

# Georgetown County

## South Carolina



### Title VI

## Public Participation Plan

*Effective June 1, 2016*

## ***What is Public Participation?***

Public participation is the process by which interested and affected individuals, organizations, agencies and government entities are consulted and included in the decision-making process.

Public participation is two-way communication and collaborative problem solving with the goal of achieving better and more acceptable decisions.



## ***Our Vision***

Georgetown County believes that effective public involvement and participation is important and is an ongoing process that is essential to meeting the future needs of all citizens in Georgetown County. Through open communication, constructive dialogue, informed decision-making, planning, and public input, we can share opinions and shape a brighter vision for the County.

In order for us to reach this brighter vision there needs to be a cooperative and coordinated action among the County and residents of Georgetown County. Effective planning cannot be achieved without the consideration, cooperation and consent of citizens throughout the region.

Georgetown County commits to promote and sustain a responsive public participation program that supports our County's citizen input and timely response at all levels of planning. Every County employee is involved in some way in public participation. Even if they do not have direct contact with citizens, their actions ultimately have an impact on how our County government functions and on how Georgetown County is perceived by the public.



## ***Public Participation Goals***

- Provide opportunity for interested parties to identify regional concerns and priorities;
- Encourage public participation opportunities in a wide and varied audience, including traditionally underserved groups;
- Publicize public participation opportunities and activities throughout the development of Georgetown County projects;
- Obtain meaningful public input and participation to inform the County's planning and decision-making process; and
- Inform and educate residents and interested parties, share information, and increase the overall awareness of projects in Georgetown County.



## ***Public Participation Objectives***

In order to ensure that Georgetown County has a proactive and meaningful public involvement process that provides complete information, timely public notice, full citizen input to key decision-making processes, and supports early and continuing involvement in developing regional plans and projects, the County pursues the following objectives:

- The dissemination of information will be thorough to ensure the education of the public and to promote the broadest understanding of the County's needs;
- Georgetown County's constituency will be broadened by reaching out to those who are underserved in the County; and
- The interested public will be ensured of ample opportunity to participate in the decision-making process for County projects.

## ***Evaluation of Public Participation Activities***

Georgetown County evaluates the effectiveness of its public participation program as needed following major planning efforts, and, at a minimum, at the end of each fiscal year.



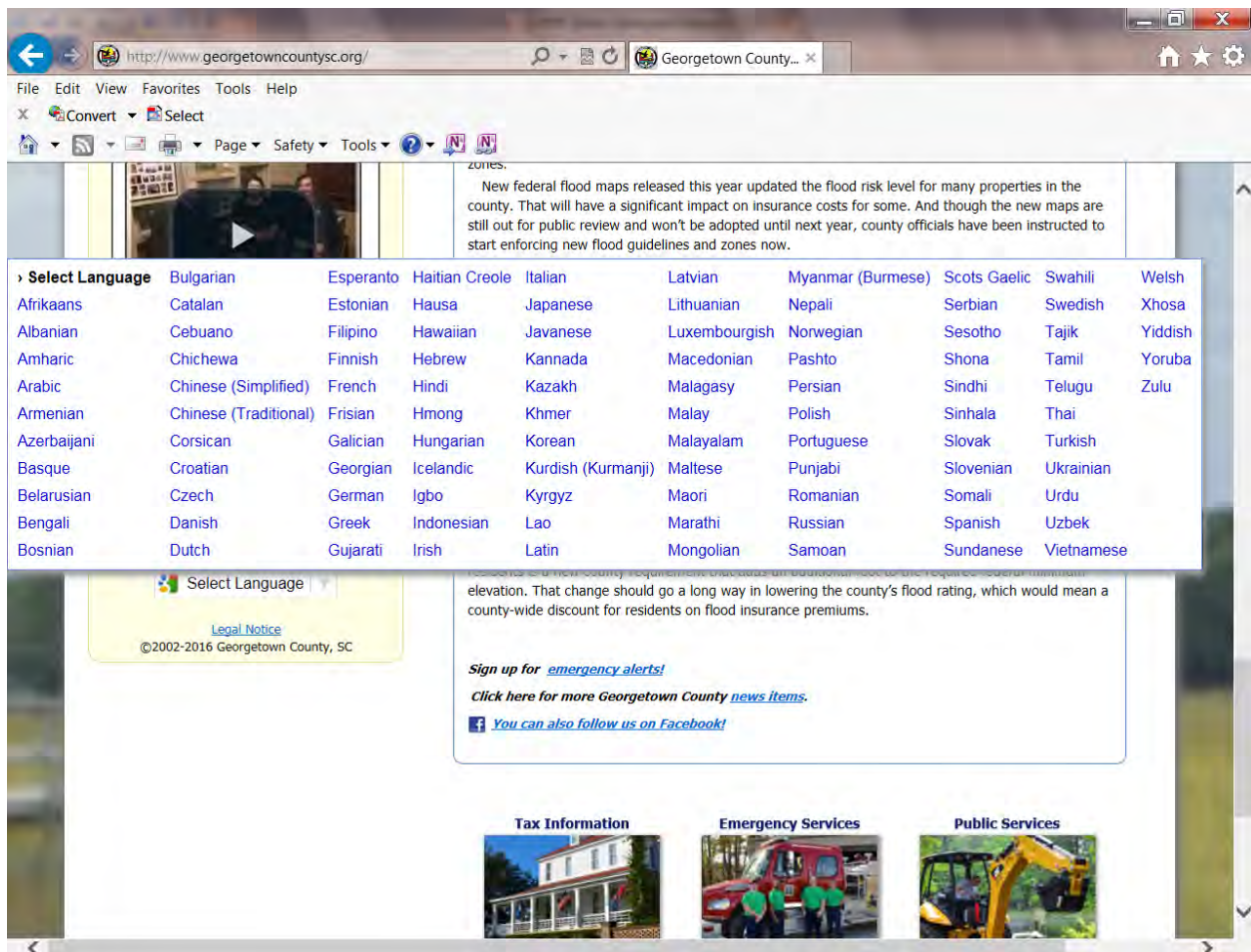
## Engaging Our County Residents

To ensure a rich and diverse public participation process, interested parties must be informed and educated on Georgetown County issues, projects underway, and projects planned. The following strategies are utilized by the County to ensure that interested parties receive timely information in a variety of formats:

### Website

Georgetown County's extensive website, <http://www.georgetowncountysc.org/>, is a continuously updated source for information on nearly every aspect of the regional and transportation planning process. A wide scope of resource material, covering each County Department is available, as well as meeting notices and agendas, information on public involvement, staff contact information and links to related agencies and municipalities.

The Georgetown County website is also now accessible to non-English speaking visitors who wish to translate online documents into other languages through the website's Google Translate tool.



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Georgetown County website. A Google Translate language selection menu is overlaid on the page. The menu includes a "Select Language" dropdown and a grid of language options. Below the menu, there is a "Legal Notice" section with the copyright information "©2002-2016 Georgetown County, SC". At the bottom of the page, there are three service categories: "Tax Information", "Emergency Services", and "Public Services", each with a corresponding image.

Select Language	Bulgarian	Esperanto	Haitian Creole	Italian	Latvian	Myanmar (Burmese)	Scots Gaelic	Swahili	Welsh
Afrikaans	Catalan	Estonian	Hausa	Japanese	Lithuanian	Nepali	Serbian	Swedish	Xhosa
Albanian	Cebuano	Filipino	Hawaiian	Javanese	Luxembourgish	Norwegian	Sesotho	Tajik	Yiddish
Amharic	Chichewa	Finnish	Hebrew	Kannada	Macedonian	Pashto	Shona	Tamil	Yoruba
Arabic	Chinese (Simplified)	French	Hindi	Kazakh	Malagasy	Persian	Sindhi	Telugu	Zulu
Armenian	Chinese (Traditional)	Frisian	Hmong	Khmer	Malay	Polish	Sinhala	Thai	
Azerbaijani	Corsican	Galician	Hungarian	Korean	Malayalam	Portuguese	Slovak	Turkish	
Basque	Croatian	Georgian	Icelandic	Kurdish (Kurmanji)	Maltese	Punjabi	Slovenian	Ukrainian	
Belarusian	Czech	German	Igbo	Kyrgyz	Maori	Romanian	Somali	Urdu	
Bengali	Danish	Greek	Indonesian	Lao	Marathi	Russian	Spanish	Uzbek	
Bosnian	Dutch	Gujarati	Irish	Latin	Mongolian	Samoan	Sundanese	Vietnamese	

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**Tax Information** **Emergency Services** **Public Services**

## County Libraries

Georgetown County has 4 branch libraries for public use, as well as a traveling Bookmobile.

### Locations are:

Georgetown Main Branch Library  
405 Cleland Street, Georgetown, SC 29440  
Telephone: (843) 545-3300

Andrews Branch Library  
105 North Morgan Avenue, Andrews, SC 29510  
Telephone: (843) 545-3621

Waccamaw Neck Branch Library  
41 St. Paul Place, Pawleys Island, SC 29585  
Telephone: (843) 545-3623

Carvers Bay Branch Library  
13048 Choppee Road, Hemingway, SC 29554  
Telephone: (843) 545-3515

Contact Information for Bookmobile Librarian  
Hailey Barron  
Office Phone 843-545-3346  
Email [hbarron@gtcounty.org](mailto:hbarron@gtcounty.org)



The use of the library is free; some fees may pertain to purchasing some publications or photocopies of documents.

## Publications/Newsletters

*The Georgetown County Chronicle* is the County's newsletter and is published each month. The newsletter provides information about the County's projects, programs and actions, and information on the happenings in Georgetown County. The newsletter is posted online at <http://www.georgetowncountysc.org/Newsletters/> in PDF format.

**The**  
**Georgetown County**  
**Chronicle**

Volume 4, Issue 10 June 2016

**Plans progressing for Rocky Point property**

Georgetown County officials recently had their first meeting with a steering committee out boat landing project and the forest management plan, and will also have a management plan in place.

**Inside this Issue**

- FY 2017 budget available for public review, Page 2
- New 701 bridge under construction, Page 2
- Study to look at options

A monthly e-newsletter produced by Georgetown County, S.C., for its residents and visitors.

## Media Communications

Georgetown County regularly releases, as deemed appropriate, press advisories to the County's electronic and print media outlets. In addition to County project public meetings and activities, media releases are provided for upcoming events and actions.

The list of media outlets we post to are:

- Coastal Observer – Pawleys Island
- Georgetown Times/Southstrand News
- The Sun News – Myrtle Beach
- Live 5 News – Charleston
- WRNN Talk Radio – Myrtle Beach
- Weekly Observer – Hemingway
- Morning News/SC Now – Based in Florence
- WPDE – Myrtle Beach
- WBTW – Myrtle Beach
- WMBF – Myrtle Beach
- Lowcountry Companion
- The New Georgetonian – Online publication
- CBS News
- Inlet Outlook – Murrells Inlet
- WCBD -- Charleston
- WLGI – Western Georgetown County/Hemingway



## Notification of Meetings and Events

The scheduled meeting dates of the Georgetown County Council sent to the local newspapers/media outlets of general circulation in the Georgetown County area. Notice of additional meetings will be sent to newspapers of general circulation in both states at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

### County Council Regular Meeting Schedule, 2016:

Georgetown County Council will hold regular meetings on the following dates in 2016. Meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. in County Council Chambers, located at 129 Screven Street (historic County Courthouse), Georgetown, S.C. All meetings are open and the public is invited to attend.

*\* Denotes months during which County Council customarily holds only one meeting. Additional meetings may be called if needed.*

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| • January 12  | • June 28*     |
| • January 26  | • July 26*     |
| • February 9  | • August 23*   |
| • February 23 | • September 13 |
| • March 8     | • September 27 |
| • March 22    | • October 11   |
| • April 12    | • October 25   |
| • April 26    | • November 8*  |
| • May 10      | • December 13* |
| • May 24      |                |

All Georgetown County Council meetings are also posted online at our website at

[http://www.georgetowncountysc.org/County\\_Council/](http://www.georgetowncountysc.org/County_Council/).

Georgetown County Council meetings will include a time of 5 minutes per person for up to a total of 30 minutes for public comments concerning agenda and non-agenda items during the consideration of business; however, the Council Chair may limit or lengthen the time for

comments or provide other options for public comments as he or she deems fit.

Public meetings will be held prior to the adoption/implementation of many major Georgetown County Projects. Authorization to proceed with public distribution of pertinent materials and to hold public meetings must be sought from the County Administrator or the deemed County Department Director. Announcement should be early enough in the process to allow public input on initial decisions such as project definition and goals. Advance notice will depend upon the project and its timeline. As much notice as possible should be given to residents and special interest organizations. Mailing and e-mail lists will be updated regularly to ensure proper notification to as many audiences as possible.

### ***Public Meetings and Other Events***

Public meetings and information sessions will be scheduled, when deemed appropriate, to allow the greatest opportunity for attendance by the general public and interested groups (i.e., evening or lunch meetings) based upon available staff and resources.

Meetings will be conducted in locations that are always ADA accessible and convenient to public transit, when possible. Sign language interpreters or other auxiliary aid requests can be accommodated if requested in advance. Draft documents for public review will be available upon request.



### ***Visualization Techniques***

Where appropriate, visualization techniques will be employed throughout Georgetown County's public participation activities, to aid the public in understanding proposed plans/projects. Examples of visualization techniques include sketches, drawings, physical models and maps, simulated photos, videos, computer modeled images, GIS based scenario planning tools, and computer simulation.



## ***Promoting Open and Accessible Involvement***

- The Right-to-Know Law requires that every public record of a state agency or a division of a state agency, shall, at reasonable times, be open for examination and inspection by any citizen.
- Georgetown County also gives reasonable notice of meetings and provides opportunities at each County Council meeting for the public to comment on matters before the Council.



## ***For More Information***

For additional information Georgetown County's Public Participation Plan, please contact the County's Title VI Coordinator at 843-545-3325 or at [jdirks@gtcounty.org](mailto:jdirks@gtcounty.org).

