



**Hampton County, South Carolina  
Office of the County Administrator  
200 Jackson, Ave. E.  
Hampton, SC 29924**



September 26, 2025

The Honorable Curtis Loftis, State Treasurer of South Carolina  
The Honorable Margie Bright Matthews, SC Senator District 45  
The Honorable William "Bill" Hager, SC Representative District 122

Re: September 30 Town Hall Meeting and any future Town Hall Meetings Regarding Hampton County Forensic Audit Results

*Dear Honorable Elected Officials:*

On behalf of Hampton County Council and our newly elected Treasurer Alice Wright-Gordon, I am writing to express our concern regarding the recently circulated flyer (attached) announcing a Town Hall on the Hampton County Forensic Audit Results. While we respect the right of elected officials to engage with the public, the lack of coordination with County Administration raises the risk that critical information will be presented in a fragmented or politicized way, potentially undermining public trust rather than strengthening it.

As you know, Hampton County has undertaken two major state-led reviews simultaneously:

- **Forensic Audit** – Conducted by Elliott Davis Bailey under the direction and financial support of the State Treasurer's Office, which generously covered the cost the County could not afford.
- **Capital Project Sales Tax (CPST) Audit** – Conducted by the SC Department of Revenue to ensure compliance and accountability in the use of CPST funds.

The County is committed to improved transparency and will release a comprehensive, fact-based public statement only after both audits are completed. This approach ensures residents receive the *full picture*—not piecemeal information—and that findings are framed in their proper context alongside the reforms we are implementing. A premature or individually driven disclosure risks creating unnecessary confusion, feeding negative speculation, and distracting from the County's forward momentum.

We believe the people of Hampton County deserve more than fragmented headlines or political soundbites. They deserve a transparent, coordinated, and solution-focused account of where the County stands, what challenges have been identified, and—most importantly—the steps already underway to correct past weaknesses. In addition to these audits, the County has launched multiple initiatives to modernize operations and strengthen accountability, including:

- A countywide **Wage & Salary Study** and **Performance Evaluation System** to build workforce professionalism and equity.
- Implementation of the **Springbrook ERP financial system** to improve transparency and efficiency in accounting, budgeting, and reporting.



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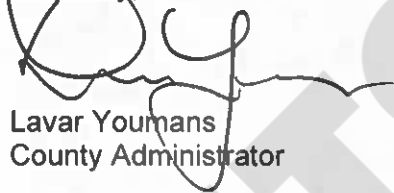
- Strategic planning and zero-based budgeting practices to align resources with long-term financial stability.
- Policies and systems of control
- Implementation of comprehensive policy and control measures designed to prevent a recurrence of past weaknesses and to modernize our operations. These include strengthened internal controls, standardized financial policies, zero-based budgeting practices, and expanded performance and accountability frameworks across departments.

These efforts demonstrate that Hampton County is not only addressing past issues but is building a stronger, more transparent government for the future.

We welcome the opportunity to brief your offices directly on both the audit process and the County's reform initiatives so that state and county leadership remain aligned and the public receives a clear, unified message. Once both audits are fully complete, we will notify your offices and the public on findings and reforms the County will implement.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support of Hampton County. Together, we can ensure that accountability is strengthened, public confidence is restored, and our community remains focused on solutions rather than division.

Sincerely,



Lavar Youmans  
County Administrator

CC; Hampton County Council  
Alice Wright-Gordon, County Treasurer