

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH

Legislative Action 2019

❖ **Local Government Fund**

The Town of Edisto Beach promotes fully funding the local government fund according to state statute. This past year the LGF was only partially funded and since 2009, the General Assembly has not fully funded the LGF.

❖ **State Accommodations Taxes**

The Town of Edisto Beach is unique in that it is the only coastal community not exempted as an area of high tourism (receives greater than \$600,000 in ATAX) and therefore falls under the Tourism Expenditure Review Committee review. The Town of Edisto Beach would like legislation passed to provide all the same allowances as those communities that are in areas of high tourism and be exempted from TERC oversight. In addition, the Town supports flexibility in utilizing these funds for flooding and drainage projects.

❖ **Drainage/Flooding**

If local governments are not allowed to use tourism funds to address localized drainage and flooding issues, we support the implementation of a State grant funding source to mitigate flood prone areas.

❖ **Elections**

Legislation which passed last year that requires elections be held where only one candidate has filed places a financial burden on local governments. The Town recommends legislation to allow small towns with small populations to cancel an election when there is no opposition to the candidates running (after the period for write-in candidate applications has passed). Requiring a small town like Lodge (who has a population of less than 100), and even a town as small as Edisto Beach, to hold such an election is a waste of limited town funds when there is no opposition.

❖ **Capital Projects**

Increase flexibility for municipalities to raise revenue to support specific capital projects. Some of this may be addressed through S426 which was stalled in the Senate.

Mayor Jane Darby

Councilman Jerome Kizer

Councilwoman Susan Hornsby

Mayor Pro Tempore Crawford Moore

Councilwoman Patti Smyer

