.00%
Emergency Medical Services	10.2	10.2	0.00%
Central Carolina Technical College	2.0	2.0	0.00%

Estimated Millage in Dollars as necessary for 2026/2027 Proposed budget	
County Operating Fund	20,960,040
Sheriff Fund	9,357,840
Capital Fund	1,331,400
County Debt Service Fund	1,940,040
Fire Service Fund	2,407,860
Emergency Medical Services	3,880,080
Central Carolina Technical College	760,800

Section 6-1-320 of the SC Code of Laws, as amended, limits the increase in the millage rate imposed for the general operating purposes, with exceptions, above the rate imposed for such purposes for the prior tax year to the extent of the increase in the consumer price index (2.63%) for the proceeding year plus the percentage increase in Kershaw County's population in the past year (1.747%) without considering any affect of Local Option Sales Tax.

At the time and place fixed for said public hearing, all interested person who appear will be given an opportunity to express their views for or against this ordinance. Persons requiring special arrangements to attend this meeting due to physical disability should contact the Administrator's office at 425-1500 at least 24 hours in advance.

Kershaw County Council

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U.S. Rep. Ralph Norman picks former SC Freedom Caucus chair as running mate

Rep. Adam Morgan led the House's Freedom Caucus through its split with the established Republican Caucus

By: Skylar Laird

U.S. Rep. Ralph Norman picked the former leader of the state House's ultra-conservative Freedom Caucus as his running mate, the GOP candidate for governor announced Monday.

Norman's choice of former Rep. Adam Morgan, a Greenville County business owner and founding chair of the hardline legislative group, marks the second official pick for lieutenant governor in the contentious six-way race for the Republican nomination for governor.

Then-Rep. Adam Morgan shares a laugh with other members before the start of the House Education Committee meeting in Columbia, S.C. on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. (File photo by Travis Bell/STATEHOUSE CAROLINA/Special to the SC Daily Gazette) It comes five months after Attorney General Alan Wilson named state Sen. Mike Reichenbach of Florence as his pick.

And in his endorsement of Lt. Gov. Pamela Evette, President Donald Trump indicated she planned to pick the governor's son, Henry

McMaster Jr., calling that a "BIG added plus for Pam." But Evette's campaign has not confirmed what Trump wrote Friday he'd "heard."

Norman, a member of the congressional House Freedom Caucus, positioned his choice as a way of bucking norms and setting his campaign apart on the political spectrum.

"Together, we're building what may be the most conservative ticket this state has ever seen," the Rock Hill Republican said in a statement.

Norman and Morgan helped found the state's Freedom Caucus in spring 2022. Norman attended the Statehouse news conference announcing its launch.

Morgan was chair as the fledgling caucus split from the established House Republican Caucus over a rule that barred working to oust fellow Republicans in the chamber. The rule change following the 2022 elections was directed at Rep. RJ May, a founding Freedom Caucus member who ran GOP campaigns as a political consultant. (May resigned last August before pleading guilty to distributing child sexual

abuse material.)

The 2022 elections gave Republicans supermajority status in the House. But an escalating public feud between the two caucuses means floor debates often devolve into Republican-versus-Republican fights.

Rather than seek re-election to the state House in 2024, Morgan made an unsuccessful run against U.S. Rep. William Timmons for the 4th District. Timmons defeated Morgan by fewer than 2,300 votes in the GOP primary.

"For too long, the same politicians have made the same promises while Columbia becomes further and further disconnected from South Carolinians," Morgan said in a statement. "Ralph and I are offering a different path."

The Freedom Caucus prides itself on breaking with longstanding political conventions, pushing the majority GOP further to the right on socially conservative legislation and fighting state spending it doesn't consider among the "core functions of government" the state should fund.

Norman, who is backed by former Gov. Nikki Haley,

Kershaw County Man Pleads Guilty to Drug Distribution

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Van Lydell Starling, 48, of Kershaw, has pleaded guilty to possession with the intent to distribute crack cocaine.

Evidence obtained in the investigation revealed that on July 20, 2023, investigators with the Kershaw County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant at a home on Green Hill Road in Lugoff, which was the known residence of Starling.

During the search, investigators found multiple guns, a box of sandwich bags with a razor blade, several digital scales with white residue on them, a clear container containing crack cocaine residue, a black notebook that appeared to be a drug ledger, Starling's identification card, and crack cocaine located under the mattress in Starling's bedroom. Based upon the amounts of drugs, the multiple digital scales, the sandwich bags, and the drug ledger, the police determined that the crack cocaine was intended to be distributed.

Starling faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in federal prison. He also faces a fine of up to \$250,000, restitution, and three years of supervision to follow the term of imprisonment. United States District Judge Mary Geiger Lewis accepted the guilty plea and will sentence Starling after receiving and reviewing a sentencing report prepared by the U.S. Probation Office.

This case was investigated by Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Kershaw County Sheriff's Office. Assistant U.S. Attorney William K. Witherspoon is prosecuting the case.

said he and Morgan together would fight for more spending on roads and bridges.

The governor in South Carolina doesn't have unilateral spending authority. But the governor puts out recommendations annually and has line-item veto power once the Legislature completes its spending plan.

Norman is also advocating for term limits for legislators in a bid he says will "clean up Columbia." That would require legislators passing a law to limit their terms. All previous attempts to do so have failed to gain traction, including legislation proposed by U.S. Rep. Timmons while he was in the state Senate running for Congress.

"South Carolina doesn't need another maintenance team for the status quo," Norman said in a statement. "We need strong conservative leadership willing to challenge the political insiders and focus on real, tangible results."

Morgan, of Taylors, is an attorney and president of Majesty Music Inc., a family-owned Christian music and book publishing company, where Norman made the announcement Monday.

Morgan is the second announced pick for lieutenant governor among the entire field of gubernatorial candidates. None of the three Democrats on the ballot have named a running mate.

Wilson picked Reichenbach, a Florence car dealership owner, in January.

Spokespeople for Evette and U.S. Rep. Nancy Mace told the SC Daily Gazette they didn't have any updates about their running mate choices.

Sen. Josh Kimbrell and a spokesperson for millionaire businessman Rom Reddy did not respond to calls requesting comment.

Norman, Mace and Kimbrell appeared in a debate on South Carolina's public TV station Monday night. All six candidates initially agreed to the debate.

But the other three dropped out, starting Sunday with



U.S. Rep. Ralph Norman, pictured in Rock Hill on Sunday July 27, 2025, chose former state Freedom Caucus Chairman Adam Morgan as his running mate in the governor's race on Monday, June 1, 2026. (Photo by Mark Susko/Special to the SC Daily Gazette)

Evette, followed by Reddy and Wilson, according to South Carolina Educational Television. The primary election is June 9. Early voting ends Friday. Editor's note: This article was updated with which candidates debated Monday night.

Attorney General Alan Wilson secures victory over Biden-era Title IX rule

(COLUMBIA, S.C.) – Attorney General Alan Wilson announced today that South Carolina's legal challenge to a Biden-era Title IX Rule has come to a victorious end. The rule would have required schools to let students use bathrooms based on their gender identity rather than their sex. It also would have allowed students to be punished for simply voicing their opposition to woke gender ideology.

"Title IX exists to protect women and provide an equal opportunity for women and girls in our society," Attorney General Wilson stated. "This rule unnecessarily expanded Title IX to include woke gender ideology at the expense of girls."

Joined in the lawsuit by several other states and organizations, South Carolina successfully stopped the Title IX Rule from going into effect in our state. Now that another court officially eliminated the Title IX Rule nationwide, South Carolina and the other plaintiffs dismissed their case.

"As a father, the fight to protect my daughter and girls across our state is paramount," Attorney General Wilson said. "I'm proud of the work we have done in this case and I'm grateful that Title

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