

# GOVERNMENT PROFILE

Spartanburg County, founded in 1785 and incorporated in 1976 under the South Carolina *Home Rule Act*, is located in the northwest Piedmont section of South Carolina. The County Seat, the City of Spartanburg is located approximately 60 miles southwest of the City of Charlotte, North Carolina and 180 miles northeast of the City of Atlanta. Spartanburg County is part of the Greenville-Spartanburg-Anderson Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The County has a land area of 814 square miles, and a current population estimated at 286,822. The County is empowered by State of South Carolina law to levy a property tax on both real and personal property within its boundaries.

The County has operated under the Council-Administrator form of government since 1976. Policymaking and legislative authority are vested in the County Council, which consists of a Council Chairman elected at-large and six (6) District Council Members elected to four-year staggered terms.

The County Council is responsible for passing ordinances, adopting the budget, appointing committees, and hiring the County Administrator, County Attorney and Clerk to the County Council. The County Administrator is responsible for carrying out the policies and ordinances of the County Council and overseeing the day-to-day operations of the county.

The citizens of Spartanburg County elect seven (7) officials to direct departments in the County. Elected officials include: Auditor, Treasurer, Circuit Solicitor (serving the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit including Spartanburg and Cherokee Counties), Clerk of Court, Probate Court, Coroner and the Sheriff.

The County and its component units (Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission; Spartanburg County Public Library; Spartanburg County Parks and Recreation Commission; and various volunteer fire districts) provide a full range of services including law enforcement, public health and social services, building inspection, rural fire protection, libraries, road repair, maintenance and construction, recreation emergency preparedness, judicial and administrative services.

The annual budget serves as the foundation for Spartanburg County's financial planning and control. All departments and agencies of the county are required to submit requests for appropriation to the County Budget Management Director in January of each year. The Budget Director uses these requests as the starting point for developing a proposed budget that is presented to County Council for review prior to June 30. County Council is required to hold a public hearing and adopt a final budget after three readings no later than July 1, the start of the county's fiscal year. The budget is prepared by fund, function (e.g. public safety) and department (e.g. Sheriff's Office). Department heads may transfer appropriations within their department with the approval of the County Administrator. The County Administrator may transfer funds between departments. Budgetary control is established at the department level by the Budget Ordinance (a copy of the Operating Budget Ordinance can be found on page B24).

