

SC GOP State Convention Takes Historic Step, Votes to Close Their Primaries by a 3/4ths Majority!



“After decades of pushing for closed primaries in South Carolina, passing resolutions and putting it in our State Party Platform, pushing our legislators to pass legislation, even putting partisan voter registration on our primary ballot multiple times, our State Convention got it done and passed a new party rule closing our primaries!” This happened this past Saturday, June 27th.

This now enables our attorneys to march into U.S. Federal Court this week with confidence that our Party will have standing in court and that our lawsuit to close our primaries has the best chance of success.

“For years we’ve said that our Party’s nomination process should be for Republicans only - and now we’re that much closer to seeing that become a reality! Persistence pays off.” said Drew McKissick, State Republican Party Chairman.

KCSD Registration Opens July 6

Families of returning Kershaw County School District students—including families who completed their pre-kindergarten or kindergarten students’ initial enrollment this spring—will receive an email with their students’ registration codes and instructions to complete the online registration process on Monday, July 6.

New KCSD students should contact their zoned school to begin the registration process.

Schools will have special registration help days on July 15 and July 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 6 p.m. for families who do not have internet access or who need assistance with registration.

This year all new students, students with a new address, and students going into grades 6 and 9 will be required to upload three documents for proof of residency. Examples of these documents include a photo I.D., a recent tax document for vehicles or primary residence, recent payroll check, bank document, mortgage, real estate purchase contract, rental/lease agreement or power or water bill.

We ask families to please complete this online registration as soon as possible as we will use the information provided to develop student schedules and determine teacher assignments that will be sent to families electronically before the first day of school on Thursday, July 30. As a reminder, four- and five-year-old kindergartners will begin school on a staggered start schedule for the 2026-2027 school year.

As a reminder, all students in Kershaw County School District will receive free breakfast and lunch during the 2026-2027 school year as part of the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program. Parents do not need to complete a Free and Reduced Meal Application.

We are excited to announce that we are partnering with the Community Medical Clinic to offer a School-Based Health Center on each high school campus this school year, allowing students to be seen by a medical provider during the school day for common illnesses such as flu, strep throat, and other minor illnesses. The School-Based Health Center will be available to all high school students at no cost to families, regardless of insurance status. The goal is to help students receive timely care, reduce missed classroom time, and support the overall health and wellness of our school community. During registration high school parents will be able to complete the enrollment process so that high school students can take advantage of this valuable new resource.

In keeping with KCSD School Board policy, all students will pay a \$10 technology fee. This and other fees can be paid online starting Monday, July 6. To get started, KCSD families can go to www.myschoolbucks.com and create an account or log in to an existing one. Payments can be made by visiting the “School Store.” Myschoolbucks.com charges a processing fee for online payments.

All elementary and middle school school supply lists can be found online at www.kcsdschools.net/supplies.

To view all approved KCSD calendars, visit www.kcsdschools.net/calendar.



Lawrence J. (Larry) Caldwell



Lawrence J. “Larry” Caldwell, 90, of Westville, South Carolina, passed away on Thursday, June 25, 2026.

Larry was born on May 27, 1936, in Columbia, Tennessee, to the late Joseph White Caldwell and Mia Liedt Caldwell. He spent most of his childhood growing up around Punta Gorda, Florida, where he enjoyed fishing with his mother and his younger brother, Bill.

After graduating from high school, Larry joined the United States Air Force, where he proudly served for thirteen years as an aircraft electrician. Following his military service, he began a career with DuPont in Lugoff, South Carolina, retiring after more than thirty years as a maintenance supervisor.

Larry was a skilled electrician, plumber, and mechanic. There was nothing he couldn’t fix. He was a hardworking man who was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need.

Above all, Larry deeply loved his wife, his family, his country, his wife’s family, and his church family. He enjoyed reading the Bible, listening to audiobooks, watching the birds, building kayaks, and spending time outdoors.

In addition to his parents, Larry was preceded in death by his brother, William E. “Bill” Caldwell, and his granddaughter, Eunice Caroline Sater.

He is survived by his beloved wife of sixty-eight years, Eunice Loree Phillips Caldwell; his children, Joseph Caldwell, Chris Caldwell, Victor (Sharon Beckham) Caldwell, Mia Anne C. Sater, and Loree Sue C. Roberts; his grandchildren, Luke Sater, Paige C. (Brett) Sitte, Trent

(Megan) Caldwell, and Dalton Roberts; and his great-grandchildren, Mila, Oliver, Vivian, Winnry, and Ada. He is also survived by his nephews, Rob and Scott Caldwell of Texas.

Larry was a good man who was dearly loved by his family. He will be greatly missed, and our hearts go with him. God bless.

No formal services will be held at this time.

Arrangements are under the care of Baker Funeral Home, Kershaw, South Carolina.



Lancaster County Council Passes \$201.8 Million FY Budget for 2026-2027

The Lancaster County Council passed the third and final reading to adopt their 2026-2027 fiscal year budget topping \$201.8 million at its Monday, June 22 meeting.

The budget includes several things such as a \$143.9 million general fund budget. The budget is roughly a \$41.6 million increase from last year’s budget but also includes one-time fund balance appropriation of \$36.4 million out of what the county considers its savings.

The county is hiring 37 new employees and includes salary increases for both full-time and part-time employees, which accounts for \$5.6 million increase to the general fund. Of the new positions, the Lancaster County Detention Center is getting 12 employees, some of which start on Jan. 1, 2027. The Lancaster County Emergency Management System (EMS) is hiring 15 people, divided between paramedics and EMTs, and will be shifting from a 24/48 model to a 24/72 schedule model for certain staff where they work 24 hours and then are off 72 hours. That new schedule for EMS will begin on Jan. 1 as the new hires start then.

The total County millage is 93.60, which is a one mil increase for the 2026-27 fiscal year. For a \$200,000 owner-occupied house, this is an increase of \$8 on the resident’s real property tax bill. For a \$400,000 owner-occupied house, this equates to a \$16 increase on the homeowner’s annual real property tax bill. The value of a mil for the fiscal year is \$674,794.

Several fund balance projects include \$6 million for a new fire station off Harrisburg Road in Indian Land, \$18.7 million for various fire apparatus including trucks, tankers, and engines, and \$2.4 million for public safety communications.

The County’s Capital Improvement Plan request totals \$43.6 million with a total of 27 projects, including 18 current projects in progress with funding revisions for the new fiscal year. There are nine new projects on the plan for this coming financial year.

The new fiscal year starts Wednesday, July 1.

Happy Birthday Danny!



Big brother .. you are missed!
You left a great legacy to thousands (Rails to Trails) and more...

Your Family Misses You

MUSC Health celebrates progress continued from page 1

The project reflects MUSC Health’s ongoing commitment to improving access, strengthening continuity of care and supporting healthier communities across the Catawba region and beyond.

“This is an important investment in the health and future of Lancaster County,” said J. Scott Broome, CEO of MUSC Health-Catawba Division. “As this community continues to grow, so does the need for high-quality care that is both accessible and connected. This facility will allow us to meet those needs while keeping patients at the center of everything we do.”

The pavilion is expected to open in spring 2027, followed by the hospital in 2028, expanding access to advanced, patient-centered care and helping South Carolina residents receive care locally.

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