



**PICKENS COUNTY, SC
VISION PLAN**

2007 – 2025

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Report and facilitation provided by:



Executive Summary

Pickens County, South Carolina's Vision Plan "Your Voice. Your Choice" will serve as a means for improving Pickens County over the next twenty years. This plan is being developed as part of the foundation for a great community. Pickens County is taking charge of its own destiny and creating a road map to its future, a vital step toward a more prosperous and vibrant community that will play an important role in the growth of South Carolina.

In its original state, this vision plan seems more like a wish list, but through citizen deliberation, the plan has become a well-developed document that articulates the needs and desires of the community. The ideal and practical are joined, making the basis of Pickens County "Your Voice. Your Choice." a reality in the making

By giving citizens a voice and a stake in their future, this process has given Pickens County a dynamic plan for the next twenty years and beyond. By creating this plan, this community has made a conscious decision to control the direction and character of that growth.

This plan was developed by citizens throughout the county under the guidance of the Steering Committee comprised of area citizens. A special note of thanks is extended to the Steering Committee members and to the vision donors. Members are listed on pages 6-7. Vision donors are listed in appendix 1 on page 18. Carpe Diem Community Solutions, Inc. from Florida served as the consultant for this visioning process.

Through a nine-step process, this vision plan stands ready to support community-building in five goal areas in Pickens County. The five goal areas are:

- Planned Community
- Working Community
- Healthy Safe Community
- Sense of Place
- Educated Community

The goal areas were developed from the Vision Input Process (VIP), step number four, which consisted of eighteen individual interviews, twelve focus group sessions, five town hall meetings, mail-in citizen input forms, and online-based input. The goals and their corresponding objectives are presented in priority order based on the number of times the topic was mentioned. The public input process began in February 2007 with the leadership launch and ended in May 2007 with the final town hall meeting.

While the vision process is citizen-based, the dialogue in the focus group sessions among those who have an intimate stake and passion in their fields provided a pulse of the county and provided areas in which to probe deeper during the town hall meetings. The fact that these professionals were willing to meet for two hours

Pickens County, SC Vision Plan

is evidence of their commitment to make vision "Your Voice. Your Choice." a success. The focus group sessions followed the same format as the town hall meetings with one exception: after discussing "what needs to be done," the attendees broke out into smaller groups to discuss the first and second prioritized items regarding "how to facilitate the completion of the most prioritized items."

The steering committee established the following focus group topics:

- Arts & Culture
- Economic Development/ Business
- Education
- Environment/Natural Resources
- Faith
- Government/Infrastructure
- Health Care
- High School Students
- Public Safety
- Senior Adults
- Social Services
- Young Professionals

In order to carry the vision process to the people and to keep the town hall meetings in easily accessible locations, meetings were hosted in all four of the area high schools throughout the county. The town hall meetings gave citizens an opportunity to express their aspirations, dreams, and vision for the next twenty years. The format of the town hall meetings consisted of discussions about what should be done to make Pickens County a better place to live. After listing all aspects brought forward, each participant was given five sticker dots to prioritize all responses. After determining the two most highly prioritized items, the discussion moved towards how those two items could be accomplished, including listing stakeholders, existing resources, and obstacles.

The prioritized objectives information will be given to the Implementation Leadership Team to use in developing Vision Partnerships and Vision Alliances, and in supporting the implementation of the Pickens County Vision Plan.

At the conclusion of each interaction with Pickens County citizens, they were asked if there was anything left unsaid. Those attending and those unable to attend still had a chance to contribute to this dynamic process by using the citizen input forms distributed throughout the county, or they were able to go to the vision plan website at www.pickensvision2025.org to have their voices heard.

Thousands of comments were received from area citizens. Based on these comments, 90 objectives were created within the five goal areas.

It may seem too far-reaching to try to accomplish all of these objectives at once, but the plan is designed to lay out a prioritized list of goals that can be worked on over the course of the next twenty years as the county grows. Of course, it wouldn't

be much of a vision plan if it didn't include some items that seemed to stretch the thinking and imagination of the citizens, so those types of goals are included as well.

A hallmark of the visioning process is that all citizens had an opportunity to voice their opinions on the direction of the future of Pickens County. The pages that follow provide a vision statement and objectives for each goal area as well as benchmarks for the five goals areas. The objectives are presented in order as most received during the vision input process. Therefore, the objectives in each goal area are in priority order.

A crucial portion of the work has been completed, but another has only just begun. The initiative must now move forward to the implementation phase. The implementation phase is outlined on pages 8 - 10.

Appendix 1 - Steering Committee Members

The following individuals volunteered their considerable energy, time, and talent to make this vision process happen.

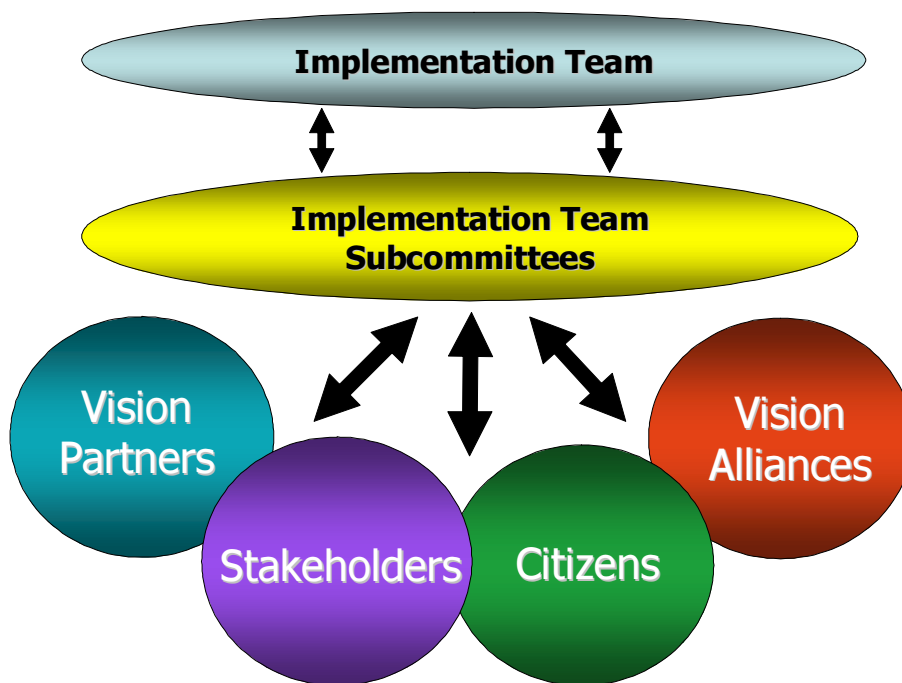
Last Name	First	Job Title	Company
Abernathy	Larry	Mayor	City of Clemson
Alexander	Harold	Vice President	First Citizens Bank
Byington	Heather	Executive Director	Easley Living Center
Bobbitt	Kathie	Consultant	Kinesis Development, LLC
Burns	Judy	Retired Executive Director	Easley Chamber of Commerce
Burdette	Carol	Mayor	City of Pendleton
Capaldi	Jim	Executive Director	Pickens Chamber of Commerce
Capaldi	Julie	President	United Way of Pickens County
Caruthers	Bill	Retired	Pickens-Oconee Chamber Coalition
Christopherson	Chris	Mayor	City of Easley
Clark	Kris	Director of Community Services	The Cliffs
Collins	Sid	Chief Executive Officer	Pickens County YMCA
Dalton	Charles	Chief Executive Officer	Blue Ridge Electric Co-op
De Roberts	Emily	Customer Relations Manager	Duke Energy
DuBose	Dial	Vice President	Nalley Properties
Deese	Brian	Mayor	City of Liberty
Dykes	Kent	President	Easley Chamber of Commerce
Eldridge	Chris	Administrator	City of Pickens
Farley	Ray	Executive Director	Alliance Pickens
Gettys	Roddey	Chief Operating Officer	Palmetto Health-Easley
Hockwalt	Helen	Curator	Pickens Co Museum of Art & History
Johnson	Hampton	Vice President	Palmetto Bank
London	Jim	County Council Member	Pickens County Council
Mitchell	David	Financial Advisor	Edward Jones & Co
Nail	Eddie	Executive Director	Clemson Chamber of Commerce
Przirembel	Christian	V P-Research & Econ Dev	Clemson University
Ridgeway	Riggie	Chief Executive Officer	Peoples Bancorporation
Robinson	Lou	Community Development Staff	Clemson University Extension Service
Smith	Neil	Chairman Pickens County Council	Pickens County Council
Smith	Nell	Retired	SC State Senator
Spittal	David	President	Southern Wesleyan University
Steck	Ray	Retired	Business Owner
Sweitzer	Gerald	Consultant	Non-Profit Success
Thompson	Julie	Coordinator of School & Comm Relations	Pickens County School District
Walsh	Bill	Broker-in-Charge	Walsh Realty

Last Name	First	Job Title	Company
Walsh	Carol	Owner and Sales Manager	Walsh Realty
Watson	Renee	Former Executive Director	Pickens Chamber of Commerce
Westbrook	Andy	Chief Executive Officer	Peoples National Bank
Whitlock	Carla	Dir of Community Dev & Gov't Relations	Southern Wesleyan University
Williams	Frankie	Professor	Clemson University
Willis	Jennifer	County Council Member	Pickens County Council
Workman	Neal	Chairman of the Board	Trehel Corp.
Youngblood	Danny	President	Youngblood Development Corporation

Implementation

Overview

For the Pickens County "Your Voice. Your Choice." Vision Plan to become a reality, area businesses, clubs, citizens, and organizations must embrace it. Citizens must cross the threshold of commitment, accept responsibility for the county's future, and take action to ensure it. To that end, citizens and organizations are encouraged to serve as Vision Partners to support the implementation of each objective within this plan. Vision Partners will be tasked to design and implement plans of action to move forward so that objectives may be brought to fruition. Below is an illustration depicting the relationships between the Implementation Team, its subcommittees, and the community.



The Implementation Leadership Team will set the purpose and direction, as well as coordinate and guide the implementation of the Vision Plan. They will create opportunities to bring diverse groups of Pickens citizens together. The team will accomplish this by carrying out the following tasks:

1. Determine priorities
2. Develop Vision Partners/Alliances action teams
3. Seek Vision Partners/Alliances to develop action plans
4. Vision Partners/Alliances implement action plans
5. Develop community indicators & progress measures

Who are Vision Partners?

Vision Partners are any organization, business, civic group, government entity, church, individual, etc., that has volunteered to collaborate with other community members to implement the Vision Plan.

Vision Partners make individual objectives a reality.

Vision Partner Responsibilities:

- Adopt objectives
- Form strategic alliances where appropriate
- Create strategy benchmarks
- Develop action steps to accomplish the objective and meet the strategy benchmarks
- Allocate resources required for implementation
- Include in all printed and advertising material, affiliation with Vision Plan and link to web page
- Generate progress reports
- Review, revise, and refocus action steps when needed

How are Vision Alliances formed?

- When individuals/organizations come together to support the implementation of at least one objective
- An organized approach to developing partnerships without creating another bureaucracy

Invitation to be a Vision Partner



Pickens County Vision Plan 2007 – 2025
VISION PARTNER COMMITMENT CARD

What is a VISION PARTNER?

A Vision Partner is any organization, business, civic group, government entity, church, individual, etc., that volunteer to collaborate with other community members to implement the Pickens County Vision Plan. A Vision Partner endorses the overall Vision Plan process, though it may not totally agree with every individual core value, vision, key benchmark or objective. Vision Partners are those who take responsibility for making the individual objectives of the Vision Plan become a reality.

The Pickens Implementation Leadership Team would like to ask for your endorsement of the Pickens County Vision Plan 2007 – 2025. Please review the list below and indicate your interest in participating.

Check the activities that represent your organization’s willingness to participate:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopt and/or endorse the Pickens County Vision Plan.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Distribute the Vision Plan to all employees or members of your organization.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Establish a website link, as well as post information, progress reports, and flyers as appropriate in a central location of your organization.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Attend future Vision Plan meetings.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Encourage other businesses and individuals to support the Vision Plan.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Promote the Vision Plan with personal and social groups.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Serve on a Pickens County Vision Plan committee (please check one): _____ A Planned Community _____ Sense of Place _____ A Working Community _____ A Healthy Safe Community _____ An Educated Community
<input type="checkbox"/>	Our organization will adopt the following objective(s) and are listed the primary organizations that we believe could work with us in a strategic alliance to accomplish the objective(s). In alliance with our strategic partners, we will help the Pickens Implementation Team develop action steps for each objective adopted, as well as identify objective benchmarks to measure our annual progress. <i>Using the Pickens County Vision Plan document, please select specific objectives within each area of work (for example: Prioritize Education – EC1).</i> <u>Area of Work</u> <u>Objective Number</u> <u>Proposed Alliance Members</u>

YES, you can count on us to fulfill this commitment(s) for the implementation of the Pickens County Vision Plan and for the betterment of our community.

Organization _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Zip _____
 Email address _____
 Phone _____ Fax _____
 Authorizing Signature _____ Date _____

The Pickens County Vision Plan 2007-2025

“Your Voice. Your Choice”

A Planned Community

A planned community is one that boldly looks to the future. Plans are goals and dreams, not those deferred but those reasonably expected to be fulfilled. Citizens of Pickens County, guided by visionary leadership, see a larger community full of promise. “Tomorrow” is a word full of optimism and hope.

- PC1 Promote lakes, mountains, and natural resources for tourism and recreational use. Pickens is the gateway to mountains and lakes.
- PC2 Create a countywide land use and awareness plan that will accommodate smart growth by providing managed and balanced growth, including the consideration of zoning while being sensitive to individual property rights.
- PC3 Provide manufacturing, technology, and research zones with infrastructure for industrial growth.
- PC4 Encourage and support the county, municipal governmental entities, and special service districts to adopt a countywide master plan for roads, water use, sewerage, recreation, and fire/rescue services.
- PC5 Develop and fund a long-term transportation and traffic plan for our roadways; plan for growth by reengineering important roads, especially Hwy 183 to City of Pickens, Hwy 183 to Greenville County line, Hwy 178 to 123, 178 link to I-85, Hwy 123, Hwy 93, Hwy 153 to 183, and other major links as they become necessary.
- PC6 Evaluate and implement a vigorous public transportation plan that connects city areas and universities/colleges, as well as neighboring county centers, and provides public transportation that is particularly attentive to the demonstrated needs of seniors and disabled citizens.
- PC7 Provide an engaging involvement for the diverse population of the future.
- PC8 Attract a diverse, quality workforce that will make Pickens County their home while embracing our quality of life.
- PC9 Begin and sustain town center revitalization, with a focus on commercial and residential districts.
- PC10 Prepare and provide for the increasing senior population by reevaluating residential, transportation, medical, recreational services, and infrastructure needs.

- PC11 Manage commercial and residential growth along the Hwy 123 corridor, being especially attentive to aesthetics, traffic patterns, and safety.
- PC12 Develop housing options to meet the demands for a diverse workforce.
- PC13 Build greater cooperation and collaboration between Clemson University, Southern Wesleyan University, Tri-County Technical College, Pickens County School District, and the communities in Pickens County.
- PC14 Devise a mechanism that will instill cooperation between municipalities and county to effectively plan for the future.
- PC15 Align development of new water, power, communications, and sewerage lines to meet economic development demands and environmental concerns, and, whenever practical, encourage and direct development to where infrastructure already exists.
- PC16 Develop and implement code enforcement for removal of blighted and abandoned property; enhance natural beauty of Pickens County.
- PC17 Develop the resources for youth in the areas of recreation, sports, art, culture, and entertainment.
- PC18 Ensure future community planning addresses the needs for green space, walkable communities, public parks, recreation, biking/walking paths, and youth activities.
- PC19 Promote the use of old mill sites and vacant/abandoned buildings for residential and commercial developments, excluding historical preserved sites.
- PC20 Adopt night sky friendly lighting standards for public and government buildings.
- PC21 Develop wildlife corridors along natural drainage patterns.

A Working Community

The citizens of Pickens County respect honest labor, and all its citizens merit the opportunities provided by productive employment. Working citizens go to work, roll up their sleeves, and reap the rewards of their labor. Pickens County citizens will step up and demonstrate their strong work ethic.

- WC1 Plan for and provide infrastructure to attract new commercial enterprises; build collaboration among government agencies and economic development organizations to provide that infrastructure. Plan for new speculative industrial and office space as well as more commerce parks.
- WC2 Develop well-paying jobs, especially in business, technology, healthcare, and education.
- WC3 Train a workforce for future jobs.
- WC4 Respond to industrial and commercial demands for workforce skills, including but not limited to health care, construction, technology, and the service industry.
- WC5 Plan for CU-ICAR and Clemson University to be engines for growth; draw on their considerable resources of talent and technology as the county grows.
- WC6 Market our temperate climate, proximity to large urban centers, attractive small town life, accessibility to nature and recreation, and relative low cost of living and low taxes.
- WC7 Promote creative and respectful synergy between educational institutions and the community.
- WC8 Provide business incubators that align entrepreneurs with university research and development and other assets to promote business.
- WC9 Accommodate businesses that bring jobs in Tier 2 and Tier 3 automotive manufacturing, equipment assembly, medical services and equipment, education, tourism/ecotourism, agriculture, and technology, as well as other occupational areas.
- WC10 Grow an economy that keeps our youth in Pickens County, and improve marketable skills for youth, including construction trades, technology, and service industries.
- WC11 Create a chamber of commerce organization that represents the entire county.
- WC12 Support small business development and growth.
- WC13 Create a Pickens County-based media source.
- WC14 Balance commercial growth while preserving and protecting natural resources.
- WC15 Promote Pickens County as a retirement destination.

A Healthy Safe Community

Pickens County is striving to be a healthy community. In addition, Pickens citizens insist on remaining a safe place in which to live, and it must be kept that way. Improvements to a healthy lifestyle can and will be found while the current resources and cherished way of life are preserved and protected.

Note: Pickens County United Way completed a Community Impact Study in 2007. This study complements the objectives found in this section of the Vision Plan. For more information regarding the Community Impact Study go to the United Way web site at www.uw-pc.org

- HC1 Preserve healthy lifestyles, natural resources, readily available recreation, and safe communities with low incidence of crime.
- HC2 Grow resources for emergency services, law enforcement, and health care as the population grows.
- HC3 Provide safe, affordable, mind-enriching childcare programs and education for all children.
- HC4 Build collaboration among organizations that work with children and develop guidelines that are universal; require uniformity of excellence in childcare and consistent accountability through local/state laws and regulations.
- HC5 Promote healthy lifestyles by providing education and initiatives on proper nutrition, exercise, and wellness.
- HC6 Attend to the growing needs of law enforcement for training and resources; provide training facility for all emergency responders.
- HC7 Consolidate emergency response and law enforcement services, foster cooperation, and make continuing improvements in protection, service, and safety.
- HC8 Enhance interoperability of communication among all emergency response agencies.
- HC9 Provide or work to obtain a major wellness centers, one designed to fulfill needs of a changing population, especially seniors.
- HC10 Work to guarantee affordable health care.
- HC11 Recruit more medical and health care providers.
- HC12 Promote healthy families. Provide appropriate and effective services for troubled and distressed families and individuals.
- HC13 Work to guarantee the availability of dental care.
- HC14 Increase the availability and affordability of mental health services.
- HC15 Address homelessness, hunger, poverty, as well as drug and alcohol abuse, through enhancing education, intervention, and prevention programs.

A Sense of Place

The unique identity of Pickens County and the special identities of each community are reasons for pride. Vital is the preservation of the county's present sense of place and the enhancement of what is possible.

- SP1 Foster a sense of individual communities with unique identities while providing for cooperation and collaboration among their leaders, organizations, and citizens.
- SP2 Provide programs and facilities that build relationships between current and new citizens; foster diversity and a welcoming community spirit. Develop a community center where small clubs, families, or non-profits groups host events, such as craft, horticulture, music, art, and drama workshops or classes, as well as fashion shows, plays, dances, birthday parties, and family reunions.
- SP3 Preserve the small town feel, the sense of rural character, and the overall sense of community.
- SP4 Develop enhanced access to lakes and rivers to provide walking trails and recreational activities along waterways.
- SP5 Preserve natural beauty; protect our mountain vistas, lakes and river watersheds, and forest preserves; increase green space areas; protect pristine land.
- SP6 Significantly expand land conservation programs.
- SP7 Beautify roadways and remove blight.
- SP8 Promote and maintain a clean county that presents a well-preserved and sustainable environment.
- SP9 Encourage different communities to build on their distinctive characteristics.
- SP10 Increase art and cultural opportunities in the communities beyond those provided by educational institutions while continuing to seek the cooperation and collaboration of colleges and universities.
- SP11 Develop children and youth entertainment and recreational resources through a variety of accessible indoor and outdoor facilities.
- SP12 Facilitate an alliance among religious institutions and non-governmental groups to address community social issues.
- SP13 Upgrade housing quality while improving local codes to enforce the maintenance of quality housing. Expedite the removal of abandoned mobile homes and derelict houses.
- SP14 Attract developers to build affordable homes, provide access to financing, work to provide the availability of affordable housing.
- SP15 Create a countywide alliance that supports and markets the arts and cultural activities.
- SP16 Build a convention or civic center to promote cultural, sporting, and commercial events and to create a focal point for the county.

- SP17 Maintain historic sites, such as grist mills, homes, churches, Native American sites, and the Pickens County Museum.
- SP18 Create leadership networks and opportunities that enable women, minorities, and unrepresented sectors of the population to assume roles in public and civic engagement.
- SP19 Include an equestrian element in recreation options—for example along bridle trails—to add to the range of healthy recreation lifestyles.
- SP20 Address the entertainment and recreational needs of young adults.

An Educated Community

Pickens County is making every effort to be a stronger learning community and recognizes that education at all phases of life is vital to our future. Special care for the learning needs of the youngest of children, our promising youth, and all segments of our population of adults continues—and will continue—to be a key value in our way of life.

- EC1 Make education a priority for all citizens, and promote the value of lifelong learning.
- EC2 Promote the need for high school and higher education for all segments of the population.
- EC3 Educate students so that they are better prepared for work by providing opportunities such as use technology centers and work skills programs to augment training in academic basics.
- EC4 Retain students by developing additional relevant and engaging curriculum.
- EC5 Graduate a high percentage of youth from high school, and make Pickens a leading county in the state based on graduation rate.
- EC6 Reinforce that public education is capable and effective by making concerted efforts to improve K-12 facilities, resources, programs, curriculum, and instruction.
- EC7 Build close partnerships between communities and educational institutions.
- EC8 Strengthen the alliance of childcare professionals to help coordinate and consolidate early childhood services and to address the needs of our infants and pre-school children so that they come prepared for kindergarten.
- EC9 Recruit and retain the best teachers and pay competitive salaries for their expertise.
- EC10 Continue facilitation of the Education and Economic Development Act by encouraging the cooperation of area businesses and schools.
- EC11 Open schools beyond traditional school hours and provide community education programs.
- EC12 Enhance the recruitment of teachers and college faculty by ensuring an adequate supply of housing.
- EC13 Coordinate future school sites between school district and governmental agencies, with attention to infrastructure and community impact.
- EC14 Aggressively promote adult and alternative education, English as a Second Language, and GED programs.

- EC15 Create and enhance after-school enrichment programs, such as 4H, scouting, Future Farmers of America, Junior Achievement, and strong mentoring programs.
- EC16 Promote education in the skilled trades, such as plumbing, welding, construction, and electrical.
- EC17 Educate and provide students with opportunities regarding maintaining healthy lifestyles, focusing on life skills, physical education, and a healthy diet.
- EC18 Increase the availability of in-school health providers.

Appendix 1 - Vision Donors

The Pickens County Vision Steering Committee would like to thank the following contributors for their support. With their support, we have been able to use our voices today to impact our needs and goals for our communities tomorrow.

PLATINUM

(\$15,000 and above)

The City of Easley
The Cliffs

GOLD

(\$10,000 to \$15,000)

The City of Clemson
Fort Hill Natural Gas Authority
Duke Energy
Clemson University

Southern Wesleyan University

SILVER

(\$5,000 to \$10,000)

Blue Ridge Electric Co-Op
Easley Combined Utilities
Palmetto Health Baptist--Easley
Wachovia Bank
Sauer-Danfoss, Inc.
SunTrust Bank

INDIVIDUALS

(\$50 to \$250)

Judy Burns
Jim Capaldi
Chris Christopherson
Helen Hockwalt
Allen Ours
Gerald Sweitzer
Ray Steck
Renee Watson
Walsh Realty

BRONZE

(\$1,000 to
\$5,000)

The City of Central
The City of Liberty
The City of Pickens
Cornell Dubilier Electronics, Inc.
Peoples National Bank
Tri-County Technical College
Pickens County YMCA

PATRON

(\$500 to
\$1,000)

United Way of Pickens County
Nalley Construction Company
First Citizens Bank

SUPPORTER

(\$250 to \$500)

Dr. Sandra Lamberson

IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

Chick-fil-A of Easley
Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce
Comfort Inn
Crescent Media Group
The Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce
Just Technology
Rogers Design
Outback Steakhouse
The School District of Pickens County

Appendix 2 - Benchmarks

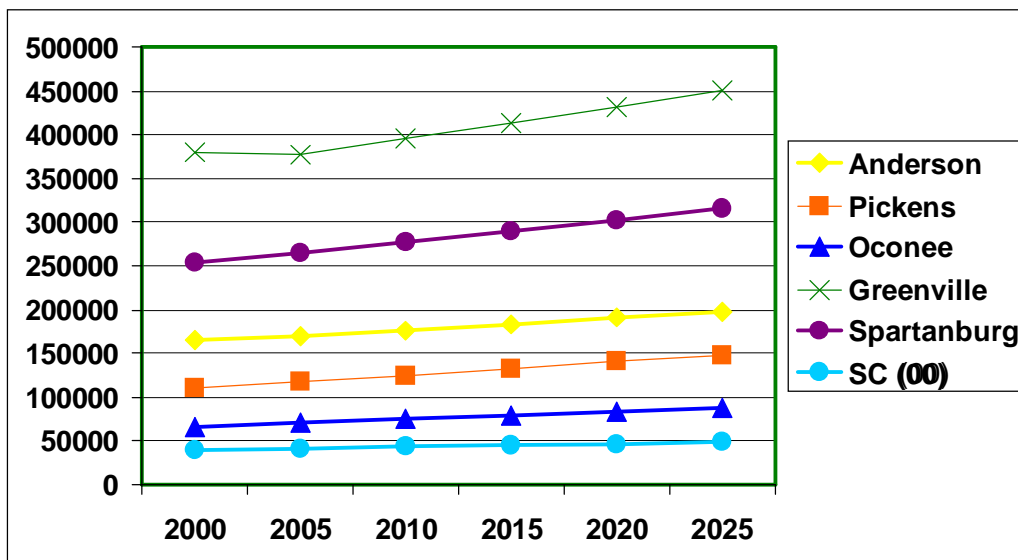
The following benchmarks can be used by citizens and policymakers in Pickens County as the implementation of this vision plan unfolds. Additionally, Vision Partners and Alliances who embrace objectives within this plan will create additional or entirely new benchmarks and indicators to measure progress. Vision Partners and Alliances will be asked to provide documentation regarding their progress on an annual basis. The Implementation Leadership Team, Vision Partners, and Alliances should regularly communicate progress to the community.

The data presented provides a more complete picture of the county as it relates to surrounding counties and its own past.

1. Planned Community

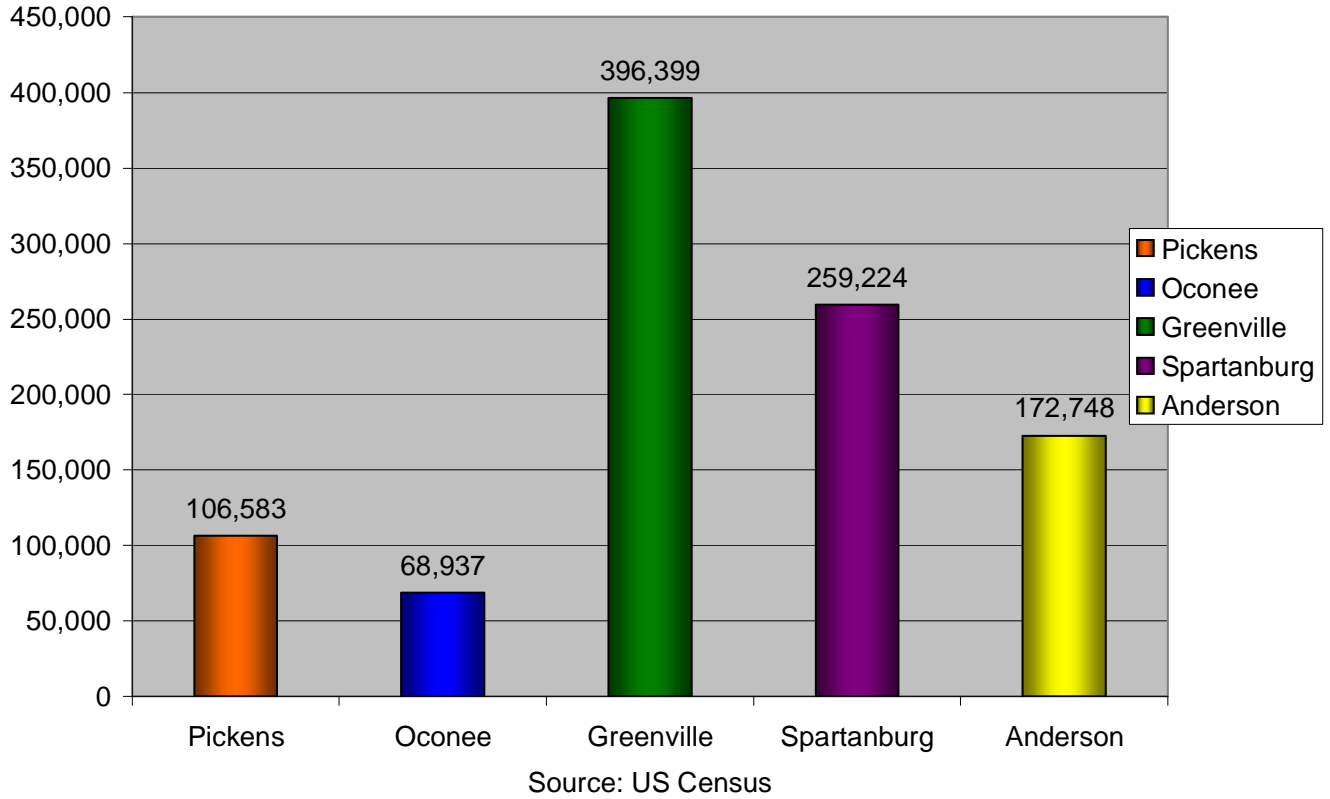
The noted benchmarks in this section will support the understanding of where Pickens County is in many of the critical areas that will be addressed during the implementation of the Planned Community objectives. This community will build a stronger economy, making wise choices in growth plans and development, as well as forming significant partnerships that will help realize intelligent, orderly growth.

1a. Population Projections for Pickens and Selected Counties

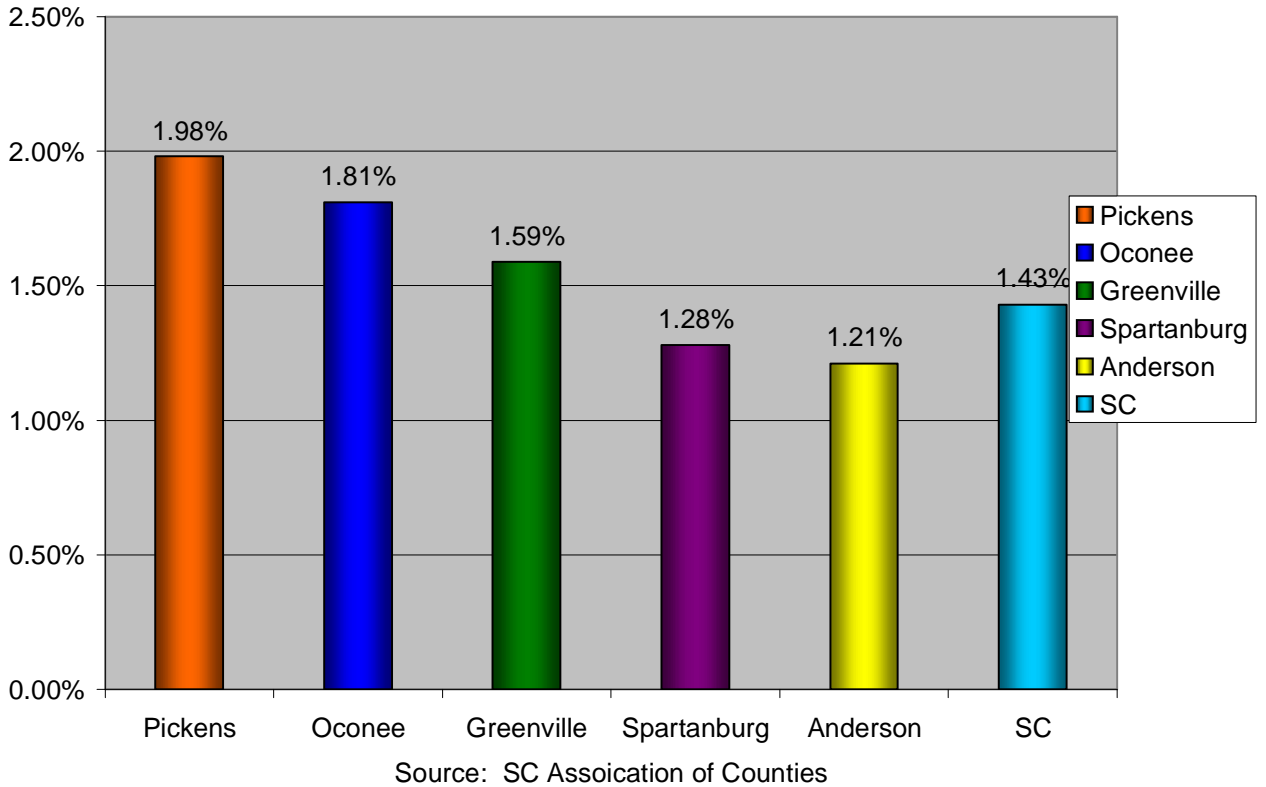


Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census and SC Office of Research and Statistical Services

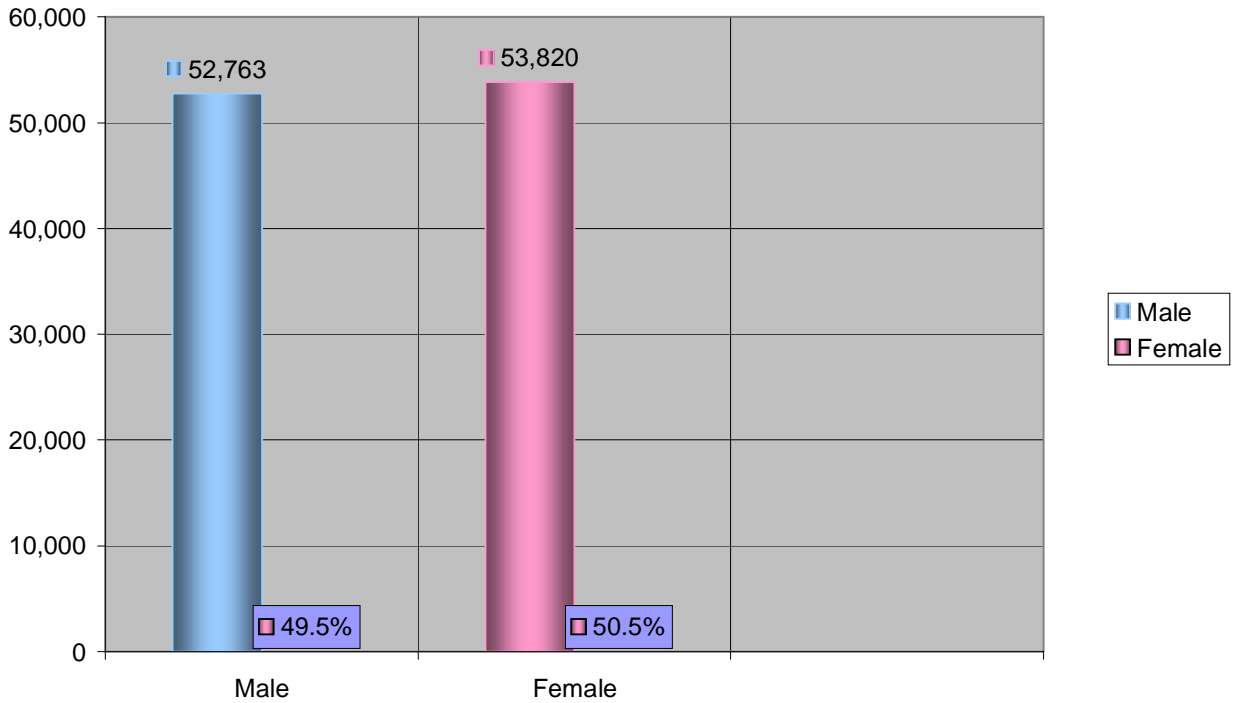
1b. 2005 Population By County



1c. 1980-2000 Average Annual Population Growth Rate

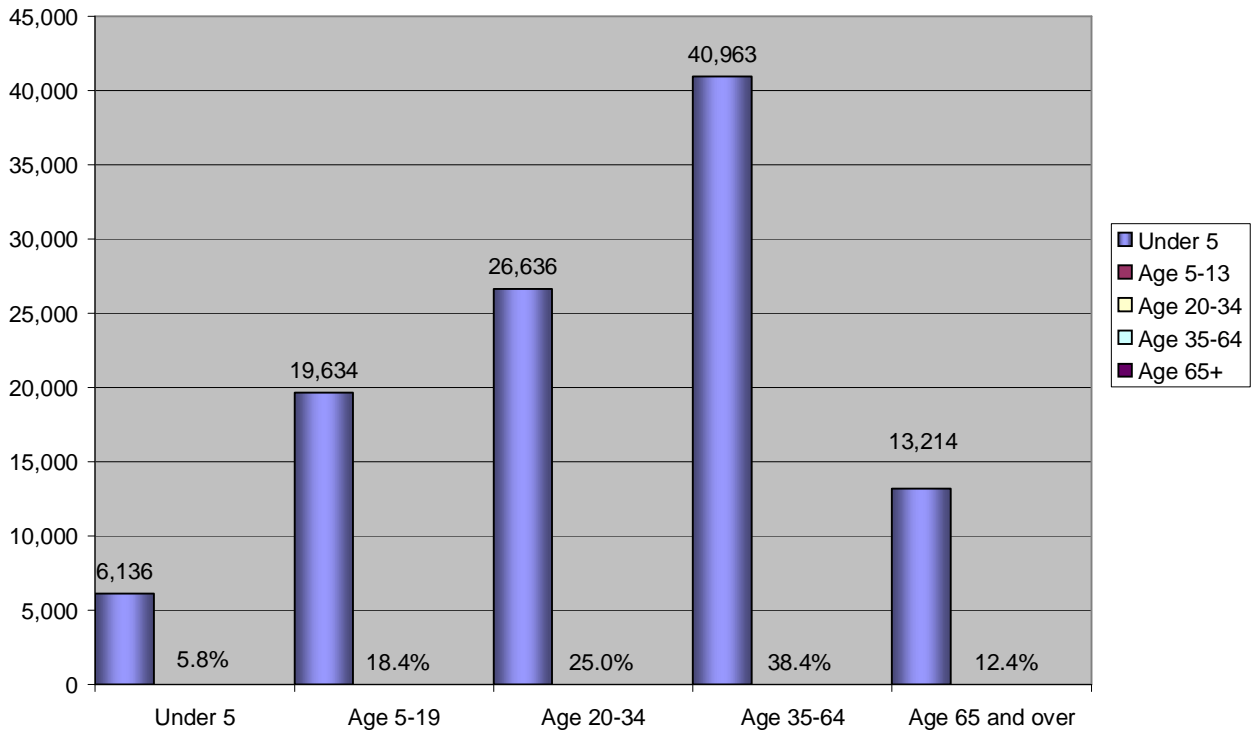


1d. 2005 Pickens County Population Distribution by Gender



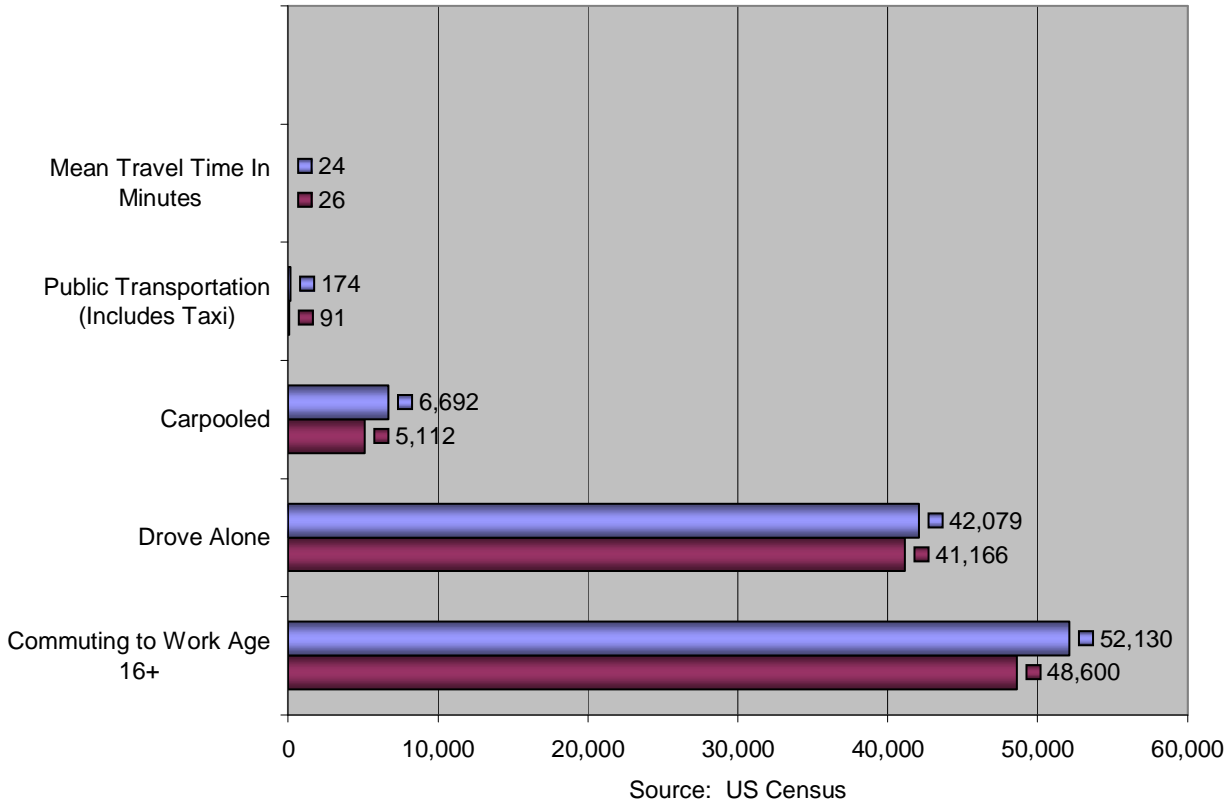
Source: US Census

1e. 2005 Pickens Population Distribution by Age

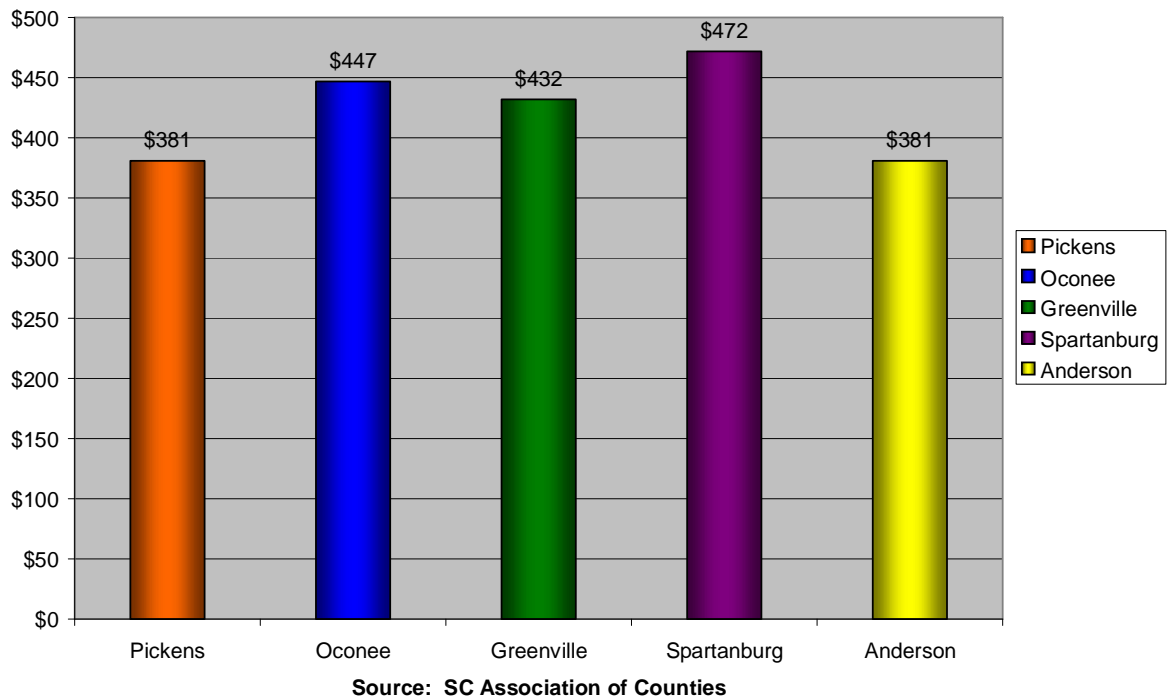


Source: US Census

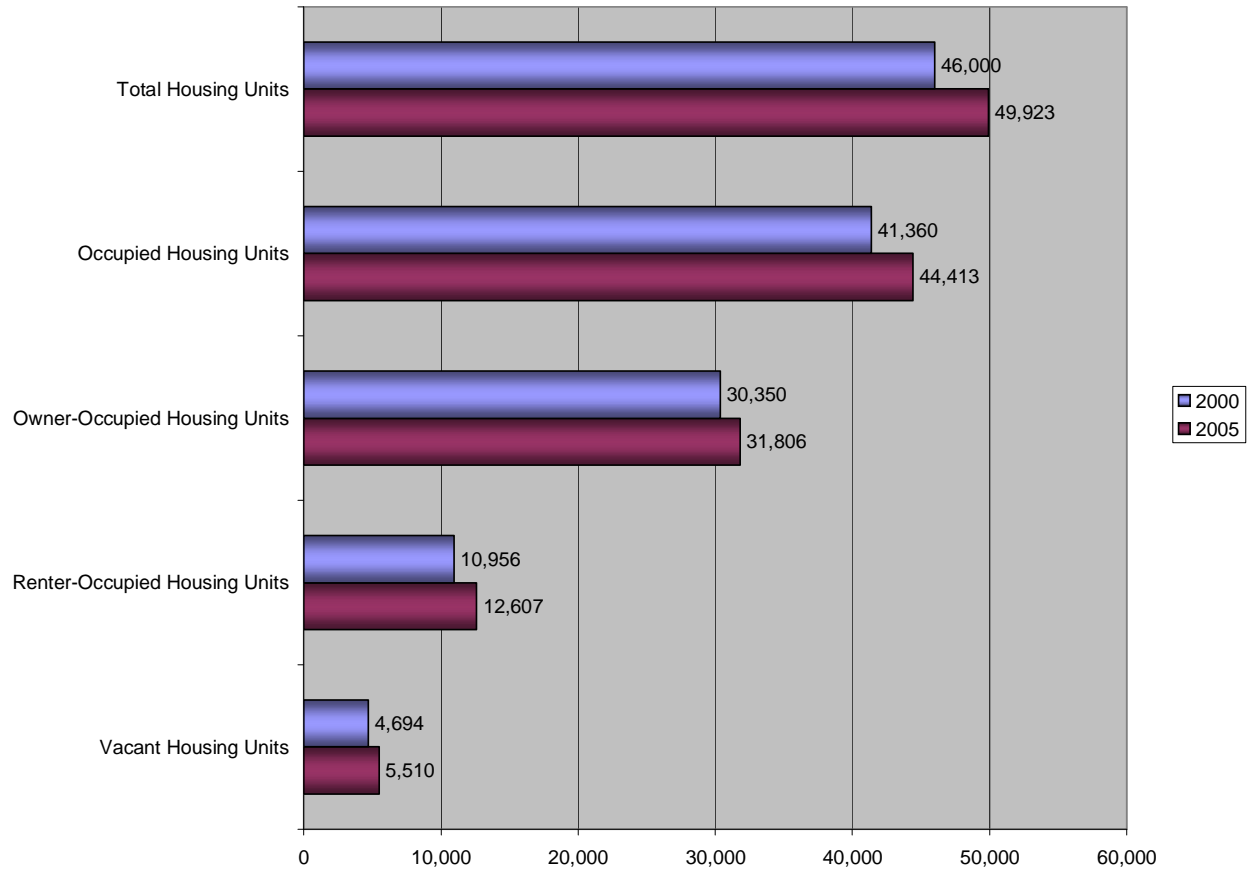
1f. 2000 vs. 2005 Pickens County Traveling to Work



1g. 2006 Per Capita Revenue-All Sources



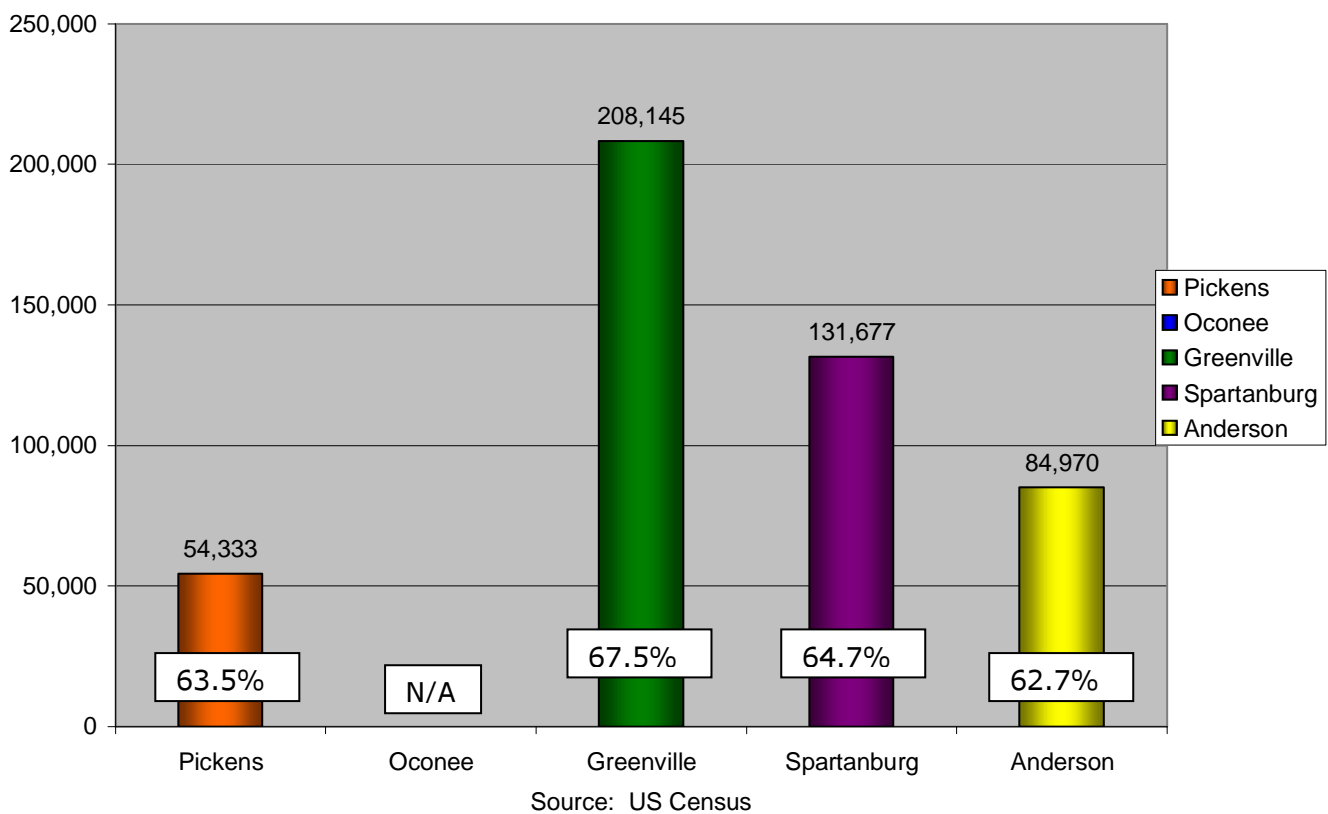
1h. 2000 vs. 2005 Pickens County Housing Units



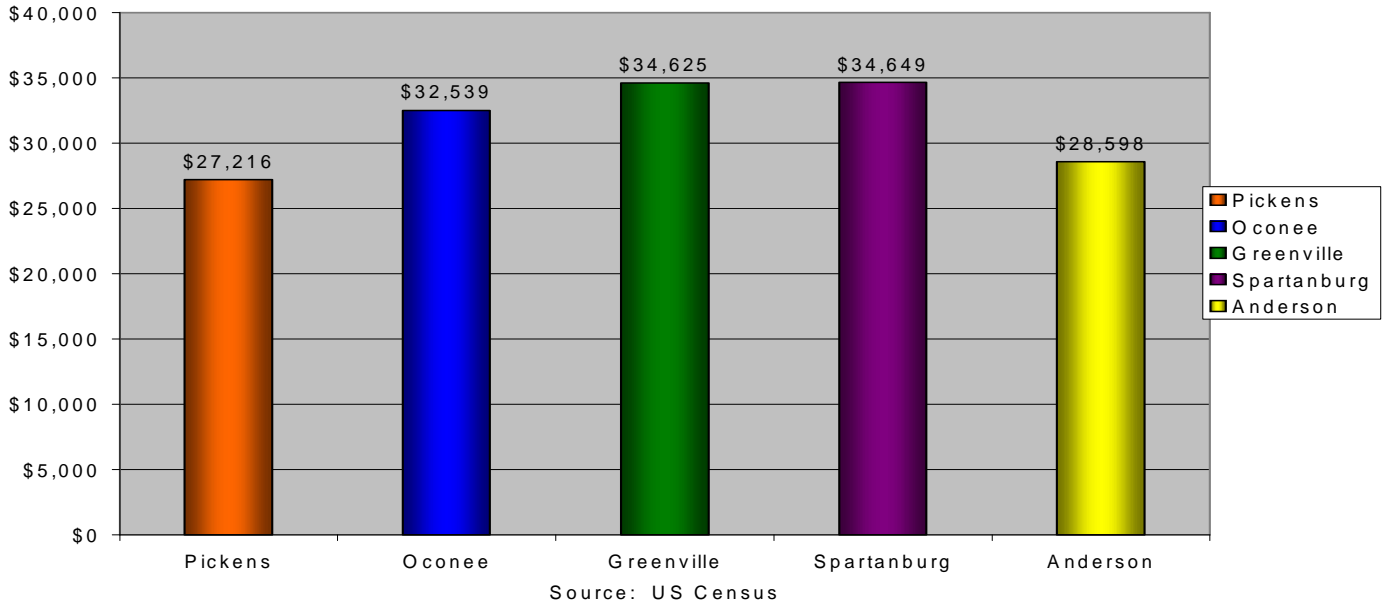
2. Working Community

The Working Community benchmarks provide the framework from which to analyze data during the next twenty years. Job retention and creation was a major concern expressed by the citizens during the visioning process. Employment opportunities affect the county in terms of population growth, poverty rates, home ownership, and funding for local governments. Job growth will balance the proliferation of low-paying jobs with opportunities across all income levels and provide an engine for economic prosperity.

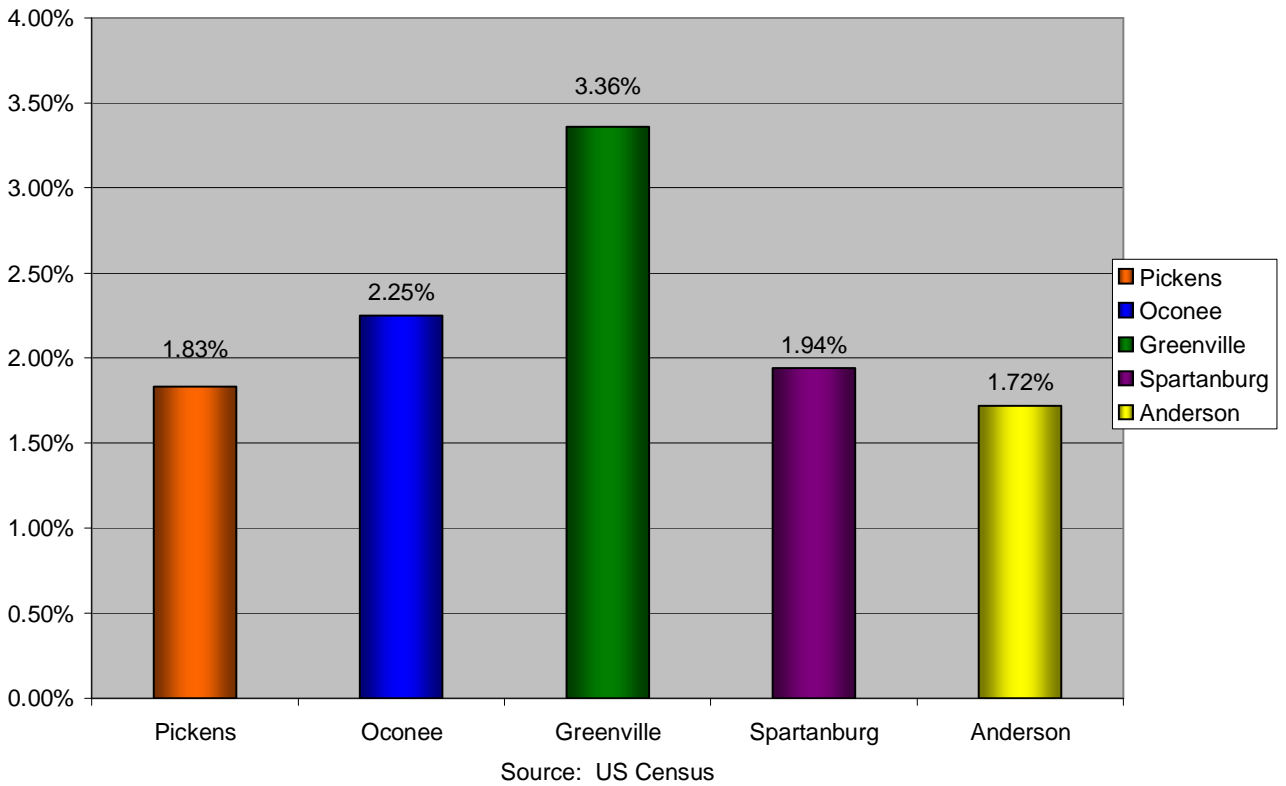
2a. 2005 In Labor Force Age 16+



2b. 2004 Average Wage Per Job



2c. 1980 - 2000 Average Annual Economic Growth Rate

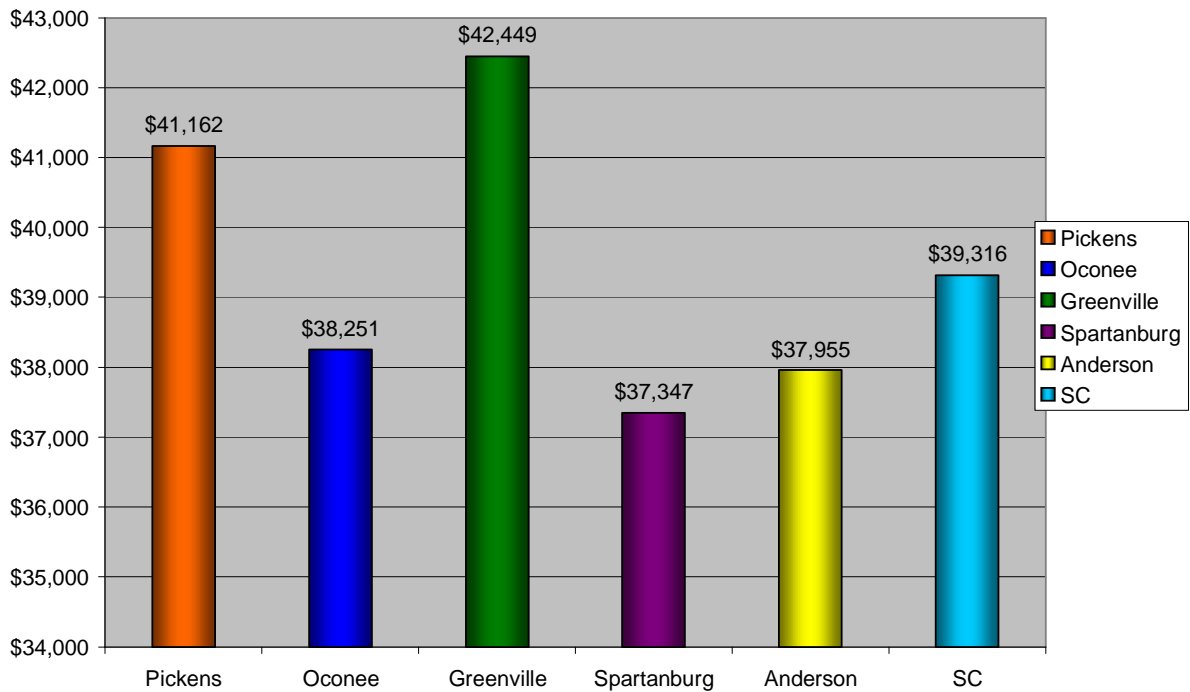


2d. 1999 vs. 2005 Pickens County Income Levels



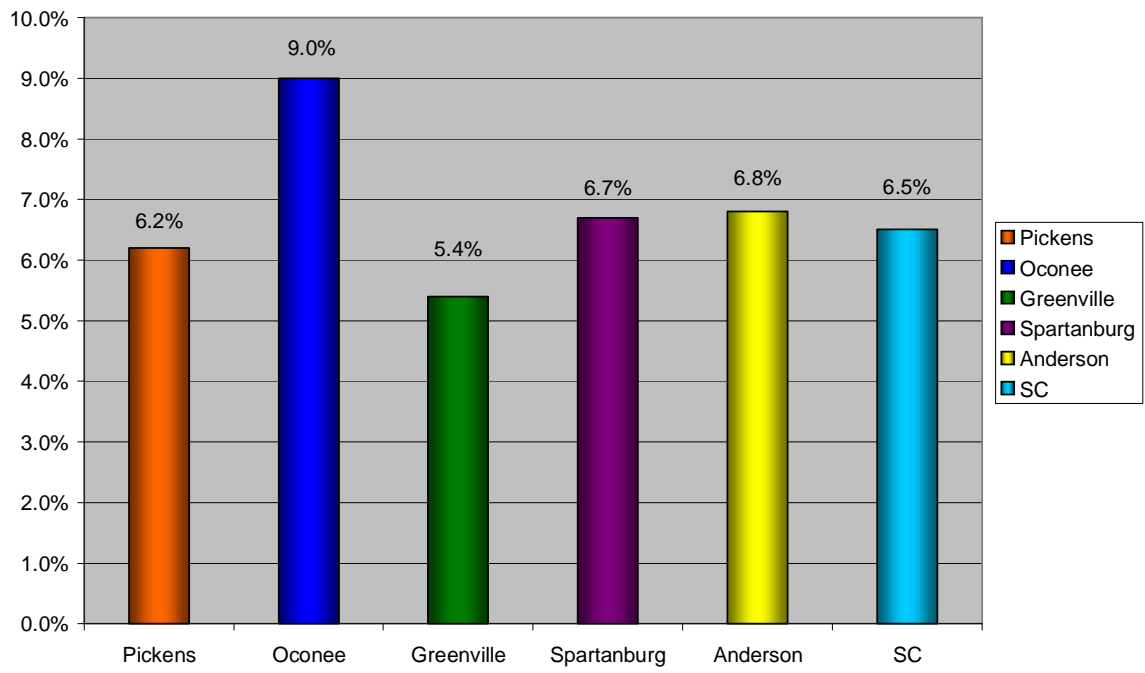
Source: US Census

2e. 2005 Median Household Income



Source: US Census

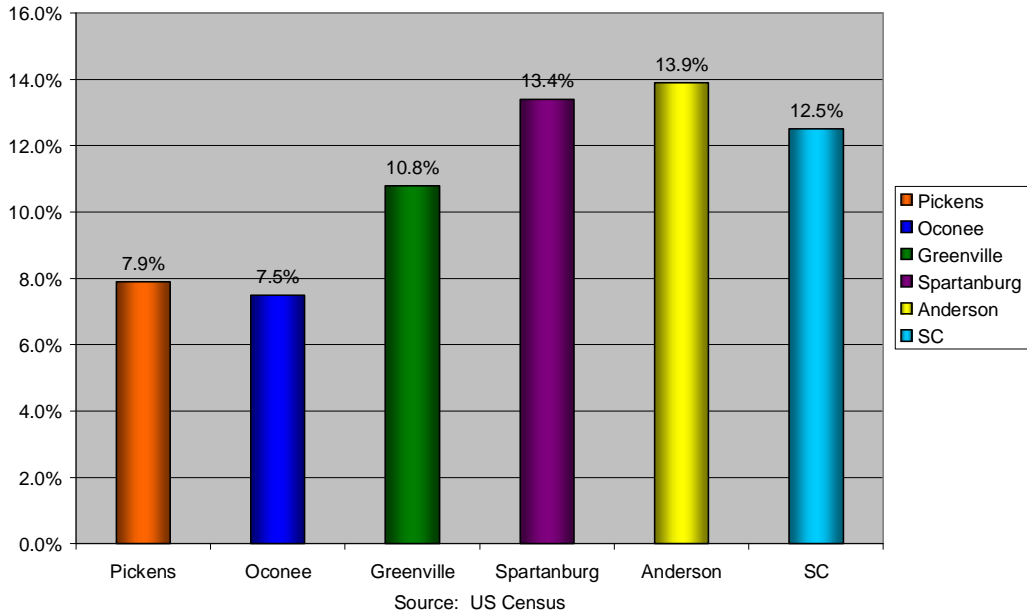
2f. 2006 Average Annual Unemployment Rate



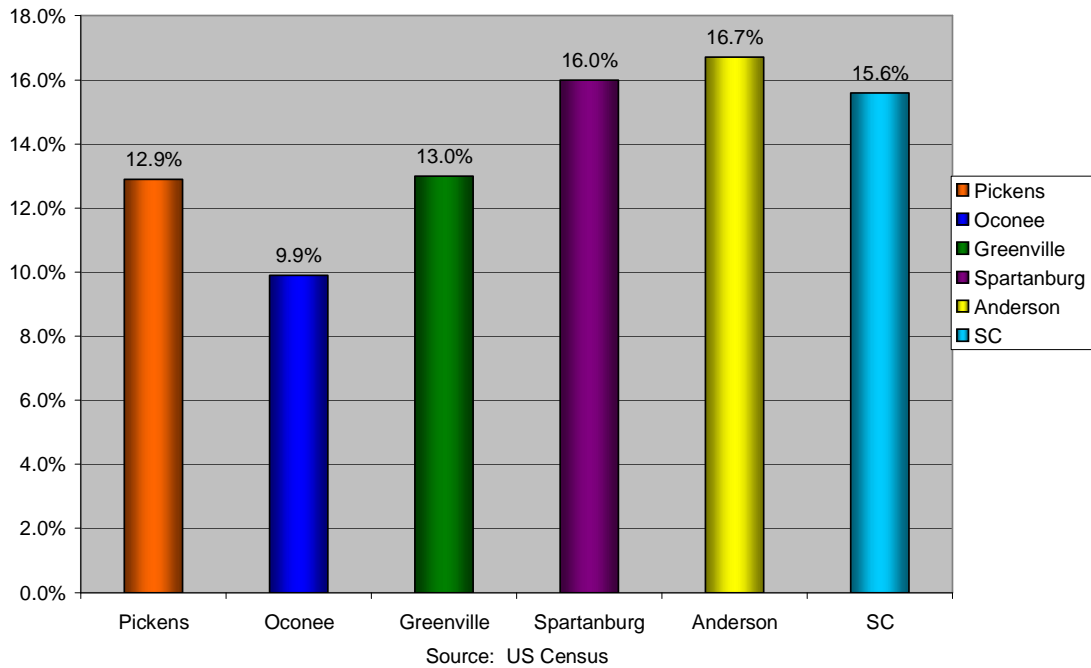
3. Healthy and Safe Community

Pickens County citizens have expressed their commitment to a healthy and safe county. The benchmarks presented support this commitment as a beginning measurement to strive to improve in all areas. Citizens who avail themselves of recreation, who adopt healthy lifestyles, and who plan their health care will be productive contributors to the family, the community and the environment. Healthy and safety services will stay abreast of community needs.

3a. 2005 Families Below Poverty Rate



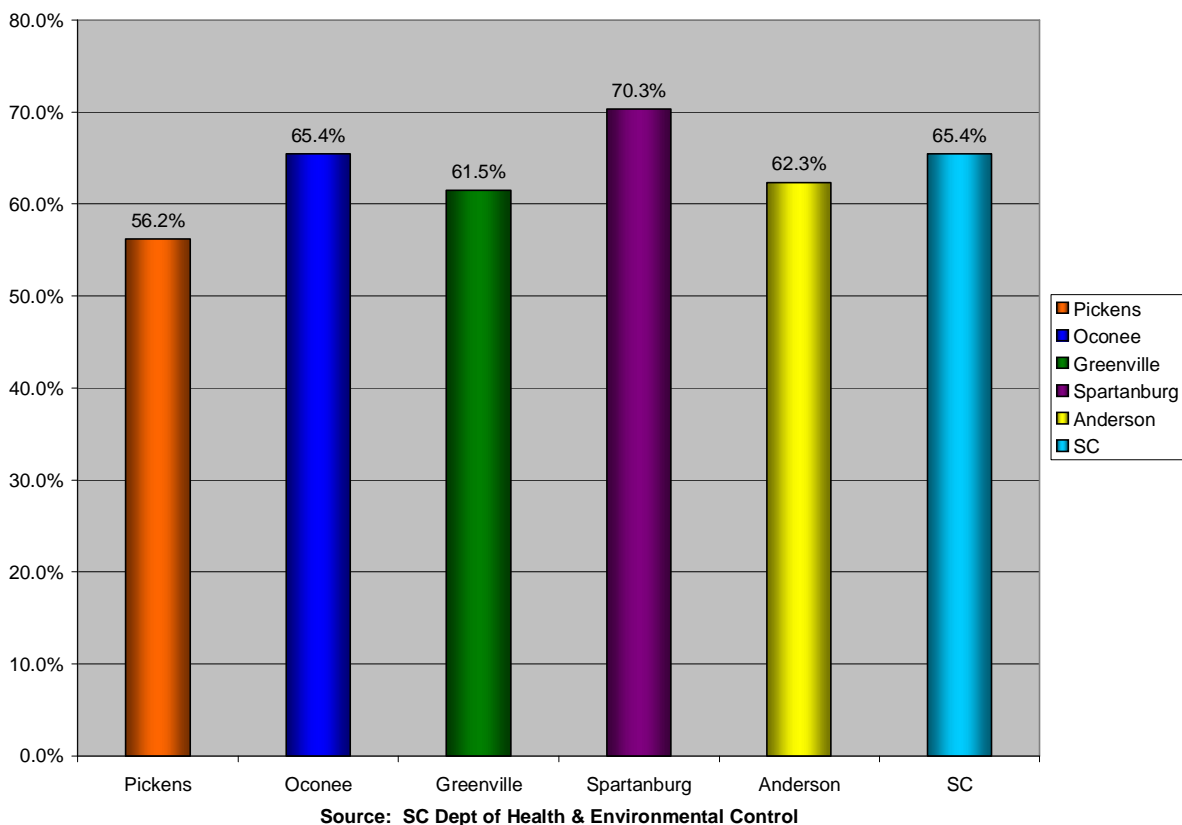
3b. 2005 Individuals Below Poverty Rate



Note: According to the US Census, poverty is defined at the family level and not the household level, the poverty status of household is determined by the poverty status of the householder. Households are classified as poor when they total income of the householder's family is below the appropriate poverty threshold. The income of people

living in the household who are unrelated to the householder is not considered when determining the poverty status of a household, nor does their presence affect the family size in determining the appropriate threshold. In determining the poverty status of families and unrelated individuals, the Census Bureau uses thresholds (income cutoffs) arranged in a two-dimensional matrix. To determine the poverty status of a family, the Census Bureau uses (1) the threshold for the 1982 base year for family size three with one child under 18 years of age which is \$7,765; and (2) the average poverty factor for the 12 months starting from July 2004 to June 2005, which is 1.98622. The product of the above ($\$7,765 \times 1.98622$) is \$15,423. Therefore, \$15,423 is the appropriate threshold for a family of three with one child under the age of 18. If a family of three income fell below this amount, they would be considered to have an annual income that is below the poverty level in 2005.

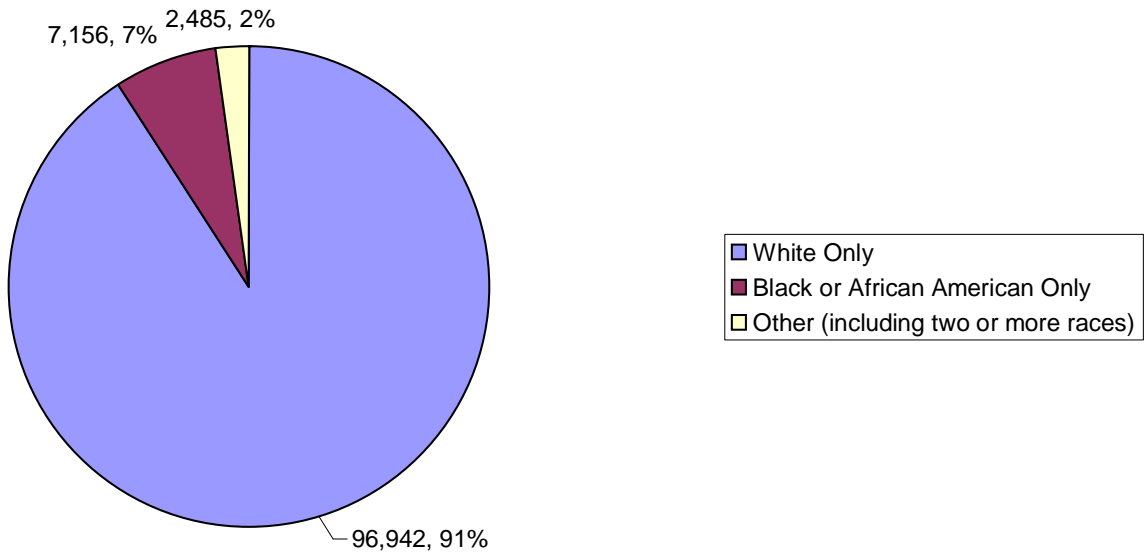
3c. 2006 Estimates of Percent Overweight or Obese



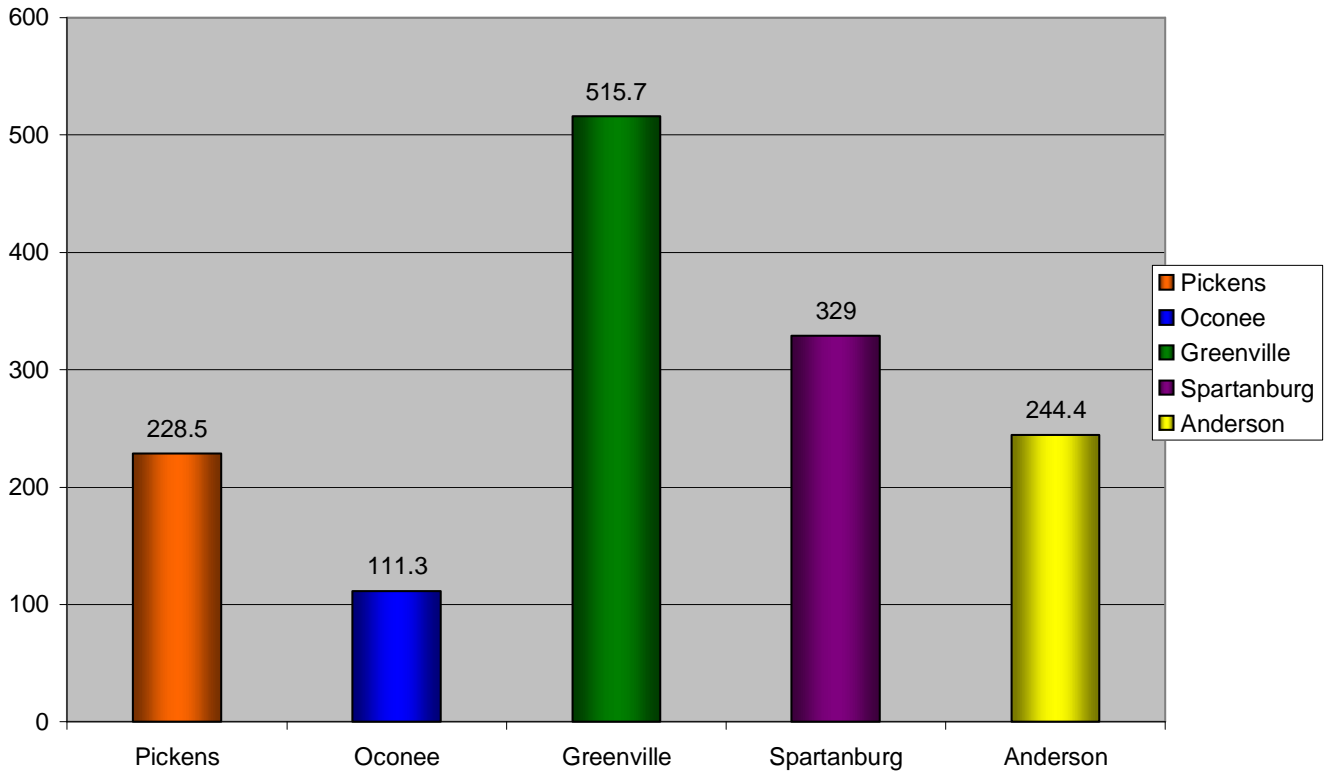
4. Sense of Place

A keen sense of place was noted during the visioning process. The benchmarks presented will help to support a welcoming community and a preserving community. Pickens County will accept newcomers as it grows, and yet the larger community will protect its special character and way of life, acknowledging that community identity remains keenly aware of traditions and history while eager to adapt as it moves into the future.

4a. 2005 Pickens County Population Distribution by Race



4b. 2005 Persons Per Square Mile

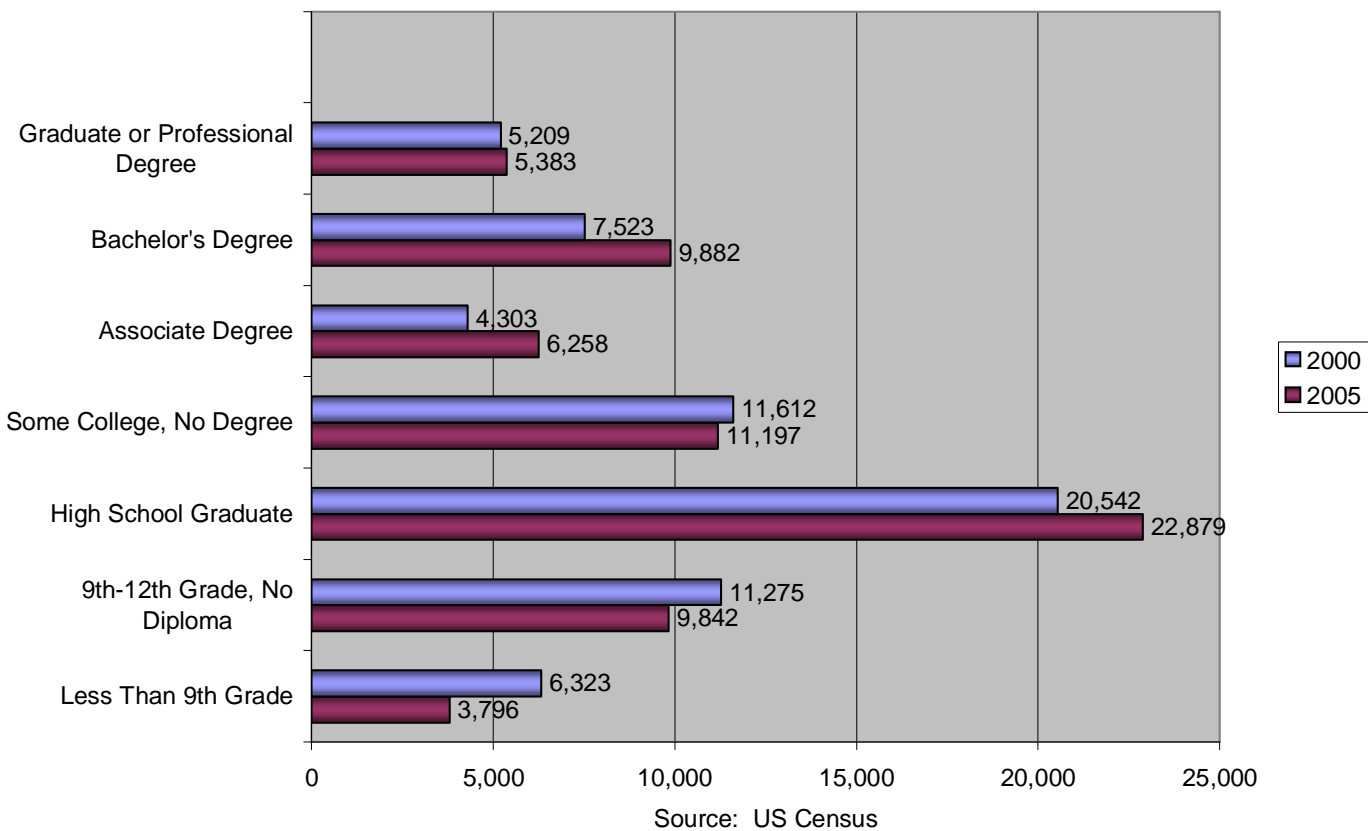


Source: SC Association of Counties

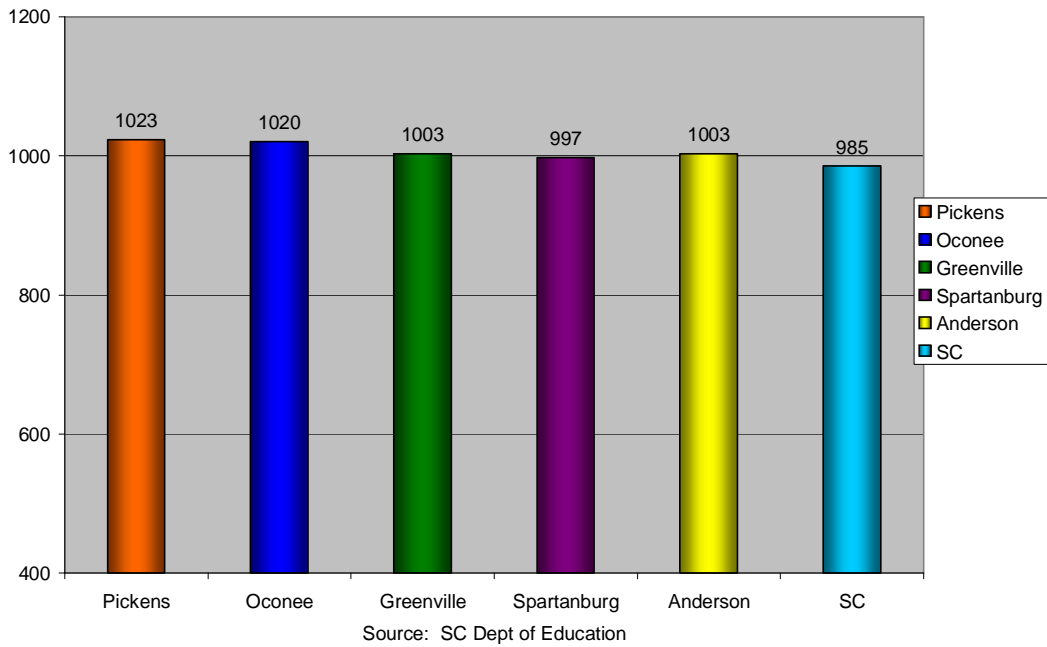
5. Educated Community

An educated community is the backbone of the progress for any community. The benchmarks presented will support knowing where the county is now, knowing that education, more than any other influence, will equip the community as it moves forward. Pickens County will work toward making the most of educational opportunities, developing community-based educational endeavors and establishing close relationships with educational institutions, rich sources of learning across a wide spectrum of areas.

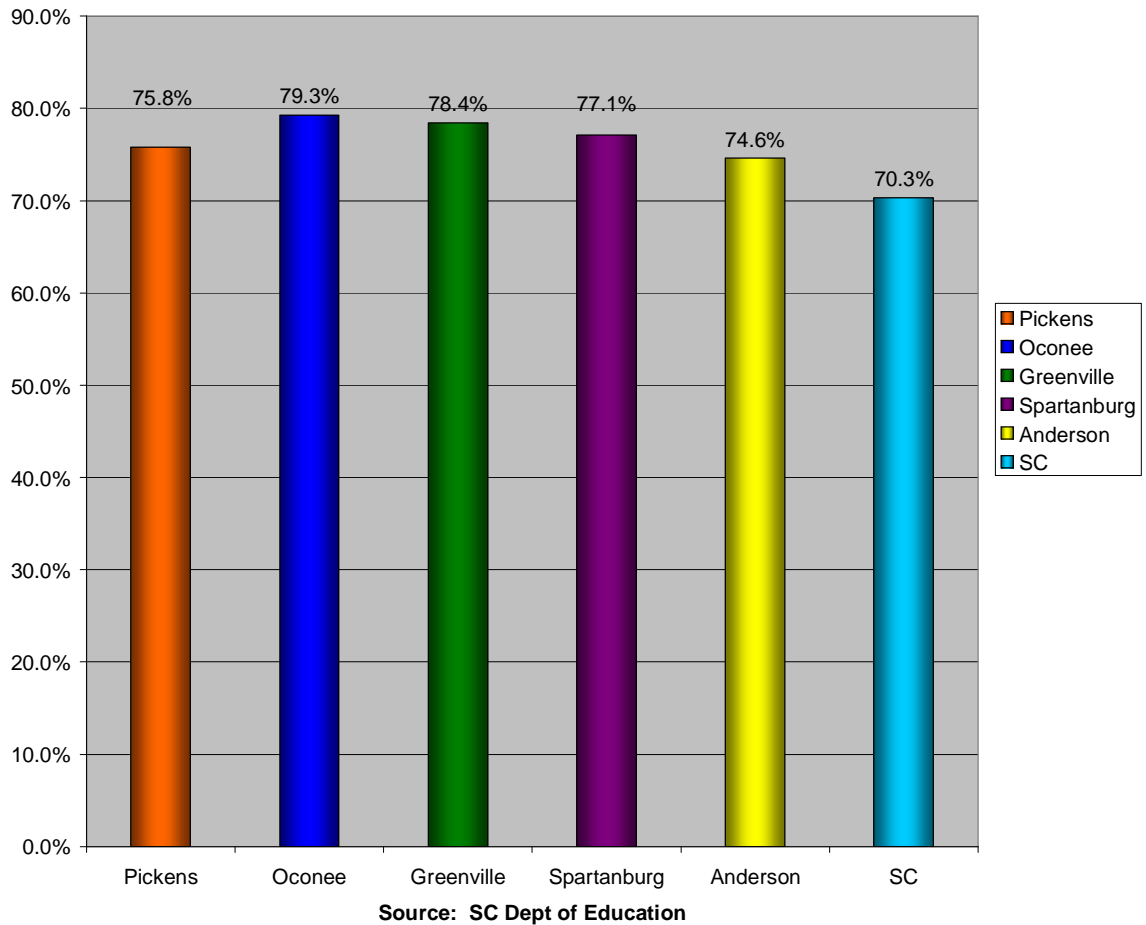
5a. 2000 vs. 2005 Pickens County Education Attainment for Ages 25+



5b. 2006 SAT Scores



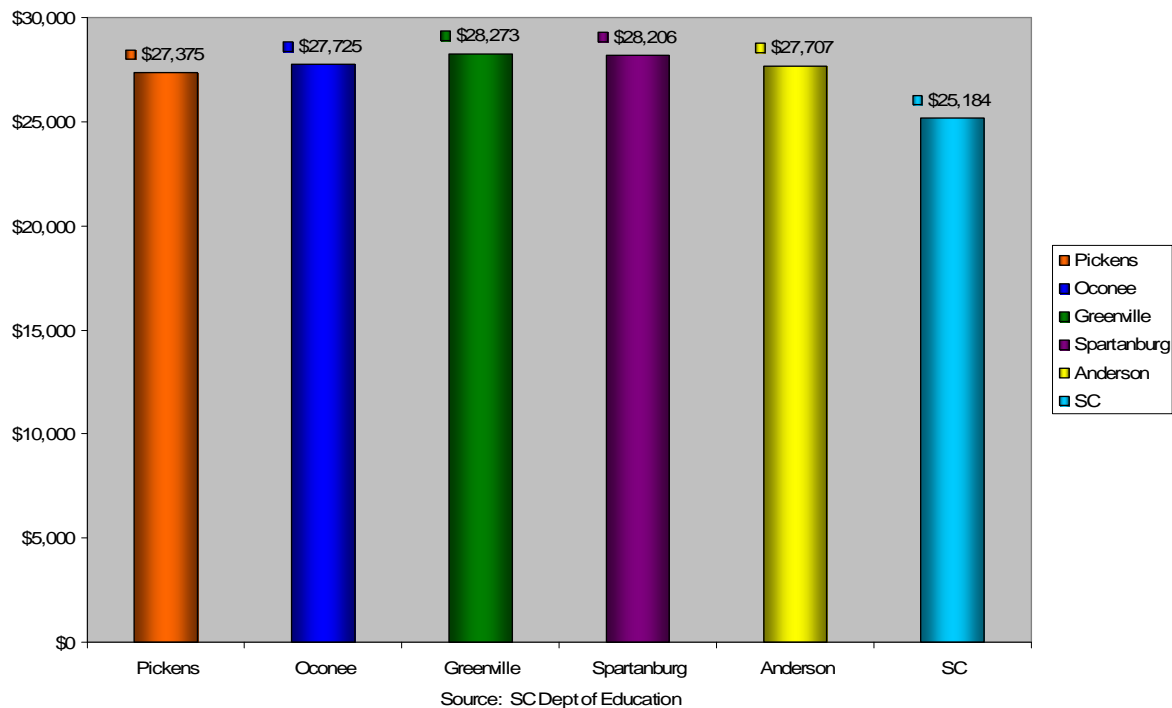
5c. 2005-06 Graduation Rate Based on AYP



Note: Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP): Adequate Yearly Progress is the minimum level of performance that school districts and schools must achieve each year as determined under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act.

Graduation Rate: The percentage of original ninth-grade students who earn standard high school diplomas who graduate in four years or less. This percentage does not account for students who: graduate early, obtain their GED, receive a special certification, graduate after their four years, and/or move to another school district.

5d. 2002-2003 Beginning Teacher Salary with a BS Degree and Zero Years of Experience



A CALL FOR ACTION

A natural culmination of investigation and deliberation in community affairs is action. The citizens of Pickens County have invested time and energy gathering ideas about what they would prefer the county to look like tomorrow and up to twenty years hence. A thoughtful “process approach” has led to the type of understanding that inspires action. Objectives instill purpose. Resolved calls for response. Ideas beg to become actual. The time has come to implement Pickens County’s vision for its future.

There are plenty of promising days yet to dawn in Pickens County. As one American philosopher has said, “The sun is but a morning star.” It is with faith, promise, optimism, and hope that Pickens County’s citizens look to the future that they fully intend to shape.

No one will have all the answers. The simple knowledge of a few is not enough to create dynamic, systemic, countywide change. All citizens must participate in the community’s work. All need to be involved because all will be impacted and all, ultimately, will be accountable.

For the serious work ahead, new structures to enhance community dialogue and relationship building must be created, and old structures must be nurtured. Energy and good will find ways to connect people when structures, organizations, and agendas cannot. Speaking clearly and listening intently will be of paramount importance.

Remember, Vision Partners fulfill the objectives in the vision plan. The Leadership Team provides the process, guidance, network, and support. There is no contributor of greater importance than citizen—in a democratic society, a title of citizen is the highest.

Now that Pickens County has its Vision Plan, it is time to move vision into action.

The quote by Margaret Mead speaks what is possible; “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”

By all means, *carpe diem* - seize the day!

Report and facilitation provided by:

Seize the day with



Providing solutions...building communities

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