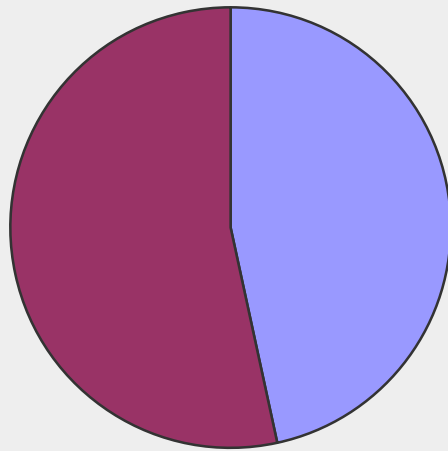


Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

Would you like to provide input about the South Carolina Comptroller General's Office?
(There are four questions.)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	46.6%	797
No	53.4%	914
	<i>answered question</i>	1711
	<i>skipped question</i>	77

Would you like to provide input about the South Carolina Comptroller General's Office? (There are four questions.)



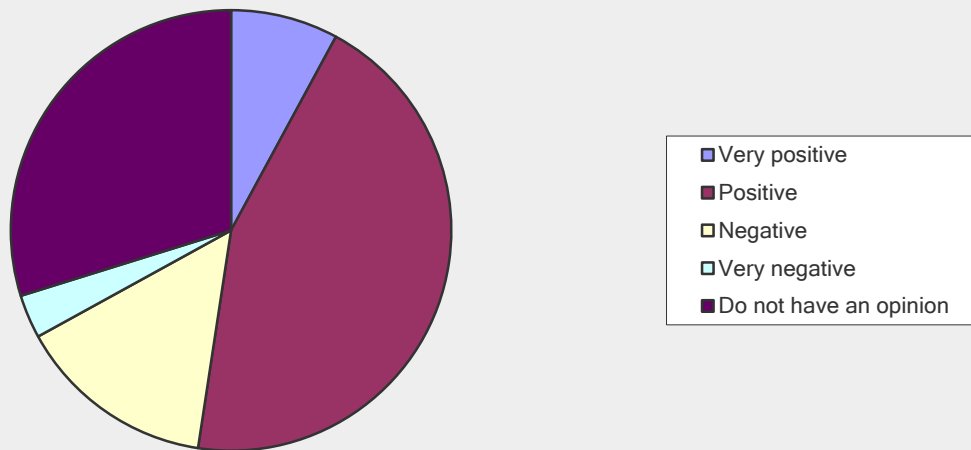
■ Yes
■ No

Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

Overall, what is your current opinion of the South Carolina Comptroller General's Office?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Very positive	7.9%	49
Positive	44.5%	275
Negative	14.6%	90
Very negative	3.2%	20
Do not have an opinion	29.8%	184
<i>answered question</i>		618
<i>skipped question</i>		1170

Overall, what is your current opinion of the South Carolina Comptroller General's Office?



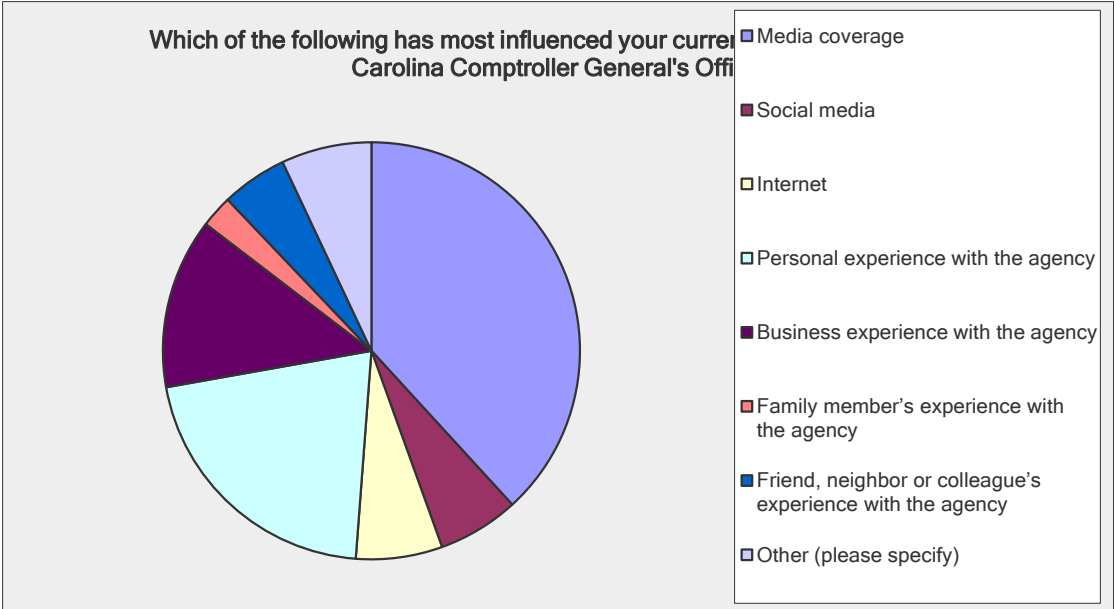
Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

Which of the following has most influenced your current opinion of the South Carolina Comptroller General's Office?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Media coverage	38.2%	217
Social media	6.3%	36
Internet	6.7%	38
Personal experience with the agency	21.0%	119
Business experience with the agency	13.2%	75
Family member's experience with the agency	2.5%	14
Friend, neighbor or colleague's experience with the	5.1%	29
Other (please specify)	7.0%	40
<i>answered question</i>		568
<i>skipped question</i>		1220

Number	Response Date	Other (please specify)
1	May 30, 2015 5:01 PM	None
2	May 28, 2015 9:31 PM	navigating their web site to obtain information
3	May 21, 2015 2:31 PM	Observing him
4	May 20, 2015 5:38 PM	Unaware
5	May 19, 2015 3:01 PM	none
6	May 19, 2015 2:31 PM	I am not well-informed about this office.
7	May 17, 2015 10:48 PM	lack of information about the agency
8	May 14, 2015 12:51 PM	No experiences at this time as I am a new employee
9	May 13, 2015 2:02 PM	general knowledge
10	May 12, 2015 8:42 PM	don't have an opinion
11	May 8, 2015 12:22 PM	Filing Taxes
12	May 7, 2015 7:49 PM	none
13	May 7, 2015 2:28 PM	I have little knowledge of SCCG office
14	May 7, 2015 1:00 PM	no experience
15	May 7, 2015 12:16 PM	Richard Eckstrom is honest and outspoken
16	May 7, 2015 12:15 PM	have had no association with this agency.
17	May 7, 2015 8:48 AM	No Opinion
18	May 7, 2015 3:46 AM	Questionable behavior by the incumbent
19	May 7, 2015 12:52 AM	High spending
20	May 6, 2015 7:25 PM	NO OPINION
21	May 6, 2015 1:47 PM	NA
22	May 5, 2015 7:11 PM	Assistance given to local towns. I am very unaware of any news or coverage of the Comptroller General's Office.
23	May 5, 2015 3:49 PM	newspaper
24	May 5, 2015 3:21 PM	n/a
25	May 5, 2015 1:37 PM	No opinion
26	May 5, 2015 12:54 PM	no opinion
27	May 5, 2015 12:40 PM	no opinion
28	May 5, 2015 12:27 PM	Don't know much about it
29	May 5, 2015 10:54 AM	N/A
30	May 5, 2015 3:16 AM	Nothing, I do not know what this office does.
31	May 5, 2015 1:22 AM	Know nothing of this office
32	May 5, 2015 12:32 AM	I like to look at the state spendings.
33	May 4, 2015 8:06 PM	I do not have an opinion of the SCCGO combination of media coverage and internet
34	May 4, 2015 7:16 PM	research
35	May 4, 2015 5:29 PM	Not familiar with the office.

36	May 4, 2015 12:52 PM	Agencies growth is nonproductive and inhibits as much or more than protects the public interests overall
37	May 4, 2015 12:41 AM	just a gut; not really based on any information The really poor job that the agency has done in regards to where and how taxpayer money
38	May 2, 2015 12:59 PM	is spent. No accountability.
39	May 2, 2015 12:30 PM	I don't know
40	May 1, 2015 3:53 PM	General

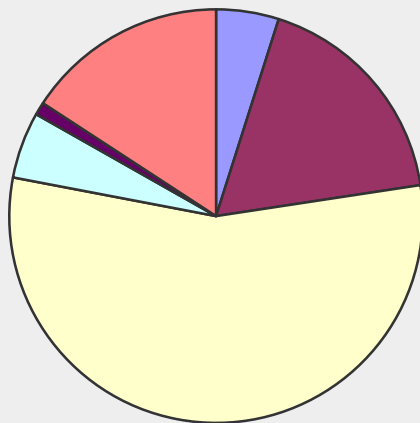


Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

How do you think the South Carolina Comptroller General's Office functions on an overall basis in comparison to other state agencies in South Carolina?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Much better	4.9%	28
Better	17.7%	102
About the same	55.4%	319
Worse	5.2%	30
Much worse	1.0%	6
Do not have an opinion	15.8%	91
<i>answered question</i>		576
<i>skipped question</i>		1212

How do you think the South Carolina Comptroller General's Office functions on an overall basis in comparison to other state agencies in South Carolina?



- Much better
- Better
- About the same
- Worse
- Much worse
- Do not have an opinion

Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

Please list any comments, concerns or suggestions you may have about the South Carolina Comptroller General's Office. Please note responses may be quoted verbatim in a Committee report.

Answer Options	Response Count
	82
<i>answered question</i>	82
<i>skipped question</i>	1706

Number	Response Date	Response Text
1	May 29, 2015 8:07 PM	The employees here are dedicated to always doing an excellent job in carrying out their job duties.
2	May 28, 2015 1:22 AM	we are dissatisfied with fees assoctated with our incomes places a hardship on our finances
3	May 27, 2015 5:18 PM	State agencies employees need to reflect the population they are serving. Agencies are so top heavy that the money that is left to hire competent people and to run programs effectively are minimal. There is no real accountability.
4	May 27, 2015 4:57 PM	I love First Steps. they have helped me impove myself and my center
5	May 27, 2015 3:36 PM	They need to exist to keep agencies on their
6	May 27, 2015 3:34 PM	There remains a lack of transparency in this office's functioning.
7	May 27, 2015 8:51 AM	None
8	May 23, 2015 12:22 PM	Crucial to this agency is the ethical use of taxpayer monies. No scandals, please.
9	May 22, 2015 3:54 PM	People are not informed about the duties of the office. Most people do not even know about the office unless they have had a need for it.
10	May 22, 2015 12:35 PM	Highly doubt a legislative review of a constitutional office will have influence on the office. Seems like a wasted effort.
11	May 22, 2015 1:27 AM	Should serve as more of a watch dog, and provide and publisize its analysis of various state and when appropriate local governments
12	May 21, 2015 11:05 AM	Eckstrom is an embarassment. From his using a state car for a family vacation, chasing women on state time and his hypocrisy about cutting spending and retirement benefits while drawing Reserve retirement and building up a state retirement.
13	May 21, 2015 10:59 AM	Combine with Treasurer, it's antiquated
14	May 21, 2015 10:53 AM	It is a duplicate office for the most part.Duplicate functions should be consolidated with treasurer.Swap both ways and let comptroller becomeappointed by Governor and a watchdog
15	May 21, 2015 3:11 AM	does not prioritize the states business obligations correctly. inefficient operationally resulting in poor service delivery
16	May 21, 2015 2:38 AM	You should be studying the Treasurer's Office
17	May 21, 2015 1:13 AM	Eckstrom talks about transparency and being a good steward of the public's money, and then he drives a state government car to Minnesota for a family vacation.
18	May 21, 2015 1:10 AM	none
19	May 19, 2015 2:31 PM	I support the idea of a balanced and reasonable approach to financial accountability in the state.
20	May 17, 2015 10:48 PM	Media coverage and other ways to inform the public about agency would be helpful to inform public opinion
21	May 17, 2015 2:31 AM	This office processes in a timely manner and I know what to expect.
22	May 16, 2015 6:46 PM	More funds need to be directed toward mental health and facilities for those who need treatment.
23	May 16, 2015 2:06 PM	The position is too political. Needs to be combined with another agency and the CG appointed by Senate.
24	May 14, 2015 12:51 PM	N/A
25	May 14, 2015 11:19 AM	All employees that I have had contact with was very helpful in taking my information and getting a quick resolution to any concerns I may have had.
26	May 13, 2015 8:42 PM	None.
27	May 13, 2015 1:06 PM	Very timely responses and completes a great deal of work with minimal staffing.
28	May 12, 2015 8:24 PM	Require to much repetitive paperwork to get something processed, i.e. travel, payment.

		The CG should produce useable data analysis of the fiscal activities of all agencies in collaboration with the B&CB to reveal management practices and results. Large organizations in the private sector utilize such data to determine where audit focus should be directed. Public outcry should not be required as government should police itself fiscally as servants of the public. As an agency employee, I see few checks and balances, loopholes and spending driven by agency-level politics. In my years working in private sector finance, this would be easily identified and heads would roll.
29	May 11, 2015 8:01 PM	I believe there needs to be private sector oversight of the investment policies of the state. The ultimate issue is for the government to have the fiscal discipline necessary to maintain without question the State's credit rating. This rating has been imperiled before and this situation cannot be allowed to exist again.
30	May 11, 2015 5:39 PM	They are continuing to support an antiquated accounting system (STARS) after the State has spent millions on SAP and expect agencies to support the old system also. Some employees are helpful and knowledgeable but the majority are holdovers from the old system.
31	May 11, 2015 2:59 PM	More Transparency
32	May 11, 2015 2:57 PM	
33	May 8, 2015 1:13 PM	The agency does very well providing guidance to other agencies.
34	May 7, 2015 7:49 PM	none
35	May 7, 2015 7:20 PM	The office is very efficient handling State Workers pay deposits.
36	May 7, 2015 4:07 PM	none
37	May 7, 2015 3:02 PM	Public needs more visibility of the budget process
38	May 7, 2015 1:00 PM	i have no idea what this office does They do not provide support to other agencies and are not conducive to explanations. It appears they have a "because I said so" mentality without further consideration of impact of their decisions on others. Eckstrom is like a breath of fresh air compared to the scoundrels in the legislature
39	May 7, 2015 12:29 PM	The S.C.Comptroller General's Office does seem to operate in a precise and orderly steps.
40	May 7, 2015 12:16 PM	Maybe tell the citizens who are taking this survey WHAT the Comptroller General's office does?
41	May 7, 2015 11:52 AM	Need more information and who leads the office & qualifications.
42	May 7, 2015 11:25 AM	Why is this an elected office? How many voters have any clue what the controller general does?
43	May 7, 2015 8:48 AM	Would like the Comptroller General to take a harder line on state spending
44	May 7, 2015 1:25 AM	to much red tabe nad posturing
45	May 7, 2015 12:52 AM	Excellent customer service with other agencies.
46	May 6, 2015 8:15 PM	Low moral due to low pay wages and minimal raises
47	May 6, 2015 7:42 PM	
48	May 6, 2015 7:40 PM	
49	May 6, 2015 4:44 PM	Why every 7 years for reviewing oversight? I think it should be sooner, new senate and legislative member, before their new term ends The comptroller office is the fiscal and accounting arm of the state and it should be void of any political ties that may influence decisions that will affect the citizens of the state. If any office should be fair and balanced, it should be this office regardless of the individual's politics who hold the office.
50	May 6, 2015 4:34 PM	The pay differences in the state's pay compared to other states for Social Services is no where it needs to be. The State of SC pays more money out to have DSS personel trained, only to lose them to other states because they can make more money going to work for them. The pay scale for DSS needs to be looked at. We as workers put on lives on the line everyday, not like police officers, When I was in the military, we got hazard duty pay. I have heard for so many years about retention for employes, but no one has done anything about it. What would keep employees, good employees would be to make our pay in comparison to other states, and that way we as a state would not have to waste so much money by having to train new workers, only for them to leave after a short time of working for DSS.
51	May 6, 2015 4:03 PM	

		This agency has not provided us with possitive view on the context of how anything will help benefit our success in getting a raise people have been with the agency for twenty to thirty years and yet has nothing to look forward to when it is time to retire, being verbal abuse mentally by people in general ,you have people working has not reach the 55yrs mark but has not been reconize for the work that they have put in this agency either they were to short of a month or two to receive the bonus that were offer to our colleague's in November ,you still have the problem of health issues with staff .I can go on and on but do you really think that the agency has done there job.
52	May 5, 2015 8:34 PM	
53	May 5, 2015 7:07 PM	Not sure what they do. staff shortage, because of the wage gap within departments, not being able to move forward because of who you know, and for experience are education.
54	May 5, 2015 3:50 PM	
		The Comptroller General's Office should be focused on spending South Carolina taxpayers' money wisely and not at the behest of elected officials. Descisions should be data driven, informed decisions.
55	May 5, 2015 3:49 PM	
56	May 5, 2015 3:44 PM	no comments
57	May 5, 2015 3:33 PM	make SCEIS more useful and easier to naivgate
58	May 5, 2015 1:37 PM	we need a pay raise
59	May 5, 2015 1:09 PM	need to provide more information on the actions they take. The employee of SC does not receive any other incentive for the hard work they do.
60	May 5, 2015 12:48 PM	
61	May 5, 2015 12:40 PM	none
62	May 5, 2015 12:27 PM	Please tell the public what this office does
63	May 5, 2015 12:08 PM	W-2 could done on line just like pay stubs.
64	May 5, 2015 3:16 AM	I admit that I have no idea what this office does!
65	May 5, 2015 1:28 AM	N/A I did not know this office existed and its purpose. I had to google the office title to find out what this office does.
66	May 5, 2015 1:22 AM	
67	May 4, 2015 9:19 PM	no comment
68	May 4, 2015 8:06 PM	None
69	May 4, 2015 5:51 PM	Transparency and non-partisan public reports are crucial need to make sure departments are not influenced by contractors, and stay within budget
70	May 4, 2015 4:20 PM	
		The CG's Office has proven to be a great place to work. Management has been supportive and flexible, while not micromanaging. I really enjoy working here.
71	May 4, 2015 12:10 PM	
72	May 4, 2015 12:49 AM	Update the state employee per diem. \$7 for lunch, really?!?!
73	May 3, 2015 10:21 PM	none
74	May 2, 2015 3:25 PM	generally favorable opinion Why do we need a budget and control board? Where has the money gone that was collected over the past twenty years for roads. Why is it always placed in the General "Slush" Fund?
75	May 2, 2015 12:59 PM	
		General Eckstrom and his staff bring the highest possible levels of technical excellence and personal commitment to their duties. I believe that the Comptroller General's excellence in financial reporting and management is a key factor in the effectiveness of State government. The Payroll Division is the smallest division of the SC Comptroller General's Office, yet they still function at a fairly high level considering their small staff, high volume workload, and constant deadlines. However, it seems they could benefit from additional help, or recognition for their dedication, high work ethic and continued assistance provided to state agencies.
76	May 2, 2015 12:48 PM	
77	May 1, 2015 8:00 PM	
		The work ethic in this agency is strong. Our training is thorough and our ability to perform is essential to all state agencies. It is critical that our work is accurate every time, as our state employee's livelihoods depend upon it. It is also worth noting our work must be in compliance with state and federal law, abiding by mandated regulations and deadlines.
78	May 1, 2015 7:55 PM	
79	May 1, 2015 6:28 PM	I have no idea what the comptroller's office does.
80	May 1, 2015 3:53 PM	Special considerations for Veterans
81	May 1, 2015 3:38 PM	activities of the office are not clear to the general public

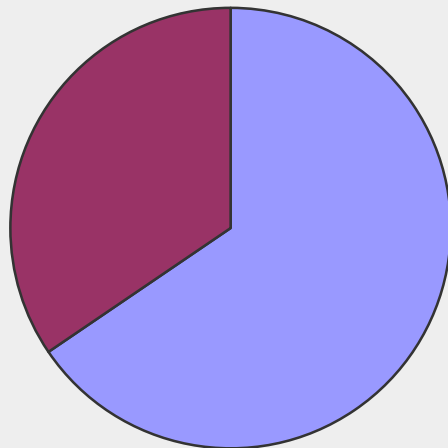
This position should be an appointed position as opposed to an elected one.

Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

Would you like to provide input about the South Carolina Department of Transportation?
(There are four questions.)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	65.5%	994
No	34.5%	523
	<i>answered question</i>	1517
	<i>skipped question</i>	271

Would you like to provide input about the South Carolina Department of Transportation? (There are four questions.)



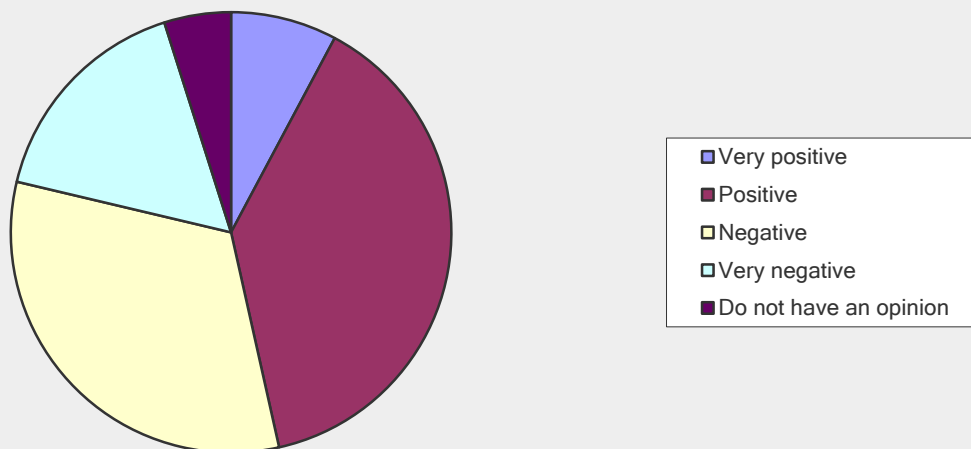
■ Yes
■ No

Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

Overall, what is your current opinion about the South Carolina Department of Transportation?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Very positive	7.8%	71
Positive	38.7%	354
Negative	32.2%	294
Very negative	16.4%	150
Do not have an opinion	4.9%	45
<i>answered question</i>		914
<i>skipped question</i>		874

Overall, what is your current opinion about the South Carolina Department of Transportation?



Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

Which of the following has most influenced your current opinion of the South Carolina Department of Transportation?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Media coverage	18.3%	164
Social media	2.3%	21
Internet	2.1%	19
Personal experience with the agency	53.1%	477
Business experience with the agency	7.1%	64
Family member's experience with the agency	2.9%	26
Friend, neighbor or colleague's experience with the	3.9%	35
Other (please specify)	10.2%	92
		<i>answered question</i>
		898
		<i>skipped question</i>
		890

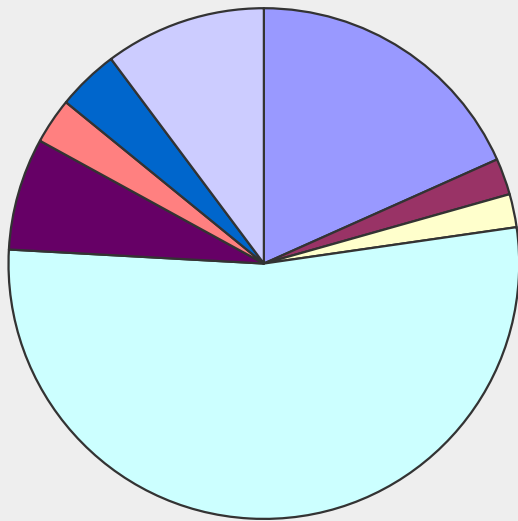
Number	Response Date	Other (please specify)
1	May 30, 2015 9:37 PM	roads
2	May 30, 2015 5:05 PM	Driving on SC roads
3	May 28, 2015 1:25 AM	EXCESS WASTE WITH TRANSPORTATION
4	May 27, 2015 6:13 PM	roads
5	May 22, 2015 3:59 PM	Discussion by various groups and elected officials.
6	May 22, 2015 3:13 PM	The laws currently on the books are not enforced
7	May 21, 2015 6:31 PM	Employee
8	May 21, 2015 4:48 PM	Experience with South Carolina's highways
9	May 21, 2015 1:42 PM	Condition of SC roads
10	May 21, 2015 1:05 PM	pot holes
11	May 21, 2015 11:02 AM	I use their services, roads and bridges
12	May 20, 2015 2:49 PM	fixing roads
13	May 19, 2015 2:32 PM	results I see in the community
14	May 18, 2015 7:07 PM	Condition of the Roads
15	May 18, 2015 6:09 PM	Media coverage along with conversations with research and conversations with policymakers about how the agency operates. The condition of the roads tell it all. There is no preventative maintenance done. Roads are left to deteriorate.
16	May 17, 2015 11:03 PM	State treasurer and road conditions
17	May 17, 2015 6:24 PM	Both personal experience and media coverage.
18	May 16, 2015 2:31 PM	a user and observer of the results from the DOT. Mostly ok, but many problems with maintenance, signage, common sense
19	May 15, 2015 4:15 PM	no influence.
20	May 14, 2015 1:25 PM	Our current infrastructure.
21	May 13, 2015 8:43 PM	Driving on SC roads
22	May 12, 2015 10:37 PM	Researched DOT functions
23	May 11, 2015 5:57 PM	Traveling by road
24	May 11, 2015 2:58 PM	

25	May 9, 2015 1:12 AM	Too many top levels. No workers.
26	May 8, 2015 10:54 PM	Roads
27	May 8, 2015 9:08 PM	Condition of roads
28	May 8, 2015 8:35 PM	Our roads are awful
29	May 8, 2015 8:30 PM	What I see driving on the roads
30	May 8, 2015 7:21 PM	First hand observation
31	May 8, 2015 1:10 AM	Employee Treatment
32	May 8, 2015 12:53 AM	roads are awful Slow agency response to needed action requests.
33	May 7, 2015 6:36 PM	ths would probably fall under administrative office which covers most of the opinions offered. decisions of what roads get repair, who is offered certain positions and work ethics seems to be at the discretion of those who desire to see their personal needs met> ie: requests from friends, moneyed friends and relative appointments.
34	May 7, 2015 5:03 PM	Observations
35	May 7, 2015 4:21 PM	trying to drive in SC
36	May 7, 2015 2:34 PM	The gas tax is a fairest of all taxes, this money goes directly to our maintaining our roads. However with the current and past,20+ years shortfalls and inflation and increased cost of construction (labor and materials), we as citizens of SC have to realize that we need to START now. START is in caps for a reason, you just can't throw 1 billion dollars and tells us to fix this issue. This is way more than a onetime 1 billion dollar issue, we have to START fixing what has been neglected for so many years. This fix will not occur overnight, even with a pile of extra money. We have to START basically over with reconstruction of so many roads (long list and growing) that we could not afford to maintain and keep good with preventative maintenance-preservation. These roads are in very poor shape and now it takes a large pot of money every year to START this process. We will do everything possible to bring our roads back to good. Very important to relay a message that the number of roads to maintain is a large task, and this will not be a quick fix and the public needs to realize that it will take many years to address every crumbling road on their way to work or school every day.
37	May 7, 2015 12:41 PM	have no association
38	May 7, 2015 12:17 PM	Employee of which i am proud to be.
39	May 7, 2015 11:59 AM	I work there
40	May 7, 2015 11:54 AM	

41	May 7, 2015 11:15 AM	Personal experience utilizing their roads, traffic control equipment, etc.
42	May 7, 2015 11:06 AM	It is not necessary to increase the gas tax by anywhere near 60% to accomplish the repairs to existing roads. Leave future construction of roads out of the picture as far as gas tax increase is concerned and reduce the burden of over management within the DOT for the rest. We do not need a big gas tax increase to repair roads.
43	May 7, 2015 8:53 AM	observation while on the roads The poor upkeep of our roads in the past 20 years and the taxes to pay for the roads were still collected and the money when
44	May 7, 2015 2:13 AM	somewhere ,but where ? Driving on the horribly maintained state
45	May 7, 2015 1:32 AM	roads
46	May 7, 2015 12:53 AM	Use of Pennies for Progress funds
47	May 6, 2015 7:45 PM	SCDOT Employee
48	May 6, 2015 7:30 PM	I am a SCDOT employee
49	May 6, 2015 7:30 PM	Disparity between employees
50	May 6, 2015 4:05 PM	Personal opinion the current conditions of the road and public
51	May 6, 2015 1:31 PM	transportation
52	May 6, 2015 2:15 AM	Condition of roads randoly cutting low country live oaks and thecondiion of our roads. 526 and 26 are
53	May 5, 2015 9:33 PM	overcrowded
54	May 5, 2015 7:36 PM	seeing them work in the community
55	May 5, 2015 6:21 PM	I'm a driver
56	May 5, 2015 4:27 PM	Poor condition of roads and in particular the filth along our highways Traveling the interstates and other highways. The current intersection of Hwy 6 and Hwy 311 in Berkeley County, a relative new intersection, is a disaster waiting to happen an apparently has caught many by surprise. Either it needs to be redesigned or major warning lights need to be installed. Tractor trailer trucks on the interstates are
57	May 5, 2015 3:35 PM	frightening.
58	May 5, 2015 2:54 PM	user experiences
59	May 5, 2015 2:15 PM	The horrible condition of our roads
60	May 5, 2015 1:05 PM	Driving on these horrible roads and bridges
61	May 5, 2015 12:56 PM	lack of practical public transit
62	May 5, 2015 12:40 PM	no opinion crumbling infra structure causing declining corprate investment compared to states like
63	May 5, 2015 12:33 PM	Georgia and NC.
64	May 5, 2015 12:29 PM	experiance with other states
65	May 5, 2015 12:28 PM	road conditions
66	May 5, 2015 12:27 PM	driving the roads everyday

67	May 5, 2015 12:26 PM	Deplorable roads and much needed road expansion.
68	May 5, 2015 12:19 PM	The condition of our roads and bridges.
69	May 5, 2015 11:44 AM	Our roads, congestion and condition
70	May 5, 2015 11:11 AM	Road condition, but has more to do with a do nothing legislature
71	May 5, 2015 3:19 AM	Observance of road maintenance and construction.
72	May 5, 2015 1:56 AM	no extreme negative information
		I travel to VA and FL and the roads are in such good shape and I wonder why are we not in line with the other states we border.
		There is such a difference in quality of the roads when you cross the state lines it is depressing.
73	May 5, 2015 1:24 AM	depressing.
74	May 5, 2015 12:25 AM	Most all of the above!
		The roads I am driving on! Pot holes every where. Very dangerous. In our county we have new signs every where and not one road repaired. Now I learn \$45 million to be spent on new license plates? Wasteful and no regard to how you are spending our tax
75	May 5, 2015 12:07 AM	dollars.
76	May 4, 2015 9:15 PM	observation, several road projects seen
77	May 4, 2015 8:10 PM	Conditions of SC roads
78	May 4, 2015 5:31 PM	Personal observations
79	May 4, 2015 4:39 PM	Road damage
		The Condition of the roads, of the Legislature is the power in this State so I think even less of them.
80	May 4, 2015 1:53 PM	Infrastructure is poor.
81	May 4, 2015 1:27 PM	Working for a sub, sub contractor during road construction.
82	May 4, 2015 1:25 PM	No accountability. Grown into an excessively bureaucratic monster
83	May 4, 2015 12:54 PM	Condition of some roads
84	May 4, 2015 2:28 AM	Condition of some roads
		Personal research aided by South Carolina Policy Council and unlawful allocation of funds by the state to local govts to fix roads.
85	May 4, 2015 1:44 AM	Driving on roads maintained by the DOT
86	May 4, 2015 1:28 AM	CURRENT STATE OF ROADS AND BRIDGES IS DEPLORABLE AND THE DEPT HAS NOT BEEN FORCEFUL ENOUGH WITH THE LEGISLATURE AND
87	May 3, 2015 10:54 PM	GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
		noting the appearance of our roads and observing their employees at work.
88	May 2, 2015 3:27 PM	Just look at the roads! Need I say more?
89	May 2, 2015 1:02 PM	condition of roads and where money has been spent in the past
90	May 1, 2015 8:38 PM	Condition of Roads
91	May 1, 2015 7:03 PM	Condition of Roads
92	May 1, 2015 4:31 PM	Driving on our state's highways and roads.

Which of the following has most influenced your current
Carolina Department of Transportation



Media coverage

Social media

Internet

Personal experience with the agency

Business experience with the agency

Family member's experience with the agency

Friend, neighbor or colleague's experience with the agency

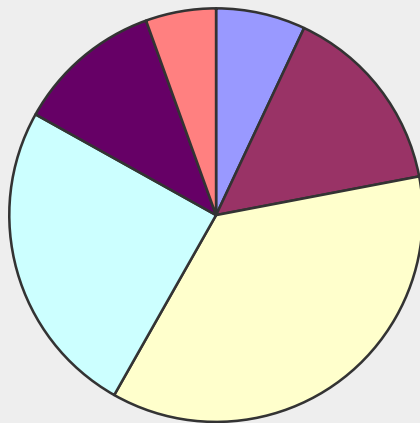
Other (please specify)

Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

How do you think the South Carolina Department of Transportation functions on an overall basis in comparison to other state agencies in South Carolina?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Much better	7.0%	63
Better	15.0%	134
About the same	36.2%	324
Worse	24.9%	223
Much worse	11.4%	102
Do not have an opinion	5.5%	49
<i>answered question</i>		895
<i>skipped question</i>		893

How do you think the South Carolina Department of Transportation functions on an overall basis in comparison to other state agencies in South Carolina?



- Much better
- Better
- About the same
- Worse
- Much worse
- Do not have an opinion

Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

Please list any comments, concerns or suggestions you may have about the South Carolina Department of Transportation. Please note responses may be quoted verbatim in a Committee report.

Answer Options	Response Count
	410
<i>answered question</i>	410
<i>skipped question</i>	1378

Number	Response Date	Response Text
1	May 30, 2015 5:05 PM	Resources are misallocated, useless new signs are put up such as on 385 around Simpsonville there are signs listing previous wars the US was involved; this seems like. A waste of my hard earned tax \$s; how about building better roads rather than uselessly wasting \$
2	May 29, 2015 8:08 PM	I have always had my questions or concerns answered quickly. SCDOT operates on their own agenda, they can not follow their own specifications and place threats when you bring it to their attention. Each district operates independently so it's difficult to do business with SCDOT
3	May 29, 2015 12:05 AM	The locations I have gone to are understaffed and slow. The office in Richland County has many, many customers and very long lines with poor service. Employees are often rude.
4	May 28, 2015 9:35 PM	Needs bigger budget to improve the roads
5	May 28, 2015 6:02 PM	VEHICLES ARE OLD BUSES ARE OLD POSES POTENTIAL RISK
6	May 28, 2015 1:25 AM	AND ACCIDENTS recommend providing more funding to SCDOT for maintaining roads and bridges
7	May 27, 2015 8:51 PM	fix our roads
8	May 27, 2015 6:13 PM	Transportation in rural areas where it is most needed, is almost non-existent.
9	May 27, 2015 5:22 PM	This agency has a huge impact on all of SC. As drivers & passengers we depend on SCDOT for safe roads & bridges. Our economic well-being is also largely dependent on our highway systems. For these reasons alone, we need consistent funding for infrastructure. I believe DOT has become more environmentally responsible; however, I also believe that SCDOT should be taking a leadership role in bringing public transportation to the forefront. SC could leap ahead of other southern states in making rail & light rail the economic choice for personal & industrial transportation. Far from "squeezing out" motor vehicles, this move could save jobs, money & lives.
10	May 27, 2015 3:47 PM	People do not care how much you know until they know how much you care. I have worked for SCDOT for over 27 years. If management does not make a sincere effort to show subordinates that they sincerely care about them, then why are/would these lower level employees be as committed as they should be?
11	May 27, 2015 12:12 PM	I am a professional that works with Spartanburg DSS. I have made many appointments with personnel there and have been stood up with not notice 3 out of 5 times.
12	May 26, 2015 7:32 PM	In my personal experience, the SCDOT is 'reactive' and needs to be proactive. SCDOT are citizens of SC first and foremost. As citizens, we/you drive on the roadways daily. We should not have to wait for a citizen to contact the SCDOT Maintenance offices to report a pothole before taking action. This is an area where we can be proactive and fix our potholes. Secondly, I suggest a 'mystery shopper' to either visit our facilities or call in with a work request or vehicle damage claim or etc. Therefore, SCDOT can analyze the service level provided to citizens within the county. The 'mystery shopper' needs to be a non-state agency member. SCDOT really needs a 'new set of eyes' looking at matters from the outside in.
13	May 26, 2015 6:42 PM	

14	May 26, 2015 2:56 PM	The conditions of the roads in SC are terrible - especially I26 between Columbia and Charleston. I am ready to pay more taxes to fix the roads. User taxes are the only taxes that make sense. I am tired of seeing the governor and legislature trying to tie this increase to a tax cut. We are not overtaxed in SC. Just quit fooling around and fix the roads!
15	May 23, 2015 12:53 PM	Pork projects APPEAR to be at or near the top of its management's priorities
16	May 23, 2015 12:24 PM	"If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Recently SCDOT employees we notified that our current 10 hour 4 day work weeks would no longer be an option beginning July 6, 2015. This has caused a serious drop in an already low morale. The system we had was working. There was no need to change it. Everything was covered. Now instead of having work being done 10 hours a day 5 days a week there will only be 8 hours a day 5 days a week. You are cheating the public out of 10 hours of road work, bridge work, etc. every week. Focus on things that need to be changed and leave the things that are working the way they are alone.
17	May 22, 2015 9:14 PM	THE DOT does not balance the overall needs of the state with political subdivisions and local communities suffer.
18	May 22, 2015 4:23 PM	I feel this agency needs a complete overhaul. They need a good oversight committee.
19	May 22, 2015 3:59 PM	We must put adequate patrol presence on our hwys to enforce laws currently on the books. Why make more laws that will never be enforced? The speed limits are not working. the bridges are not safe tearing up tires and damaging to autos. Tickets written for these laws could provide enough to hire more man power. Our dear State of S C is the laughingstock above all other states. The only time you see a patrol officer is probably in a break down situation. The 18 wheelers rule the roads as though it was made specially for them. Motorcycles take dangerous chances flipping in and out of traffic. People drive like they see the cars on the commercials. Please make our hwys safer once again. We could issue tickets for poluters, vehicles those who trash and DUIs. We advertise all the wine tastings ,beer keg parties every weekend and it is no wonder we rank highest in all areas of crime.
20	May 22, 2015 3:13 PM	Please do thejob you were chosen to do!! . Bring back the inspections they ran over my basket ball hoop and nerver replace it. and they were in my yard.
21	May 22, 2015 1:34 PM	Take the politics out of DOT and prioritize road repair and construction on an OBJECTIVE basis. The DOT's reputation if a factor of it's leadership or lack thereof.
22	May 22, 2015 12:38 PM	I firmly believe that there is waste in both priorities and that the agency is bloated based on today's technologies
23	May 22, 2015 5:28 AM	Commissioners all seem more focused on their districts rather than what's best for the state
24	May 22, 2015 1:28 AM	I think the overall attitude of the agency is they are above the rules of other agencies.
25	May 21, 2015 9:38 PM	The DOT continues to cut funding for Maintenance while continuing to fund numerous unnecessary postions at its Headquarters Building. Salaries continue to increase for HQ employees while those of Mainteannce worked remain stagnant. Maintenance is the heart and soul of the highway system, yet they are constantly seen as an afterthought. There are numerous Departments at HQ that could be completely done away with and contracted out, yet Mainteannce is where the cuts are made. Mainteannce worked also work a half hour a day longer than the other DOT employees.
26	May 21, 2015 6:31 PM	

		South Carolina should abolish the Infrastructure Bank. The Department of Transportation should be operated by a secretary with legislatively established professional credentials, appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. Abolish the commissioners. Instead of building unneeded roads, DOT should repair and upgrade the roads that we have. There are only a few needed new road projects and most of them are not on the list. Needed projects would enhance safety, provide for better flow of traffic and connect interstates without the use of city streets or other non-interstate roads. We need to enforce traffic laws and enhance safety. Most people seem to think that the maximum speed limit
27	May 21, 2015 4:48 PM	is the lowest suggested speed.
28	May 21, 2015 4:39 PM	The politics and red tape are way over the top DOT employees were sicced (who commanded them?) on me (non-DOT employee) while walking across bridge over 14 Mile Creek @ Park Road, Lexington, SC) like dogs at the family junkyard (January 20,
29	May 21, 2015 3:40 PM	2015). The legislature and the Governor need to get together to give the department the means to fix our crumbling roads. The House plan is the best. The cost of the tax tax increase on the average driver would be less than \$100.00 per year, hardly a back breaking amount, plus there is the \$48.00 tax decrease that eases the pain. The increase is less than the cost of a blown tire or wheel alignment. Remember also that many out of state drivers will contribute to the improvement of our roads . This would also give our state a better image and enable us to attract more industry. One of our state senators was quoted as saying that driving from Florida and Georgia into our state was like going into a third world country . I sincerely hope that it's not going to take some tragic event like
30	May 21, 2015 2:47 PM	a bridge collapse to get things moving. Why are discussions still happening for the I-526 extension when it's not even a priority for Charleston County?? Does anyone think the \$500 million + funds needed would be better spent elsewhere?? This project is a perfect example why SC continues to lag well behind our neighboring states in infrastructure. Lining the pockets of Charleston County Councilmembers who have a financial interest in the extension of
31	May 21, 2015 2:18 PM	I-526.
32	May 21, 2015 1:42 PM	clean up the mess and FIX OUR ROADS!
33	May 21, 2015 1:05 PM	fix pot holes and let grass grow on Interstate hways
34	May 21, 2015 12:34 PM	all you have to do to see how this department is doing is use our roads I live in a rural area on a road with ditches that ranges to 5 feet deep. These ditches are not maintained to prevent the stagnation of water which most people know leads to the proliferation of health endangering mosquitos. The ditches cave in and obstruct the flow of water and reduce the size of the road shoulders - which has been identified as the major safety hazard of SC roads and nothing is done. I have used the online repair request system several times. Once it took 6 months for the 'repair' to be done. The 'repair' did not last. I contacted again and the 'repair' was repaired, only to have failed yet again. I have not re-reported because I plan to take photos to the local office and advise them I plan to take the photos to a news outlet if they cannot permanently repair the health hazard of the unmaintained ditches they allow to fester for miles.
35	May 21, 2015 11:49 AM	i like scdot .
36	May 21, 2015 11:29 AM	
37	May 21, 2015 11:18 AM	Frequently I travel I-26 from Columbia to Asheville. I have noticed that DOT replaced many directional signs at the top of ramps. The signs have the name of a nearby town or city and an arrow. The only difference between the new signs and old signs was their case. The old were all caps and the newer in upper and lower case. Why bother? n

38	May 21, 2015 11:08 AM	Priorities--- why fund street scapes for Cola, another revision to access to Cola Airport and another study of mal-funciton junction... they could just spend this money on repairing roads that really need it like the atrocious interstates.
39	May 21, 2015 11:02 AM	Too political, don't select projects with merit, why don't we take care of what we have before we build more lanes we can't take care of, do they not have a sensible financial plan and who is responsible for the plan(ref when they had to take an advance from Feds)
40	May 21, 2015 10:57 AM	Too political and self surving.Fix roads and bridges before new roads,bike paths,beautification,andgrantsfor pet projects of a powerful person.
41	May 21, 2015 9:44 AM	Fix the roads.
42	May 21, 2015 4:01 AM	residental repairs are very amateur and require repeat visits. Huge waste of man hours.
43	May 21, 2015 3:12 AM	constant favor trading. john hardee is the single most corrupt figure in state government.
44	May 21, 2015 2:36 AM	A study on Pay Increases
45	May 21, 2015 2:25 AM	If politics could be removed from its harassment role in the agency, DOT would function much better. Most of DOT's problems were born in the legislature.
46	May 21, 2015 1:52 AM	They do not beleive you when you have proof of a problem.
47	May 21, 2015 1:22 AM	Can we please have a published scoring list for projects based on physical need? That every year is republished with new priorities added and status updates?
48	May 21, 2015 1:17 AM	The Public Affairs Office is a waste of tax dollars. Pete Poore, the administrator, is often absent (in Spring he takes off for Carolina baseball games). Stan Shealy has nothing to do and is often found sleeping at his desk. The office publishes a newspaper, "The Connector", which is nothing but a PR fluff piece to stroke the egos of the commissioners and agency director. The agency has full-time photographer, again whose charge is take pictures of commissioners and upper agency echelon to make them feel good. What a waste of tax dollars we could spend on fixing our roads.
49	May 20, 2015 6:57 PM	Too much time and employee reosurces are spent on qntifying, inventory and reporting. There seems to be no efforts being made to keep valuable experienced field personnel. To much turn over due to low salary and lack of pay for performance increases. Employees performing at or above expectations should at least be considered for a small salary increase every couple of years.
50	May 20, 2015 5:33 PM	I am an employee of SCDOT and have been for 15 years. It is very discouraging to be told "we have no money for promotions" and when The Connector comes out there are 2 pages of promotions in it. That leaves very little room for pride in our work - why should we when we are not rewarded for a job well done?
51	May 20, 2015 2:49 PM	Hire better qualified employees
52	May 19, 2015 8:31 PM	4 10 hour days are more effecient than 5 8 hour day you dont have to be behind the desk to figure it out that is the reason everyone else see it the dot needs to focus more on the well fare of there employees than what the public thinks
53	May 19, 2015 7:17 PM	Pass gas tax hike. Most or all of it should be specified for maintenance and safety. Instruct DOT to use its engineering and safety staff to determine what roads need maintenace or repaving. No political input.
54	May 19, 2015 6:50 PM	Once given extra money, instruct DOT roads
55	May 19, 2015 5:37 PM	The condition of roads and highways is dangerous and deplorable. Not agency's fault. Elected officials' responsibility
56	May 19, 2015 5:13 PM	The roads are awful. With all the money we pay in taxes we should have better roads not people getting bonuses.
57	May 19, 2015 3:04 PM	Please start working on the malfunction junction/I-26 expansion

58	May 19, 2015 3:03 PM	Roads are terrible, specifically bridges.. put in a request where needs to be a total replacement and all they do is repaired the same sorry potholes that keep coming back.
59	May 19, 2015 2:15 PM	My experience has been in Columbia where I had a vehicle title transferred and renewed my drivers license. Both time the staff was helpful, courteous, and efficient.
60	May 19, 2015 1:35 PM	Wish more monies are available to road improvements
61	May 18, 2015 7:07 PM	This may be a wrong way to look at it; however, when someone says "DOT" I immediately think how bad our roads are and I have a bad opinion of it.
62	May 18, 2015 6:09 PM	I believe the biggest problems with the agency stem from its governance: The Transportation Commission, at times the agency director, and the Infrastructure Bank make poor decisions, based on vote-trading rather than objective criteria, about how to allocate funding between new projects and taking care of what we have, and then on which projects to prioritize.
63	May 18, 2015 5:48 PM	The SCDOT should be more transparent and audited before residents are asked to pay any further taxes.
64	May 18, 2015 4:11 PM	There is definitely room for improvement at the local dmv offices with customer relations, friendliness is always in a recipe for success.
65	May 18, 2015 3:52 PM	If they are going to pave a secondary road, then they need to PAVE it. This practice of patching a little here and a little there is aggravating.
66	May 18, 2015 3:20 PM	We need to re-evaluate how this organization operates, and who it is accountable to. There is too much of an "own island" approach here with very little transparency or accountability to either the Governor or Legislators.
67	May 18, 2015 3:12 PM	As long as legislature controls how DOT operates we will not have good roads. Need to fund department to allow fixing all roads.
68	May 18, 2015 1:01 PM	I favor an increase in gas tax! Roads must be fixed.
69	May 18, 2015 11:25 AM	4 day work week
70	May 18, 2015 10:27 AM	Road Maintenance is terrible. Spartanburg residents have been paying an extra \$25.00 a year for road taxes with the promise of better roads. Where has my money gone?
71	May 18, 2015 1:16 AM	I have seen no improvement in the roads since the tax.
72	May 18, 2015 1:01 AM	DMV performance is questionable, especially in Blythewood, SC office. There appear to be too many chiefs and no indians to do the work. A complete overhaul of the agency needs to be done. Fire everyone and start all over.
73	May 17, 2015 11:03 PM	
74	May 17, 2015 10:49 PM	much money is wasted
75	May 17, 2015 8:50 PM	DOT seems to be doing the best they can with no help from our governor We have a very educated state treasurer who says he can't even figure out where the money they are given goes. It looks like it is going to just high salaries. Yet you want to take more out of my wallet to put in salaries of people who don't manage the budget they have. More money is not the issue. Finding out how it is being spent is the issue
76	May 17, 2015 6:24 PM	Safety should always be the first concern over convenience and over taxes raises.
77	May 16, 2015 6:47 PM	
78	May 16, 2015 3:14 PM	Need new buses for children

		The county transportation ("C" Fund) committees should be eliminated. The "C" Funds should be divided equitably between SCDOT by county, county DOT's and municipalities. The commissioners should be eliminated. Executive Director should be appointed by a joint committee of House and Senate members. The governor should NEVER be permitted to appoint all commissioners. If governor is permitted, should require approval of both House and Senate with provision that can be removed by a 2/3d's vote of House and Senate. Need to raise fuel tax, charge fee on hybrid and electric vehicles and change vehicle sales tax cap to 3% with funds going to DOT.
79	May 16, 2015 2:31 PM	
80	May 15, 2015 6:56 PM	think more about rural development
81	May 15, 2015 4:50 PM	Seem to be very dedicated state employees who really put up with much frustration upkeep is always a concern, followed by make sense hiways and signage. In Horry county DOT spent millions on back gate to improve traffic flow of 17 then built another intersection with light a few b locks south. Huh?????
82	May 15, 2015 4:15 PM	
83	May 15, 2015 1:41 PM	lines are too long at office right now we are working 10 hours work week 4 days a week Columbia thinks it would be better to work 5 days a week which means now most people get a day to do what they need to like going to docter or what ever most places are closed on Saturday making it hard on employees also our pay is not that hot most people have to work two jobs to make it or they let bills be late i t would help if we got paid every week right now we get paid twice a month I feel like people in Columbia or spending a lot of money on things not really important or training us on stuff we don't use
84	May 15, 2015 12:11 AM	Resurfacing cost are so high, the SCDOT will never be able to keep up with demands until more funds are dedicated to maintaining the current system instead of adding more to maintain.
85	May 14, 2015 7:06 PM	
86	May 14, 2015 5:45 PM	the number system works well I think the fuel tax should be raised to raise funds for routine maintenance of our existing roads, especially our secondary system and not new construction & widening projects , SCDOTs maintenance Dept. is in dire need of funds for labor ,equipment & materials , SCDOT maintenance personel should have a 4 day 10 hr. work schedule since this has been proven to be a more efficient work schedule , I think the SCDOT Commision should remain in place and that they have the authority to appoint an executive director instead of the govener appointing a secretary of transportation, SCDOT needs to implement a training program to build a more skilled & competant work force & higher pay to gain and retain a higher skilled & competant work force and not to rely on out sourcing and contracting as much
87	May 14, 2015 2:02 PM	We have to be smart when it comes to SC infrastructure. It's hard to have any room to be smart when red tape bureaucracy and good ol' boy politics are in the way.
88	May 14, 2015 1:57 PM	Not adequate public transportation for low-income areas. Also, it would make great sense for Beaufort County to have better transportation access to Savannah, Charleston, and Columbia.
89	May 14, 2015 12:53 PM	Department of Transportation has moral issues, issues with giving the employees that deserve raises, only devote time to a certain race, not fair
90	May 14, 2015 11:22 AM	
91	May 13, 2015 9:00 PM	I do not like how the Highway Commission Members are selected now.
92	May 13, 2015 8:43 PM	None.
93	May 13, 2015 6:02 PM	roads are horrible, where is all the money going? and I see one guy working while 6 others are standing around
94	May 13, 2015 2:38 PM	the fiveday work week will directly affect my personal income negativly.

95	May 13, 2015 2:32 PM	i am a employee of the scdot. i am not happy with the 5 days. and i have facts for why it is not better than4 days. its a proven fact that we get more work done on 10 hour shifts. its give us family time which many jobs dont give you. its increase your hiring rate. it also improves the quailty of your work. 8 hour days will not be good do to time matters and in the winter time we will get nothing done cause of the day light please stay on 4 10s its better for us as emp;oyees and for our state.
96	May 13, 2015 2:24 PM	We have a total of 12 crews working; 6 on monday through thursday and 6 on tuesday through friday. It has been proven that 4 days a week has better production numbers than 5 days a week. It is also a hiring incentive and provides the employees with more family time.
97	May 13, 2015 2:03 PM	I think they are underfunded causing understaffing and stretched budgets that don't meet the real need of the people.
98	May 13, 2015 1:07 PM	Slow to respond to requests for information and return calls or emails. we work 4 10 hour work day i would like to keep working these days it came from columbia saying maybe working 5 days a weak also we work hard for little pay and the equipment we use is old and wore out needs replacing
99	May 13, 2015 11:30 AM	I have great concerns on the structure of the Dot ,specifically the highway commission and the manner in which the members are appointed and the amount of political influence which exists around decisions made by this commission .This agency is a great example of how poor decisions are made at taxpayers expense.
100	May 13, 2015 1:34 AM	SCDOFT should resurface hwy 23 from Modoc to Batesburg, big trucks
101	May 12, 2015 10:37 PM	have damaged the hwy. SCDOT should be commended for its upkeep of state highways with its limited funding. The legislature doesn't want to upset voters with higher fuel taxes but they forget that some of those same citizens are employees that depend on those taxes for raises. Some haven't had a decent cost of living raise in several years. The legislature needs to recognize these shortcomings.
102	May 12, 2015 9:26 PM	as it stands right now i really think the s.c.d.o.t. is functioning great with a 4 day week for everyone is not off at 1 time the s.c.d.o.t is covered 5 days of the week its been proven in the past that a 4 day week is more productive than a 5 day a week ,as it stands now we have 6 crews working monday thru thurs and 6 crews tues thru friday ,,,,plus it a hiring
103	May 12, 2015 9:21 PM	accentive for hiring personell . we would like to continue with the 4-day work week - rotation -6 crews - work monday-thurs. the other 6 crews work tue- friday.that way the county has full coverageover anything that the public may have concerns with from 7-5:30.we will lose alot of good employees if we start a 5 day work week schedule.some of us have other part time jobs,retired spouses,children and it would not be as productiveas the 10 hour schedule,please reconsider this issue we also look at this as being one
104	May 12, 2015 6:15 PM	of the perks of the job please dont take it away.
105	May 12, 2015 6:09 PM	shortage of funds for agency to fully repair roads
106	May 12, 2015 5:53 PM	They need more funding
107	May 12, 2015 5:00 PM	I think SCDOT employees should recieve cost of living raises more often than every 5 to 7 years, sence the legislature can vote them selves a raise as they see fit.
108	May 12, 2015 3:37 PM	Doing a good job for the resources available to them. Local engineers need more flexibilty to take care of most critical local needs.
109	May 12, 2015 2:26 PM	Information Technology Services need a stronger leadship that will set the direction and goals for the department.
110	May 12, 2015 2:03 PM	Lack of proper training from the least to the top prior to performing duties cost SCDOT far more than reports account for. Also to retain trained employees they need to be paid accordingly.

111	May 12, 2015 1:32 PM	The roads in the Upstate are in very poor condition. Funds for road improvements should be a priority and funding would be available had the commission and others with influence on funding would have spent those funds where they were supposed to be spent. Raising taxes should not be the answer to everything. Several years ago, Spartanburg County implemented a \$25.00 per year auto road tax to improve roads. This continues in our county. We want to know how much of that money is spent on roads in Spartanburg
112	May 12, 2015 11:37 AM	County.
113	May 12, 2015 10:54 AM	public officials need to be the ones held accountable
114	May 11, 2015 10:42 PM	fix our roads to get more businesses in SC
115	May 11, 2015 8:18 PM	Take care of the roads.
116	May 11, 2015 7:41 PM	the condition of our state roads is a direct reflection of the department's poor management
117	May 11, 2015 6:11 PM	There needs to be a better method of lining up as they have moved the seating area. It also could use a bit of cleaning.
118	May 11, 2015 5:57 PM	Can you spell Infrastructure Bank and cronyism? The experience my family has had with the DOT has been infuriating. The DOT staff has absolute authority over any development. Their management is subjective and it took us over a year to negotiate 11 curb cuts on a large development tract. The DOT is notorious for changing the rules midstream and they will go back on their word and they will go back on developers after legal agreements have been made and require additional private sector money to be added to projects. I would like to testify before your committee on this. I will contact Kirkman Finlay to ask
119	May 11, 2015 5:45 PM	if that is possible. SCDOT has an unmanageable job in keeping the transportation lanes in operable shape.
120	May 11, 2015 3:01 PM	More Transparency
121	May 11, 2015 2:58 PM	I find it interesting that our roads are in need of repair, but this agency comes out to fix a pot hole one day and can't turn around to fix the pot hole behind it. Instead, they wait an entire week, and then send out a crew to fix the other pot hole that the could have filled at the same time as the other one had they just turned around. The two pot holes were less than 2 feet apart. No wonder the money has run out. This
122	May 11, 2015 2:52 AM	department is inefficient!!! They have always been very good in dealing with issues when ABATE brings them up to them.
123	May 11, 2015 1:06 AM	
124	May 10, 2015 4:21 PM	Pay raises
125	May 9, 2015 4:43 PM	Lack of funding to fix roads and buy equipment
126	May 9, 2015 1:36 PM	It appears that the operation of DOT passenger vehicles (pick uos and cars) are being driven in a very careless to reckless maner by the actual labor force of DOT. On February 27, shortly after Noon I observed two blue shirt DOT employees drinking Budwiser beer from cans, sitting in a Dot pickup, it was not a surplus vehicle that had been sold, it had the SG license plate (sorry for not wriring down the #) this was being done while parked beside a car wash on Bush River Rd. Just off I-20.
127	May 9, 2015 3:50 AM	Our roads are in shambles. I think in business, you set a budget to get the job done. What we have established is an agency that uses our money to fund personnel. Fix the
128	May 9, 2015 1:12 AM	roads like you use to do.
129	May 9, 2015 12:16 AM	Please fix roads
130	May 9, 2015 12:05 AM	raise the gas tax and fix the roads
131	May 8, 2015 11:48 PM	Our roads are in deplorable condition. As a state we cannot hope to attract new business when our transportation infrastructure is crumbling.

132	May 8, 2015 10:04 PM	I lived in Texas and recently moved to SC a year ago. The schools in Texas ran on a tiered schedule to cut down on the number of busses that had to run on a daily basis. This may be something SC should look into. SCDOT should report to Gov. Haley, not legislature. Road and repair specifications should be re-engineered to make them last longer.
133	May 8, 2015 9:08 PM	better upkeep of roads, some lane direction improvements
134	May 8, 2015 9:07 PM	I live in one of the fastest-growing areas in the state. We just got a new bypass that is only 2 lanes! What a joke! And on top of that, it's still not completed. They paved our road and then rerouted part of it for a bypass a year later. This bypass also has a speed limit of 45 in an area where there is nothing on it for a couple of miles - so it is basically a speed trap
135	May 8, 2015 8:35 PM	that shouldn't be there. Seems like every DOT project I drive by has guys working. There are also guys not working, seemingly with nothing to do. Sometimes the number of guys working is less than the guys looking. Can the DOT get better at calculating manpower requirements? I also feel the DOT should be audited from top to bottom by an outside independent
136	May 8, 2015 8:30 PM	auditor.
137	May 8, 2015 7:52 PM	Need to improve highway / infrastructure in SC. Need to budget more efficiently and effectively.
138	May 8, 2015 7:21 PM	After traveling around Aiken county a couple of days each week, it becomes apparent that the DOT in Aiken County is not managed well. There is so much red tape that slows things down. Some employees are in positions they are not qualified for. If you were starting from scratch, you could hire two thirds of the amount of staff at higher wages and get a
139	May 8, 2015 7:14 PM	better product.
140	May 8, 2015 6:32 PM	What a Vast improvement over the years!
141	May 8, 2015 6:16 PM	not being able to a vacation unless you have time in your leave
142	May 8, 2015 5:50 PM	SC Roads SUCK
143	May 8, 2015 3:54 PM	Need campaigns on road improvements to let the public know.
144	May 8, 2015 2:48 PM	Poor infrastructure in the Pee Dee Region. The engineers at the DOT are well qualified and work hard to find cost
145	May 8, 2015 1:44 PM	effective solutions for state taxpayers.
146	May 8, 2015 1:14 PM	Disorganized and solitary as compared to other state agencies. Priorities do not appear to be balanced to Budget. We seem to spend on Road to No Where vs supporting existing roads. We as a state seem to lack common sense on where to spend the allotted funds. It really doesnt make sense to continue to spend on New Roads / Routes when we dont take care of the existing roads or expand those roads (IE.. I-20, I-26 East of state).
147	May 8, 2015 12:58 PM	I am very concerned with the way funds for the DOT are disbursed, namely that hundreds of millions of dollars are being diverted to a fund that does not do any maintenance of our roads and infrastructures but goes to sections of our state with more influential legislators to create new projects. Our current roads and infrastructures are suffering greatly because they are not being maintained. We do not need any new
148	May 8, 2015 12:22 PM	projects until current structures can be brought up to standard! Too top heavy and too many employees on the teri program just riding
149	May 8, 2015 12:11 PM	the clock.
150	May 8, 2015 11:58 AM	Under staffed I think SCDOT needs to focus on a more effective partnerships with contractors to provide for a more low cost and high quality construction. Scdot does a good job of that now but I think we should be researching better ways to provide for a more cost efficient way of business that helps this agency retain its employees without stripping the agency of
151	May 8, 2015 11:34 AM	fundings.
152	May 8, 2015 11:23 AM	Doing More, with less in a shorter time span.
153	May 8, 2015 1:10 AM	More emphasis/recognition quality/ethical performance.
154	May 8, 2015 12:53 AM	fix the roads

155	May 7, 2015 9:03 PM	SCDOT is a high profile agency that gets much criticism, but other state agencies likely function as poorly or worse and get no attention or adequate oversight. Transportation is simply a popular topic. Any concerns there are likely symptoms and examples of much bigger root problems in state government as a whole.
156	May 7, 2015 8:26 PM	Keep doing as good as you can with what you have to maintain our roadway system.
157	May 7, 2015 8:23 PM	Poorly managed. extremely underpaid employees.
158	May 7, 2015 7:22 PM	Planning and operations of transit, MPOs, and COG need to fall under SCDOT oversight for efficiency.
159	May 7, 2015 7:14 PM	the atmosphere in my office is get it done lets please the contractor do not do anything to make the rce look bad or it could be your job. if you have a question do not ask the the rce because you will not get a timely response if you get one at all. it can be a very hostile enviroment to work in. New Roads: Communicate to the public about the plans [where & when] for building them, the reason for building them, source of the funds to build them, the cost to build them, and the costs to the state if they are not billed. Repair Existing Roads: Communicate to the public about the plans [where & when] roads will be repaired, the reason for repairing them, the source of the funds to repair them, and the cost to the state if we do not repair them.
160	May 7, 2015 6:44 PM	SCDOT is a large organization with many dedicated, hard working employees. I am blessed to be in a leadership position within the agency and am constantly impressed by the steadfast determination of our employees in turbulent times. Efficiencies and effectiveness are certainly key to running a solid state agency, but due to the compounding impact of inflation over 25 plus years, we are simply to the point of not being able to fulfill our basic responsibilities to the motoring public and tax payers of this great state.
161	May 7, 2015 5:30 PM	I believe lack of funds is the primary cause of negative comment.
162	May 7, 2015 5:12 PM	please see #4
163	May 7, 2015 5:03 PM	The SCDOT is fighting a losing battle trying to operate on a 1987 income from gas tax. The politicians need to stop worrying about their positions and do their job to supply funding to fix the roads of SC. I am not opposed to an incremental increase in gas tax with less distribution to new roads more to repairing/replacing existing roads and drainage systems that are failing.
164	May 7, 2015 4:12 PM	Workers deserve raises
165	May 7, 2015 3:42 PM	It is very frustrating and disheartning to come to work knowing that we dont have the resources to keep up with the worsening conditions of our road system. Its the worst situation Ive seen in 17 years. Aging, worn out equipment, reduced workforce, more safety standards equals failure. The SCDOT would benefit from more competitive salaries to retain talent. More money should be available to properly maintain roads so reconstruction is not necessary.
166	May 7, 2015 3:27 PM	The faces and names may change, but the "good old boy/girl network" continues at SCDOT. I think other agencies are dumping their unwanted baggage in SCDOT's direction.
167	May 7, 2015 3:22 PM	Please fix the roads
168	May 7, 2015 3:11 PM	
169	May 7, 2015 3:05 PM	

170	May 7, 2015 2:49 PM	Funding is my concern when it comes to our transportation system. In my observation of the SCDOT, I believe they have done the best they can with the funds they have been provided. As a taxpaying citizen of South Carolina, I am very disappointed in the condition of our transportation system generally speaking. But my disappointment lies with the lack of funding over the last couple decades while the demand on our system has only increased. Why our gas tax has not increased is beyond me. I would have not problem paying higher taxes at the pump while out of state users do the same if it would put an end to the embarrassment I feel every time enter our State from an adjoining State's road/bridge. I know that increased taxes are not looked at favorably, but it is certainly a way to ensure all users pay there dues. Thank you for reading.
171	May 7, 2015 2:30 PM	need better intergroup communication, need more advancement opportunities
172	May 7, 2015 2:16 PM	Without proper funding it is difficult for the Department of Transportation to perform its duties to the as well as it has to potential to.
173	May 7, 2015 2:01 PM	I hope you're going to ask better questions than this in the
174	May 7, 2015 1:55 PM	SCDOT needs more funds to build up it's maintenance work force so we have the assets to get our maintenance program as our top priority. The policies of the "Senior Staff" are not conducive to saving money for their own employees. the 4-day week is a good example and it was discontinued because the Secretary for Engineering could not find an employee that she needed because it was their day off, and was irritated, therefore discontinuing the 4-day week. It helped employees that live more than 40 or 50 miles away save wear and tear on their vehicles and gas money as well. Don't understand the reasoning for the 4-day workweek being discontinued. Someone should look into the reasons behind it.
175	May 7, 2015 1:54 PM	Maintenance Offices personnel are overlooked or considered last if at all.
176	May 7, 2015 1:29 PM	
177	May 7, 2015 1:16 PM	THAT THEY ARE NOT GETTING THE FUNDING THEY NEED
178	May 7, 2015 1:01 PM	very little transparency, and according to media reports, appears to have priorities set based on anything but actual need
179	May 7, 2015 12:56 PM	SCDOT should be able to prioritize funding as determined by engineering judgment. Not based on an approved list of roads.
180	May 7, 2015 12:54 PM	Limited budget makes it difficult to keep up with growing inventory (Road maintenance, rehabilitation, and construction) and keep talented people (Some cities and counties are more competitive than SCDOT).
181	May 7, 2015 12:50 PM	There needs to be more money to fix the roads in this state.
182	May 7, 2015 12:41 PM	This will not allow to comment - invalid format?
183	May 7, 2015 12:40 PM	None
184	May 7, 2015 12:40 PM	The pay needs to be adjusted to the southeast average in order to get and keep quality people.
185	May 7, 2015 12:38 PM	pay people compared to what the same postion in the private sector are paid. Technicians make about 10k less on avarage than someone doing same or less in private sector. Also end the corruption in district 3. I'm a SCDOT employee, moral is very low mainly with administrative staff because nobody at headquarters look out for us unless you are a friend, family or polician makes a call for you get promotion or raise. We had administrative survey a few years ago by Wendy Nichols well guess what she didn't do anything-NOTHING. Headquarters blows smoke all the time and Ms. Oakley isn't any better when the gov. brought her aboard, of couse the she isn't worth much either.
186	May 7, 2015 12:35 PM	

187	May 7, 2015 12:34 PM	I think there is lack of training for field personnel. In particular, I think there is a lack of communication/coordination between field personnel/offices and management/QC personnel in Columbia. This lack of communication results in frustration (for both HQ and field offices) and waste of money. I think SCDOT spends too much money and concern over avoiding lawsuits. This excess money and concern results in less funds for actual road construction and maintenance. Additionally, I think the DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) program is a farce which frustrates both Contractors and field inspectors. There is nothing in place to ensure a DBE does a satisfactory job. Once a business is placed on the DBE list, they really don't have to do an adequate job. Misguided compensation regulations lower morale of employees and lessens retention of quality personnel.
188	May 7, 2015 12:30 PM	
189	May 7, 2015 12:22 PM	Lack of unison between departments leads to unnecessary paperwork, duplication of duties, and frustration. There is very little willingness of various departments to support and assist other departments and this leads to time, effort and salaries being used to perform unnecessary duties. Too much waste of human resource hours due to long term employees' complacency and "don't care anymore" attitude. Too many supervisory positions require a bachelors degree, which is too limiting, unnecessary, and too expensive. This mainly applies to the county construction and maintenance offices, where a professional engineering license is not needed or necessary.
190	May 7, 2015 12:19 PM	Get rid of the damned Infrastructure bank and let the DOT do their job.
191	May 7, 2015 12:18 PM	workers medical is priced to high and don't cover much.
192	May 7, 2015 12:06 PM	Lets build more roads in the upstate, Boiling Springs is growing.
193	May 7, 2015 12:01 PM	
194	May 7, 2015 11:59 AM	I feel that the D.O.T. does a great job given the amount of politics, public vision, Contractor dealings it has to work with. I also feel the S.C.D.O.T. HANDS are tied a fair amount of time dealing with Spec. and project needs. In order for better highways there has to be a better application of what is right for the state of S.C. in reference to quality of work, how its accomplished and what is done the right way. WHEN YOU UNDERMINE THE PROCESS YOU ARE UNDERMINING YOUR STATE.
195	May 7, 2015 11:54 AM	moral is down.
196	May 7, 2015 11:49 AM	never seems the money is well spent
197	May 7, 2015 11:48 AM	Currently appointed leader is a cancer on the agency.
198	May 7, 2015 11:47 AM	Road conditions and construction plans appear inefficient. The pay scale doesn't seem to be up to par for the amount of work the employee does and there is favoritism in the agency.
199	May 7, 2015 11:46 AM	The Department is separated into districts which seem to be operated independantly from each other. The manner in which they do business is a reflection of the goal and personal interest of the district staff. Not the interest of the state, employees, and public.
200	May 7, 2015 11:39 AM	Bring back employee advancement as education requirements are completed to prevent employees from looking to advance elsewhere or outside sector.
201	May 7, 2015 11:38 AM	I have received emails and followup phone calls regarding a traffic light issue I submitted. Very nice. Give these people some money so they can do their jobs better.
202	May 7, 2015 11:26 AM	The state of our road system is appaling and the lack of planning to adequately accommodate ever-expanding vehicle count is criminal. I certainly understand budget shortfalls, but the lack of sense of urgency to properly address these problems accompanied with the ridiculous and extravagant construction of the Ravenel bridge in Charleston has created an unforgivable, state-wide crisis. This problem must be fixed immediately.
203	May 7, 2015 11:15 AM	

204	May 7, 2015 11:14 AM	It seems to be very "Top heavy" with administration. To much work being farmed out to consultants charging over inflated rates.
205	May 7, 2015 11:11 AM	Way too much time, money, and energy are spent meeting state or federal regulations or department policies that do nothing to pave roads or build bridges. Most egregious of all is the unfair promotions and raises that occur. Favored employees are promoted to top positions over much better qualified and experienced employees because the promoted employee has friends at the top or in a politically powerful position. This is a slap in the face to long time dedicated employees who have spent a lifetime in service to the people of the state. The favoritism shown in the raises and promotions is one of the main causes of employee frustration and dissatisfaction. Careers have been ruined after 30 years of service by such disrespect and professional humiliation.
206	May 7, 2015 11:01 AM	need more pay
207	May 7, 2015 10:55 AM	I am employed by SCDOT and have a great respect for the department.
208	May 7, 2015 10:54 AM	A very close study of the ROI for this department should be made. every state employee at all agencies deserve to be able to get merit reviews some scdot employees have to work extra jobs to pay their bills now with the 4 day work week being taken away they will have to look for other jobs or look for government assistance like food stamps my relative's pay has not changed over the past 6 years 20.00 dollars a pay period the 5% they received was taken away in the same time the agency heads for south carolina got 9% why does these things happen also funding for the equipment is very poor. Why do all good paying positions require an engineering degree not one engineer that works in his county designs anything.
209	May 7, 2015 10:39 AM	Often see multiple men standing around with hands in pockets watching 1 or 2 guys doing very hard physical labor
210	May 7, 2015 8:53 AM	Lack of personnel to operate effectively.
211	May 7, 2015 8:50 AM	Employees at the dot should be more helpful and realize they work for the people and not like we are doing them some sort of favor.
212	May 7, 2015 8:34 AM	I do not think that DOT should abolish the 4-day work week for maintenance and construction field personnel. Not only will production be reduced, but there will be additional hardships on the folks, who can least afford the change. As long as each facility can provide effective service for the entire 5-day week, then there should be the option to allow the crews to have a "split" 4-day week.
213	May 7, 2015 8:10 AM	Lack of transparency, Needs reform.
214	May 7, 2015 7:51 AM	Concerned that I-73 is not under construction. It's needed NOW.
215	May 7, 2015 3:47 AM	Sorry upkeep of our roads
216	May 7, 2015 2:13 AM	The condition of our roads is deplorable. There is NO excuse for this. Not only are they tearing up vehicles, they are going to kill someone on a motorcycle. When new neighborhoods or commercial sites are built the heavy vehicles destroy the surrounding roads, they should pay for the repairs, not the taxpayers. I 26 and 526 interchange in Charleston is the worst design I have seen throughout the country, four lanes crossing, merging into one, some days it takes two hours to travel from Summerville to North Charleston which should only be a 20 minute drive at the posted speed limit.
217	May 7, 2015 1:50 AM	I drive across SC regularly, and the roads are in abysmal condition. Please stop wasting our tax dollars! I would love to see the SCDOT audited! Also please forces on major roads like interstates instead of back roads.
218	May 7, 2015 1:26 AM	SCDOT needs to be audited.
219	May 7, 2015 1:09 AM	We voted higher taxes two years ago in Pennies for Progress. Have not seen any improvement in the roads in York County. Where has two years' worth of tax collections gone?
220	May 7, 2015 12:58 AM	
221	May 7, 2015 12:53 AM	

222	May 6, 2015 11:42 PM	Honestly appears to be an agency where former politicians go to retire in Cush jobs with little accountability
223	May 6, 2015 10:58 PM	They are wasting much of the money that should be used to fix our roads by poor management and budget planning .
224	May 6, 2015 10:08 PM	Eliminate the Congressional District Highway Commissioners and make it a true cabinet agency. Publish the infrastructure priority projects and their costs. Transfer secondary roads to local governments with a set cost per mile in maintenance funding attached.
225	May 6, 2015 9:59 PM	They need to cut waste and focus on repairing our infrastructure
226	May 6, 2015 9:52 PM	The Agency needs more money to function at the required levels.
227	May 6, 2015 9:30 PM	More funds to repair the deteriorating road system
228	May 6, 2015 9:26 PM	the road conditions are horrendously places and some if the employees take advantage of being state employees. seeing 9 people standing around while another its actually working is not being productive.. SCDOT is a great place to work.We have good leadership. We need to have to have more funding for maintenance(No Gas Tax increase since 1987).Employees should have a Class /compensation program in order to keep good employees.Bad bridges should be replacee as a priority
229	May 6, 2015 9:21 PM	One.Better scheduling funding for replacement of equipment. I currently work for the SCDOT, and believe the SCDOT should be striving to add young talent to its workforce. Cutting programs like the 4-day workweek is very detrimental to achieving this goal, and is the
230	May 6, 2015 9:19 PM	reason I no longer recommend the SCDOT as a great place to work. The moral gets very low when you witness first hand the favoritism shown. Supervisors not doing their job as supervisors. It is awful when there are good employees that do right, and they see other employees doing very wrong and the supervisor "lets" them. They willingly let them get away with stealing time and things that are against SCDOT policy !!! Need more requirements for people in authority positions. This
231	May 6, 2015 9:12 PM	information is FACT.
232	May 6, 2015 8:58 PM	To much cronyism & nepotism at upper levels The Department needs to position itself to compete more fairly with private industries where salaries are concerned. Most of the trades workers that are employeeed by the Department are making below the poverty line for SC. More dedicated funding needs to be secured so the Department has the means to increase the salaries of the lower paybands to come more inline with the average trades workers salaraies.
233	May 6, 2015 8:57 PM	Funding, moral, Preventative Maintenance, consistency between districts are all issues.
234	May 6, 2015 8:46 PM	SCDOT's field offices have recently been intructed that four day work weeks are prohibited, beginning July 6, 2015. This would make sense if the general public has been unable to make contact to any field office Mondays through Friday, or if emergencies could not be immediately addressed and corrected. But this is not the case. All offices are open each day, and people are called in immediately if an emergency arises. I believe the purpose of the memorandum is to put up a facade that under the present leadership, things are going to be proactive and responsive to the public. This is further from the truth; the field offices are very responsive and proactive now. I do not believe that employees that work a second job to better their family situation will quit, but that these employees will again have to struggle to make budgets meet. I would encourage your committee to allow the local field offices to wisely make
235	May 6, 2015 8:39 PM	prudent decisions relating to the Trades Specialists.

236	May 6, 2015 8:29 PM	The South Carolina Department of Transportation should take care of their employees better. Pay those employees based on knowledge, dependability and work ethic. The Department in my opinion should not hire non experienced personel in higher positions with greater pay than employees with known skills and years of service.
237	May 6, 2015 8:23 PM	We need more focus on the employees working on these roads and highways with potholes, grass cutting and uneven lanes.
238	May 6, 2015 8:20 PM	Many employees at the SCDOT are working for Poverty level wages and cannot maintain a family without a second job or they leave for higher paying ones. Work cannot get done due to the cutbacks in manpower over the last 5 years.
239	May 6, 2015 8:20 PM	To reduce waste and improve efficiency, the SCDOT needs to place more emphasis on training and retaining existing employees. Hard working, intelligent individuals are less likely to stay at SCDOT (or any state agency) if they are not able to learn and grow within their field and are not compensated for their knowledge and years worked. Monetary compensation is an important incentive and plays a huge part in employee retention, but four day flexible work schedules are also a very valued incentive. Cross training between departments and fields of study should also be a high priority as there is a disconnect between many departments. Projects can progress more efficiently and with less delays when employees understand their role in the work of other departments.
240	May 6, 2015 8:19 PM	I think the SCDOT could use an employee committee that has some input to the running the department unless you have walked in our shoes
241	May 6, 2015 8:18 PM	don't tell us how things should be! vey top heavy without the necessary work experience for all the new positions created.
242	May 6, 2015 8:14 PM	Concerns: Young ambitious engineers employed by the SCDOT are not offered the potential for raises or promotions without applying for different positions. As a result, many young engineers like myself are searching outside the Department within three to four years after initial employment for a more competitive salary. SUGGESTIONS: Implement programs to recognize and properly compensate these young engineers so that the state will retain these great young men and women that it has invested so much in. Right now the state is viewed as a stepping stone until you gain your Professional Engineering license, then people move
243	May 6, 2015 8:12 PM	on to a higher paying job. They seem to do a good job with the resources they have.
244	May 6, 2015 8:12 PM	THE DEPARTMENT KEEPS TRYING TO UNDERSIZE THE EQUIPMENT NEEDED IN THE FIELD FOR THE JOB. THE EQUIPMENT PURCHASERS NEED TO REALIZE IN THIS DAY AND TIME, WE NEED TO THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX AND PURCHASE EQUIPMENT THAT WILL LAST INSTEAD OF HOW MUCH WILL IT COST IN THE BEGINNING. THE OVERALL COST TO MAINTAIN THE EQUIPMENT IS NOT CONSIDERED WHEN PURCHASING EQUIPMENT.
245	May 6, 2015 8:11 PM	The money that the DOT is not getting is not allowing the department to keep up with demand for repair
246	May 6, 2015 8:10 PM	waste of money, an how things are ran cause of politics. the money isnt there cause the gas taxe hasnt been raised since the 80s. i mean come on how much has everything went up in price since then. and the pay well theres not enough room to type about that.
247	May 6, 2015 8:07 PM	Discrepancies in Salaries of Employees in the Same Position, Doing the Same Jobs. No room for Advancement Because of Retired Employees Being Rehired

		How many paid Professional Engineers does the department employ? And why do they "outsource" so much work to consultants? And are all the paid Professional Engineers in positions where they utilize those skills or are they just paid a premium to fill a slot? It seems that the management has grown considerably in numbers and the field positions have been cut or reduced significantly. Management shows very little respect or concern for employees. Especially the lower level employees. Moral is at an all time low! Such a shame, considering this agency once was in the top three DOT's in the nation. Please fix our Department! The motoring public, department employees, and citizens of the Great
248	May 6, 2015 8:03 PM	State of South Carolina deserve better! The department is not adequately funded to repair and maintain the current road system. There should be less political and commercial influence. The department should serve the citizens not the politicians and developers that consider their interest more important than the
249	May 6, 2015 7:58 PM	common man. I believe some positions at the HQ are not useful and could free up funds for the field offices and to increase the salaries of the field offices where the actual work gets done and not going to people who make over \$65,000 yearly and don't have a clue as to the processes of the field offices. In other words i believe some positions could be cut to benefit the agency's productivity and job opportunities where needed.
250	May 6, 2015 7:56 PM	
251	May 6, 2015 7:55 PM	N/A Without proper funding and public education, it will be very difficult for the general public to understand the limits of the SCDOT and, as a result, SCDOT will maintain a mostly unearned negative image.
252	May 6, 2015 7:55 PM	I believe for all the hard work raises are deserved.
253	May 6, 2015 7:52 PM	DOT does a wonderful job with the limited budget they have. An increase in gas tax is needed desperately in SC.
254	May 6, 2015 7:45 PM	Don't like going from 4-10 hour days back to 5-8 hour days. With 4-10 hr. days I have more time with my family. I say on child care and 1 day of gas back and forth to and from work. The facility I work at we have always had crews to cover the 5 days. We have crews work Monday - Thursday and Tuesday - Friday. I think it is wrong for Mrs. Okley to punish us for what other districts do wrong. The 4-10s will cost me money instead of helping my budget. I think there needs to be a survey taken on the 4-10
255	May 6, 2015 7:45 PM	hour days versus the 5-8 hour days. I am a state employee with the SCDOT and it is disappointing that the Senators, Representatives and our Governor cannot work together as a team for our State not just looking out for themselves. Our roads are bad but we need to increase the gas tax which would make it a level playing
256	May 6, 2015 7:44 PM	field for all not just making property owners pay higher taxes. The 4th largest maintained state system on the 3rd smallest budget. Do
257	May 6, 2015 7:43 PM	something about the funding. For the most part The Department of Transportation does not give African American a chance to advance in their position as other workers. I am a 20 year veteran with the Department and I've interviewed for several different positions and before I was offered the position it was given to an individual outside of the SCDOT and the individual did not have
258	May 6, 2015 7:43 PM	any experience for the job. Minimal raises which causes low moral and productivity due to high
259	May 6, 2015 7:41 PM	turnover Needs to be restructured from the ground up. Can be a much better
260	May 6, 2015 7:40 PM	steward of South Carolinians tax money. A concern for SC Dept of Trans future as loss of knowledgeable employees at the end of the TERI program and regionally low salary
261	May 6, 2015 7:40 PM	incentives to attract and retain quality personnel.

262	May 6, 2015 7:36 PM	There is not enough funding to properly maintain the roads, bridges, infrastructure, and pay the agency's employees from a budget that has not changed in over 20 years. The public needs to be better educated about its state agencies; not from the media coverage that is equivalent to tabloid fodder.
263	May 6, 2015 7:35 PM	they need to do a better job of maintaining the roads in the rural areas
264	May 6, 2015 7:35 PM	There needs to be an increase in the salary for the Geodetic Technician series. It is hard to hire and retain qualified people. We end up spending money to train them so someone else hires them at a higher salary.
265	May 6, 2015 7:35 PM	Needs to better lookout for their employees. not just some employees but all. Number one SCDOT employees do alot of work, and yet they dont make decent money. I think spending money to better our roadways is one thing, but at the same time make sure that you are compensating your employees. Not just the higher up at SCDOT, but the employees who are lower down as well. I really think that SCDOT employees need raises that arent cost of living raises. Give SCDOT employees a raise and dont take it back from them. They deserve better than what they get. after all they are out in all conditions of weather putting their lives on the line to ensure public safety. so appreciate them better.
266	May 6, 2015 7:33 PM	I think there needs to be a better pay system in place! not more money for everyone but for those who deserve it and earn it I have two concern with the SCDOT. One concern is a medical Concern and the other is Pay. They do not provide Maternity leave to for their woman employees. If the employee has time built up they may use their own time and when they are out of time they go without pay! They also have no step program for raises. It is almost impossible to receive a pay
267	May 6, 2015 7:32 PM	raise and the overall pay is very low!
268	May 6, 2015 7:31 PM	They do the best they can with what they are given to work with.
269	May 6, 2015 7:31 PM	Salaries should be more equal
270	May 6, 2015 7:31 PM	The lack of raises for the employees is awful.
271	May 6, 2015 7:30 PM	Need to increase funding for SCDOT
272	May 6, 2015 7:30 PM	Although the Secy. of Transport. during the past 15 years have been personable professionals with experience behind them, not one has had experience in transportation--either planning, engineering or construction management. Therefore, the learning process has slowed things down even more. Also, except for the various secys. of Transport, there have been very few new management personnel brought into the department--possibly too much internal promotion and lateral moves. New bood with relevant experience needed at middle mgmt. level and above. Don't Like having to go back to 5 Day work weeks. The 4 day work week allows me to spend more time with my family. It also saves me gas only having to travel 4 days top work instead of 5 days. The SCDOT location I work we have crews on the faclicates 5 days. Why do we get punished for what other Districts do. I think it is unfair.
273	May 6, 2015 7:30 PM	There is a broad educational v. experience gap in the type of employee the agency is hiring and currently employs. This has lead to animosity and a sense of class separation among employees that do not meet current hiring and promotion practices.
274	May 6, 2015 7:30 PM	raise gas tax to repair roads and raise the salaries of the Trades Specialist
275	May 6, 2015 7:28 PM	Take the politics out of the agency. It is an engineering agency. Decisions should be based on engineering principals and not politics. Upper management does not want to listen to sound engineering judgement. It should be about safety and cost savings since money is tight.
276	May 6, 2015 7:27 PM	
277	May 6, 2015 7:26 PM	The commissioners are speedbumps to forward progress

278	May 6, 2015 7:26 PM	Very much under payed for the work the do and the danger they are put in in the work they have to do. There should be more done so people see the good side they do and not just the bad thing that happen. No matter what work a person does ther eis going to be good things and bad.
279	May 6, 2015 7:25 PM	The greatest limitation to the effectiveness of the goals of the department is a lack of funding. While the department isn't completely perfect in their operations, they do a great deal with very little funding and support, and would be able to do a great deal more if additional funding were available.
280	May 6, 2015 7:25 PM	The current funding of the enhancement projects for the small towns such as Orangeburg, Denmark, and Fairfax are a waste of taxpayer dollars. The projects don't help the traveling public and in some instances actually worsen the traffic flow such as in Denmark. We need to spend money on fixing or bettering roadways for the public not enhance the looks with no benifit for the traveling public.
281	May 6, 2015 7:24 PM	let the dot keep a 4 day mork week
282	May 6, 2015 7:24 PM	In my experience the Department of Transportation appears to run quite well as with all agencies there are hick-ups though it seems morale is down as of very recently. If you want an agencies run efficiently the workers should have a sense of joy in where they work. I heard that Nikki Haley removed the flex schedule. That has something to do with it. Flex schedules cost nothing, and provide a sense of consideration for families. Removing that appears to have dropped morale and that is something the DOT does not deserve.
283	May 6, 2015 7:23 PM	Employees for the SCDOT continually leave for positions with counties because of such low pay. Not raising the cost of insurance doesn't help employees who are not insured through the State.
284	May 6, 2015 7:22 PM	minimal pay raises
285	May 6, 2015 7:22 PM	Salary is too low and increases are only given to road crews and not the office staff
286	May 6, 2015 7:22 PM	Agency transportation project decisions tend to be politically based versus need based.
287	May 6, 2015 7:21 PM	You didn't give us much space here. I feel like this is more of a call me and I'll tell you kind of thing.
288	May 6, 2015 7:18 PM	Underpaid employees TOO MANY PRIVATE FIRMS WASTING MONEY!!!!!!!!!!!!
289	May 6, 2015 6:49 PM	dmv needs an internal look.
290	May 6, 2015 6:01 PM	The transportation system needs to get better bus routing. There are so many people without vehicles needing to work and the bus routes are no where near them to be accessed.
291	May 6, 2015 5:43 PM	pay raises are much needed
292	May 6, 2015 5:26 PM	takes to long to get service at any branch
293	May 6, 2015 5:06 PM	Public tranportation or lack of
294	May 6, 2015 4:45 PM	My perception is that money has not been allocated efficiently or effectively. No prioritization of needs done in an appropriate manner. Money allocated by favors and not by need. Not doing its job to help bring focus to the problems at hand.
295	May 6, 2015 4:39 PM	The department of transportation has a direct affect on all citizens who use the roadways in many forms. The state should ensure they have all the tools needed to ensure the safety of its roadways, bridges, and railways are up to standard for its citizens and visitors that travel through the state and that law enforcement officers that patrol the roads and highways are doing the job theyve been hired to do efficiently for the citizens they work for.
296	May 6, 2015 4:05 PM	I have lived in this state for 25 years, and the roads are awful. But yet, they want to raise taxes on gas, etc... but the roads never get fixed. You go to other states and their roads are nice, but here it is a bumpy ride.

297	May 6, 2015 3:22 PM	it is very common to see 3 to 5 scdot workers at a site when only one person is actually working.
298	May 6, 2015 2:25 PM	none
299	May 6, 2015 1:41 PM	Smaller offices generally are well run with competent and knowledgeable staff I have seen an improvement in areas of service which allow those in need of this resource to have it available and more accesible when needed.
300	May 6, 2015 1:41 PM	
301	May 6, 2015 1:31 PM	damaged road and limited public transportation The roads in Irmo, particularly on Southampton Drive needs to be repaired. I have contacted them several times and they only patch the road, which last approximately two weeks.
302	May 6, 2015 12:50 PM	Use cement and roads will last longer. Need common sense approach to fix problems.
303	May 6, 2015 2:15 AM	
304	May 6, 2015 2:02 AM	MY local DOT office experiences have been very positive - helpful, friendly folks in the Chesterfield and Marlboro offices. Our roads STINK - we need help. DOT can only do what there are money and means to do, though. Prioritize spending on the main roads for infrastructure and not paving gravel and dirt roads to support certain legislator.s districts.
305	May 6, 2015 12:30 AM	
306	May 5, 2015 9:58 PM	Fire the whole group and start anew
307	May 5, 2015 9:07 PM	they need a better accountability for hiw they spend money
308	May 5, 2015 7:53 PM	Need to work on a public transportation plan In my opinion, when there is a need for additional safety signals in a specific area, the department needs to provide the stoplights, etc. in order for their to be a reduction in accidents. I personally requested a survey of an area and the only thing they did was have someone sit for a portion of a day at the location and determine whether or not the area needed the signal. The biggest problem with that is they surveyed it at the quietest time of the day.
309	May 5, 2015 7:10 PM	SCDOT is always very professional and courteous. It is clear to me that the problem is funding. They have the fourth largest system but near the bottom in funding.
310	May 5, 2015 7:05 PM	More money is needed to adequately address our deteriorating roads. Currently SCDOT has to choose which "emergencies" they need to address with limited funding. They need more leeway to address needs before they become critical and require more expensive fixes.
311	May 5, 2015 6:58 PM	need to be able to access via internet to do some business instead of waiting at the DMV which seems to be a very long wait most days
312	May 5, 2015 5:28 PM	some years ago I experience an episode with this agency where my vehicle was damage by a man hole that was improperly place on Lincolnville Road. It cause major damage. I gave them pictures of the area etc and nothing was every done and my claim was denied. No cause of my own that this happen but I had to pay for something because of the neglect of the Department of Transportation. I was very disappointed by this issue.
313	May 5, 2015 4:42 PM	
314	May 5, 2015 4:36 PM	my experience has been positive This agency has certainly improved customer service over the past several years. I would like to see some type of website where you can access what types of forms & ID are needed for each transaction.
315	May 5, 2015 4:13 PM	Confusing. The Department of Transportation is limited by its leadership at a level above the Secretary of Transportation. Elected officials in this state seem to be standing idly by and watching our state infrastructure crumble. There seems to be no urgency to provide the necessary funding for transportation and infrastructure projects which are the lifeline of our state's economy.
316	May 5, 2015 4:10 PM	
317	May 5, 2015 3:59 PM	i hit a pot hole and ruined my tires..roads are terrible
318	May 5, 2015 3:45 PM	no comment

319	May 5, 2015 3:35 PM	More state troopers are needed on interstates. That is the only way to stop the blatant carelessness of so many drivers, including tractor trailers which create dangerous situations with the high speeds that they drive.
320	May 5, 2015 2:54 PM	This department needs to be revamped to better service our transportation needs.
321	May 5, 2015 2:47 PM	Not spending funds rec'd/on hand on road repairs. Every day I encounter pot holes or broken pavement while driving. Our roads are in dreadful shape and our governor and our legislature have allowed this to happen. There must be revenue to fix the roads! Raise the gas tax! The people who drive the most will pay the most.
322	May 5, 2015 2:15 PM	The primary reason for my less then positive response is due to the fact that ample funds have been deficient for several years in order to operate the SCDOT. In addition, when funds may have been available, several projects were chosen that were "Politically" motivated. I believe this department must adopt good business practices and monitor the results on a strong ongoing basis.
323	May 5, 2015 1:51 PM	Concerns about how funding is handled.
324	May 5, 2015 1:37 PM	My comment is an invalid format due to length.
325	May 5, 2015 1:17 PM	The DMV has step up their services to the public
326	May 5, 2015 1:12 PM	We need more transportaion available for the working people who do not have transportatation to work.
327	May 5, 2015 1:04 PM	SCDT CAN DO A MUCH BETTER JOB, BUT THEY ARE NOT
328	May 5, 2015 12:59 PM	Road conditions have greatly deteriorated over the past several years.
329	May 5, 2015 12:58 PM	A comprehensive (i.e. geographic and schedule-wise) public transit system is needed.
330	May 5, 2015 12:56 PM	no additional comments
331	May 5, 2015 12:51 PM	pothole repairs, drainage ditches, safe bike lanes
332	May 5, 2015 12:50 PM	First they need to be Audited
333	May 5, 2015 12:49 PM	please fix the roads!!! Driving can be hazardous especially on I-85 in Greenville/Spartanburg
334	May 5, 2015 12:45 PM	Someone is making money for jobs not done this leads to one assumption that someone is taking bribes.
335	May 5, 2015 12:45 PM	I wish that there was a connection between them and other state agencies so that we could provide transportation to more clients. Transportation is a huge issue with state agency clients and a collaboration with the Dept of Transporation could bridge that gap.
336	May 5, 2015 12:43 PM	The most corrupt board in SC
337	May 5, 2015 12:42 PM	many roads needing repair
338	May 5, 2015 12:40 PM	It seems to be an overly large agency making it cumbersome. Public perception of funding is also off base.
339	May 5, 2015 12:39 PM	
340	May 5, 2015 12:33 PM	Must invest in ourselves as a state if we are going to grow and prosper. The roads in SC are horrible! I have gotten multiple flat tires and bent rims from pot holes in the road and all DOT does is patch the pothole with more ashphalt!
341	May 5, 2015 12:31 PM	roads are horrible
342	May 5, 2015 12:28 PM	Lot needs to be done with infrastructure but they are limited by funding
343	May 5, 2015 12:28 PM	Roads are not fixed until after they are almost undrivable. Roads are not expanded until years after they need to be then the expansion is not enough. There needs to be a proactive approach to fixing the roads in SC.
344	May 5, 2015 12:26 PM	The condition of the roads and bridges in this state is appalling and should be an embarassment to the state.
345	May 5, 2015 12:19 PM	They always are helpful.
346	May 5, 2015 12:13 PM	Better efficiency is needed across all state agencies.
347	May 5, 2015 12:12 PM	They subcontract out work to companies who take forever to do jobs that then cost the taxpayer much more, why don't you just hire people and do the job right the first time?
348	May 5, 2015 11:44 AM	

349	May 5, 2015 11:43 AM	The Employees do an excellent job with what they have to work with. They work hard keeping roads up that are well past the time they should have been re-surfaced, usable.
350	May 5, 2015 11:26 AM	Why is there no money to fix roads? They have the money, but it isn't evenly distributed. Stop buliding new roads and fix the roads we have. If you want a department to work, you have to fund it appropriately. Quit with the 'no new taxes' rhetoric and do something. Ronnie Reagan would
351	May 5, 2015 11:11 AM	be very disappointed in you
352	May 5, 2015 10:26 AM	work harder to repair roads and bridges
353	May 5, 2015 3:19 AM	It baffles me why it takes so long to complete a project! (ex. State road bridge in Cheraw, SC)
354	May 5, 2015 2:45 AM	ROADS AND BRIDGES NEED TO BE REPAIRED, BERMS INCLUDED
355	May 5, 2015 1:30 AM	Product completed shows level of competency of workers and directlble.
356	May 5, 2015 12:39 AM	The road outside their offices ib Chesterfiled is in terrible shape! SCDOT should take a look at how the state of Georgia handles their
357	May 5, 2015 12:19 AM	roads.
358	May 5, 2015 12:07 AM	Read above previous statement. Also, I look at the budget. I know you are spending money on non vote government items. Do your jobs by putting core government items in the budget only. It is getting out if hand!
359	May 4, 2015 11:59 PM	Need to Report directly to Governor
360	May 4, 2015 11:19 PM	Need more personnel at Drivers' License offices. Be more responsive to public comment
361	May 4, 2015 9:26 PM	This department is failing to provide citizens with adequate access to transportation especially in the rural areas. These citizens cannot obtain employment in many cases due to having transportaion as a barrier to employment. However, these individuals are being peanalized by other agencies ie. DSS, and SCDEW.
362	May 4, 2015 9:09 PM	Needs revamping and better oversight.
363	May 4, 2015 8:10 PM	Where has the money gone that is collected in gas taxes and penny sales taxes. The I-26 overpasses for St. Andrews Road is an absolute nightmare, as is the Chapin overpass. Cars are swerving around all the holes and barely missing each other. Very dangerous!
364	May 4, 2015 8:07 PM	I think the road maintenance could be a lot better than what it has been.
365	May 4, 2015 8:06 PM	None
366	May 4, 2015 8:06 PM	They have a smooth process in place. Monies for road repair seem to be unevenly allocated throughout the state. Some regions apparently have Off-ramps that goto nowhere while others have interstate roads with potholes that bend rims and arguably cause accidents. \$400,000,000 surplus in General Fund could make a
367	May 4, 2015 7:36 PM	huge dent in repairs w/o increasing ANY taxes.
368	May 4, 2015 5:31 PM	Lack of action where action is needed and doing things that appear to be pure politics. Dissolve the commission/board which governs this. Allow the governor to appoint the director for accountability. Demand that key experts recommend what roads to build, maintain, or repair based on need -
369	May 4, 2015 4:55 PM	NOT those who lobby legislators!
370	May 4, 2015 4:39 PM	What have they done to improve out roads? quit building roads to nowhere just to eat up taxpayers' hard earned
371	May 4, 2015 4:22 PM	money. We Haven't any Spare!! You do. \$400Million?
372	May 4, 2015 3:42 PM	We need an accounting for where money is spent. It is difficult to manuever the website and request assistance/road repairs, etc. Seems as if the wealthier areas get instantaneous results,
373	May 4, 2015 2:09 PM	where the outlaying areas are forgotten.
374	May 4, 2015 1:53 PM	I doubt the DOT can do much, the real problem is the Legislature that keeps interfering.

375	May 4, 2015 1:35 PM	They focus too much time, money and energy on building new interstate roads and not enough of maintaining and fixing our existing interstate roads.
376	May 4, 2015 1:25 PM	Road construction contracts need to be monitored/
377	May 4, 2015 12:54 PM	Tee Hooper was right
378	May 4, 2015 12:40 PM	They need to be on the same system as SCEIS and not just a system that only uploads summaries to SCEIS.
379	May 4, 2015 12:30 PM	I hope they get the financial resources to address our roads.
380	May 4, 2015 4:26 AM	It is my impression that there is a lot of waste or money and inefficiency in the Dept. Our roads are literally disentergrating daily. All we get for a solution is raise tax. How about cleaning up your agency first?
381	May 4, 2015 3:18 AM	The comment you entered is in an invalid format. What format do you want?
382	May 4, 2015 1:52 AM	SCDOT needs considerable more transparency. Each project description, including repair and maintenance projects, should include an explanation of where the porject originated, how the project was prioritized and what source of funding will be used to pay for it. Informed citizens know that the STIB and SC DOT are inefficient and ineffective bureauracies that cater to the legislative king makers who direct the limited funds to their personal choices. As such, these organizations cannot be trusted. Higher taxes will not be approved until trust is restored and the governor has full accountability for these agencies.
383	May 4, 2015 1:44 AM	When road projects have had completion deadlines enforced by hefty, daily financial penalties - the work gets done in a timely fashion. These should be incorporated into future highway projects.
384	May 4, 2015 1:28 AM	seems like we don't get our money's worth, but then again, SC has more state roads than most states
385	May 4, 2015 12:42 AM	A buracracy run by engineers who hid behind there regulations, whether real or imaginary.
386	May 4, 2015 12:31 AM	please give them all the money they need to fix our roads.
387	May 4, 2015 12:20 AM	The state needs to focus on mass transportation and infrastructure issues
388	May 3, 2015 10:23 PM	The sc Dept of Transportation should be placed under the control of the Governor, including budget and the selection of manager(s). This will enable the citizens to place blame for sucesses and failures. The Legislature should make laws and the Governor should enforce them.
389	May 3, 2015 8:12 PM	This state would run better if the Legislature didn't try to rule. Top to bottom inefficiencies and bureaucratic roadblocks. No thinking outside the box when it comes to engineering and design. DOT is notorious for driving up the costs of projects. I do not support any additional taxation to support the DOT until inefficiencies are resolved.
390	May 2, 2015 6:18 PM	Clean house.
391	May 2, 2015 3:27 PM	concerned about management
392	May 2, 2015 2:54 PM	Priority scheduling of work and quality of the work done is poor. Obvious repairs go too long which create bigger problems. New construction seems to override fixing existing problems which depletes the funds. We need a overhaul in this department
393	May 2, 2015 1:56 PM	Our roads are awful
394	May 2, 2015 1:02 PM	Why are they people still employed there? If the had worked for a private company and had a track record like the DOT they would be in the unemployment office.
395	May 2, 2015 12:32 PM	I believe they work hard.
396	May 2, 2015 12:24 PM	We need better secondary roads in sc they are in bad shape
397	May 1, 2015 10:27 PM	The people knew too little about where money goes!
398	May 1, 2015 7:03 PM	The Roads on SC are really bad.
399	May 1, 2015 6:57 PM	They need more money for roads!
400	May 1, 2015 5:31 PM	Work with Senate, House & Governor to fix our roads!

401	May 1, 2015 4:58 PM	The DOT needs complete overhaul and oversight. Too many back door deals and lack of review of the needs of the state.
402	May 1, 2015 4:43 PM	There is a great need for better transportation infrastructure in SC.
403	May 1, 2015 4:32 PM	Grossly inept at fixing roads. Why are our road surfaces in such worse condition that our neighbors of
404	May 1, 2015 4:31 PM	GA and NC?
405	May 1, 2015 3:55 PM	Become more influential in state of SC roads' condition take politics out of funding!!!! SC citizens deserve better road infrastructure than we are receiving, Start working for the public, not the
406	May 1, 2015 3:39 PM	lawmakers.
407	May 1, 2015 3:38 PM	Give them more funds to repair infrastructure.
408	May 1, 2015 3:31 PM	This entire Department needs to be restructured and priorities set.
409	May 1, 2015 3:14 PM	Wasteful Spending The biggest problem with the SCDOT is education required to understand how such a large agency operates. Additionally, having leadership of the agency split between both Executive and Legislative
410	May 1, 2015 2:03 PM	appointments is counterproductive - a recipe for conflict.

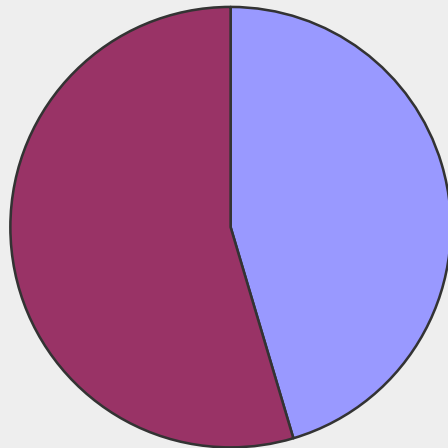


Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

Would you like to provide input about the South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness? (There are four questions.)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	45.4%	632
No	54.6%	761
	<i>answered question</i>	1393
	<i>skipped question</i>	395

Would you like to provide input about the South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness? (There are four questions.)



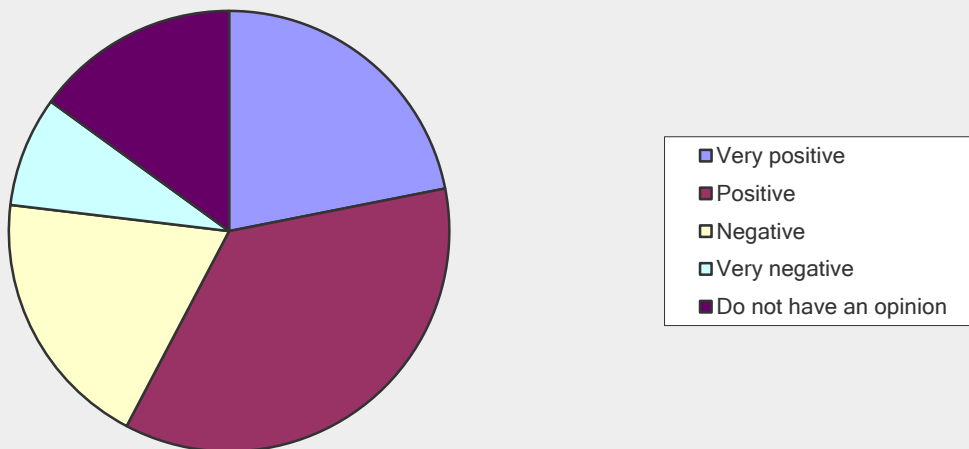
■ Yes
■ No

Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

Overall, what is your current opinion about the South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Very positive	21.9%	130
Positive	35.8%	212
Negative	19.2%	114
Very negative	8.1%	48
Do not have an opinion	15.0%	89
<i>answered question</i>		593
<i>skipped question</i>		1195

Overall, what is your current opinion about the South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness?



Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

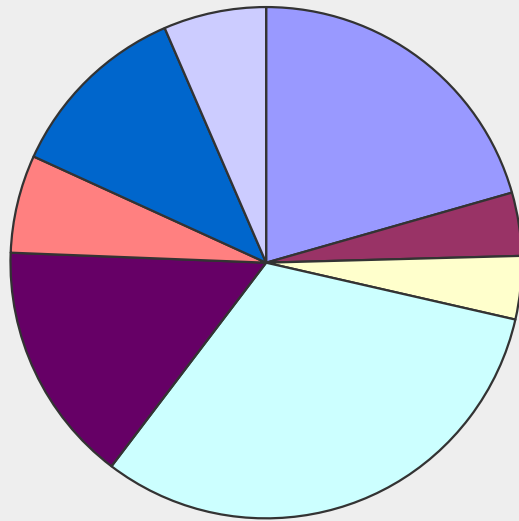
Which of the following has most influenced your current opinion of the South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Media coverage	20.6%	120
Social media	4.0%	23
Internet	4.0%	23
Personal experience with the agency	31.8%	185
Business experience with the agency	15.3%	89
Family member's experience with the agency	6.2%	36
Friend, neighbor or colleague's experience with the	11.7%	68
Other (please specify)	6.5%	38
<i>answered question</i>		582
<i>skipped question</i>		1206

Number	Response Date	Other (please specify)
1	May 30, 2015 5:12 PM	It's very existence
2	May 27, 2015 4:56 PM	I serve on a local first steps board
3	May 25, 2015 3:38 AM	Working with a state agency that service youth's who suffer's from lack of help in the school systems
4	May 22, 2015 4:04 PM	Discussion with educational groups.
5	May 22, 2015 3:22 PM	Learning early to read is the key to success of our students. They must be ready to compete in all areas of life.
6	May 22, 2015 12:44 PM	current and past LAC reports and knowledge of state office inefficiencies and ineptness. My experience with First Steps is with BabyNet, which has consistently been out of compliance with federal law. BabyNet should be part of the Department of Education. BabyNet has never promulgated regulations as required by its enabling legislation.
7	May 21, 2015 3:10 PM	Unaware
8	May 20, 2015 5:39 PM	Local group studying this issue
9	May 17, 2015 8:53 PM	Actually know very little about program. There is no information about it at my school district's website.
10	May 16, 2015 2:31 PM	Know Director
11	May 15, 2015 4:51 PM	working with community non profits and schools regarding early chilhood education and the workers who teach them. Workers do not get enough training or compensation for growing our next generatiion. At least first steps is trying to help where other agencies and legislators don't seem to understand the importance of early education.
12	May 15, 2015 4:23 PM	education.
13	May 15, 2015 3:25 AM	Many related experiences
14	May 13, 2015 6:03 PM	I am a former teacher

15	May 13, 2015 2:05 PM	Serve on the Orangeburg County FS Board
16	May 11, 2015 2:59 PM	Non
17	May 11, 2015 1:07 AM	Did not know about them?
18	May 9, 2015 1:15 AM	Don't know anything about it, but I should know. When you research this program, there is no clear evidence that my tax dollars are helping the indigent children of SC.
19	May 8, 2015 10:21 PM	Have never heard of it, and that's a shame because I volunteer in 2 elementary schools and have a child in preschool
20	May 8, 2015 8:36 PM	no comment
21	May 7, 2015 12:21 PM	Get away from Federal money and control the Schools from within the state.
22	May 7, 2015 11:08 AM	N/A
23	May 7, 2015 12:58 AM	Studies of preschool programs printed in the media
24	May 7, 2015 12:54 AM	Waste of money.
25	May 6, 2015 7:28 PM	school won't let good teachers teach
26	May 6, 2015 7:21 PM	Lack of information
27	May 6, 2015 6:51 PM	Too much money spent on ineffective results.
28	May 6, 2015 12:32 AM	Unaware this existed until today.
29	May 5, 2015 4:12 PM	do not hear much about this
30	May 5, 2015 4:00 PM	Working within a county library system
31	May 5, 2015 3:37 PM	n/a
32	May 5, 2015 12:41 PM	I have not seen any marketing activity about the program.
33	May 5, 2015 12:09 PM	N/A
34	May 5, 2015 10:55 AM	I haven't seen any data that verifies this is cost effective.
35	May 4, 2015 8:11 PM	I don't like heavy federal or state involvement in education. Should be local with more private competition!
36	May 4, 2015 12:43 AM	general information
37	May 2, 2015 10:27 PM	General
38	May 1, 2015 3:57 PM	

Which of the following has most influenced your current
Carolina First Steps to School Reading



Media coverage

Social media

Internet

Personal experience with the agency

Business experience with the agency

Family member's experience with the agency

Friend, neighbor or colleague's experience with the agency

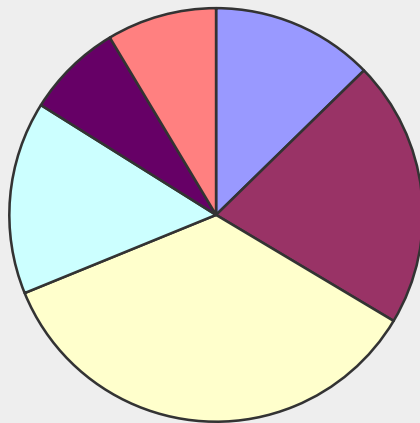
Other (please specify)

Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

How do you think the South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness functions on an overall basis in comparison to state agencies in South Carolina?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Much better	12.7%	74
Better	20.9%	122
About the same	35.3%	206
Worse	15.1%	88
Much worse	7.5%	44
Do not have an opinion	8.6%	50
<i>answered question</i>		584
<i>skipped question</i>		1204

How do you think the South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness functions on an overall basis in comparison to state agencies in South Carolina?



- Much better
- Better
- About the same
- Worse
- Much worse
- Do not have an opinion

Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

Please list any comments, concerns or suggestions you may have about the South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness. Please note responses may be quoted verbatim in a Committee report.

Answer Options	Response Count
	195
<i>answered question</i>	195
<i>skipped question</i>	1593

Number	Response Date	Response Text
1	May 30, 2015 5:12 PM	This is not a SC state issue; parents most of all should get their kids ready for school;stop wasting taxpayer \$s on things families,churches or other private organizations can do and do much better. Why create another state bureaucracy in which I am once more obligated through my tax dollars to fund not only their current job but future pension obligations. Every state job you create comes with future unintended consequences that I have to pay for. It's not the states job to get kids ready for school; how many more programs like these do we not know about and have to pay for? Cut my taxes and let me take care if my open family!!!
2	May 29, 2015 2:48 AM	SC First Steps to School Readiness has excellent staff in the state office that are very committed to developing quality support and services to local partnerships and to ensure quality programs.
3	May 28, 2015 1:28 AM	RETIREEES AND NEW GRADUATES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR EMPLOYMENT
4	May 27, 2015 6:14 PM	over 4k program. Teachers need same pay as teachers in school districts.
5	May 27, 2015 5:26 PM	First Steps on the local/county level is doing a great job. The state office does not give the local/county level enough funds to work with all or more of the children that need the program. Again, money that should go to the running of the programs are left, mostly, in the hands of top heavy State Offices.
6	May 27, 2015 5:00 PM	great agencies
7	May 27, 2015 4:58 PM	great agencyey
8	May 27, 2015 4:56 PM	I believe that more funding should be given to the local agencies. Williamsburg County, in particular still continues to serve child care facilities by providing professional develop and other needed services that keep them abreast to trends and best practices in the field. This is not necessarily done at the state level. Reconsideration of those funds have been requested.
9	May 27, 2015 3:39 PM	please don't stop this program. Many children and families have been helpEd by this agency.

10	May 27, 2015 3:37 PM	More funding for rural areas
11	May 27, 2015 3:35 PM	The agency does a tremendous job to ensure children are ready for school.
12	May 27, 2015 8:52 AM	None
13	May 26, 2015 10:12 PM	Quality child care from crib to 4k plus summer reinforcement best prepare children for kindergarten. I would like to see more community advertising of this program. As a citizen, I feel this program should be included in the maternity packets provided at the hospitals. This is the first step of informing the parents of newborns of this program. I was unaware of this program prior to a friend informing me. My child was 2 years old. I feel this is an underutilized program especially as the birth rate &/or population of SC increases daily. The 'clients' of First Steps are South Carolina's future. We need to ensure that all newborn or infants of SC are apart of this program as they are our future as well. It is critical that SC children are ready for school and this agency program is the vital initial
14	May 26, 2015 6:48 PM	step in that direction.
15	May 26, 2015 3:07 PM	no structured office space.
16	May 26, 2015 1:40 PM	Poor management at the state level, need to consolidate smaller county SCFS boards, move BabyNet to the Department of Education so that IDEA Part B and C are better coordinated.
17	May 25, 2015 3:38 AM	There needs to be funds to assist schools with after school programs. Also money for low country schools for remodeling and a computer lab for a full class of students.
18	May 23, 2015 12:55 PM	This should be under the Dept. of Education. They do not coordinate.
19	May 22, 2015 4:27 PM	Education in the birth to three years of age is immensely important.
20	May 22, 2015 4:04 PM	The last question is comparing apples to oranges. Each department has a different function in serving the public. I feel this department is doing the job that parents should be doing and it is time we instructed the parents to do their job instead of the taxpayers.
21	May 22, 2015 12:44 PM	Legislators need to read and use current information available to make needed changes at this agencies. Why have to agencies (First Steps and SCDE) to oversee the same function. Senseless.
22	May 22, 2015 5:30 AM	I think first steps performance is different in each county, depending on the quality of personnel implementing the program.
23	May 21, 2015 5:15 PM	Doesn't seem to work well.
24	May 21, 2015 5:02 PM	equitable funding needed
25	May 21, 2015 3:10 PM	See comments above re BabyNet.

26	May 21, 2015 11:10 AM	They dole out money for questionable purposes and seems a duplication of Head Start..why do we need another agency besides Dept of Education. Eliminate as a duplication of programs like head start.Agencyhas become a status quoself serving
27	May 21, 2015 10:59 AM	money pit.Waste is overwhelming.
28	May 21, 2015 2:40 AM	State Office, lack of accountability We are wasting little minds that so want to learn by not having education starting publicly for 4 year old children.
29	May 21, 2015 2:28 AM	children.
30	May 21, 2015 1:12 AM	none
31	May 20, 2015 5:13 PM	This Office/agency operates independently from the South Carolina Department of Education. Since both have similar goals and objectives, particularly the readiness of preschool children, it makes sense to have this Office operating directly under the Education Department. This would also make First Steps more accountable, something that I feel is not happening now. Thank you for this opportunity to voice my concerns.
32	May 20, 2015 2:51 PM	Excellent Program As a member of First Steps, Anderson County Board, I can state that this agency runs smoothly and that all affiliated with the program work diligently to ensure that many success stories can be shared.
33	May 20, 2015 2:16 PM	With First Steps To School Readiness we are giving children a head start on learning so they will not be left behind.
34	May 20, 2015 12:29 AM	More resources to local, community, county per legislative intent
35	May 20, 2015 12:26 AM	I have a very positive impression of the work done by First Steps at the county level. My impressions at the state level is quite the opposite. I believe the state office is bloated, mismanaged, and lacking focus.
36	May 19, 2015 10:00 PM	The counties are providing needed services in spite of the amazingly incompetent management staff at the state level
37	May 19, 2015 5:35 PM	This program is a great resource to so many families that could not afford a preschool enviroment. At my center we have the program and those children have learned so much. They are better prepared for Kindergarten and I am proud of the strides this program has made.
38	May 19, 2015 5:14 PM	

39	May 19, 2015 4:44 PM	<p>The majority of a child's brain development takes place in the first few years of life. First Steps is the main program that focuses on intervention for this critical time. If we are to move children out of the underachieving bracket in standardized testing we, as a state, must focus on the early years for school readiness. First Steps is doing this very successfully but desperately needs the funding to reach more children.</p>
40	May 19, 2015 4:25 PM	<p>The structure of First Steps allows individual counties the opportunities to serve their population as they see what works best in their particular county. As a small county, what works in Greenville or Richland might not work for my county. Also, the 501C3 structure of the county partnerships allows for individual grants to supplement the state funding we receive.</p>
41	May 19, 2015 2:16 PM	<p>I feel that the services provided by this agency are critical to the future of SC.</p>
42	May 19, 2015 1:43 PM	<p>The link to this service is broken.</p>
43	May 19, 2015 1:36 PM	<p>This is an extremely important agency in preparing our students for school admission!!!</p>
44	May 19, 2015 11:17 AM	<p>It would be helpful if the staff at the state office was changed or made more responsive to county partnerships.</p>
45	May 18, 2015 4:18 PM	<p>s.c. first steps 4k programs are a real successful tool in all communities as a whole . Families served really express great appreciation for the attention to their need and are so encouraged for the educational suces of their children. I must say south carolina, what a great idea!</p>
46	May 18, 2015 3:54 PM	<p>It is wonderful to see the State taking a positive roll in the education of our earliest learners.</p>
47	May 18, 2015 3:21 PM	<p>The state board needs to hold the state staff accountable. There is also TOO MUCH duplication of services between SCDSS< SCDOE, SC Childrens Trust, SCDHEC and First Steps. Create a single entry point for all services for children 0-5 and then have that office contract out services to other providing partners/agencies to ensure coordination of services</p>
48	May 18, 2015 3:13 PM	<p>First Steps School Readiness program is an all around excellent program offered to kids that would have otherwise not had a chance to attend school. This program offers a firm foundation to education and prepares children not only for Kindergarten but beyond. This provides the basis and necessary tools needed to succeed in the future. This is the missing link in the early education phase. It is crucial that kids have a firm foundation in reading and this is it! Learning to read is fundamental in order to read to learn years later.</p>

49	May 18, 2015 2:00 PM	A comprehensive system for funding must be created to effectively meet the needs of our youngest children in this state.
50	May 18, 2015 1:50 PM	The 4K program is GREAT!!! My 4K Regional Coordinator, Cassandra Johnson, is AWESOME!
51	May 18, 2015 11:03 AM	South Carolina First Steps has opened the door to allow Saluda County 4K students to attend a quality early education center to ensure that they are ready for 5K. We are truly appreciative of all the services that First Steps provides our students.
52	May 18, 2015 10:28 AM	More money does not solve problems
53	May 17, 2015 11:05 PM	This program is on the heels of the Headstart program and that doesn't work either. Government needs to get out of promoting education programs and encourage the return to the 3 R's.
54	May 17, 2015 11:00 PM	Check top position salaries. They sure are well paid.
55	May 17, 2015 10:50 PM	public funds and private organization funding are needed to support the work of getting young children ready for school
56	May 17, 2015 8:53 PM	Legislators don't seem to understand the importance of and the funding of this agency
57	May 17, 2015 3:54 AM	The management of First Steps has been atrocious in that the decisions they make on a daily basis are related to protecting their jobs and hiding their incompetence, rather than in looking out for the needs of children. They have alienated all of their partners and have actually done more to delay progress in the area of early childhood than any agency in the state. They misrepresent data, they bury problems in the agency, which means that nothing ever gets addressed appropriately. I am hoping that actually shedding light on the truth of how they operate through your committee will finally get this agency on the right track.
58	May 17, 2015 2:33 AM	We are a school district and that alone speaks volume!
59	May 16, 2015 7:33 PM	SC First Steps has been a great place to work for. They provide so much encouragement and help. I am proud to be a part of the SC First Steps family. Used to be Parent Educator and also k-4 teacher. Even if we identified children who raised concerns, often nothing was available. Of course, I have been retired since 2006 so perhaps things have changed. Need SMALLER numbers in classrooms!!!!
60	May 16, 2015 6:50 PM	
61	May 16, 2015 3:42 PM	Local counties need more funding; some counties are minimal to non existence in the entire county
62	May 16, 2015 3:06 PM	expansion of services needed

63	May 16, 2015 2:31 PM	There needs to be more information about the program. Especially concerned that there appear to be "providers," but no information as to how they are selected.
64	May 16, 2015 12:24 AM	Caring staff members with a willingness to help in a 100 % capacity.
65	May 15, 2015 10:24 PM	I would like to see a 4k Extended Day Program and a Free 3K Program all over the state of SC.
66	May 15, 2015 10:00 PM	more funding needed on equitable basis
67	May 15, 2015 8:31 PM	S.C. First Steps is a champion is leading our youngest learners to a quality education. You need to verify everything they tell you. If an audit was 37 days late because the CPA was delayed in getting the appropriate signed form. It's likely that the delay happen at the office of her stats. Also you need to make sure you verify survey results they give you. They combine categories to make the results look better than they actually are.
68	May 15, 2015 8:14 PM	More investment from the State in early interventions will pay future dividends for our State. The public/private approach is the most effective use of limited funds to focus efforts to areas that
69	May 15, 2015 7:25 PM	need the most attention. I am very happy to say that as a teacher for First Steps 4K program I am very satisfied with the program. They gave me adequate training to help prepare the children for kindergarten. The circle assesment also was a big help in educating the 4 year old of SC. My scores at the beginning was not as good but that was the beginning of school. When I retested my children last week their scores had improved so much. I am thankful for the 4K first steps program. A great program that I wish
70	May 15, 2015 7:10 PM	could help many.
71	May 15, 2015 6:59 PM	new leadership at the state office specific: ED. more funding for counties--small.
72	May 15, 2015 4:53 PM	http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130623/PC1002/130629720/1021/show-value-of-first-steps&source=RSS
73	May 15, 2015 4:51 PM	Local Director very dedicated to the mission and goes the extra mile to locate resources

- This questions is too similar to number 9. I don't think first steps gets enough funding for the value of what they do. The investment will pay off greatly in the future, and that means in the next few years as children grow into the work force. First Steps should work better with other community schools and non profits and businesses to create a culture of care for educating the young and their parents, since the homes and the schools should be partnering in the education of our children. Funds need to be found for adult education and high school/college education as parent and family management becomes more and more important as to who our children become as adults....leaders or a drain on our society?
- 74 **May 15, 2015 4:23 PM** Georgetown County's should be a role model for other programs- very high standards, very high success rate.
- 75 **May 15, 2015 3:25 AM**
- It has been my experience as an active advocate for effective early education in this state for many years, that each of the agencies in our state who serve young children operates as a silo. This not only includes First Steps, but DSS, Head Start and the SC Dept. of Educ. I would like to see them organized under the leadership of one agency, preferably the Dept. of Educ., so that they would be forced to work more efficiently and effectively for the good of the children. Not only do the First Steps organizaions not cooperate or collaborate with other agencies, but each county operates in a different manner, so they don't even collaborate with each other. Each organization seems to think that they have "the only right way" to serve children. This definitely needs to change!
- 76 **May 15, 2015 12:09 AM** This organization needs to be reigned in. Is it really smart to have an office in every county? Is \$100,000 really enough to make a difference in every county?
- 77 **May 14, 2015 1:59 PM** Our local First Steps seems unwilling to participate in many of the collaborative efforts to improve services to young children in our county. They are failing to address the goals established when they were first authorized. We need an organization that addresses those goals for the benefit of our youngest citizens.
- 78 **May 14, 2015 1:40 PM**
- 79 **May 14, 2015 12:53 PM** None
- 80 **May 14, 2015 12:28 PM** First Steps is an excellent tool to help families and get children ready for school. In our rural area First Steps is vital in getting children prepared for school.
- 81 **May 13, 2015 8:45 PM** Another Governemnt program the tax payers don't need to pay for. More beauacracy.

82	May 13, 2015 7:56 PM	Lacks leadership and collaborative approach in working with other state agencies. Poorly managed at state level.
83	May 13, 2015 6:03 PM	The state doesn't need to be involved in cradle to grave education of children. School readiness is hard work but the real problems are with this agency's state office and that doesn't show up on most of the reports about First Steps. The director is not reliable - her lack of ethics including work ethic is well known. The deputy director is the same. They look to others to take responsibility for their reprehensible mis management. Hold them accountable and ask and demand answers to detailed questions (like exactly when, exactly who, exactly what, exactly how much?)
84	May 13, 2015 4:51 PM	
85	May 13, 2015 2:05 PM	Underfunded and relies to heavily on private funds to meet government mandates, needs to be fully funded to really meet the needs that exist. It is imperative that new leadership is identified immediately for this organization. The mission is wonderful and the locals do quite well. The
86	May 13, 2015 1:56 PM	problem is with state leadership.
87	May 13, 2015 1:09 PM	Qualifications and experience of the professional staff need to meet the requirements of the job. the greatest hope of breaking the cycle of poverty in SC is preventing unwanted pregnancies (which means the parents want to spend 10,000 hours tending the baby the 1st 4 years of its life and paying the \$200,000 it will cost to get it thru high school) and assisting all caregivers in being excellent parents, beginning before birth (encouraging breastfeeding / proper nutrition / no drugs/smoking/ alcohol) and reading from birth constantly to the child/ high quality child care/ adequate healthcare, all of which First Steps fosters
88	May 13, 2015 1:05 AM	
89	May 12, 2015 6:31 PM	I believe in order for SC First Steps to function as charged by state law, that the infrastructure must be looked at closely and reorganized. The small infrastructure currently in place can not handle to amount of duties charged to the agency. First Steps has been the most forward-acting agency for wellness and education in SC in the last
90	May 12, 2015 3:40 PM	12 years.

91	May 12, 2015 3:36 PM	<p>First Steps is focused on a specific type of child and not open to all children. Is this truly fair when our education system is so far behind? Because one parent spends time with their child and another does not, leaving them behind in developmental skills, is not a reason to punish those that are willing to work with their children.</p>
92	May 12, 2015 2:55 PM	<p>This agency has an important mission, however it has not been managed well . It deserves a chance to show its value and worthiness for getting outcomes for children under new leadership. This should have occurred after the LAC report showing that the agency was not compliant with so much related to operations and management. Current leaders do not know how to collaborate with other agencies, they do not hire staff that are needed -- an example would be leaving the agency without a CFO for about 4 or so years. All matters have been kept secret until the new Board Chair arrived and only then have BOT occurrences been posted on the website, however the current leaders still try to operate without informing local partnerships or staff --therefore leaving trust as an issue. Best thing for the agency is to give it new leadership so it can begin to rebuild trust and a belief that the mission is more important than those who are trying to run it.</p>
93	May 12, 2015 2:19 PM	<p>SC First Steps is a first rate State Agency that provides quality childcare and social services to the children and families of SC in most need. I have honored to be partnered with this agency to provide quality childcare for the young children of Laurens County.</p>
94	May 12, 2015 1:34 PM	<p>This agency is positively changing the lives of young parents and giving poor children a chance to get ahead in their adult lives. From personal experience, I can tell you that this organization does good work and my family is proof of that.</p>
95	May 11, 2015 6:12 PM	<p>There is little to show for the extreme amount of time and expense.</p>
96	May 11, 2015 6:10 PM	<p>First Steps does an amazing job with the little financial support it gets from state government. The need is great. There is so much more to do for our SC children and families.</p>
97	May 11, 2015 3:02 PM	<p>Useless, Unnecessary and a Panacea to the masses. Just an attempt to look like they are doing something good for the schools. Money better spent in the classroom.</p>

		Very disappointed in the lack of funding for preschool activities. When my son (currently 10) was age 3-4, we had many opportunities through the Child Development Centers to participate in age-appropriate activities. He also received home visits and books. But my girls (now ages 7 and 5) never got to participate in those activities. It is a shame that those activities are no longer available
98	May 11, 2015 2:55 AM	to South Carolina residents.
99	May 11, 2015 1:07 AM	No information out there?
100	May 9, 2015 1:15 AM	I think more information should be given to us about this. I don't know what's being done! Early childhood education is babysitting and research has proved there is no benefit. It has also proven that the earlier children start school the more behavior problems they have earlier.
101	May 8, 2015 10:38 PM	Hold them accountable for their spending. I would like to see proof that children are actually receiving benefit from this program. It looks like most of my tax dollars are going to pay raises and bonuses through this program.
102	May 8, 2015 10:21 PM	have no opinion
103	May 8, 2015 9:08 PM	Kids today are not being taught fundamentals. Reading, writing and 'rithmetic should be emphasized more
104	May 8, 2015 8:34 PM	This should be part of the DOE, which should be a cabinet agency. Local school boards should be abolished and we should have a state-based education system with uniform standards and resources throughout the state.
105	May 8, 2015 7:53 PM	n/a
106	May 8, 2015 6:17 PM	First Steps is a money pit that doesn't have the enhanced results it should. It is an inefficient use of tax money.
107	May 8, 2015 2:51 PM	Useless Commission, we have a Education Commission that this should be part of. Not its own entity.
108	May 8, 2015 1:01 PM	I have children of that age in need but never heard of it.
109	May 8, 2015 12:25 PM	Kids are the future - it's worth a tax increase
110	May 7, 2015 3:07 PM	Cannot find out how the money is spent or what is being done to help kids get ready for school.
111	May 7, 2015 2:36 PM	Eliminate this program
112	May 7, 2015 1:34 PM	do not know anything about this agency
113	May 7, 2015 12:21 PM	More funds wasted on a useless program that fails to meet the real problems with our failing education system
114	May 7, 2015 12:19 PM	I think that the people in charge should look at the pure level of education being developed not what is politicly correct.
115	May 7, 2015 12:01 PM	Resulting education achievements appear inadequate today.
116	May 7, 2015 11:49 AM	I have no idea what this is. Maybe if I had younger children?
117	May 7, 2015 11:27 AM	

118	May 7, 2015 8:51 AM	Narrow minded individuals who are afraid of a child who is smarter than they are. Suppress smart children.
119	May 7, 2015 8:35 AM	Waste of money
120	May 7, 2015 8:11 AM	When will the State quit throwing away money, and just educate the children?????
121	May 7, 2015 7:53 AM	This is not needed, Let the local School Boards take care of their own issues. Children need to be at home with parents. Taxpayers are not babysitters. If the parents can't do their jobs, deal with that and stop wasting our money. If these programs worked, the numbers would show it, they don't.
122	May 7, 2015 1:52 AM	What is the cost-effectiveness of this department? What do they do? And how do they justify spending the money they spend? Is there any accountability?
123	May 7, 2015 12:54 AM	This is a good example of government taking over the job of parents . It is basically a baby sitting and feeding program .
124	May 6, 2015 11:01 PM	they spend more time and money at trainings and away from the office than providing services to community.
125	May 6, 2015 10:23 PM	Eliminate the agency. It is duplicative of the federal Head Start program. There is no evidence that the program has improved school readiness in its 16 years of existence.
126	May 6, 2015 10:10 PM	There is no accountability with this agency. It needs to be revamped.
127	May 6, 2015 9:59 PM	none
128	May 6, 2015 7:45 PM	Duplication of other efforts. Better to cooperatively strengthen Head Start (which I know is a Federal program) and pre-K programs (which I know are local).
129	May 6, 2015 7:32 PM	Awesome program for children that could be very easily left behind not given this resource
130	May 6, 2015 7:27 PM	Waste of money
131	May 6, 2015 7:14 PM	Duplication of services and need more collaboration with DSS and Baby Net.
132	May 6, 2015 6:15 PM	South carolina is not reaching all children to get them ready for school. Must children are playing catch up from day one
133	May 6, 2015 5:08 PM	
134	May 6, 2015 4:42 PM	There needs to be more attention and funding placed into educating our youth on all levels regardless of where that education is being giving. A public school education should be just as valuable as a private school education in the eyes of every legislative representative. PERIOD!!! I believe the early readiness for all students should be considered to include education and socialization skills .
135	May 6, 2015 4:25 PM	I like that courties design programs to best suit their needs
136	May 6, 2015 1:43 PM	

137	May 6, 2015 1:43 PM	I feel that this program should be more within reach for families that are considered as having high risk factors and outside of the Upstate area (for example: Oconee County).
138	May 6, 2015 1:39 PM	Need to develop and provide a full school day program
139	May 6, 2015 1:14 PM	referral to therapists difficult and timely like months these kids need food. they cant learn if they are
140	May 5, 2015 9:09 PM	hungry
141	May 5, 2015 7:11 PM	No comment
142	May 5, 2015 7:06 PM	good job working with children
143	May 5, 2015 6:22 PM	The salaries are way out of control for Director and second in command. They talk the talk but do not walk the walk. What do they really do with the money they are given...NOTHING!
144	May 5, 2015 5:02 PM	This program is very helpful to those who need the needed resource to help in getting there children ready for school
145	May 5, 2015 4:12 PM	Education is not a priority in South Carolina. We consistently rank in the bottom percentiles.
146	May 5, 2015 4:00 PM	Increase teacher pay, retain better teachers, improve funding for schools, especially in rural districts.
147	May 5, 2015 3:46 PM	what do they do?
148	May 5, 2015 3:44 PM	no comment
149	May 5, 2015 3:37 PM	First Steps is not open to all children which is wrong. Its only for low income.
150	May 5, 2015 3:26 PM	None
151	May 5, 2015 2:39 PM	Need to put more money in the the first steps to school readiness program for children can go to an all day four year old kindergarten
152	May 5, 2015 2:25 PM	First Steps is an excellent program which seeks to provide programs to prepare our most vulnerable and needy children for school.
153	May 5, 2015 1:19 PM	Need expanded services and increased early childhood screenings and interventions
154	May 5, 2015 1:13 PM	My response is longer than this limited space.
155	May 5, 2015 1:06 PM	They never know "anything"
156	May 5, 2015 1:00 PM	i dont think program includes all families
157	May 5, 2015 12:52 PM	The website is more theoretical and less practical than it should be. Also, the state needs to work towards public preschool.
158	May 5, 2015 12:50 PM	no additional comments
159	May 5, 2015 12:46 PM	Stop Common Core
160	May 5, 2015 12:43 PM	expand 3-K and 4-K access to all children. Quality education should not be based on where you live or how much money your parents earn
161	May 5, 2015 12:41 PM	The local county offices are run much better than the state office. The state office is more concerned with itself than providing for the local county offices.
		long process to obtain benefits

162	May 5, 2015 12:41 PM	Keeping kids engaged in education from the start has to involve parents staying engaged. This becomes harder as a child grows and socioeconomic pressures come into play for a family.
163	May 5, 2015 12:30 PM	Please hold daycares to higher standards as far as what children are taught. There needs to be a standard curriculum for all day cares.
164	May 5, 2015 12:29 PM	very good w/ reading preparedness
165	May 5, 2015 12:28 PM	I truly this is a great program for our future leaders and I think SC should put a program in place to help the older children that are having a difficult time in rural area schools.
166	May 5, 2015 12:20 PM	Ensuring the quality of education for young children should be priority for this state, considering its ranking in comparison to other states in the southeast region and country as a whole. Better funding for this agency will provide better teachers and gives the children of South Carolina better educational opportunities overall.
167	May 5, 2015 12:09 PM	I am not familiar with this program at all and since I have a small child, I would like to know more. I am concerned that I have not read or seen any information about the program.
168	May 5, 2015 11:15 AM	I do not feel children are being prepared enough to start their journey to school. And when they do it is not enough to meet the agenda set in the school. I do not feel there is a match for programs in all counties either
169	May 5, 2015 1:40 AM	The leadership, the director and her deputy, are not trustworthy and are inexperienced. They don't seem to care about children's needs, especially at-risk or developmentally delayed children.
170	May 5, 2015 12:40 AM	Why are we wasting money on this?
171	May 5, 2015 12:00 AM	Doesn't help. After about 3rd grade every student's education levels out
172	May 4, 2015 8:09 PM	I think this agency is a waste of time. Agencies cannot affect the lives of very young children as well as the parents can. Our efforts need to go to parent/child interaction rather than agency/child interaction.
173	May 4, 2015 5:35 PM	SCFS is highly effective in our county. It has helped many young children be ready for school. It is my opinion that First Steps exceeds the expectations simply by the number of families helped.
174	May 4, 2015 4:58 PM	SC First Steps deserves whole-hearted support. However, a state agency cannot take the place of responsible, involved parents in getting a child ready for school.
175	May 4, 2015 4:23 PM	...which is not saying a great deal positively. waste and more waste.
176	May 4, 2015 4:11 PM	This is a valuable program for families with young children

177	May 4, 2015 3:43 PM	Should be abolished. They have to hire 2 accounting firms. One to compile the financial statements and one to audit them. As far as I can tell, the folks they have there over accounting are not educated in accounting, nor are they strong in it. In my opinion, it leads to
178	May 4, 2015 12:41 PM	inefficiency. Although I am not familiar with the specifics of this program, school readiness is critically important to
179	May 4, 2015 1:31 AM	educational success need REAL school choice. Public schools spend an extraordinary amount of money per pupil for
180	May 4, 2015 12:43 AM	very middling results. The first step to a successfuk education begins in the home. We need to concentrate on making education attractive and necessary. Too many families provide little emphasis on education in the
181	May 3, 2015 10:27 PM	home.. State Supt of Education should NOT be an elected position, That person should be selected by the Governor and approved by the Senate.
182	May 3, 2015 8:13 PM	I was a board member on our local first steps office. A more inefficient useless office would be
183	May 2, 2015 4:12 PM	hard to find.I lack competent, experienced, professionals who
184	May 2, 2015 3:55 PM	can work well with others Amount of children handled seems to go lower
185	May 2, 2015 2:55 PM	every year.... There are no positive statistics to support that government funded and directed school programs provide any positive results. It is just another way for them to get money and create government jobs.
186	May 2, 2015 1:04 PM	I believe First Steps does important work.
187	May 2, 2015 12:34 PM	Just passing a kid in a class does not help a kid out in the future if the kid doesn't pass a grade at the end of the year he or she should not be able to
188	May 2, 2015 12:26 PM	advance to the next grade
189	May 1, 2015 6:57 PM	Great program. Please keep supporting it. Entering school prepared to learn is critical for the future success of the student, the workforce in our
190	May 1, 2015 6:52 PM	state, and literacy. I have seen the difference that First Steps makes in several counties. Their work directly and positively affects many young children and
191	May 1, 2015 5:27 PM	families. School readiness needs to be a priority. Far too many children are not prepared for school and
192	May 1, 2015 4:45 PM	once behind it's impossible for them to catch up.

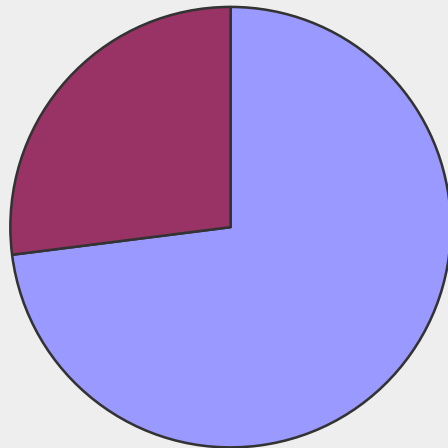
193	May 1, 2015 3:59 PM	The First Steps program needs to be reviewed more closely on the county to assure it is delivering results. Quite a lot of money is spent, but are the metrics used to measure success really showing progress in addressing the problem of literacy or just showing a lot of activity by the office.
194	May 1, 2015 3:57 PM	Expert studies show little if not negative results from early educational efforts for children--you're tilting at windmills and wasting state funds
195	May 1, 2015 3:39 PM	Anything that helps our citizens get a head start on life is needed

Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

Would you like to provide input about the South Carolina Department of Social Services? (There are four questions.)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	73.0%	1000
No	27.0%	370
	<i>answered question</i>	1370
	<i>skipped question</i>	418

Would you like to provide input about the South Carolina Department of Social Services? (There are four questions.)

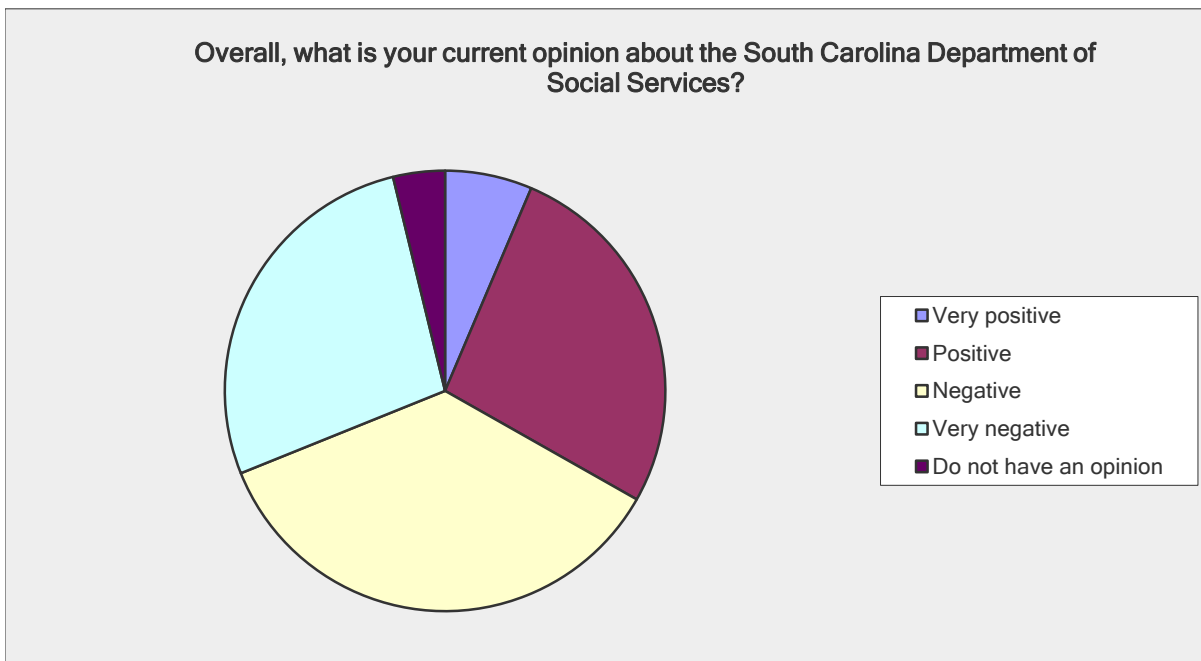


■ Yes
■ No

Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

Overall, what is your current opinion about the South Carolina Department of Social Services?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Very positive	6.4%	60
Positive	26.8%	250
Negative	35.7%	333
Very negative	27.3%	254
Do not have an opinion	3.8%	35
<i>answered question</i>		932
<i>skipped question</i>		856



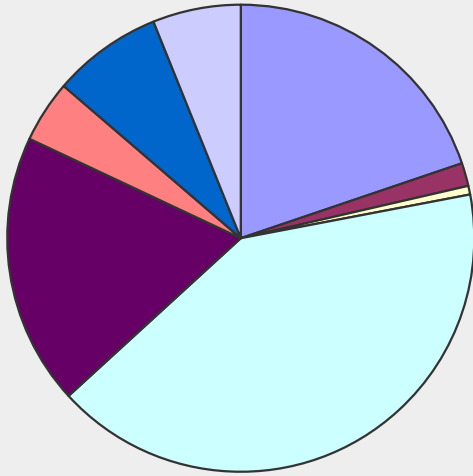
Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

Which of the following has most influenced your current opinion of the South Carolina Department of Social Services?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Media coverage	19.8%	183
Social media	1.6%	15
Internet	0.6%	6
Personal experience with the agency	41.2%	381
Business experience with the agency	18.8%	174
Family member's experience with the agency	4.3%	40
Friend, neighbor or colleague's experience with the	7.6%	70
Other (please specify)	6.1%	56
<i>answered question</i>		925
<i>skipped question</i>		863

Number	Response Date	Other (please specify)
1	May 28, 2015 10:12 PM	current CPS DSS employee LACK OF INFORMATION TO THE PUBBLICCOMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT NAD MORE
2	May 28, 2015 1:33 AM	MENTORING AN OJT
3	May 21, 2015 8:53 PM	I am an employee of the agency
4	May 21, 2015 7:54 PM	Clients who have experience
5	May 21, 2015 2:11 PM	client experience with the agency
6	May 21, 2015 4:35 AM	As a foster family, we have observed much. school district official who has children who needed
7	May 19, 2015 2:58 PM	them
8	May 18, 2015 12:50 PM	employment with the agency conducted parenting and family management classes and education for DSS clients for 19 years and have good knowledge of the operations of the agency from the outside, relative to the job of protecting and caring
9	May 15, 2015 4:29 PM	for our children.
10	May 15, 2015 2:11 PM	Employee The workers seem to really care about the people we
11	May 14, 2015 6:44 PM	serve.
12	May 13, 2015 2:09 PM	general knowledge Working in human services for several other human service agencies over a span of 30plus years and having frequent interactions with DSS personnel at all
13	May 13, 2015 1:44 AM	levels
14	May 12, 2015 5:05 PM	Situations heard from others
15	May 12, 2015 3:45 PM	my employment with stop giving life long help to those who should help
16	May 8, 2015 10:19 PM	themselves. Personal experience with a person helped by an EBT card. The woman drove off after using her EBT card in
17	May 8, 2015 9:14 PM	a brand new Cadillac Escalade (\$80K car)
18	May 7, 2015 4:22 PM	Observation
19	May 7, 2015 3:31 PM	employeeed by DSS
20	May 7, 2015 2:46 PM	Agency Worker
21	May 7, 2015 2:21 PM	Employment with the agency
22	May 7, 2015 12:23 PM	no experence
23	May 7, 2015 10:56 AM	A mixture of all of the above
24	May 7, 2015 12:50 AM	Spartanburg County DSS Employee
25	May 7, 2015 12:11 AM	spouse is an employee
26	May 6, 2015 10:18 PM	Employee

		Middle Class carry the load. Know of people that get food stamps but they party and have plenty of money for beer and smoking.
27	May 6, 2015 9:20 PM	
28	May 6, 2015 7:42 PM	I have not been influenced
29	May 6, 2015 1:16 PM	employer
30	May 5, 2015 11:38 PM	employee of the agency
31	May 5, 2015 11:06 PM	i am a licensed foster parent IT IS NOT TREATED AS AN AGENCY. YOU ONLY HEAR THE NEGATIVE OF WHAT HAPPENS ON THE HUMAN SERVICES SIDE BUT NEVER HEAR THE POSITIVES ABOUT HOW THE ECONOMIC SERVICES SIDE AND ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT SERVE THE CITIZENS OF SC
32	May 5, 2015 8:45 PM	
33	May 5, 2015 5:29 PM	employee
34	May 5, 2015 4:17 PM	Employee
35	May 5, 2015 4:06 PM	job
36	May 5, 2015 3:05 PM	employee
37	May 5, 2015 2:48 PM	Former employee and jobs at two different agencies that interacted closely with the agency. individuals being hired for position outside of the agency instead of within and at a higher salary;
38	May 5, 2015 2:28 PM	
39	May 5, 2015 1:58 PM	employment
40	May 5, 2015 1:44 PM	internal
41	May 5, 2015 1:26 PM	Seeing it first hand.
42	May 5, 2015 1:15 PM	I work here!!
43	May 5, 2015 12:24 PM	EMPLOYMENT
44	May 5, 2015 12:16 PM	All
45	May 5, 2015 1:50 AM	all of the above
46	May 5, 2015 12:03 AM	Former employee
47	May 4, 2015 10:17 PM	Employee
48	May 4, 2015 9:51 PM	I CURRENTLY WORK FOR THE AGENCY Media, Personal Experience, Business Experience,
49	May 4, 2015 8:08 PM	Friends
50	May 4, 2015 3:21 AM	Worked there some time ago.
51	May 4, 2015 3:13 AM	Guardian ad Litem for 8 years in dealing with DSS
52	May 4, 2015 3:07 AM	knowing people who work there
53	May 2, 2015 10:28 PM	Personal knowledge
54	May 2, 2015 3:30 PM	observation if how they b function Faith based social services do much better with much less than government run programs. That can be fact checked.
55	May 2, 2015 1:07 PM	
56	May 1, 2015 3:32 PM	All of the above.

Which of the following has most influenced your current
Carolina Department of Social Servi



Media coverage

Social media

Internet

Personal experience with the agency

Business experience with the agency

Family member's experience with the agency

Friend, neighbor or colleague's experience with the agency

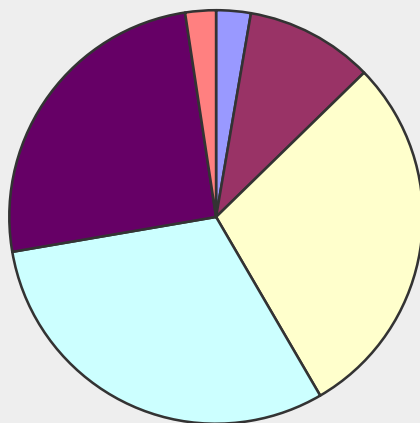
Other (please specify)

Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

How do you think the South Carolina Department of Social Services functions on an overall basis in comparison to other state agencies in South Carolina?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Much better	2.7%	25
Better	10.0%	93
About the same	28.9%	268
Worse	30.7%	285
Much worse	25.3%	235
Do not have an opinion	2.4%	22
<i>answered question</i>		928
<i>skipped question</i>		860

How do you think the South Carolina Department of Social Services functions on an overall basis in comparison to other state agencies in South Carolina?



- Much better
- Better
- About the same
- Worse
- Much worse
- Do not have an opinion

Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

Please list any comments, concerns or suggestions you may have about the South Carolina Department of Social Services. Please note responses may be quoted verbatim in a Committee report.

Answer Options	Response Count
	457
<i>answered question</i>	457
<i>skipped question</i>	1331

Number	Response Date	Response Text
1	May 30, 2015 5:15 PM	These issues can often be dealt with at a county level more efficiently and that would cut costs and stop wasting taxpayer \$s
2	May 29, 2015 4:23 AM	I believe that the some of the employees with the Department of Social Services care not to do their jobs. For example always missing paperwork, no contact, or the extended wait time. I, also believe that their should be some kind of daycare assistance when it comes to State employees if not a daycare to help with these twelve hour shifts. Many concerns about the agency were expressed to the Audit Council in the past year. As an employee for the past 13 years I will say that the concerns about the state of DSS are accurate and valid. Most problems still exist and I do not see a way forward with a change in many of the men and women in management who were put into positions they are not qualified to handle. There are several counties not even addressed in the hearings that are still making up their own rules and interpreting policy and law as it best suits their needs. County directors are paid about \$60,000 a year and work about 2 hours a day. The smaller counties do not each need a director. In the smaller counties, one person can handle more than one county. I think that there is a very big problem when a state employee for DSS makes so little money that they qualify for SNAP benefits, Medicaid and housing. Most DSS employees are grateful to have a job and resentful at being undervalued.
3	May 28, 2015 10:12 PM	Need better IT support
4	May 28, 2015 6:04 PM	I have seen where there isn't enough concern when it comes to the moral of the state employees that what for each and every day. I the pay for employees who have been dedicated workers is just horrible. There are people who have less education than others (no degree) making more than people who have degrees and haven't been given a raise in their salaries. That's the worse moral breaker, as far as I'm concerning. When raises are left up to the individual employees that can but a bias situation.
5	May 28, 2015 1:34 PM	I HAVE BEEN AN EMPLOYEE WITH THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA FOR 17 YEARS, HOWEVER, I DO NOT UNDERSTAND HOW EMPLOYEE THAT IS A NEW HIRE HAS THE SAME SALARY AS AN EMPLOYEE THAT HAS BEEN WITH THE STATE FOR YEARS. I BELIEVE EMPLOYEES SHOULD RECIEVE RAISES BASED ON THE YEARS THEY HAVE BEEN EMPLOYEEED WITH THE STATE. WHEN AN EMPLOYEE THAT HAS BEEN WITH THE STATE 17 YEARS IS MAKING THE BASE SALARY
6	May 28, 2015 1:18 PM	SOMETHING NEEDS TO BE EXAMINED

7	May 28, 2015 12:16 PM	<p>Spartanburg DSS is lead by underhanded employees who are looking for their next promotion - they do not care about the children nor the employees. Unfair promotions given to friends and relatives and no regard is given to who is best suited for the job. Angela Robinson has no business being director, and we have a new supervisor who has been with the agency under 2 years who is a nephew of another supervisor and who was a piss poor caseworker. He (Will Ussey) does not have enough DSS experience to lead employees. Poor decisions-county made policies that are not state policies, etc</p>
8	May 28, 2015 12:11 PM	<p>Too many new job positions have been made over the years - Performance Coaches....they only "lead" us on how to make our cases look better on paper and pass an audit. Does not matter if the information is not true, they only care about fudging the numbers and passing audits. We are a mess and I am embarrassed to tell people where I work. I worry about the children and families we work with. We are so overwhelmed we cannot help them.</p>
9	May 28, 2015 12:07 PM	<p>Leaderships lacks throughout the agency. Our "leaders" no longer care about the families we work with, they only care about advancing in their jobs. Elaine Bailey, Angela Robinson, and the powers that be in Columbia have no idea what is going on in the counties and they have no idea how to fix it. We need outside help. It would also be helpful if employees did not gain director jobs in their own counties. Too many friendships to keep up with and poor decisions made with promotions when you try to maintain friendships and not the job.</p>
10	May 28, 2015 2:19 AM	<p>Caseloads remain extremey high. There are not enough workers to successfully do the job. Some workers received a ten percent pay raise and others (who do the same job) did not receive any raise. The few workers left, who have experience, are overlooked for a promotion .You basically have workers who are being supervised by people who have far less expereince and knowledge than the worker themselves. There is not any incentive to be hired by DSS, much less remain employed there for any length of time.</p>
11	May 28, 2015 2:04 AM	<p>The youth advocate program employees, who were responisble for foster home licensing and responsible for placing children in foster homes, are going to be hired by DSS to perform this same funtion. If the quality of work was intially so poor, that YAP is no longer awarded the contract, then why would the agency hire the same employees to do the job, that was so poorly performed to begin with. This is certainly not a solution to the problem.</p>
12	May 28, 2015 1:33 AM	<p>SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES SHOULD MARKER RESOURCES BASES ON OJT AND MENTORING AS A STARTING POINT FOR EMPLOYMENT SECTORS</p>
13	May 27, 2015 5:27 PM	<p>Again, the wrong people are in positions.</p>
14	May 27, 2015 5:05 PM	<p>One major problem with Human Services is many of the workers and supervisors bring their CHILDREN to work with them. How can an employee be productive when they have their child at work? Confidentiality is thrown out the window! With summer upon us, it will only get worse. I do admit more supervisors bring their children than workers, though one worker brings her INFANT baby to work with her some days!</p>

15	May 27, 2015 3:51 PM	The caseload for DSS workers has increased to the breaking point. That breaking point means many more abused children & other vulnerable persons; no assistance to the working poor families; and a reduction in services to those in crisis.
16	May 27, 2015 3:41 PM	Need people that's patient and care about others.
17	May 27, 2015 3:40 PM	Clients information should be anonymous and not shared with the public. The entire agency is not the problem and should deal one on one with persons who are not doing their job instead of letting one or two bad apples lead to the determination that the agency as a whole is not doing it's job.
18	May 27, 2015 3:38 PM	None
19	May 27, 2015 8:52 AM	Regional and Performance Coaches are not helpful nor needed.
20	May 26, 2015 8:39 PM	SCDSS has hired a great deal of employees who are not conditioned to be in their current roles. They have lost or gotten rid of a lot of extremely competent persons. It's all about cliques and personal vindettas. Most seasoned employees at SCDSS are threatened to maintained their current jobs or they are just there to keep a job. There is a big issue with TRUST.
21	May 26, 2015 8:34 PM	Spartanburg DSS has got to be one of the worse run organizations in SC. I called the office with a very valid complaint asked for the director and after being filtered through several people who were rude, the director, Ms. Robinson, was condescending and unprofessional! First, manners and professionalism should be a requirement and then immediately retraining of employees is a must! If you talk to 10 different people, you get ten different answers to the same question.
22	May 26, 2015 7:31 PM	My experience is not negative, but it is not positive either. I feel that DSS need improving overall. Information provided by the media confirms to the citizens of SC that DSS is understaffed and have unmanageable workloads. In the process, the families or children utilizing this agency program are impacted greatly.
23	May 26, 2015 6:52 PM	Lack of resources and support
24	May 26, 2015 3:08 PM	
25	May 26, 2015 1:42 PM	Need better (consistent) data collection, improved employee retention, and smaller caseloads per case worker DSS is failing the youth that needs to be removed for unsafe environments. Being able to see the williness of parents who are trying honestly from those who are playing the system so that they continue to harm innocent child. Also the child that do causes trouble for honest hard working parents that are doing what is required to make the home safe and naturing everyday.
26	May 25, 2015 3:42 AM	DSS has one of the most difficult tasks of any agency. It must protect children from (mostly) family members who abuse them. It hires English majors to do this. It needs to pay enough to attract social workers or others who are well-trained and prepared for this task. Mistakes will still be made but there will be less of them.
27	May 23, 2015 12:59 PM	The governor of SC appears to bear full responsibility for this agencies ability to do its job but the legislature is also remiss in shortchanging its funding. SC treatment of its neediest citizens is a disgrace which can be blamed on its rigid ideology.
28	May 23, 2015 12:27 PM	

29	May 22, 2015 10:17 PM	Staff are underpaid creating high staff turnover rates which effects the ability to implement programming. Unfunded legislative mandates have caused increased stress on an already underpaid, hardworking civil servants. Serous changes with regard to pay and regular pay increases are needed before improvement in programming can be achieved.
30	May 22, 2015 4:33 PM	Running the agency based on goals of reducing the number of children who "age out" and the number of persons receiving assistance without knowing their conditions will improve is reckless and has been the policy of DSS. This department has gone through some drastic changes but they are dealing with people of all walks of life and difficult situations. As more people need their services, not enough money is their but that is not the only problem. Many of these people need so many outside services that are not available. Again families need to take some of the responsibilities because of drugs. and family violence social
31	May 22, 2015 4:10 PM	service needs to be involved for people of all ages. We have inadequately trained people doing a sloppy job . There too many people having babies without father's support, depending on the government to support them. There should be a limit to how many children one can have and live off the government. too many are on food stamps and in the WIC program that are able to buy other expensive items rather than take care of their families. Need more
32	May 22, 2015 3:27 PM	investigation of the abusives of the system. I think that it is a shame that Human Service workers get rewarded by not one, but 2 pay increases in the past year. And that department is the one who is receiving all the negative attention in the press, yet get rewarded. While economic service workers have not yet even received any pay increases.. My mother has worked for SCDSS for over 25 years and she makes the same pay as I do. No increase in pay, and just higher insurance. being a state employee is
33	May 22, 2015 1:00 PM	not what it is made out to be.
34	May 22, 2015 12:49 PM	This agency has been underfunded and not had strong leadership for many years. The state office and the county offices should be on the same page. Consider consolidating some county office and get beyond geographical lines to effect more efficient operations. We're talking about saving human lives and preventing abuse, right? I think they perform well considering the types of individuals and cases they work. And also the money they have to work with. The media and over zealous politicians are part of the
35	May 22, 2015 5:33 AM	problem.
36	May 22, 2015 1:30 AM	One would wonder if this agency trully works to incentivize positive results
37	May 21, 2015 9:41 PM	My personal experience with the agency as a former state empolyee is the overall slackness of employees.

38	May 21, 2015 8:53 PM	The policy is severely outdated. Underfunding has caused caseloads to be unbearably high, which consistently puts children in danger and contributes to high worker turnover due to the high liability of being responsible for so many children. Employee retention is not a priority in the agency, and there are rarely any initiatives put in place to retain good employees. Merits based rewards should be implemented to encourage good employees to stay, and caseloads must be reduced.
39	May 21, 2015 7:54 PM	The agency is not doing the job it is mandated to do by SC law. At the local level, the agency is very inconsistent. Different counties work very differently with very different results.
40	May 21, 2015 4:40 PM	Just try finding someone after hours to do their job
41	May 21, 2015 3:48 PM	Lexington County SCDSS employees were sicced on me (temp DSS employee hired by Snelling Personnel) as an apparently routine task in their daily routine like dogs at the family junkyard (spring 2007). Both adult and child protective services are grossly understaffed. There has been extensive coverage of the deficiencies in CPS, but APS has been cut more. DSS either puts people who could stay in their homes with supports into more restrictive placements, such as Community Residential Care Facilities, or fails to act in serious situations. The appellate courts have recently reviewed two cases in which DSS inappropriately found that adults needed to be removed from their homes. DSS has been very reluctant to provide long-term services and supports to enable parents with disabilities to main custody or parental rights to their children. The emphasis on terminating parental rights has left some older children in limbo because they do not have a "forever home."
42	May 21, 2015 3:22 PM	Do not continue to neglect our most vulnerable citizens.
43	May 21, 2015 2:52 PM	Privitization is not the answer.
44	May 21, 2015 2:11 PM	Need consistency across the State; need to provide feedback to reporter; need to be proactive in keeping children/adults from entering DSS custody.
45	May 21, 2015 1:49 PM	Inadequate untrained staff; inconsistent service across the state, adults and children either left in unsafe settings or placed in unsafe settings
46	May 21, 2015 1:45 PM	An acquaintance in private childcare facility. She just shakes her head at the ineptitude of DSS.
47	May 21, 2015 11:54 AM	DSS has so much mid-level management, many who have never done any front line DSS work, that it can barely function. I have so much to say here that I will come back later.
48	May 21, 2015 11:14 AM	The last agency head gutted the agency with cuts and reorgs... then it was determined there were no willing workers or experienced middle managers to run the agency. Only the talking heads and folks so called knowledge base they brought in from Gov.'s office and their friends.
49	May 21, 2015 11:07 AM	Agency needs to do core functions well and refer people to other agencies that can help. Or consolidate all social and welfare to one agency, we have fiefdoms like the blind and others that become little turf protection self serving kingdoms for the beauricrats.

50	May 21, 2015 11:05 AM	I saw where they pay fines each year for not having a child support system in place, and all 49 other states already have theirs....someone needs to figure out this problem and get that taken care of, paying some ridiculous fine every year is pathetic.
51	May 21, 2015 4:35 AM	DSS employees lie and threaten us as foster parents. That should be illegal. Also, DSS allows young inexperienced (no children or spouse of their own) case workers to make tremendous decisions affecting families adversely. Also, anonymous reports should not be allowed!
52	May 21, 2015 4:02 AM	Stop politicizing the agency and do the job it was designed to do!
53	May 21, 2015 3:14 AM	a troubled agency that is on the mend. solid middle managers that have been prevented from fixing problems for years but it is looking better of late.
54	May 21, 2015 2:30 AM	As in the case of the DOT, most of DSS's problems were born in the legislature and governors office.
55	May 21, 2015 1:23 AM	Overtasked, overworked, underfunded.
56	May 20, 2015 6:13 PM	Keep up the good work. DSS is just notorious for not doing the job they are supposed to be doing. I understand they are understaffed and overworked, but when we keep seeing kids and families falling through the cracks and we can't even get in touch with social workers I begin to question how much good DSS is actually doing.
57	May 20, 2015 12:38 PM	Poor management; employees not appreciated; unknowledgeable staff in leadership roles making stupid decisions
58	May 20, 2015 9:11 AM	No one is accountable. Again, the level of funding is terrible. Should have experienced social work professionals in charge. Value and pay caseworkers more. More training/education
59	May 19, 2015 5:40 PM	
60	May 19, 2015 5:36 PM	Increased staffing should fix most of the agency's problems It is unfair the way they do vouchers. I have so many parents that don't work but have vouchers and the ones who do work can't get any help. Also my husband is paralyzed and i am the only one working but yet we get no assistance. Someone can have no job and 4 kids and get 800 in stamps. You have to reach the middle class too.
61	May 19, 2015 5:16 PM	The current system of how the economic services are delivered has totally been changed from previous years. I understand that applications are up and staff members are down, but there is very little "social service" that actually occurs within economic services. Most approvals for benefits are done online so I worry that the opportunity for fraud could be higher.
62	May 19, 2015 4:28 PM	
63	May 19, 2015 3:04 PM	Always in the news in a negative spotlight
64	May 19, 2015 2:58 PM	need highly qualified people--
65	May 19, 2015 1:37 PM	Too many complaints to handle, not enough staff, or complaints just go unanswered or investigated!! Spartanburg county imposes extra work upon workers that are not policy. If there ideas are so good, they should be submitted to state office so all counties can implement. All the extra forms and work just continue to bog down all the work we have to do already. In past years when caseloads were not as high as they are now supervisors would take a caseload to ease the burden. We no longer have that caliber of supervisors.
66	May 19, 2015 10:46 AM	

67	May 18, 2015 7:08 PM	DSS does not seem to help at times. Their workers seem to go through the motions and not really care about kids etc. They seem to always want to pass the buck, so to speak. Workers don't seem to be very knowledgeable about avenues to help families.
68	May 18, 2015 4:25 PM	I would have to say that most importantly dss employees must realize that they are there to be of service to those that are in a bad case of circumstance, opportunity, and stress. We should be always mindful that are just as we all are, in need of understanding and compassion.
69	May 18, 2015 3:55 PM	This recent action of giving part of their employees pay raises is ridiculous. it causes hard feelings within the agency itself. DSS on the local level works GREAT (Greenville) and they are incredibly responsive. DSS on the state level is closed, beurocratic, and competes with other state and local
70	May 18, 2015 3:24 PM	partners. Once again we try to run a department on shoe string budget without the necessary staff needed to help our citizens you
71	May 18, 2015 3:13 PM	need assistance.
72	May 18, 2015 1:18 AM	Absolutely no organization or leadership. High caseloads. Employees are not respected, Low pay for everyone at DSS, We need a step pay plan and chances for advancement based on merit, not who you are related to or friends with. In my opinion the agency oversteps its bounds and yet doesn't pay attention to items they are chartered to do. Medling in peoples affairs uninvited and comparing peoples upbringing of their children to some grandious standards is
73	May 17, 2015 11:08 PM	not a fair way to run an agency.
74	May 17, 2015 11:01 PM	DSS has never received funding to do its job.
75	May 17, 2015 10:51 PM	the agency lacks organization to perform efficiently I'm a teacher who has reported neglect foer a child. That child had been taken from the parent before. There was a mark on the child and child admitted mom did it out of anger and not tell anyone. The vice principal even told agency how unstable aren't was and exhibited two personalities yet child was kept with parent and parent was allowed to switch
76	May 17, 2015 6:28 PM	schools so we couldn't keep eyes on him. Case workers need more help with transportation and this would enable CW to haave more time doing paperwork
77	May 17, 2015 4:24 PM	rather than driving 4 hours of the 7.50 day. My participation in meetings such as P2 makes me concerned that Service Coordinators and Case Workers have a lot of pressure put on them to achieve "quotas or marks" that may be unrealistic with the job expectations and
78	May 17, 2015 4:00 PM	staffing ratios.
79	May 17, 2015 1:50 PM	I work in the clerical field and we too are overwhelmed with work and the lack of organization in the agency. We are disrespected by supervisors and our business manager is a bully. Clerical support staff are looking for jobs away from this agency also. The next influx of people leaving will be clerical. Temporary employees who know little to nothing about the workings of DSS are put on the switchboard to answer questions from the public. Some clerical people sit with little to nothing to do and others are overwhelmed.

80	May 17, 2015 3:57 AM	<p>Communication is at a standstill in the agency. Director Alford may well be a great choice; however, she sits in her office with the door closed and has absolutely no contact with anyone in the agency. Everything is delegated to the deputy staff. These are the same staff who allowed children to suffer and who manufactured data to cover up child deaths. Until management changes, and the Director comes out of her office, staff fear it will be the same old same old. Nothing has changed, and, in fact, it is much worse, as no one is in charge.</p>
81	May 16, 2015 11:18 PM	<p>Supervisors do not value nor respect employees. We need LEADERS willing to roll up their sleeves and work towards positive changes. We cannot change with the current supervisors, directors and regional directors in place because many were put there because of WHO they know, not based on the job they are capable of doing. Goal should NOT be to reunite families if there is any reasonable doubt that that is the best choice for child. Rather place child with loving strangers than a parent who has a history of violence and abuse no matter how reformed they claim to be. They should also be evaluated by mental health and all case workers should also be enrolled in classes of mental health so that they can more easily identify potential problems with both the parents and the children. One in four is the number we are dealing with, and this should not be overlooked when studying the behavior of each family.</p>
82	May 16, 2015 6:54 PM	<p>The call center approach is useless and has lost local touch and connectivity. There is a need for child care scholarships</p>
83	May 16, 2015 3:43 PM	<p>The legislature needs to be more diligent in approving the governor's nominees. There need to be basic, professional social work standards for the director. Major problem is that agency is poorly funded to attract and keep professionals to do the arduous work required. The House and Senate need to be able to remove any director appointed by the governor. For the time SCYAP had licensing our children were placed sometimes a hundred or more miles from their biological homes. Previously children were placed within their communities. Workers have to travel for hours to pick up a child to transport back to the county for a parental visit twice a month. Now, those same SCYAP workers who did such a poor job have been promised by regional director, Elaine Bailey, they will be hired for the counties. Her own daughter, Jocelyn, will be getting the licensing coordinator job. County employees never knew the jobs were posted so we could apply. The posting was only up for a very shorter time than usual. Unfair hiring and promotional practices have us in this mess</p>
85	May 16, 2015 10:58 AM	<p>Seasoned employees in all areas are overlooked for promotions and instead they are given to inexperienced new employees who are friends or family members of supervisors, regional directors, etc. We are being supervised by people who have no idea what they are doing. We are given misinformation because they have no idea about policy or our programs. We are failing the citizens of SC.</p>
86	May 16, 2015 10:52 AM	

87	May 16, 2015 5:30 AM	The workers are overworked and underpaid. Also, the caes that the workers have are repeat cases and I feel that once a case has been indicated a second time for the same offense that termination of parental rights should be the next course of action.
88	May 15, 2015 7:31 PM	Not sure whether lack of adequate funding or lack of strong leadership is the primary issue, perhaps a combination of both. There needs to be clear definition of where they are primarily responsible when it comes to the welfare of children and child care providers and they need to focus on these critical areas. Currently, there is a tendency for DSS to expand into areas they are not suited to fulfill which seems to come at the expense of areas where they should be focused and have the authority and skills to deliver.
89	May 15, 2015 7:06 PM	Contractor, SAFY, is not providing appropriate services statewide... incompetent leadership. SAFY is not contract worthy. Great program/strategy....incompetent contractor. Voided contract of the best sub contractor.
90	May 15, 2015 6:43 PM	Staff turnover is huge because employees can go somewhere else to make more money and have less stress. Low wages and high case loads have plagued this agency for years and no real long term solutions have been offered to correct this. DSS needs qualified staff and that means offering livable wages to staff. It is disheartening to know many DSS staff work second jobs and many even qualify for DSS assistance.
91	May 15, 2015 4:52 PM	Case workers are overloaded. This agency is one of the most important in our state. Protection and development of our children, AND the eucation and guidance of the parents and caregivers of those children, yet, they are lacking in quality workers, not triained well, paid too little and seldom appreciated for the very difficult work they do. They are quickly blamed where there are errors in judgement or other circumstances that go sour, but are rarely lauded for the day to day hard work and choices they make. The leaders and workers should be the high valued members of our state agencies along with law enforcement.
92	May 15, 2015 4:29 PM	Clerical support staff is overlooked. We are not valued for the work we do. We are need opportunities for advancement. We are an important part of the agency and need to be treated as such.
93	May 15, 2015 11:32 AM	
94	May 15, 2015 11:20 AM	Employees are frustrated when the county director says "This is MY building, this is MY county"...as quoted by Angela Robinson. No, this is OUR building, this is OUR county. She has her own agenda. The business manager is famous for saying, "My name is Shalonie Dawkins and I do what I want" We will never prosper until we take the I out of team.
95	May 15, 2015 11:17 AM	Spartanburg County needs to clean house from the top to the bottom and start new. We have a lot of dead weight at the county level.

- Supervisors in Spartanburg do not know how to regulate the workloads. Some people have little to nothing to do while others are overloaded. We need additional employees, yes, but we need supervisors who can look at the work load to more evenly distribute. Our new director could not do this as a supervisor and now is leading our county because Elaine Bailey, the regional director, knew she could control her. The last 3 directors have stayed around 2 years and the present Angela Robinson has said she wants to move on after 2 years also. We need efficient directors, and supervisors, willing to stay for the long haul to work on the problems. Unfortunately, the ones we have cannot get the job done.
- 96 **May 15, 2015 11:15 AM**
- The nephew, Will Ussery, of a supervisor in Spartanburg, Kim Mathis, was just promoted to supervisor in Spartanburg, Unfair! He has worked as an investigations worker for 2 years and now has the knowledge to supervisor an area he has never worked in, and the ability to supervise employees with 20-30 years of services actually doing the job? NOT! This is a big problem state wide. Employees don;t respect the directors and supervisors because they did not earn their position, but merely placed there because of who they know. The department does not have the best interests of the agency at heart. Until you clean up the people in power, things will never get better.
- 97 **May 15, 2015 11:09 AM**
- It would be a valuable tool for the committee, to take an inventory, to determine how many foster children are actually placed in a foster home setting within the same county from which they were removed. Take a survey on how many children are placed in the same region from which they were removed.
- 98 **May 15, 2015 2:12 AM**
- Foster Home Licensing was once a job duty of DSS. About two or three years ago, this function was contracted to the Youth Advocate Program. As a result, foster children have been placed in foster homes all over this state, regardless of the child's county of origin. About one month ago, an announcement was made that foster home licensing would return to DSS. The concern is that the same employees who were previously employeed with YAP, will now be hired to do the same function (which was sub standard at best) at DSS. Foster Home Licensing has been anything but successful under the YAP administration. It is unclear how hiring those same former YAP workers, to do the exact same job at DSS, benefits anyone, most importantly the foster children of South Carolina. Upper level management staff at DSS has a very close family relationship to the foster home licensing supervisor at YAP, who will be employed by DSS.
- 99 **May 15, 2015 1:54 AM**
100 **May 15, 2015 12:10 AM**
- See previously comments concerning First Steps.
- The Economic Service side of the agency needs to be valued more for the work we do each day. Also, we need a really raise to help our families maintain some form of stability.
- 101 **May 14, 2015 6:44 PM**

102	May 14, 2015 5:48 PM	<p>There needs to be more public support for the Agency and not always a focus on the negative. The majority of People that do this job is because there is a desire to help those that can't help themselves including adults and children. The public seems to lack understanding of how DSS becomes involved with a family and what leads to the removal of a child from the home which is Law Enforcement or a Judge. This job is very demanding and calls for people to be away from their own family to help others, often working overtime with no pay and long hours with insufficient pay. Yes there are negative points to the Agency as there are with all Agencies but some focus on the good work that is done would help those devoted to the job feel more appreciated. Very large caseload with very little pay. It's ridiculous that only upper management seems to get any increases in salary, yet everyone else is told there isn't any money. When we do get a 1 or 2 percent increase, our insurance or retirement deductions go up. It's ridiculous.</p>
103	May 14, 2015 2:59 PM	<p>THE TIME IT TAKES TO INQUIRY INFORMATION AND HOW THEY GIVE YOU THE RUNAROUND. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU HAVE TO SPEAK TO SOMEONE IN CHARLESTON WHEN YOU LIVE IN LANCASTER. THEY CAN'T HELP ME WITH REFERRALS FOR FOOD PANTRY'S OR RENT ASSISTANCE AND NO ONE CAN TELL ME ANYTHING WHEN I CALL TO REPORT A CHANGE. THE SYSTEM THAT THEY HAVE IN PLACE MAKES NO SENSE AT ALL AND IS NOT EFFICIENT FOR ANYONE</p>
104	May 14, 2015 2:30 PM	<p>There is more than one leader at the department of social services. While the leader at the top certainly sets the tone, often negative experiences are a result of leadership at the local level. I've personally experienced jaded, even rude county directors that care more about their pay check and state benefits than caring for SC's children. Working for DSS is a tough job for many reasons, we've got to retain good employees and get rid of the bad ones. We have a foster parent deficit in our state, but what are we doing to retain them? We need to spend more money to keep kids out of foster care so that case loads decrease, employees are retained, and SC kids are safe and with their families. DSS has many other services that may or may not fit within their overall mission, each area should be analyzed and passed off if deemed necessary. We've got to get welfare benefits under control in SC.</p>
105	May 14, 2015 2:08 PM	<p>Services seem underfunded. We are getting what we pay for, which is not enough to help families and children who are eligible to receive services. Service delivery is inconsistent in our county.</p>
106	May 14, 2015 1:46 PM	

107 108	May 14, 2015 1:01 PM May 14, 2015 12:29 PM	<p>There must be a better way to train new employees. New employees are required to travel to Columbia for several weeks and this is difficult for most folks and especially for families with young children. I would propose that regional trainings would be far more efficient, sensible, and would cut costs for the state (removing need for hotel stays, reducing transportation costs, etc.). I also feel that pay could be increased, with special regard to level of education and experience. As a new employee with my education/experience, my pay is a real serious issue and could eventually lead to my leaving the agency if a better opportunity is presented.</p> <p>I think the agency like many agencies has a lot placed on it.</p>
109	May 14, 2015 12:24 PM	<p>As a current employee, I feel that until they get back to basic Social Work and stop hiring all these contracted consulting firms to tell them what to do, this agency will continue to have issues. The frontline staff can not keep up with all the "new ways of doing things" that come out each year as a result of a new contract. That's why we quit....too much stress....too much disrespect from Management.....too many unreasonable expectations. Bottom line, the agency should be about caring for people, young and old. This isnt a new concept, yet they keep throwing all these consulting firms at us when all they really need to do is good old fashioned social work. It should be about the people we help. Not about the numbers! Which no matter what the leadership is now telling the public, it's STILL ALL ABOUT THE NUMBERS to the people at the top here. So until you change ALL of those PEOPLE, you will continue to get the EXACT SAME RESULTS that we had with Lillian Koller. Nothing has changed!</p>
110	May 14, 2015 11:32 AM	<p>Leadership is null and void. Building blows fuses constantly because we don't have enough electricity. Employee toilets are constantly clogged. Not enough room for the workers. Strip malls do not make good offices. We cannot concentrate on our work because of the noise level. Supervisors are not supportive and do not know, and do not follow policy. Spartanburg is famous for making their own policy when they do not agree with state office policy. Human resource staff is unhelpful because they are always excercising and gossiping about staff. They walk around in work out clothes and staff is held to the dress code. County Director is unkind, uncaring and does not have the ability to lead!</p>
111	May 14, 2015 11:23 AM	<p>Poor leadership. No organization. Nepotism and friendships are the only way to advance. Step pay plan or longevity raises are needed. Little chance for advancement.</p>
112	May 14, 2015 11:20 AM	<p>Workloads unevenly distributed for all areas of the agency. Clerical staff are always overlooked. We often perform casework duties to help the workers. Our pay is low and there is no chance for advancement. We, too, have too much work to do it well. We are overwhelmed with no help in sight.</p>

113	May 14, 2015 1:26 AM	My concern, as it should and is for everyone, raises the following question, Why must it take so long to hire the needed staff to ensure our children are rightfully represented and are safe from ineptitude resulting in children dying? How long does it take to implement suggestions reflecting common sense versus continuing asking for 10M to staff DSS as if that in itself will resolve the fact that our system is broken and S.C. children are hurting, our families are deteriorating. Please do not allow TPR to become the norm and quota related as it is in other states (Oregon). Family reunification, education, should be the first path, not parallel with TPR to meet particular guidelines. Why are there only 2k licensed foster homes in S.C.? What is S.C. doing to lower the 27% , ranking us #7 in the country because our children are in congregate care (group homes) versus being in family homes? My questions serve as my suggestions, as they identify critical areas of concern. Thank you.
114	May 14, 2015 12:00 AM	It's like the YMCA at Spartanburg as the county directors direct office staff work out during office hours. They SAY they are on their lunch hour, but still have lunch AND work out. They walk around in work out clothes. Sometimes we are unable to use the training room because they are exercising!
115	May 13, 2015 11:58 PM	Teachers get raises EVERY year. Why do TEACHERS get raises for each year they stay and other state employees do not? That would certainly be an encouragement to employees to stay. Teachers are STATE EMPLOYEES just like the rest of us and all state employees should be treated the same relating to pay raises!
116	May 13, 2015 8:46 PM	Another form of beauacracy.
117	May 13, 2015 6:04 PM	taking children away when they don't need to be and not taking them away when they need to be... The Pay Grade definitely needs to be restuctured with the COST OF LIVING. It's as though we have been left out and forgotten about as public servants. We do a Great service for the clients of this state and I feel positive about DSS, however when we aren't properly compensated, even through rallying thru the proper channels, it takes away from the integrity and respect for the agency.
118	May 13, 2015 2:46 PM	
119	May 13, 2015 2:09 PM	Our state is heavily dependent on social services, any venue that leads to efficiency and better effective service provision should be jumped on and pushed through, especially if it leads to educating our citizens to leading better lives.
120	May 13, 2015 1:57 PM	It is important that this state develop a quality rating system for child care based on education and quality in the classrooms.
121	May 13, 2015 1:10 PM	Their professional and financial management staff are committed to providing the best support and assistance possible for the agency and other state agencies. Very timely in responses.

122	May 13, 2015 2:18 AM	The experienced caseworkers are leaving, thus leaving a huge influx of new and inexperienced workers. Some workers received a ten percent raise, and others did not. There has been discussion of CPS workers receiving an additional ten percent raise. If this should occur, employees with less than one year of experience, would essentially be making more than those employees with more than ten years of experience. There is not any incentive whatsoever for workers to acquire any years of service or experience with the agency. There should be some type of incentive program that would encourage employees to actually remain with the agency. It should resemble something similar to that of a teachers salary and pay raise system.
123	May 13, 2015 2:03 AM	Case loads are too high. There is a severe shortage in the number of caseworkers to adequately perform the job. There are too many upper level positions and not enough caseworkers (performance coaches and permanency liaisons). Why is there a need for a performance coach, when there are not enough front line staff to complete the job? Emphasis needs to be placed on clients and the employees who serve them. State office very top heavy and loaded with ineffective employees from many previous administrations. There are also contracts with a number of outside entities that need to be reviewed for their effectiveness or lack thereof.
124	May 13, 2015 1:44 AM	This agency is stealing tax payers money as it isn't doing the job
125	May 13, 2015 1:08 AM	foster care is dangerous and poor quality / inadequate staff (and poorly trained/educated)
126	May 13, 2015 1:07 AM	I want to speak on the behalf of many African Americans about salary differences when it comes to their white counterparts. I believe it should be equal work, equal pay, but for many of African Americans it is not, including myself. Also, proper employee evaluations are not consistent at all, which devalues accountability and because we serve children and families staff need to be held accountable for their responsibilities. Some supervisors have too many areas of responsibility, which creates ineffectiveness and early burnout. County case loads continue to be a problem, youth are not able to get in contact with their case worker, needs are not being in a timely manner, and case loads are entirely too heavy.
127	May 12, 2015 7:01 PM	They need more resources and help
128	May 12, 2015 5:54 PM	No sense of prestige for the children
129	May 12, 2015 4:19 PM	First the salary. SCDSS is the lowest paid agency in the Southeast only topped by Louisiana. And there is a wonder why we don't have 'quality' employees that want to stay and work in a negative work area. The retention rate of employees is poor because of the negativity within the counties and the lack of common sense it takes to run an agency such as DSS. Yes, common sense, not a degree or years of experience. DSS needs to rethink every job from the top down. County Directors being a strong part of that. If you are led by strong positive leaders who work with their employees and do not dictate to them your work place is friendly and a pleasant place to work versus hostile and negative.
130	May 12, 2015 3:45 PM	

131	May 12, 2015 3:42 PM	local social workers need more autonomy and accountability County foster care workers received a 10% raise in October and may be scheduled to receive more in the summer and yet they continue to leave. Raises are well deserved, needed, and overdue but at what point do you look and see what is really happening for workers to continue leave after raises? Unfortunately IFCCS was not included in the raise in October even though we do the exact same job and until October 2014 were considered front line workers as well. I am grateful that I have worked for IFCCS 9 years and not the county foster care. My director/supervisor support me and help me above and beyond what is expected. County workers marvel at the support we receive, how we work with families and are able to find permanency for children. When county workers transfer cases to us they state they are glad we are getting the case because we are able to move it forward whether that is working with the families for reunification or getting a TPR filed and completed so a child can be adopted.
132	May 12, 2015 3:35 PM	Due to an extensive lack of funding, the agency is not able to perform the duties mandated by the state. This causes families, children, and workers to suffer. This problem is only growing. There is a lot of talking about the problems, but no realistic action to resolve it. There is no secret that the lack of funding is the major cause of this flawed system, along with incompetent leadership in many cases.
133	May 12, 2015 3:32 PM	I have worked for IFCCS for over 9 years. In my opinion DSS is a bottleneck for lack of better term. The leadership in the county are too afraid to send any children home even when the caseworker, supervisor, and many times DSS attorney are recommending. I know with this job comes a tremendous amount of liability. The Mapping and safety network initiatives have assisted tremendously with our ability to feel more confident about placing children back into biological homes, with relatives, or filing for TPR. Leadership refuses to listen and give caseworkers/supervisors a voice in their own cases that they know intimately. Caseworkers are fearful of leadership of advocating for a family who have done above and beyond what the agency has asked of them. It does not matter the number of caseworkers that each county hires because without efficient permanency, whatever that may be for each child, the caseloads will continue to be high.
134	May 12, 2015 3:26 PM	The difference in pay between Human Services workers and Economic Services workers need to be addressed and pay for the Economic Services worker need to be increased.
135	May 12, 2015 3:07 PM	Needs more staff for children and families
136	May 12, 2015 2:57 PM	Recent personal dealings showed favoritism being practiced as well as personal ideas being portrayed as policy, law, etc. The amount of time to handle paperwork, reporting, scheduling required classes lack structure. They are extremely overloaded individually not allowing them the attention cases need.
137	May 12, 2015 2:12 PM	Need more resources for APS
138	May 12, 2015 2:01 PM	Reinstate longevity raises, bring salary levels up for ALL employees to include economic services and clerical support, create lead worker jobs in those area as well as child protection services.
139	May 12, 2015 11:42 AM	

140	May 12, 2015 11:39 AM	Poor leadership from the state level to the counties. Unfair hiring practices - promotions are handed to family members and friends. There is no regard to years of service nor knowledge in the area. If you are not related or friends, you are not going to get the job.
141	May 12, 2015 11:35 AM	When caseloads increase, often some of the responsibilities of the caseworker are passed to clerical workers, increasing our workload too. We are also overworked, unappreciated, and looked down upon. We are grossly underpaid!
142	May 12, 2015 11:33 AM	When the workload increases, it increases for EVERYBODY. Clerical support are the last to be thought of and there is rarely a chance to increase your pay through promotions in the clerical field. We are important to the agency too. We are supervised by CPS supervisors who have no idea what we do. We need additional clerical supervisor positions.
143	May 12, 2015 12:51 AM	Nepotism at it's finest! There are too many members of the same family working for the agency - one raise washes the other. Elaine Bailey is going to make sure her daughter Jocelyn gets the Program Coordinator for Licensing. Melanie Cannon is married to Larry Cannon - Melanie takes up office space at Sparanburg DSS but is only there a couple times a month. Same all over the state. Deserving people do not get the promotions, it's who you know.
144	May 11, 2015 8:10 PM	How could DSS management miss the overloaded caseworkers, the children who went undeserved, etc? What has been done to ensure the atrocities do not happen again? Are the new caseworkers being effectively trained then mentored to successfully serve?
145	May 11, 2015 7:44 PM	overbearing, heavy handed tactics in some instances related to Christian / Church child care programs
146	May 11, 2015 7:10 PM	A difficult task. I'm afraid to say that higher pay might be required to attract a higher caliber of staff.
147	May 11, 2015 6:14 PM	Experience often is more important than degrees. Having an understanding of those who need the help and being able to truly care in word and action is needed.
148	May 11, 2015 6:13 PM	Lack of money means that they cannot hire enough employees and they don't attract the best employees because the salaries are not competitive.
149	May 11, 2015 3:05 PM	Like many large agencies, DSS is put in an untenable situation. Could do a better job but hands are tied by legal system. Take the kids away and everyone bashes them. Leave the kids in the home and they get bashed too. We need to find a way to make everyone from Judges to Case Workers more accountable and more empowered.
150	May 11, 2015 3:01 PM	More employees, better training, higher retention etc Hate the way caregivers are treated when a baby dies of SIDS. I realized that an investigation is necessary, but treating the grieving parents like criminals is brutal. I witnessed this first hand when a friend's baby died during the night. It was awful to see their pain increased by Social Services. The police were kind, but DSS was awful! Oh, the friends were cleared of any wrong doing, but the damage was already done.
151	May 11, 2015 2:59 AM	
152	May 11, 2015 1:08 AM	To many issues in a short time period.
153	May 10, 2015 9:18 PM	The agency desperately needs more case workers.

154	May 10, 2015 8:47 PM	State and county wide, we do not hire LEADERS who are willing to LEAD us to positive changes. We hire friends and family members to MANAGE our present mess. We need leaders willing to roll up their sleeves and get the work done. A great place for a LEADER to start is to ask the WORKERS who actually do the work suggestions on how to fix the problems. The "powers that be" have no idea what our work load is like, nor do they completely understand all we are responsible for.
155	May 9, 2015 2:05 PM	Current issues within DSS are not new issues. Children in Foster Care and dying is not new. In the 1980s while working as a Juvenile Officer at Aiken County Sheriff's Office there were two incidents of children in Foster Care (in Aiken County) who died. It was just never made public and there were other cases during that time period in other counties. Just not brought to the Public's Attention. They have always been very slow in responding to calls after hours, even when called by Law Enforcement. Some never even answer the phone when on call after normal business hours. The battle and issues between Law Enforcement and DSS continue to this day. Same issues, same problems, just different people. DSS has been in its current condition for decades. The S.C. Sheriff's Association would be the best source of information on the current problems with DSS.
156	May 9, 2015 3:52 AM	The pay for these folks are below what they should be making. The turnover is out of control.
157	May 9, 2015 1:18 AM	Since most people get information from the media, why aren't we hearing where this agency is getting the job done?
158	May 8, 2015 11:50 PM	Slow case processing and a backlog of cases hinders this agency's efficiency.
159	May 8, 2015 10:40 PM	Child support needs to have on line payment and arresting back payers needs to end.
160	May 8, 2015 10:19 PM	Able bodied people should not receive welfare, put them to work like in Maine. Then watch the rolls drop. Also, stop rewarding mothers who keep producing children. After one child, the grant should be cut for any other children.
161	May 8, 2015 9:14 PM	People receiving social services should be investigated every 2 years to see if they deserve payments.
162	May 8, 2015 9:09 PM	no opinion
163	May 8, 2015 8:37 PM	I'm an interviewer at a local food/clothing/etc bank. Most of the people I interview brig a DSS household summary report. Very few of these people relate goos experiences they've has with DSS. This info is second hand, but it is voluminous This agency has got to have funding to hire staff to serve clients - - the legislature is responsible for this. SCDSS cannot be held accountable for something that they have no control over. It is time for legislators to stop bashing the agency and it's leaders and focus on providing vital resources.
164	May 8, 2015 7:55 PM	They seem more concerned with the media than helping the ones that need help
165	May 8, 2015 7:25 PM	DSS employees on the County level are constantly given more work to do but no more pay. The only raises that are given are cost of living and we do not get those often. CPS is a very important part of this agency but Economic Services is just as important but is always overlooked.
166	May 8, 2015 6:56 PM	

167	May 8, 2015 6:22 PM	Why bother with leaving comments, concerns or suggestions. Nothing ever changes. This agency has gone down hill since I was hired back in the ealy 90"s. Such a shame.
168	May 8, 2015 6:18 PM	n/a
169	May 8, 2015 2:53 PM	There is more concern for policy rather than service.
170	May 8, 2015 1:05 PM	In general, this agency is not very well organized. It seems to lack experienced, trained workers or leaders. It does not seem to be looking at the children's or Familys best interest. Child welfare caseworkers are NOT representative of social work competencies. Until quality workers are hired, the poor outcomes will continue.
171	May 8, 2015 12:46 PM	Focus on clerical support is non existent. We are looked down upon and are not seen as a valuable asset to the agency. Salaries are low and there is no place for advancement.
172	May 8, 2015 11:25 AM	you have taken the word social out the agency. anybody that thinks going regional is a smart thing is crazy. i live in a rural county and our social services was our friend. now we have no idea who our workers are.
173	May 8, 2015 12:57 AM	We need more clerical positions in the counties with the chance for advancement. We work long hours for low pay. Spartanburg DSS does nothing for employee morale. We are often berated. That is a big reason all experienced workers are leaving and all that will be left is new, unexperienced workers. We can go anywhere else, make more money, work less, and feel appreciated.
174	May 7, 2015 8:58 PM	Need to drug test all receiptents. Need stricter rules. Caseworkers are getting higher caseloads, but their salaries are not increasing.
175	May 7, 2015 8:56 PM	The current Senate bill to abolish the agency and rebuild from the TOP down, has been needed for years. If current leadership only wants to maintaiin what Koller was doing, they need to be replaced with people who are concerned for the children of SC.
176	May 7, 2015 8:24 PM	Caseloads are out of control for these caseworkers. How can one worker be expected to see an average of 40 children, plus their biological parents, plus alternate caregivers, plus search for absent and missing parents or caregivers in about 20 working days??? And, out of the 20 working days, subtract court days, sick days, emergencies. A worker is left to see close to 100 people each month in about 15 days.
177	May 7, 2015 8:10 PM	How is that even possible??
178	May 7, 2015 6:39 PM	DSS and foster care homes. I know the lack of funding is a main problem for many of the Dept issues. I do find it difficult to accept the selection of "some" foster home care givers. There should be input from the children and other trained adults in checking these homes. Why is there not a law requiring drug testing for all welfare recipients? What does it take to get this law in effect in SC?
179	May 7, 2015 6:02 PM	Caseloads too heavy current staffing.
180	May 7, 2015 5:14 PM	Moral for employees who work for the Department of Social Services at this time is very low. Pay is also issue for a lot of employees who this agency. Have employees in positions where they are not qualified for the position. Communication needs to improve immediately.
181	May 7, 2015 5:13 PM	qualified workers
182	May 7, 2015 4:06 PM	
183	May 7, 2015 3:43 PM	

184	May 7, 2015 3:31 PM	DSS has had very little pay increases. Lately increases have come to those employed with child welfare but the DSS employees in the Economic Services side have not been compensated. The Economic Services side of DSS is responsible for feed thousands of families and asssting hundreds of people gain employment. The DSS workers who are responsible for interviewing and processing benefits are underpaid to the point that many of them are eligible for benefits themselves.
185	May 7, 2015 3:14 PM	I don't think any agency should get away with the kind of mismanagement this agency has had in recent years.
186	May 7, 2015 3:07 PM	Over worked and under paid
187	May 7, 2015 2:52 PM	We need to determine new ways to employ our citizens who our dependent on welfare
188	May 7, 2015 2:46 PM	Structural change. No way to hold County Directors accountable for improving their county with present structure. One person cannot successfully supervise 46 staff members. Much data proves services in many counties getting worse vs better but no actions being taken to correct.
189	May 7, 2015 2:38 PM	Lack of accountability and transparency. Good old boy system where personal favors are given, but kids suffer the consequences. I have no confidence that DSS bureacrats care about anything other than keeping their jobs.
190	May 7, 2015 2:31 PM	case loads too high, poor quality of staff, too many minority staff who are not up to the task intellectually and attitudinally
191	May 7, 2015 1:35 PM	Eliminate this program
192	May 7, 2015 1:16 PM	Do not pay employees enough money, no recognition programs for employees, no incentives
193	May 7, 2015 1:03 PM	this agency appears handicapped by lack of funding. my perception is that if fully funded, there is no reason this agency could not make the state proud.
194	May 7, 2015 12:42 PM	Understaffed; too many kids per social worker.
195	May 7, 2015 12:40 PM	I reported child abuse to DSS and the case worker gave the family my name telling them I report the abuse of the children. The children were taken out of the home but the some family members have followed me, seen me at parking lot have done damage to me car, police can't do anything because nobody else saw them to the damage. Names should not be give out for any kind of calls!
196	May 7, 2015 12:23 PM	i have no comment
197	May 7, 2015 12:20 PM	The department seems to be in constant turmoil. Social services is not a function of government and will never work well.

198	May 7, 2015 12:17 PM	<p>We don't have enough boots on the ground to get the job done. Local supervisors devise additional unnecessary rules and regulations in addition to standard DSS policy that increases our workload. They never ask the people doing the work how to fix the problems. Many of them, including our director, have no idea what it is like to carry a caseload and actually get the work done. We do not work as a team due to the extreme lack of organization at the local and state level. Supervisors make personal attacks on employees. Our new personal assistants do not have desk phones, and sit around and do nothing. When I asked the personal assistant's supervisor if one could assist me, I was told "No, that is not in her job description." When I explained they apparently had nothing to do, I was told by Davice McBride it was none of MY business. Davice McBride was recently promoted to a Program Coordinator.</p>
199	May 7, 2015 12:09 PM	<p>ON ALL issues, i think it is time all the concerns - Legislators, Senators, Committees -get down and do their job with the value,welfare,soundness of finiancial applications for the state.</p>
200	May 7, 2015 11:28 AM	<p>Don't let your workers tie dead chickens around kid's necks like NC did</p>
201	May 7, 2015 11:28 AM	<p>SCDSS has very power hungry people working in the agency that are not concerned with the well being of citizens. I know many DSS agencies across the nation get a bad rap, but hiring people to fill a slot is not good for this type of work. I know it's hard to find good help with the pay SC offers but something needs to be seriously overhauled here. Everytime I hear a SCDSS story on the news, I have to seriously ask myself is the SCDSS agent on a power trip or are they doing what's best for the citizen of the state. I know this agency doesn't affect as many people like the SCDOT, SCDMV, or SCHP, but in my opinion this is the worst agency by far within our great state.</p>
202	May 7, 2015 11:10 AM	<p>Provide help where it is needed but reduce the permanent us of welfare as a support system.</p>
203	May 7, 2015 10:56 AM	<p>This department should under go a very close review of it's operation and effectiveness</p>
204	May 7, 2015 10:41 AM	<p>sameas the SCDOT people need to be paid and get raises every year based on performance and staffing needs to match the work load</p>
205	May 7, 2015 10:38 AM	<p>COMMUNICATION is null and void. Rarely do we get an email from our county office. Supervisors unwilling or unable to answer questions. County Director and supervisors have been heard making personal attacks on employees and laughing about it. Spartanburg's supervisors and directors can put on a good front, but are unprofessional. Put them on the hot seat ans ask them policy questions and they will not be able to answer correctly. Unfair promotions are commonplace. LITTLE place for advance. Capable, experieneced workers are overlooked for promotions.</p>
206	May 7, 2015 9:04 AM	<p>Workers do not respect the director nor supervisors Front-line employees are abused and neglected by middle-level supervisors that are not trained or experienced in managerial skills and quite impressed by the fact they no longer have a caseload. There needs to be a restructure of supervisory levels to balance authority, responsibility, and accountability in each job/skill level.</p>

207	May 7, 2015 8:52 AM	Not objective and views things in personal opinion and on facts and broader knowledge of situations. Narrow minded.
208	May 7, 2015 8:40 AM	The dept needs overhauling. Some deserving ,legal residents are denied assistance when other less deserving, capable people are rewarded. System needs to change.
209	May 7, 2015 7:55 AM	There again state employees think they are doing us some special favor when they are being paid for their services. Needs reform, too many programs, reduce scope of assistance to only those meeting "higher criterias"
210	May 7, 2015 2:40 AM	The agency needs more well-qualified staff and the only way to get and keep them is to pay competitive salaries. Males paying child support are immediately treated like dead beat dads. Even if paid on time, every time. The systems needs to be revamped to make it equal. More money doesn't mean a better quality of life There just as many dead beat mothers out there. Understanding that budgets and manpower are limited, most investigations are a joke, they punish the ones that are properly disciplining children and let the trash raise kids that end up criminals.
211	May 7, 2015 1:56 AM	In the fall of 2014, some front line CPS workers, were awarded a ten percent pay raise. However, not all of the front line workers received the raise. Entire divisions of foster care workers were not granted the raise, despite the fact that these workers are performing the exact same job duties/responsibilities, as those who did receive the raise.
212	May 7, 2015 1:46 AM	Is there any chance of welfare reforms? The state of Missouri enacted legislation limiting the amount of time people can collect welfare, maybe our state should do the same and actually enforce the limit.
213	May 7, 2015 1:34 AM	I have a nephew who went through foster care, graduated from Landr and is working on a Masters from Columbia College. Someone did something right for this child.
214	May 7, 2015 1:28 AM	I am concerned about raises. All employees need a raise. Granted, the foster care have difficult jobs, but we ALL do.
215	May 7, 2015 1:16 AM	We all deserve a meaningful pay raise.
216	May 7, 2015 1:10 AM	Administrative personnel does not keep us informed with Human Resources. A health screening was scheduled for May 6, 2015 and the personnel did not send out reminders. THEY THEMSELVES forgot about the health screenings and were not prepared nor set up. Lots of employees signed up for this benefit, but few showed up because of the LACK OF COMMUNICATION. The director oversees this department. She cannot get HER people organized let alone an entire agency. We are the blind leading the blind in Spartanburg.
217	May 7, 2015 1:10 AM	Please overhaul the foster care system. The children should have rights to not just the parents of the children.
218	May 7, 2015 1:06 AM	I am an employee. When constantly run out supplies - especially paper for the copier. It is not we do not have them in stock, we order but we do not get them for weeks. The person who is assigned to deliver supplies just does not get them to us timely. We waste lots of time going to going from desk to desk, to copier to copier, so we can do our JOBS!
219	May 7, 2015 12:54 AM	What is the effectiveness of this agency? What concrete results can they point to? Is there any study of what we in SC receive for the money spent?

		We have no leaders. Our last 3 directors stayed less than 2 years, and our current director has already said she plans to leave in 2 years. We need a director who will be dedicated to staying longer than a couple of years. Supervisors are put in position because of they are friends of those hiring. Elaine Bailey the Regional Director is just as bad if not worse. She ensures her daughter and SCYAP employees who FAILED at their licensing jobs will be hired for the regional DSS foster home licensing jobs. Can we say Nepotism? We need someone with a backbone willing to step up and LEAD. Spartanburg County is a joke and I am embarrassed to tell people where I work.
220	May 7, 2015 12:50 AM	The lack of foster homes! Children are being placed in foster homes and group homes all over the state, due to the fact that there are not sufficient homes in the county or in the region. The agency has always tried to place children as close to their community connection as possible. However, over recent years, this has not been the case. Foster children are literally placed hundreds of miles from the county which they were removed, and from where their biological families reside.
221	May 7, 2015 12:32 AM	My has worked for DSS for a number of years. The pay is disgraceful. No room for advancement. Lots of overtime and too much stress. Her job robs us of family time. She loses leave every year because her she is unable to take time off.
222	May 7, 2015 12:11 AM	She works lots of overtime.
223	May 6, 2015 11:59 PM	There is too much upper level management within the agency and not enough front line workers The agency is desperate for front line CPS workers
224	May 6, 2015 11:45 PM	Not enough staff to address issues and incidents related to the welfare and safety of children. I believe you have many dedicated staff members, but they have too large of a case load per staff member.
225	May 6, 2015 11:04 PM	Too many transitional employees and lack-a-dasical attitude .
226	May 6, 2015 10:47 PM	DSS is failing our children. Contact foster families and children's shelters, they will tell you stories of small children, now teenagers, who were failed by the system when they could have been adopted out. They care only about the quickest way to close a case and not the child who they will force effect. Our children deserve to grow up in families and homes, not in and out of failing parents, foster and group homes. Again, speak to those who actually care of the children, not caseworkers who do no more than drop them off
227	May 6, 2015 10:45 PM	lack of response or followup in Adult Protective Services, completely undermanned
		Supervisors berate us. We are overworked and underappreciated. There are 2 sets of rules - one for the supervisors and another for workers. One example is the dress code. Workers are given strict rules on dress code yet the county director lets her direct staff - Shalonie Dawkins, Shelley Morgan and Lindsey Anders dress out on gym clothes and work out in the training room. When they finish they often walk around the building for long periods of time in work out gear. During their exercise time, we are unable to use the training room. Extra space in our office is limited and I don;t understand why WE have to work around the workout schedule of the directors staff.
228	May 6, 2015 10:29 PM	

229	May 6, 2015 10:27 PM	<p>children are not a priority in our state as evidence by the lack of funding, leadership (previous), mandated, lack of oversight, disconnect between local and state dss., and the overall system is broken for the adult and child protection services.</p> <p>I am an employee at Spartanburg DSS as a foster care worker. Today I turned in my resignation. It is impossible to perform all the work duties assigned to us to protect the children. We are set up to fail. Many of the supervisors do not know or understand policy enough to help us. Promotions are not given to those who deserve it. I loved my job, and I loved my children, but Spartanburg DSS makes it impossible to do our jobs.</p>
230	May 6, 2015 10:24 PM	<p>I have been employed for several months with Spartanburg DSS and still do not have a desk phone. My supervisor requested one from the business manager and I still do not have one. Another co-worker has been without a desk phone for over 6 months and she is the back up operator for the switchboard. How can you back up the switchboard with no phone? Frustration!</p>
231	May 6, 2015 10:18 PM	<p>I went into the Spartanburg office for A 10:30 scheduled appointment with a caseworker. I had my two children with me. I went to the windows in the lobby 5 times to have the worker paged and no one responded to me. I waited until 1:30 and still did not get to talk to a worker even though I had an appointment. After waiting over 1 hour, I asked the ladies at the window to page a supervisor, still no one came! My time is valuable too!</p>
232	May 6, 2015 10:15 PM	<p>I feel they could retain more/and better worker if the pay increases as compared to other states.</p>
233	May 6, 2015 9:41 PM	<p>protecting children is not the number one priority.</p>
234	May 6, 2015 9:29 PM	<p>CDL drivers have to be drug tested to get their job. People that get benefits should be drug tested.</p>
235	May 6, 2015 9:20 PM	<p>It is my opinion that often times DSS workers seek to place responsibilities on other agencies and workers that should not be. This is not necessarily because the worker does not want to do their job, but rather they lack resources to do the job at hand and try to get others to use their resources to accomplish the goals of DSS. Examples of this would be placing a child out of the home, doing psychological evaluations on juveniles, etc.</p>
236	May 6, 2015 8:45 PM	<p>Need more dedicated social workers to help with the overload of cases. Provide a reasonable pay grade. Stop over-working the case workers you have and provide training so they can do a better job.</p>
237	May 6, 2015 8:32 PM	<p>Stop giving hard earned money to people that are able bodied but lack desire to work.</p>
238	May 6, 2015 8:22 PM	<p>The people are over worked and can't cover all they have to do.</p>
239	May 6, 2015 8:20 PM	

		I know for a fact, it is impossible for case workers to do a thorough job due to their work load. An adequate job is NOT sufficient when lives of innocent children are at stake. Would you want an adequately trained fire fighter coming into your burning house to save your family? I think not! Cutting state government may make the budget look good but remember, state government is here to provide a service. Not generate a profit! Lets play cut the budget and damned the consequences. To what end? Give the agencies the resourses they need and oversee them and I'll bet the job will
240	May 6, 2015 8:16 PM	get done. And lives will be saved and made better!
241	May 6, 2015 7:45 PM	They need to hire more people so the current employees don't have such a big work load.
242	May 6, 2015 7:45 PM	Low pay likely does not attract the top candidates. Dollars need to be set aside for this agency in order to address the needs of an aging population in addition to the current caseload. This is a difficult agency for people to stay in at any length due to the emotional and time demands required of its case workers. Care needs to be taken to train and retain the staff of this agency to make the most of the
243	May 6, 2015 7:42 PM	agency. they could check into people they are serving better. You have families that are getting assistance when they dont need it and lie to get it. Then when you have a family who really needs help they cant get any. I feel like these cases should be better evaluated than they are.
244	May 6, 2015 7:37 PM	the local agency seem to have picks; they are very hard to get employed by when u have a associate degree in human
245	May 6, 2015 7:36 PM	services; i have tried for years with no luck drug testing for people receiving assistance, I have to take one to earn my money they should to
246	May 6, 2015 7:35 PM	It is amazing how much the employees get away with.
247	May 6, 2015 7:33 PM	under staff and lack of training for worker they lack in the child care area when knowing just what a froster home has to go throught and how much time and money they put in a child. Froster home need more in put from the works of what is going on in a case and told the thing that they need to
248	May 6, 2015 7:30 PM	know about the childern
249	May 6, 2015 7:29 PM	Cut programs. Make people work for a living.
250	May 6, 2015 7:28 PM	Not enough staffing to handle caseloads causing children to be neglected
251	May 6, 2015 7:25 PM	The case loads are apparently more than can be handled. I've seen firsthand DSS fail children suffering from abuse and neglect. It's really sad.
252	May 6, 2015 7:22 PM	when you have to call it takes over an hour or so to get anyone on the phone
253	May 6, 2015 7:17 PM	Upper management is inexperienced. The organization is managed unprofessionaly with no structured operational processes; very amateuristic. New Director is impressive.

254	May 6, 2015 6:44 PM	<p>It's a shame that the only thing ever written or reported about DSS is the negative. There are countless hardworking and dedicated employees throughout DSS who are helping people every day, who do their best with limited resources, who treat clients in a caring and helpful manner. There are some DSS staff who are paid so little they actually get food stamps themselves. This is wrong. If we talk about getting people "off welfare", the state should be paying wages that make that possible. My DSS experience was very positive, regardless of who I talked or what issue arose.</p>
255	May 6, 2015 6:18 PM	<p>New hired, old supervisor that has been with DSS giving inappropriate information which cause confusion about how case load should be handle</p>
256	May 6, 2015 6:18 PM	<p>DSS is the dumping ground for all other agencies. The agency is expected to handle unmanageable work loads with little resources.</p>
257	May 6, 2015 6:16 PM	<p>DSS has really gone down hill over the last few years. I have been an employee for over 30 years. There's no communication, no leadership, no accountability, and the morale is awful.</p>
258	May 6, 2015 5:08 PM	<p>As an employee of the Department services for 28 years, I would like to know the reason that if the DSS is such an important agency, why is the pay for food stamp workers so low.</p>
259	May 6, 2015 5:08 PM	<p>The South Carolina Department of Social Services does not engage in community events. Unfortunately, they are not visible in the community for positive community engagement, only negative work ethics. DSS is reluctant to think outside the box when it comes to serving our youth and families. DSS does not have a presence when it relates to working with other agencies staffing cases to provide beneficial services/solutions for our SC families. If another agency is involved DSS will vacate their position and close their cases without notice or input. Families need to know that we are exhausting every measure/resource and have gone the distance. DSS displays a culture of "don't care attitude" and our children and families of SC deserve better.</p>
260	May 6, 2015 4:54 PM	<p>As an employee of the agency, I feel that the agency practically gives away the FS benefits. I think there should be a time limit and also the amounts of benefits people get are far more that I believe the average people or families spend. There should be MORE emphasis on FRAUD. I believe that we need a full-time unit in each county to find and prosecute fraud. I also think the food they spend there food stamps on should be limited to all the food groups such as WIC limits the brands and items they can buy. I also wish for our children of SC, a better way to feed them when their parents are using there EBT card to commit fraud or purchase illegal items. I worry most about the children. I really think the system needs a major overhaul and I have worked here for 28 years and have seen a lot of different changes and failures.</p>

		There is still room for improvement and that will come when the agency is fully staffed and funded appropriately. The workers are overworked and underpaid substantially. Policies need to be reviewed and more time rest and stress relief. Its by far the only agency that risk their lives more than most officers of the law ever do. They go into homes without any protection and they do it all for the kids and love of the job. It needs to be recognized. Maybe the legislatures need to go spend a day in the life of the social workers in their districts before they are quick to bash them. They cant prevent every horrible act that an individual does, but they do give their all to stop it once iots brought to their attention, and that doesnt guarantee a childs safety completely. Just exercise some restraint befor judging .
261	May 6, 2015 4:48 PM	The agency is having some issues with retaining staff in some divisions. Pay and caseload remain of great concern. Concerns also should be mentioned about the continual changes in casemanagers and their lack of information on the cases that they have become responsible for .
262	May 6, 2015 4:31 PM	The biggest concern is job retention. When they train new people for the jobs, they leave because they can go to another state and make 8 to 10 thousand more a year. We as a state spend out a lot of money to get people trained. This needs to be looked into more, because I have seen for myself what it does to an agency when you have good people that leave due to the pay.
263	May 6, 2015 4:09 PM	SC DSS is disfunctional at best and malignant at worst, and probably closer to the latter. It is a cancer in this state. The from the lowest social worker, to the attorneys who represent the agency in court, to the directors, no one takes their duties and responsibilities to heart. The child deaths in this state are merely a small representation of larger, more widespread delinquencies within the department.
264	May 6, 2015 3:38 PM	DSS DOES JUST DEAL WITH CPS, THE THE WAY THE CURRENT SNAP PROGRAM IS NOT WORKING THE WAY
265	May 6, 2015 3:13 PM	IT IS
266	May 6, 2015 3:12 PM	The current Snap program is a total disaster
267	May 6, 2015 2:39 PM	very much needed agency Extremely poor management throughout the agency and not adhering to policy and procedures. There is also no incentive for staff to remain with the agency. It has been driven into the ground over the last 3 1/2 to 4 years. I'm speaking as an employee who has been with the agency since 1974. There is absolutely no communication in the IT division and absolutely no direction anymore.
268	May 6, 2015 2:16 PM	More qualified employees needed in agency
269	May 6, 2015 1:56 PM	Difficult jobs, liability, low wages, high turnover
270	May 6, 2015 1:48 PM	Improvement needs to be made when it comes to safety and well-being, improved communication with community partners and Intake practice that impact the intervention strategies children and families desperately need. Too many children are falling between the crack due to poor intake decisions. Cases that shall be investigated by DSS are not been followed up on unless law enforcement is involved or grave damage has taken place and a child is a the hospital.
271	May 6, 2015 1:46 PM	

		I have been employed with the agency for 25 years. I believe the down fall of this agency happened when Gov Nikki Haley appointed Lillian Collier to be the Director of DSS. People with experience were fired and people that had never worked at DSS was placed into Management positions. People that had been with the agency for years quite. I firmly beleive that in order to be a director of a county, one should have worked their way up in DSS. You have to understand the work in order to do it and make good decision. We are lacking this. Never have I worked under such conditions than I have over the last 5 years. I can only hope that our new State Director will listen to us veterans and reform DSS.
272	May 6, 2015 1:42 PM	
273	May 6, 2015 1:33 PM	the pay for DSS employees is so low most employees have to work another job to meet basic needs The quality of the type of employees that are hired has declined. The pay is comparable to working at Wal-Mart. Employees do not feel appreciated. When I first started to work you had to have a college degree but now for certain sections you no longer have to. Someone that has been with the agency for years is paid not much more than a new hire. There is no incentive to do a good job unless it is already instilled in you. The person that does a good job and is no trouble is paid the same as the employee that half-way does their job and only what he/she has to do. He/she does nothing beyond what the job requires.
274	May 6, 2015 1:16 PM	improved customer service
275	May 6, 2015 1:15 PM	
		case loads are too high. when employees resign their case load is distributed on remaining workers. when you dont replace those workers, more people resign because the case load gets higher. case managers have a lot on their plate with all of the visits that children are required with each parent and it's more hectic when parents can't visit at the same time. That means extra visits and more running for CM. pay these people what they deserve and get them some help would like the economic services division of dss to be on one accord. a lot of policy changes coming out and not everyone is following correctly.
276	May 6, 2015 1:03 PM	
277	May 6, 2015 12:54 PM	The agency is not helping family memebers who are caring for other family members. There aren't any available resources for hard working single mothers. It appears if you are not a productive citizens then you will get "free handouts." There need to be something in place for family memners that are considered caregivers. Also single working parents need assistance as well.."
278	May 6, 2015 12:53 PM	Attitude and willigness to help of Berekeley County Intake for CPS is awful
279	May 6, 2015 12:43 PM	There is still a need for more staff to complete the mission of the agency. The public is demanding that the agency investigate more children in potentially unsafe situations, but there is not enough staff to conduct this ambitious mission or at least do it appropriately.
280	May 6, 2015 12:34 PM	The Department of Social Services is clogged down with cases they should not be dealing with, they should be referred to outside partners instead of taking up the time of the caseworkers
281	May 6, 2015 12:31 PM	

282	May 6, 2015 12:21 PM	IFCCS should go back to full case management. The agency is wasting good employees on doing redundant work with the teaming process. Teaming doesnt work and is a waste of our resources.
283	May 6, 2015 2:52 AM	Create a culture in the department that allows agents to help and police the citizens that use and abuse the system. Do not allow the agents to be so complacent
284	May 6, 2015 2:17 AM	Less political appointees in valuable caseworker positions and staff with qualified personnel.
285	May 6, 2015 2:07 AM	I work in a local school and find myself repeatedly disappointed by the response given to our school families. I'm not sure if it's complacency, immunity, low wages, or what, but it's a chronic problem in Marlboro County. As a DSS employee, I personally think that the agency has a whole strives daily to ensure for the safety of the children and families in which they serve; however, employees do struggle with the limitations that we face due to lack of staff and
286	May 6, 2015 1:03 AM	resourses.
287	May 5, 2015 11:06 PM	As a licensed foster parent in SC I see alot of areas that need to be addressed. Our county has an overload of cases per caseworker. Our foster parents have a hard time getting in touch with the caseworkers. Communication is a huge problem. They do not have smartphones with email and that makes it difficult to communicate by email while they are on visits. They are very overloaded. I am speaking of Spartanburg county. I would like to say so much more! Unfair promotional practices from state office down to the counties. Supervisors who were poor caseworkers are promoted because of WHO they know, not WHAT they know. There is absolutely NO communication in Spartanburg County, none! Everybody is afraid to put anything in writing, and the supervisors are either unable or unwilling to make decisions. Work loads for everyone is overwhelming. Caseworkers are not the only ones who are overburdened, underpaid, and unappreciated.
288	May 5, 2015 10:02 PM	You need to start focusing on making changes with staff that actually have the responsibility of providing direct services to children. Caseworkers should work in shifts to lesson the burden on overworked staff.
289	May 5, 2015 9:43 PM	lack of professional leadership and supervision
290	May 5, 2015 9:34 PM	the elderly are over looked. we need more people checking on our senior population
291	May 5, 2015 9:10 PM	Without DSS many citizens of SC would be without food. People who must choose to pay rent rather than utilities depend on DSS for assistance. Children who have no voice need DSS to protect them. DSS is filled with employees who spend their entire career serving SC citizens with compassion, caring, understanding and an undeniable willingness to go above and beyond to serve others.
292	May 5, 2015 9:02 PM	the problem areas in this agency that needs to be address is the high turnover rate of employees(what is causing this problem) and the pay of state employees in all areas of the
293	May 5, 2015 8:57 PM	department

294	May 5, 2015 8:45 PM	EVERYONE IN THIS AGENCY SHOULD BE TREATED THE SAME. ONE PART SHOULD NOT RECEIVE 2 SALARY INCREASES IN THE SAME YEAR WHEN THE OTHER PARTS OF THE AGENCY HAVEN'T HAD AN INCREASE IN SEVERAL YEARS. THE ECONOMIC SERVICES STAFF SERVE MORE SC CITIZENS THAN HUMAN SERVICES DO BUT DO NOT GET ANY RECOGNITION FOR THEIR GOOD WORK. this agancy needs to pay the employee a better salary. the agency will not keep good employees if the pay does not increase. these employees take abuse on a daily basis.
295	May 5, 2015 8:05 PM	A span and layer study should be done
296	May 5, 2015 7:55 PM	Agency is very top heavy. Supervisors don't know what their staff does. Lots of abuse of work hours and leave. Little to no opportunity for advancements. The mindset of intimidation is still alive.
297	May 5, 2015 7:16 PM	I work for this department and I must say that overall I think our agency performs much needed services for the people of this state. However, we get quite a bit of negative publicity due to the complexity of some of our programs. I also believe the policies of the economic services programs needs to be changed so that all families are budgeted equally when being assessed for approval. Also, this agency brings millions and millions of dollars to the state and I believe the employees deserve pay increases in excess of what most of them get.
298	May 5, 2015 7:15 PM	Social Services Employees need to be paid more for the services they are helping the community with.
299	May 5, 2015 6:22 PM	Need a raise
300	May 5, 2015 6:02 PM	Don't judge all families the same; do more listening, and teaching. Stop taking children from safe environments, and placing them in foster facilities, they do not work, and kids leave more messed up.
301	May 5, 2015 5:35 PM	As an ABAWD/FI case manager one duty is to help clients with job seach, if needed, and we can't do that now due to the internet restrictions. We are here to provide a service to our clients and that is being taken away from us. There are more divisions in the Department of Social Services than just Human Services (who gets all the attention....good or bad and pay increases and we all service the same people).
302	May 5, 2015 5:17 PM	The promotion ladder needs to award employees better and those who have be contracted to do services should not make more than those within the agency do the "same" job. Case managers are overworked and SEVERELY underpaid!! They cannot keep workers on such small salaries and high case loads. They can make more money elsewhere, doing less work.
303	May 5, 2015 5:15 PM	I am concerned that the employees have not had a raise in over 7 years.
304	May 5, 2015 5:08 PM	The front line staff need more positive recognition and more incentives to keep motivated. Please implement national standards for caseloads, staff and pay ASAP.
305	May 5, 2015 4:52 PM	
306	May 5, 2015 4:40 PM	Case managers and supervisors need a salary increase in all ares of DSS. People working at DSS 20 years are making around the same as some new employees. The salary is not competitive with other state agencies or the public sector.
307	May 5, 2015 4:36 PM	

308	May 5, 2015 4:30 PM	Improving under new leadership, but need to interact better with other state agencies with better communication and understanding of other agency's processes.
309	May 5, 2015 4:22 PM	This department provide valuable service for those in need.
310	May 5, 2015 4:21 PM	All front line service/experienced employees within Human Services should have been granted a salary increase besides CPS/Intake and contract positions. 14 years ago the same 10% increased occured strictly for CPS/Foster Care amd not the supportive Admin, Adoptions, Child Support and Economic services positions. Again those experienced workers were overlooked and not compensated for their hard work and dedication to serving families and children. Salaries are way below the national average.
311	May 5, 2015 4:17 PM	The current media splash has called attention to many of the problems within the agency. I have worked for them 20+ years. Lots of hard working people are overlooked mostly due to their race. The department is very top heavy with mangement.
312	May 5, 2015 4:13 PM	Media coverage may have blown the Department's failures out of proportion but I do believe there is significant room for improvement.
313	May 5, 2015 4:01 PM	hard working under paid employees(economic services)
314	May 5, 2015 3:46 PM	no comment
315	May 5, 2015 3:45 PM	Workers are carrying to many cases and are unable to manage them appropriately. They are not super men or women.
316	May 5, 2015 3:38 PM	None
317	May 5, 2015 3:28 PM	Employee Salaries are low. Only certain areas get rasises which seems bad work/workers are rewarded. Agency feels divided when it comes to Human Services and Economic services.
318	May 5, 2015 3:27 PM	Department of social servcies need more case workers to stay on top of their cases and to make their case load smaller
319	May 5, 2015 3:25 PM	There needs to be more communication between staff and management.
320	May 5, 2015 3:00 PM	I think the agency is headed in the right direction now. I am a social worker and I have received information about working flexible hours to accomodate the specific needs of children and families.
321	May 5, 2015 2:56 PM	I am under the impression that they do not have sufficient funding.
322	May 5, 2015 2:53 PM	Negative press from various media outlets tends to cloud the opionion others have of the agency. The majority of individuals working for SCDSS are very hard working and seek to do the very best for the children and families the agency serves. The employees should be fairly compensated for the hard work they do on a daily basis. Additionally, more focus should be placed on Economic Services employees, as they are just as committed and hard working as Human Services staff.
323	May 5, 2015 2:48 PM	All focus on numbers/outcomes; not delivery of services to citizens we serve.
324	May 5, 2015 2:48 PM	Need to look at DSS philosophies like Signs of Safety. Why are we still in bed with Annie E. Casey Foundation?
325	May 5, 2015 2:30 PM	Extreme leadership defencies and new director hamstrung by Governor preventing cleaning house. Grossly inadequate funding for mandated services.

326	May 5, 2015 2:27 PM	Lazy workers need to be terminated, there's no comparison with other state agencies because DSS deals with Child Welfare
327	May 5, 2015 2:23 PM	The case loads are too high and it causes the caseworker not to be able to help the families to the extent that is needed.
328	May 5, 2015 2:21 PM	The agency needs to provide better benefits to those who are employed. the pay scale needs an over haul. More staff is needed to address the need.
329	May 5, 2015 2:19 PM	The work of the DSS employees perform is excellent, there is a passion for the work we do but with the quantity of work that we are being required to do, one can do but so much. The quality of work that we used to do is no longer there because of the great need we have for more dedicated and hard working people
330	May 5, 2015 2:16 PM	The Department of Social Services needs to be more hands on and less paper work. Workers seem to be overworked due to the amount of paperwork "needed" for cases.
331	May 5, 2015 2:11 PM	lower caseloads and increase pay for employee's
332	May 5, 2015 2:11 PM	Take into consideration the thoughts and opinions of front line workers. We know what is working, and what is not. Right now we are working hard, and not in the most efficient way, and the state has placed unrealistic expectations on our agency.
333	May 5, 2015 2:09 PM	Need competent people with integrity and DSS experience working heading up the agency. The current Deputies need to go.
334	May 5, 2015 1:58 PM	workload are not equal
335	May 5, 2015 1:54 PM	I served on the Foster Care Review Board #13, in Greenville. Some of the recommendations the Board made were not acted upon. It frustrated the members.
336	May 5, 2015 1:52 PM	everyone deserve a pay raise not just one department area. Economic Service Case manager have just as many case as human service casemanager have. Some of the cases that human service have/ Encomic service Casemanager work with also. They deserve 10% pay increase. The starting salary within dss is economic service is \$21,000 per year.
337	May 5, 2015 1:46 PM	Some eligibility specialist worker receive SNAP benefits also. The agency needs to looked into staffing issues in the county and not have so many department heads .
338	May 5, 2015 1:38 PM	Staff underpaid in all areas, tools not provided, not enough workers, poorly managed from top down.
339	May 5, 2015 1:34 PM	Agency is not caring enough about sensitive issues.
340	May 5, 2015 1:34 PM	The morale at DSS is so poor because of the way the agency is portrayed by the politicians and the media. The majority of DSS workers really care about the job he or she does, but it is difficult to do this job effectively when the caseloads are so high and the turnover is even higher. Why not think of some practical ways to help DSS rather than portray them in such a negative light to the media and residents of SC.
341	May 5, 2015 1:30 PM	The main problem with the SCDSS is there aren't enough qualified social workers. The ones they do have are dealing with tremendous case loads which in turn compromises everything they are really supposed to do. If one is over worked and under paid it effects ones judgement on real live situations that effects the lives of those they are to protect.

342	May 5, 2015 1:26 PM	The mail that comes from the state has to get better as well as the system for those that are not up to date with technology.
343	May 5, 2015 1:25 PM	Better response time to calls for help. The Office of Child Support Enforcement needs to be made aware of more than just collections
344	May 5, 2015 1:25 PM	This work environment lacks the following:
345	May 5, 2015 1:20 PM	morale is poor due to no incentives for employees
346	May 5, 2015 1:15 PM	Know one "listen's or talk's" to each other.
347	May 5, 2015 1:15 PM	Unlike othe departments the Department of Social Services does the same work as scworks, The Jummp Program and Voc-Rehab just to name a few. The Department of Social Services deserves higher wages.
348	May 5, 2015 1:14 PM	All DSS cares about is the numbers or outcome, not its clients
349	May 5, 2015 1:06 PM	I FEEL THAT SCDSS SHOULD HIRE WITHIN THE AGENCY FIRST, BECAUSE THEIR ARE ALOT OF QUALIFIED CANDIATES IN HOUSE THAT WOULD LOVE TO MOVE UP WITHIN THE COMPANY, BUT WHEN WE SEE PEOPLE FROM OUTSIDE HIRE BEFORE US WE REALLY GET DISCOURGE AND I THINK THAT HAS ALOT TO DO WITH THE TURNOVER RATE ALSO
350	May 5, 2015 1:03 PM	they have to operate under more pressure than most
351	May 5, 2015 1:01 PM	The main categories on the homepage welcome families front and center but entirely exclude single and married folks without children.
352	May 5, 2015 1:01 PM	Review salaries of DSS employees, the pay is not fair with long term loyal employees receiving less than new hires
353	May 5, 2015 12:58 PM	The employees are doing a good job but they are overworked.
354	May 5, 2015 12:57 PM	The agency isn't concerned about keeping great employees
355	May 5, 2015 12:56 PM	There are not enough employees to manage the work load.
356	May 5, 2015 12:54 PM	The function of the Department of Social Services should return to more of the tradiotnal ways benefits were processed. When you taking classes in college about Human Services you learn about how important it is to have one on one contact with clients and be more personable. The new telephone system has made clients feel like nothing more than a number.
357	May 5, 2015 12:52 PM	Customer service is horrible in some offices. One of the worst places to go, even as a state employee, is the DSS office on Two Notch Road. Our attiitude reflects on the reciever. Send someone over there to pretend to be a client and you'll see it for yourself. It's embarrassing.
358	May 5, 2015 12:49 PM	Legislation, agency policy and the family court system negatively impact the agencies ability to effectively serve families. Teenages suffer especially if they are involved with other agencies like DJJ or DMH. Family Court judges hear the same cases but can only address parts and pieces not the family in its entirety. Workers seem to have a beaten down "I can't help" attitude and an increase in pay has not improved services or access to placements and foster homes for kids.
359	May 5, 2015 12:49 PM	Human Services area needs some serious organization and updating of practices and training
360	May 5, 2015 12:48 PM	It's hard to retain quality employees when the pay isn't enough to maintain a household
361	May 5, 2015 12:47 PM	

362	May 5, 2015 12:46 PM	The caliber of skilled employees cannot improve until salaries and training keep up.
363	May 5, 2015 12:45 PM	The leadership is like a blind man in a dark room looking for a black cat. They know what they want but don't have the skills to get it.
364	May 5, 2015 12:42 PM	lowest pay
365	May 5, 2015 12:41 PM	DSS does not treat their employees equally across the board. What's the old saying? It's not what you know and how good a job you are doing, but who you know.
366	May 5, 2015 12:35 PM	It says a bit about an agency who has to provide services to its own employees because the salary is too low. The agency is currently too concerned with its portrayal in the media rather than finding good, able employees, paying them a decent salary, and having a system of accountability for those employees. These are the people that are supposed to protect this state's children. Treat them like it.
367	May 5, 2015 12:34 PM	DSS is an invaluable asset to the families and children of SC, and works hard to provide safety for children, treatment services, and promotes placing children with family members when at all possible. DSS is a much needed agency by the families and Children in SC.
368	May 5, 2015 12:34 PM	Need to re-implement the merit & step program at DSS that Dept.of Education currently has to help DSS retention of workers in all departments at their agency.
369	May 5, 2015 12:32 PM	The Department is only doing what the law is allowing them to do. The agency is understaffed and underpaid. The state legislature makes big bucks but the people who look after the state's children makes chump change! A change is needed within the agency ASAP!
370	May 5, 2015 12:32 PM	Increase pay and accountability for ALL DSS workers. Establish high standards for ALL. The good ole by network needs to be demolished. There are great workers being overlooked and underpaid.
371	May 5, 2015 12:28 PM	Employees are treated horrible. Work moral couldn't be worst. High turn over rate. Career death trap.
372	May 5, 2015 12:27 PM	The agency is understaffed and underfunded. Cries for help by the workers are going unanswered.
373	May 5, 2015 12:27 PM	There to many meetings that pull workers away from doing their jobs, too few foster homes and when children are placed across the state how much time is spent drivingto visit in foster home, arrange visitation for families and separation of siblings makes it much tougher to deal with their problems. there are not enough workers in the CPS unit and they are
374	May 5, 2015 12:25 PM	underpaid
375	May 5, 2015 12:24 PM	SC DSS WORKER ARE UNDER PAID
376	May 5, 2015 12:24 PM	Economic Services employees are underpaid
377	May 5, 2015 12:23 PM	a lack of pay
378	May 5, 2015 12:17 PM	Lack of training and qualifications of child welfare workers as well as the overall lack of intra-agency training.
379	May 5, 2015 12:16 PM	The agency needs to implement pay increases for all divisions in order, to maintain and recruit employees. Being under compensated is a major factor for high turnover, employee, and customer dissatisfaction. Also, there should be a career plan for high performing employees. It seems like there is no growth opportunity within the local county offices.

380	May 5, 2015 12:14 PM	The employees at the dept. of social services are underpaid. To keep good experienced workers the state must offer a competitive salaries in accordance with other companies. DSS has several SNAP workers that are currently receiving SNAP because of these salaries. No DSS state employee should be on SNAP assistance. That statement alone should give pause to this committee.
381	May 5, 2015 12:12 PM	The agency functions well considering the pay. You get what you pay for. If the State paid DSS employees more, you could recruit better candidates and would have a better team. DSS does the best with what it has (resources, both physical and human).
382	May 5, 2015 11:47 AM	I have been an employee of DSS for more than 30 years and know of the caring and compassionate employees that are employed with the Agency. Employees do their best to provide the needed services to its customers.
383	May 5, 2015 11:47 AM	I do not know whether it is the level of employee or the number of employees, but the children being covered are not getting the services they need and many are falling through the cracks.
384	May 5, 2015 11:46 AM	DSS has had trouble keeping workers, which creates many of its problems. The pay rate is horrible!
385	May 5, 2015 11:32 AM	Lacking leadership at all levels. The agency has managers, but no leaders.
386	May 5, 2015 11:28 AM	Looking forward to new leadership
387	May 5, 2015 11:18 AM	We are not able to obtain persons work want to work at this current pay rate. Not enough training goes on with a high turnover of people. Too many errors occur. The smallest mistake can highly impact families that require a little assistance. I feel some policies need to be updated to reflect the changes for everyday life in 2015.
388	May 5, 2015 11:15 AM	The technology infrastructure is out dated and needs to be updated. There are daily Internet and phone outages across the state which limit our ability to provide services to our citizens. It also lowers employee morale because we can't provide those services when we know how desperately they are needed.
389	May 5, 2015 11:13 AM	Just as with transportation, services to society only reflect what society in general believes they deserve, in funding, personnel and resources.
390	May 5, 2015 10:27 AM	need to reduce caseloads
391	May 5, 2015 5:23 AM	Please allow DSS to do their job.
392	May 5, 2015 3:20 AM	The case workers and investigators have too many cases to adequately serve the children and families of SC!
393	May 5, 2015 3:15 AM	Especially poor in the area of child protective services. Under-resourced, under-trained and under-motivated.
394	May 5, 2015 2:47 AM	NEED TO KEEP BETTER ACCOUNT OF FOSTER CHILDREN
395	May 5, 2015 2:36 AM	My spouse works for Spartanburg DSS. She comes home overly stressed from a days work, works way too much overtime, sometimes even more than 50 hours, and isn't paid a decent salary nor does she receive pay for her overtime. She works hard for the state with no appreciation from her superiors.
396	May 5, 2015 2:35 AM	The department lacks consistency with enforcing policy and all counties is unique in how they deliver services to customers.

		Why would you submit an application for assistance in one County only to have that application sent to a county hundreds of miles away to be reviewed? It is impossible then to contact a case worker to find out what is going on with your application, the only comment you get is "they have 30 days to give you an answer." People are going hungry in SC for this reason. Thank God my family no longer needs this assistance.
397	May 5, 2015 1:43 AM	
398	May 5, 2015 12:59 AM	na
399	May 5, 2015 12:54 AM	It wouldn't allow a comment.
400	May 5, 2015 12:31 AM	Not child friendly case workers overworked under paid
401	May 5, 2015 12:20 AM	As usual there is a ton of waste and fraud is rampant! Staff to bureaucratic, counselors and judges don't have enough common sense in dealing with problems
402	May 5, 2015 12:01 AM	There is a concern in counties that lots of people in decision making roles in State Office have never done the county work; therefore, their ideals of how things should work are not realistic. An example of this would be the implementation of the Intake Hub - Policies changed, more assessments/investigations were accepted and manpower was not put in place to handle the influx of cases.
403	May 4, 2015 11:37 PM	Too many people receiving welfare CAN work
404	May 4, 2015 11:20 PM	Needs someone to look into dss and see how lazy the workers really are. Pay increases are needed to keep the good and educated workers
405	May 4, 2015 10:39 PM	
406	May 4, 2015 10:37 PM	There need to be an increase in pay for economic service workers. This unit also make a difference in families as well. their pay standards is not enough to better their family, most need the services as well and most workers moral is so low, which some times cause poor customer service
407	May 4, 2015 9:40 PM	Our caseworkers are expected to carry a high caseload and still meet the needs of every child and family. They do this in adoptions as well, and do not receive a decent compensation for their work. Caseloads need to significantly decrease in order to see positive things happen in DSS. As a Case Manager in Family Preservation, we have issues with not having enough reliable vehicles to be able to visit the children on our case loads. The low number of cars, plus the needed number of workers, plus the high case loads, do not add up for a Case Manager to be effective in monitoring the safety of SC's children!
408	May 4, 2015 9:36 PM	Calling the interview line is not practical.
409	May 4, 2015 9:34 PM	Workers are treated unfairly, too much stress, not enough support, workers are becoming so stressed out that it is affecting their health, home life and work, We are not making any money at all, a lot of work is being placed on workers that cannot handle the load, admins are doing supervisors work and do not make supervisors pay; workers are unable to meet their quota for the month for seeing families due to the increased caseloads,
410	May 4, 2015 9:27 PM	When I fill out this form I get a red comment that says, "The comment you entered is in an invalid form".
411	May 4, 2015 9:24 PM	Employees carry a heavy load and many are dedicated and committed to the agency's mission. However they are paid far below standards for the workload responsibilities they must carry out
412	May 4, 2015 9:18 PM	

413	May 4, 2015 9:14 PM	You need to have someone start asking some questions about how the food stamp fraud/food stamp trafficking criminal prosecution program is being handled. This program has been allowed to run unchecked for years and is not provided with the resources to effectively do its job. Taxpayers would be shocked to hear what DSS has NOT been doing to prosecute fraud in this program. We need to fix the high turnover rate and good case managers need to be recognized for their hard work. They want to feel appreciated and be known for doing their job well.
414	May 4, 2015 9:12 PM	
415	May 4, 2015 9:10 PM	Needs major restructuring. there ate to many that are in control that have never been in the field. you should never run an agency if you have never worked from the inside
416	May 4, 2015 9:09 PM	
417	May 4, 2015 8:26 PM	Up to date training,better pay and more workers. Need more people and better pay plus a better system to get the job done.
418	May 4, 2015 8:19 PM	
419	May 4, 2015 8:13 PM	Welfare and food stamp eligibility should be tightened and monitored. Recipients should have to contribute community service and get "paid" by the hour. We are spending way too much money paying people for not working.
420	May 4, 2015 8:11 PM	SC DSS only hires lazy people
421	May 4, 2015 8:08 PM	Recruitment of foster families and therapeutic foster care providers needs to be improved. Follow through and cooperation with other agencies can also be improved.
422	May 4, 2015 8:08 PM	A lot of attention is place on negativity especially regarding youth with adult status in DSS custody.
423	May 4, 2015 8:07 PM	DSS staff non-responsive to requests, and the agency is too big. As a result many children do not get served as needed. DSS workers are overworked and underpaid and therefore do not care. They are very quick to refuse to help a sister agency. They do as little work as possible.
424	May 4, 2015 8:05 PM	
425	May 4, 2015 5:37 PM	this agency needs staff to be available for phone calls and referrals.
426	May 4, 2015 4:25 PM	cut duplication, waste and fraud and you will find and over abundance to deal with those Citizens of SC who truly need your services
427	May 4, 2015 3:45 PM	Need new blood & common sense.
428	May 4, 2015 2:17 PM	There needs to be more organization, quicker response time, more caring case workers and a reciprocal working relationship with other states. I believe Susan Alford was a great hire. If anyone can fix DSS it is Miss Alford. I doubt that she will be able to but she definitely will make it much better than it is, if left alone to do so and if given the time and the resources to do so.
429	May 4, 2015 1:38 PM	
430	May 4, 2015 12:41 PM	They appear to have a lack of resources. This is an understaffed agency trying to do difficult work. I hope they can get a visionary leader who can also put policies in place that enable employees to serve needy citizens effectively and efficiently.
431	May 4, 2015 12:34 PM	

432	May 4, 2015 12:09 PM	Some employees need training in customer service as their interactions are very unprofessional. This includes the way they talk to people and not returning phone calls. Agency needs to address turnover with employees as this is disruptive to services provides. When cases are assigned to a new caseworker, he or she needs to read the case file and be informed. Adult protectives services is slow to respond to complaints.
433	May 4, 2015 3:21 AM	I am under the impression this agency is generally understaffed and overworked. Having worked there in the 1980's I believe the case workers are expected to do the impossible, and criticized if they fail. (I was a typist).
434	May 4, 2015 3:13 AM	DSS has no accountability, lacks professional training, has a dangerous internal culture where it is unwilling to work with other agencies, DSS does not communicate, DSS does not provide for the educational needs of students in protective custody, DSS is NOT proactive in protecting children, DSS looks for ways to not do their jobs. Lastly, DSS needs a complete overhaul, replace ALL senior management and county management and understand professional behaviors.
435	May 4, 2015 3:07 AM	Most workers don't care, just do their job by routine.
436	May 4, 2015 2:34 AM	Not enough staff, rude and arrogant, Hire professionals who really want to help people.
437	May 4, 2015 1:37 AM	The case workers in DSS are overworked and underfunded. The case load is beyond reasonable. Funding to reduce cases per social worker is very important.
438	May 4, 2015 12:44 AM	tough job; often dealing with crisis and difficult interpersonal situations
439	May 4, 2015 12:21 AM	You are losing track of children. I ask the Legislature to increase significantly the resources to hire more case workers ASAP.
440	May 3, 2015 5:32 PM	once you're on their list in a negative manner you are treating with contempt.
441	May 2, 2015 6:19 PM	They are supposed to protect the most vulnerable of society. They fail at this mission regularly. Senior staff seem incapable of leading this agency.
442	May 2, 2015 4:17 PM	Children continue to DIE, and Nikki Haley continues to lie!
443	May 2, 2015 3:30 PM	need better rules and enforcement
444	May 2, 2015 2:56 PM	Case load is too much on the current employees. They need help to be effective
445	May 2, 2015 2:08 PM	The agency could do a better job on re-certification of benefits if they would allow some items to be processed on line.
446	May 2, 2015 1:07 PM	Basically politicians have ruined the state of South Carolina. Another sad and distressing example of the Governor's
447	May 2, 2015 12:50 PM	unfitness and failure to lead.
448	May 2, 2015 12:35 PM	Poor management
449	May 1, 2015 10:28 PM	The managers were very evasive in their answers. In recent years the agency seems to not have been interested in providing the services with the same amount of care and diligence as they did in the past (10 years ago or so)
450	May 1, 2015 5:28 PM	Concerns about the work of social services, especially in providing for the welfare of children.
451	May 1, 2015 4:46 PM	Too much big gov't and not enough local oversight
452	May 1, 2015 3:59 PM	Very self serving
453	May 1, 2015 3:55 PM	

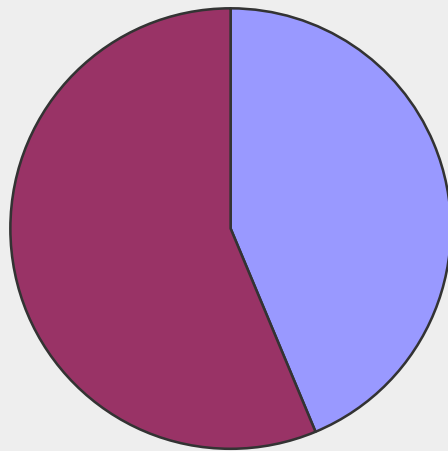
454	May 1, 2015 3:41 PM	Give them the funding and the staff to do the job. Stop blaming them if the resources aren't there to be effective. This is a vital department and it is treated as an afterthought by our politicians who care more for their power than actually helping SC citizens
455	May 1, 2015 3:40 PM	More personnel are desperately needed and duplication of health department tasks should be ended After years of poor policy decisions and inadequate funding (cabinet agencies are told not to ask for money by the current Gov), combined with poor leadership and management, have left SC with an agency that needs to be all but dismantled
456	May 1, 2015 2:05 PM	and rebuilt from ground up.
457	May 1, 2015 2:02 PM	In 28 years of working with DSS it has now reached all time lows in professionalism and lack of service

Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

Would you like to provide input about the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice? (There are four questions.)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	43.7%	554
No	56.3%	713
	<i>answered question</i>	1267
	<i>skipped question</i>	521

Would you like to provide input about the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice? (There are four questions.)



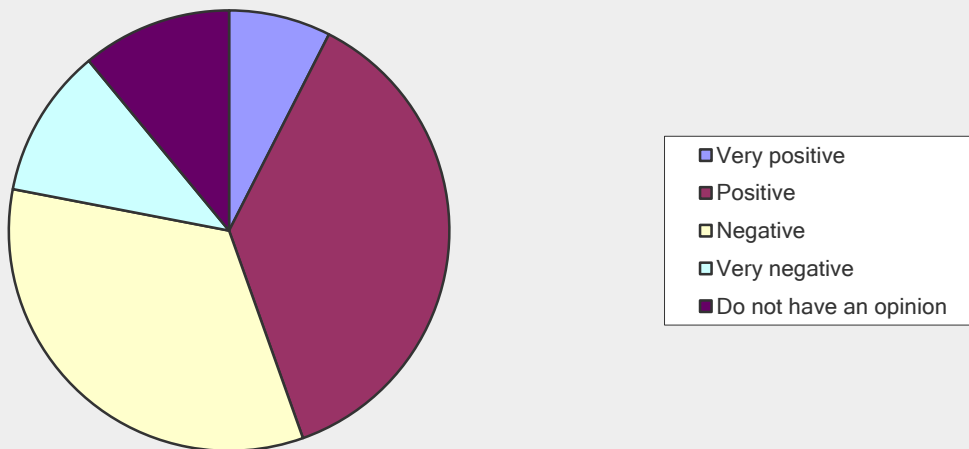
■ Yes
■ No

Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

Overall, what is your current opinion about the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Very positive	7.5%	41
Positive	37.1%	203
Negative	33.5%	183
Very negative	11.0%	60
Do not have an opinion	11.0%	60
<i>answered question</i>		547
<i>skipped question</i>		1241

Overall, what is your current opinion about the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice?



Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

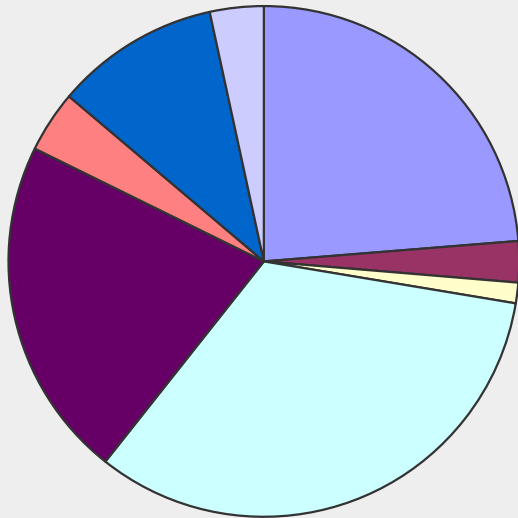
Which of the following has most influenced your current opinion of the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Media coverage	23.7%	127
Social media	2.6%	14
Internet	1.3%	7
Personal experience with the agency	33.0%	177
Business experience with the agency	21.6%	116
Family member's experience with the agency	3.9%	21
Friend, neighbor or colleague's experience with the	10.4%	56
Other (please specify)	3.4%	18
<i>answered question</i>		536
<i>skipped question</i>		1252

Number	Response Date	Other (please specify)
1	May 29, 2015 5:32 AM	employee Several groups I belong to have had discussions about what should be done about these juveniles that are committing more horrendous crimes and are they getting the proper help or punishment. there needs to be a redefinition of the types of crimes these juveniles are committing and the types of punishments meted out. Our court system need an overhaul along these lines.
2	May 22, 2015 4:17 PM	Having been a mentor in DJJ, I feel that the muslim members have used this system as a ritche source to make converts. A better idea would be to make all these facilities a boot camp environment. Make discipline a priority. Train them for a job. We helped a kid get his GED and later he told us his idle was Louis Farrakonob
3	May 22, 2015 3:35 PM	I work for an organization that has dealings with DJJ
4	May 21, 2015 7:56 PM	client experience with the agency
5	May 21, 2015 2:14 PM	as a school administrator
6	May 19, 2015 3:00 PM	I have worked for SCDJJ for 22 plus years and we have worked so hard in the community, numbers are lower, and we continue to make positive strides with the youth of this State, without decent pay or decent pay raises. Our Agency is really helping young people and I feel we do not get paid what we deserve.
7	May 18, 2015 7:08 PM	Former employee
8	May 13, 2015 1:51 AM	Just what I've seen and heard from a lot of sources both media and social
9	May 13, 2015 1:11 AM	See the DJJ sings on Broad river and always doing something positive.
10	May 11, 2015 1:08 AM	

		Contact through working with individuals involved or in need of services from the
11	May 7, 2015 2:24 PM	agency.
12	May 7, 2015 12:24 PM	i have no experence with this group
13	May 5, 2015 1:22 PM	Employee
14	May 5, 2015 11:16 AM	N/A
15	May 5, 2015 12:04 AM	Employee
16	May 4, 2015 8:37 PM	Employee
17	May 4, 2015 7:19 PM	business associates
18	May 1, 2015 3:32 PM	All of the above

Which of the following has most influenced your current
Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice



Media coverage

Social media

Internet

Personal experience with the agency

Business experience with the agency

Family member's experience with the agency

Friend, neighbor or colleague's experience with the agency

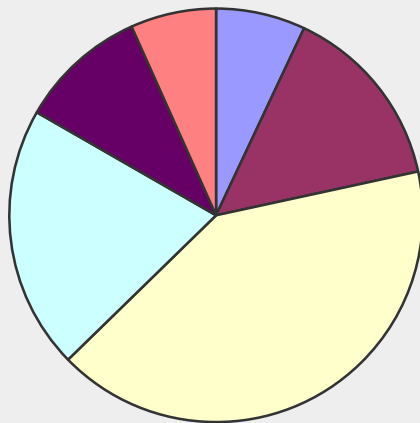
Other (please specify)

Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

How do you think the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice functions on an overall basis in comparison to other state agencies in South Carolina?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Much better	7.0%	38
Better	14.6%	79
About the same	41.1%	222
Worse	20.6%	111
Much worse	10.0%	54
Do not have an opinion	6.7%	36
<i>answered question</i>		540
<i>skipped question</i>		1248

How do you think the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice functions on an overall basis in comparison to other state agencies in South Carolina?



- Much better
- Better
- About the same
- Worse
- Much worse
- Do not have an opinion

Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

Please list any comments, concerns or suggestions you may have about the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice. Please note responses may be quoted verbatim in a Committee report.

Answer Options	Response Count
	184
<i>answered question</i>	184
<i>skipped question</i>	1604

Number	Response Date	Response Text
1	May 31, 2015 5:51 PM	The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is in great turmoil. Many of DJJ employees are under appreciated, under paid and unhappy. The agency that should be rehabilitating, redirecting and reintergrating our misguided youth is broken. DJJ is no longer holding its Juveniles accountable for crimes committed while in a facility/placement which enables Juveniles to reoffend. DJJ has many programs that can be very beneficial to it's Juveniles if used correctly (most are not). As a DJJ employee it is so frustrating to know that many of the programs are only utilized while the Juvenile is being housed in a facility/placement. What is being done when the Juvenile is reintergrated into society. I would personally like to take this opportunity to ask could all State Employees receive a pay increase(not just 2%), cost of living increase, and more incentives to make us want to continue work for the State of South Carolina.
2	May 29, 2015 5:32 AM	I honestly feel that the Department of Juvenile Justice employees need a well overdue raise. The living expenses throughout the years has sky rocketed, yet the pay still remains the same. The agency went from 8 hours to 12 hours there is not even a differential pay with the night shift. Everytime the state implements a so-called raise retirement goes up, insurance, or something else. I now hear that we will receive a 900 bonus that would not be taxed. Now we hear that there will be \$450 taxed check in July 2015 then another \$450
3	May 28, 2015 10:12 PM	taxed check in December. How does the DJJ dumps children onto other agencies rather than helping the child and their families.
4	May 28, 2015 4:16 PM	Correctional officers need more control
5	May 28, 2015 2:01 AM	AN INTERNAL INVESTIGATION WOULD PROVE OPEN AMERICA EYES TO THE INHUMANE WORK ENVIRONMENT STAFF ENCOUNTER DAILY

6	May 28, 2015 1:50 AM	Upper management takes care of their closest friends whom they have hired. Front line employees are overlooked quite often and are never recognized. The juveniles are totally out of control while upper management only worry about prestige and power instead of being concerned about their employee's safety. department of juvenile is allowing allow magnitude of on going assaults on staff whereas no accountability is given or slightly. the injuries are violent and aggressive due to the unsafe working environment school, recreation, buses units /old coverage is barely met leadin to more injuries. Pay scales ,no increases cost of living /incentives cause people not to do their jobs/low moral/ leadership is clickish nepotism in some cases applicants appear to be screen before insiders are given far chance to be interviewed and to keep staff from progressing in the front administration before HR gets it no financial gain / people have worked 10 years or more with no bonus butts upper
7	May 28, 2015 1:42 AM	ma nagement
8	May 27, 2015 7:49 PM	overwork under paid correctional officers, who are assaulted cursed out daily. please recommend going back to 8 hours!! stressed out officers Juveniles are not held accountable for their actions. Staff cannot work to rehabilitate the juveniles if there is not structure and discipline.
9	May 27, 2015 5:15 PM	This agency needs more funding for local counties. They need to hire more case workers. They also need to invest more programs in the
10	May 27, 2015 4:57 PM	local school district.
11	May 27, 2015 4:28 PM	I taught at SCDJJ for 22 years, beginning in 1991. In that time I witnessed widespread misuse of funds; bizarre management of professional staff; sexual favors traded for choice assignments and a cover-up of dangerous practices. Since there is no accountability for "success" with these juveniles, the public is unaware of the severity of juvenile crime rates. Take a look at the "wilderness camps" and you find juveniles who've committed the types of crimes which SHOULD mean that they stay
12	May 27, 2015 8:53 AM	"behind the fence".
13	May 26, 2015 7:57 PM	None
14	May 26, 2015 3:09 PM	we need more money and better supervisors Lack of working with parents to change home environment that they send children back into.

15	May 25, 2015 3:58 AM	<p>The lack of pay to the officer's when a mandatory 12 hours shift was enforced effective September 22, 14. No pay raise was considered which alot staff are either forced to resign. Theraputic plan to service these individuals are not compatibable for all. Structure has been replaced with no consequences when the juveniles assault staff, and other juveniles. The system looks at them as being poor misguided children who suffered from all kinds of tragedies. Which alot of these children like adults make a choice to do wrong knowing right from wrong. The system fails them with a false sign of reality so therefore; many leave thinking what they have done is excusable. Structure and therapy can be used to better develop these young so that transition to a safer operations can better serve these individuals.</p>
16	May 25, 2015 1:46 AM	<p>Staff cost of living increase. Where is it and will it be brought back? State employees have to work two jobs (some cases 2 full time) to make ends meet. Salary should be raised for 10 year and above employees to what it would have been with the cost of living increases. Then raise the starting pay for the new comers and all the way across the board. Officers performance and job turn over rate would improve. Although we have a lot of great officers working that take a lot of abuse and still do great work for the agency. They have made positive impressions on the children to the point where they have called back or written letters to say Thank you and tell them how they are getting degrees and/or in the military doing well because of the tough love and holding them accountable for their actions before BARJ project began.</p> <p>1. Juveniles are not given realistic disciplinary actions for their actions. Especially for assaulting staff and each other (verbally and physically) while they are in our custody because of BARJ With out true disciplinary actions we are setting them up for failure when they return to society.</p>
17	May 25, 2015 1:41 AM	<p>Changes are being made at the Detention Center.</p>
18	May 25, 2015 1:35 AM	<p>Staff are severely underpaid.</p>
19	May 22, 2015 10:18 PM	<p>See comments on question 23.</p>
20	May 22, 2015 4:17 PM	<p>These young people need to be working at hard labor. Not getting time to watch violent TV or to plan for trouble when their time is up. They should come out better men and women.</p>
21	May 22, 2015 3:35 PM	<p>program in place to help before they get into a problem.</p>
22	May 22, 2015 1:40 PM	<p></p>

23	May 22, 2015 12:52 PM	This agency has had good leadership since the days of Judge Byars. What a difference leadership makes. DJJ employees - Broad River Road, Columbia - apparently secretly-coronated-royal-special-agents commanded to "kick me out of the [family] nest." This was while employed as part-time/temp
24	May 21, 2015 4:05 PM	DJJ employee in Ombudsman/Ray Cavanaugh office (1998). The school at the Birchwood campus is by staff's own admission in a state of chaos, with violence and extreme teacher turnover. Diversion efforts are inconsistent across the state--no pure status offender should be sent to DJJ. There are some very good staff, but they are thwarted by lack of resources for children who do not need to be committed. Girls are isolated on the Broad River Campus and have inferior services.
25	May 21, 2015 3:27 PM	DJJ is the placement of last resort. Since changes implemented by DHHS, placements are full and there are no community services. No place for child to go except for DJJ - they can't say no, we are full. It appears, due to changes, we are heading back to pre-Alexander S. days; DJJ is a very violent place, juveniles appear to have control.
26	May 21, 2015 2:14 PM	DJJ has very difficult job which is made even more difficult by the fragmentation of services from DMH, DDSN, public schools bringing charges inappropriately, lack of adequated diversion programs in community and lack of adequate transition services in collaboration with other agencies. Education program within DJJ is problematic. Safety behind "behind the walls" is not guaranteed.
27	May 21, 2015 1:53 PM	Seems to have improved over the last few years but could do even better with audit and elimination of waste and employees that are not needed or doing anything.
28	May 21, 2015 11:09 AM	My impression is they are doing a lot with very little. If they can't get to these kids at an early age then Corrections gets them later. Seems like they know what they should be doing and do it the best they can given financial constraints.
29	May 21, 2015 11:08 AM	
30	May 20, 2015 6:15 PM	agency bullying, nepotism, lack of a career ladder Leadership needs to improve at all levels. Although inexperienced, Director Murray appears to want positive change for SCDJJ, as a new Director she should be given time to prove she was the right choice.
31	May 19, 2015 6:48 PM	need more psychologists working with these kids and families
32	May 19, 2015 3:00 PM	

33	May 19, 2015 1:38 PM	<p>There need to be some behavior or academic improvements for these young people to continue with their education, refrain from troubles involving the law, to make them contributing members of our society.</p> <p>I love this Agency and work hard for it everyday and have for 22 plus years, but I struggle financially on what I make. I believe there should be something in place to reward years of service on a monetary level. When people use our Agency as a stepping stone just to go and made more money we are constantly having "green" workers when if you paid more we would have a more seasoned team working together to help</p>
34	May 18, 2015 7:08 PM	<p>kids.</p> <p>Lack of accountability for students' actions while at DJJ</p>
35	May 18, 2015 6:39 PM	<p>What Juvenile Justice? Their effectiveness is near zero as evident by juvenile behavior in the State. We need a juvenile reform school for all the kids that causes problems on our society, including</p>
36	May 17, 2015 11:11 PM	<p>public schools.</p> <p>lack of media coverage prevents the public from</p>
37	May 17, 2015 10:53 PM	<p>having an informed opinion</p> <p>DJJ has drastically improved over the past 10 years. The shift in how they are working to monitor and "treat" children is making a difference in my</p>
38	May 17, 2015 4:02 PM	<p>opinion.</p> <p>Look at most adult offenders. They have a rap sheet a mile long. Apparently any time served did nothing to alter behavior. Juveniles who are in the justice system should be held longer, but not just held. Again, mental health should be evaluated, IQ established, and training according to IQ offered. These individuals need to learn a trade that is attainable and one that they will be able to find employment in. They should have help to obtain a job and not just released back on the streets to pick up where they left off. They need to report to case workers as well as parole officers and their counseling sessions should continue for at least a year after being released. Also, the entire family should be required to attend counselling before the juvenile is released back</p>
39	May 16, 2015 7:01 PM	<p>into their custody.</p> <p>Not as many youth preventive programs that connect with faith based and community</p>
40	May 16, 2015 3:45 PM	<p>organizations</p> <p>Biggesst problem is there seems to be an increase in crime by juveniles or young adults who began</p>
41	May 16, 2015 2:31 PM	<p>as juveniles.</p>

42	May 16, 2015 5:36 AM	I feel that every juvenile's case should be looked upon on a case by case basis instead of treating them all the same. Every child is not the same and some can be helped and reintroduced into society to live a productive life.
43	May 15, 2015 8:44 PM	Employees need to be paid more and they need to go back to 8 hour shifts
44	May 15, 2015 7:08 PM	Need to work for the justice for juveniles... in depth mental health focus is a must.
45	May 15, 2015 4:52 PM	Unable to reform offenders
46	May 15, 2015 4:31 PM	needs to be more about HELPING the youth and thier families, education and relationship building.
47	May 15, 2015 12:11 AM	See comments concerning First Steps.
48	May 14, 2015 5:51 PM	There is not accountabilty with this Agency and how they ensure the children recieve the services needed. The Agency is quick to detain children or recommend they come into DSS care when the Agency should be working to rehabilitate the juvnile offenders as well as the family to ensure they do not become a product of the system. In order to break the cycle we need to ensure our youths and families are getting the services they need and understand what needs to change in order to not reoffend and remain in the system. DJJ leader is an exceptional partner in community efforts to improve services to the youth in our county.
49	May 14, 2015 1:49 PM	None
50	May 14, 2015 1:02 PM	placing children who have not committed a violent crime in a facility is utterly ridiculous as it only perpetuates crime related issues for the future and damages the child forever.
51	May 14, 2015 1:30 AM	repeat offenders
52	May 13, 2015 6:04 PM	Timely in responses and try to provide the best and most accurate information possible.
53	May 13, 2015 1:11 PM	
54	May 13, 2015 1:51 AM	SCDJJ has come along way under the leadership of the two previous directors. The current director is still an unknown quantity .There is always room for improvement and there are still numerous retired employees employed ,I would suggest a thorough review of these employees and positions We are loosing the battle it seems more and more juv are entering into the system that daren't have the resources or the education to deal with these children
55	May 13, 2015 1:11 AM	

		There has been many job terminations and demotions by upper management that are unethical and questionable. Also, there are job positions that are given to people who are clearly not qualified, but they are liked or favored by upper management. Employees are afraid to speak up because they think they may lose their jobs. Most African Americans hold the lowest paid jobs, and compensation is not evenly distributed...the
56	May 12, 2015 7:09 PM	pay does not speak for the workload.
57	May 12, 2015 3:43 PM	excellent job of alternatives to incarceration
		There is a huge lack of appropriate facilities in order to provide appropriate treatment to juvenile
58	May 12, 2015 3:35 PM	offenders. Quit hiring people from outside the agency over long term agency employees that have experience in the community and operations in the secure facilities. Takes years for those without experience to have the insight. Most are carried by those who were not promoted into those
59	May 12, 2015 1:48 PM	positions. When will Juvenile Corrections Officers ever get a
60	May 11, 2015 6:30 PM	significant increase in salary.
61	May 11, 2015 6:14 PM	Lack of money and training results in a system that is not as effective as it could be.
		SCDJJ under Judge Byers was more concerned about lowering the numbers. While it may appear fine in the short run, ultimately the kids are not
62	May 11, 2015 3:09 PM	being served in the capacity they should be.
63	May 11, 2015 3:04 PM	More engagement with the at risk youth to prevent them from join gangs. they don't pay their employees enough especially security. Salaries are not competitive with other like agencies in other states. They are reactive
64	May 10, 2015 12:18 PM	instead of proactive.
65	May 9, 2015 9:20 PM	It is not just one thing. the overall agency. As with all State (and local agencies) their budget limits their abilities. Low salaries create a high turnover in personnel. It appears the most immediate problem in this area is the Pre Trial Detention of Juvenile Offenders. Again the S.C. Sheriff's Association would be the best source of information here. Deputy Sheriffs' are the only Public Officials who must deal with DSS and DJJ
66	May 9, 2015 2:14 PM	on a daily basis.

		Criminal minded juveniles don't have significant enough consequences when their behavior at SCDJJ becomes violent. Performance Based Standards (PBS) is a crock of BULL, why? because the real truth is NEVER told or written. Officers are in fear of being assaulted by juveniles. The children are running the agency not the staff. The turnover rate is enormous due to the uncaring treatment of the staff. Not enough manpower. Seasoned staff is being stressed out when covering shifts other than their own and finally
67	May 9, 2015 6:16 AM	these damn 12 hour shifts...its killing us.
68	May 8, 2015 10:42 PM	They have more problems with employees than inmates.
69	May 8, 2015 9:16 PM	Juveniles should work off any detention issues.
		DJJ needs to handle juveniles that are delinquent and that break the law . . . DJJ needs to provide placement for children as needed, rather than dump them on SCDSS and the foster care system. This has a negative impact on foster children and on SCDSS as it is a drain on staff resources.
70	May 8, 2015 7:57 PM	It sometimes feel like we only here to
71	May 8, 2015 6:23 PM	babysitters!!!!
72	May 8, 2015 4:39 PM	Need to work on communication and consistency within the agency.
		pay raise, fairness to employees, consequences for the juveniles, more employees, more safety and treating the employees better
73	May 8, 2015 3:35 PM	Under pay, yearly increases, 12 hours shift, nothing is confidential, security as it relates to juvenile and staff. shortage of staff.
74	May 8, 2015 3:08 PM	I have been working for the Dept. for 15 plus years. The pay sucks we are extremley under paid. The Juveniles are out of control and there's no punishment for them. The staff has been forced to work 12 long hours with the juveniles with no consideration with employees that are single
75	May 8, 2015 3:00 PM	parents.
		The term justice should be removed from the title. Department of Juveniles would be more accurate. We have,along with most states, a revolving door.
76	May 8, 2015 2:54 PM	
77	May 8, 2015 11:27 AM	Just putting them back on the streets.

		There are several issues surrounding the Dept. of Juvenile Justice. One being, people feel that it is okay now not to talk to people about their area. They feel that only upper management is only allow to make decision on who get raises. Some people have been work for a very long time with out a rasie. I thought raise was suppose to be given based on one performance, and hard work. Not the oh I know you system. Someone needs to come and do a major overhaule of this place very soon.
78	May 7, 2015 8:42 PM	
		There is always room for improvement. DOJJ currently does an adequate job, which is better than some state agencies tha tdeal with children and families.
79	May 7, 2015 6:41 PM	
		DJJ should note that DSS is not the place to call to have incorrigible children "placed". DSS deals with abuse or neglect by the parent.
80	May 7, 2015 6:03 PM	
81	May 7, 2015 3:44 PM	system overworked
82	May 7, 2015 3:00 PM	safety , pay, after care
		DJJ has a revolving door because they are not teaching juveniles the knowledge and life skills they need to stop offending. Partnering with Sexual Rights groups that only teach juveniles how to use condoms and enjoy the pleasures of sex is grooming them for porn addiction and setting them up for failure. It is not helping their brains develop, nor is it facilitating self control and discipline so that they can escape their lives of crime and poverty.
83	May 7, 2015 2:44 PM	
		don't hear a lot of positives, but i'm not sure anyone ever would from an agency overseeing care of juveniles with records
84	May 7, 2015 1:04 PM	
85	May 7, 2015 12:24 PM	no experence
		staffing and pay the same as the other departments
86	May 7, 2015 10:42 AM	
87	May 7, 2015 8:53 AM	Inept department.
		What they consider "counseling", most normal folks would categorize as "bullying" or in some cases torturous.
88	May 7, 2015 3:50 AM	
		They do not use their available resources to help the clients they are supposed to serve. Instead, they shove their work onto DSS or leave families struggling without viable options.
89	May 7, 2015 2:43 AM	
		The words " child" and "children" need to be stricken from their vocabulary for anyone over 13, these "kids" know right from wrong. It's pathetic that 16 year old that commits a felony is treated more lenient than an 18 year old.
90	May 7, 2015 1:59 AM	
		We incarcerate far too many people in South Carolina, which damages our families and our communities.
91	May 7, 2015 1:29 AM	

92	May 7, 2015 1:19 AM	I have seen SCDJJ go from rehabilitating youth offenders to just housing them. There are no consequences for their negative behaviors towards their peers or the staff. Staff turnover rate is higher than normal.
93	May 7, 2015 12:55 AM	Would like to see some measure of the effectiveness of this department. What do they accomplish? Is juvenile crime going down?
94	May 6, 2015 11:46 PM	Not enough staff to deal with the growing juvenile offender population.
95	May 6, 2015 11:06 PM	Need more paid employees . reduction of kids behind fence is down but need to continue to increase funding for restorative justice programs.
96	May 6, 2015 10:28 PM	People who are not educated well enough acting as director's in county offices.
97	May 6, 2015 7:58 PM	Does not seem to serve teens with disruptive behaviors who have broken laws the way they should. Many of these kids are inappropriately placed in foster care.
98	May 6, 2015 7:18 PM	DJJ uses the DSS as a dumping ground for alot of children they should be serving. DSS is experiencing such a crisis with placement for children with out any charges or a child with DJJ involvemnet. It makes it even more difficult when a child has DJJ involvement and DSS has to find placement.
99	May 6, 2015 6:20 PM	
100	May 6, 2015 5:27 PM	setting juveniles up for failure SCDJJ is an agency with continues to strive for excellence. Measurable outcomes are documented. Staff is consistently trained on ways to improve our youth and families lives. Employees go beyond expectation and their good work goes unnoticed and valued by being properly compensated. Yet other workers with the same job discreption and duties are compensated at a higher pay rate and band. Our employees are skilled and understand that if you are not here to improve the lives of youth and families, DJJ is not the place for you. We want our families to know we are a resource for them and if we touch their lives we want to leave them in a place that has had an impactful improvement.
101	May 6, 2015 5:18 PM	More money is going to prisons than education.
102	May 6, 2015 5:11 PM	The system is off balance. Better education would reduce the need for prisons. The agency needs to focus on programs in accordance with the other agencies and schools to promote good behavior in our youth versesbe reactive to the behaviors that disrupt families and schools. Give parents more accountability to deal with their youth. and hold these kids who are old enough to know better to a higher standard, but dont give up on them.
103	May 6, 2015 4:52 PM	

104	May 6, 2015 4:33 PM	<p>some lproblems still with recruiting good staff.</p> <p>The department's goal of rehabilitating juvenile criminals is noble, but often misguided. The revolving door or commitments and releases, especially on indeterminate sentences, is unacceptable. Furthermore, the pressure on local caseworkers to clear their sockets is unfair and unreasonable in the administration of justice.</p>
105	May 6, 2015 3:41 PM	<p>No concerns at this time.</p> <p>juveniles have too much power. JCOs are expected not to respond when juveniles are verbally and physically aggressive. When an officer is assaulted by a juvenile, that office is often asked not to file charges. juveniles at the BRRC are rude, disrespectful and they have no consequences for their actions. the BARJ program allows juveniles to set their own punishment which doesn't makes sense. JCOs need capstun and tasers. this will eliminate a lot of discipline problems and gang fights at the institution. JCOs have the hardest job at DJJ but they are very limited with how they can handle serious juvenile criminals with aggressive behaviors. there is discriminaton with the hiring process. the same people are moved into new positions over and over again without giving others a chance to progress.</p>
106	May 6, 2015 1:47 PM	
107	May 6, 2015 1:20 PM	<p>politics and a place of beatification, chaos inside).</p>
108	May 6, 2015 1:17 PM	<p>non qualified deputies and supervisors</p> <p>Management need to be on accord. Solicitor's office has to much control over DJJ Reccomedations. The turn-over rate is high due to caseload numbers and low salary. Also there is favortism in the hiring process. DJJ needs people that are culturally diversed. DJJ is starting to be geared towards billing for medicaid and taking the focus away from the mission which is to provide restorative justice to community and rehabilate the juvenile offenders.</p>
109	May 6, 2015 12:46 PM	<p>We as staff need ways to protect ourselves and the juveniles. The way the programs are set up, the front line staff have no tools to utilize to establish control when a juvenile is out of control. The powers that be need to see that we have dangerous offenders here. Their ages do not make them less lethal. Juveniles and staff are being assaulted daily and nothing is being done.</p>
110	May 6, 2015 10:19 AM	<p>Staff feel like no one backs us up or fights for us.</p>
111	May 6, 2015 9:35 AM	<p>I think sc. dept. juvenile justice play abig part with juvenile life</p>

112	May 6, 2015 6:33 AM	<p>Needs to be revamp serious offenders being mixed with nonserious offenders,there the nonserious offenders are being influenced by the serious offenders so they gets out of the system worst than when they enter. low pay, in most cases dangerous for the officers.</p> <p>They seem more concerned about their outward appearances in the public eye than the true condition of 'the heart' of the agency - accountability and discipline for crimes committed and rehabilitation and reintroduction to society as a contributing citizen.this will never happen if the young people are not given REAL Boundaries and REAL discipline.The few youth that truly want to make a turnaround are hindered and blocked by the hardened ones who only want to be</p>
113	May 6, 2015 1:04 AM	<p>disruptions and troublemakers.</p>
114	May 6, 2015 12:53 AM	<p>The ONLY state agency that has real concern for those in its charge.</p>
115	May 6, 2015 12:41 AM	<p>The PBS rating system has lead to juveniles becoming entrenched in a criminal mindset and have no accountability for negative behaviors. they commit Crimson behavior behind the fence and do not receive meaningful disciplinary action. The Jcos have been rendered powerless and the juveniles run the facilities. Some staff do not follow the agency.s policy for professionalism and yet keep their jobs and are even promoted by who they know rather than competency to perform the job. Safety and security are at an all time low as well as staff moral.</p>
116	May 5, 2015 9:55 PM	<p>This agency has incompetent leadership. Just make an unannounced visit to the facilities and you will see chaos. Gangs are in control of the institution. Request to look at who receives pay increases and at what percentages. You will see discriminatory practices in pay within the agency. You will see several staff are holding positions that have similar responsibilities and have high salaries. It is a waste of taxpayer money. security is horrible. social workers don't answer the phone, Buildings are dirty, school lacks teachers and the teachers rely heavily on computer instruction rather than faceto face</p>
117	May 5, 2015 9:38 PM	<p>teaching. e</p>
118	May 5, 2015 9:11 PM	<p>it is not working. kids are getting meaner and the cops get more rules and training.</p>

		She also told me and others to pay attention to the media and see that SCDJJ does not rehabilitate the at risk youths; because most of the recent violent crimes and murders in the Columbia, SC area were people who had some type of SCDJJ involvement. She told me that she would not advise anyone to work at the agency; until legislature cleans it up. They do not rehabilitate the at risk youths; because they have fun being there, and there system does not work. JCO's are burned out because of there 12 hour shifts. The Job hiring and promotion system is unfair,
119	May 5, 2015 8:51 PM	because of their buddy system. we really need to fully commit to a trauma-informed approach that provides quality treatment including trauma care for the youth who are served through DJJ - without this quality care we are creating a worse situation than the youth had before DJJ involvement
120	May 5, 2015 7:39 PM	Staffing, how raises are given, being promoted on friendship instead of experience and education. lack of positive leadership, and not able to have a voice on important matters; such as rehabilitating of the juveniles, being afraid of retaliation from upper management on opinions.
121	May 5, 2015 5:44 PM	
122	May 5, 2015 4:53 PM	DJJ is not willing to provide rehabilitative services to 17 year old as they consider this age an "adult" Certainly not perfect, but working hard and providing good service
123	May 5, 2015 4:31 PM	Cannot see where they are making a difference in our state. My employer works closely with this agency and they don't seem to accomplish much with regard to making a positive difference in children's lives.
124	May 5, 2015 4:18 PM	would like some training
125	May 5, 2015 4:02 PM	no comment
126	May 5, 2015 3:47 PM	Please find a way to protect infants and toddlers from adults who have no business having or being around very small children.
127	May 5, 2015 3:44 PM	The last director left the agency in terrible shape. The juveniles have no consequences for their behavior. The juveniles are walking smoking, exposing themselves to staff, and assulating staff and they are not going to lock or only for a few days. Juveniles are leaving DJJ and within two months are back in jail or dead.
128	May 5, 2015 3:32 PM	I THINK THE AGENCY HAS ALL JUVENILE'S BEST INTEREST AT HEART
129	May 5, 2015 3:20 PM	The agency would greatly benefit from financial support for prevention and intervention programs. Truancy is a huge issue we come across, for example.
130	May 5, 2015 3:02 PM	
131	May 5, 2015 2:56 PM	Poor response to requests for information

132	May 5, 2015 2:50 PM	Need to increase pay for Juvenile Correctinal Officers. You get what you pay for!
133	May 5, 2015 2:31 PM	Hopeful new director can maintain improvements achieved over last decade. DJJ needing to take lead of clients rather than having them come into DSS custody; DJJ being proactive with the resources with clients in DSS
134	May 5, 2015 2:30 PM	custody in regards to placement
135	May 5, 2015 2:23 PM	System needs to be evaluated and changed. Agency is underfunded and not capable of keeping
136	May 5, 2015 2:22 PM	their best employees I do not believe that many of the juvenile PO's know enough about the child's family and how they function in the community. I have said for years that DJJ is just training future criminals. They do not work with the family to assist the kids with getting better, they tend to just blame the parent and call DSS.
137	May 5, 2015 2:13 PM	It is imperative that communication is established between the employees and Administration. Allowing those who work directly with the clients to communicate directly with the Administration is nearly impossible to communicate your ideas and have them implemented or even heard..
138	May 5, 2015 2:03 PM	Needs increased pay & workers.
139	May 5, 2015 1:39 PM	I have seen it first hand through a family member's child, the Legislature needs to give this Dept. more support.
140	May 5, 2015 1:08 PM	Too much time is spent in "meetings."
141	May 5, 2015 1:06 PM	The website provides for parents and victims but has no resources for those being served in rehab programs, including, most usefully, transitional (re-entry) folks.
142	May 5, 2015 1:04 PM	no comments
143	May 5, 2015 12:55 PM	Positive reputation with Family Court judges and Solicitors. DJJ workers get paid little for the responsibilities placed on them. Has done well through years of lawsuit and economic down turn.
144	May 5, 2015 12:55 PM	They do appear to be playing a numbers game when it comes to housing juveniles.
145	May 5, 2015 12:46 PM	The BARJ program that is operating at the BRRC campus is ineffective and is a program designed for a moderate management facility. The juveniles are not being held accountable for their actions and staff turnover is rampant due to issues of safety. The other DJJ campuses, as well as the community programs, are effective and provide good outcome. I hope that the oversight community will look into what is really happening at BRRC. Change is possible....hopefully!!!
146	May 5, 2015 12:36 PM	

147	May 5, 2015 12:36 PM	DJJ is a much needed agency in the State of SC in these days and times, and works hard to help the juveniles and families in the State of SC, and to protect the public when needed.
148	May 5, 2015 12:26 PM	need more alternative programs
149	May 5, 2015 12:19 PM	All the officer work hard no respect and not enough money for all the stuff the go ththrough with the juvenile. The juvenile have more respect than the officer do it all about the juvenile. The Employees do an unbelievable job often working out of their job descriptions and pay scales that have not been reviewed for quite some time. The Staff do a remarkable job that all too
150	May 5, 2015 12:19 PM	often go unrecognised. The SCDJJ works hard to restore the lives of the young men and women who have previously made poor choices. They truly have the youth of SC as well as the victims and communities in mind when
151	May 5, 2015 12:01 PM	rehabilitating our youth.
152	May 5, 2015 11:20 AM	I feel the jj unit should be more like a military school. Something like Willou Grey?
153	May 5, 2015 10:27 AM	work to keep children from being behaid the fence
154	May 5, 2015 2:49 AM	NEED BETTER WATCH CARE
155	May 5, 2015 12:32 AM	They do not intervene until it's too late help no one and are a total waste of money overworked and under paid They were switched to twelve hours which cause some people who were in school to have to drop out, other people who have second jobs to have to quit, obviously DJJ not paying enough and single parents looking and paying more for daycare fees. The officers are cursed out, spit on, assaulted and instead of holding the Juveniles accountable they give the Juveniles cook outs. It's about whose in your clique to get promoted or at least your application pulled for promotions.
156	May 5, 2015 12:21 AM	
157	May 4, 2015 9:54 PM	DJJ DOES NOT WORK WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND OFTEN TIMES TRIES TO RELEASE CHILDREN FROM CARE WHO HAVE COMMITTED CRIMES THAT MAKE THEM IMPOSSIBLE TO BE PLACED WITH OTHER AGENCIES. DJJ ALSO EXPECTS OTHER STATE AGENCIES TO OPERATE ON THEIR SCHEDULE AND REARRANGE THINGS AT THEIR REQUEST HOWEVER THEY LEAVE THEIR OFFICE MOST DAYS BEFORE 5PM AND OFTEN TIME DO NOT RETURN PHONE CALLS. The Evaluation process need to be looked at when it comes to juveniles returning from court that are comitted. There should be a transitions unit so they do not return to disrupt the evaluation process.
158	May 4, 2015 9:43 PM	

159	May 4, 2015 9:25 PM	Again, I think the system is broken. If any other state in the Union has a system that works, follow it.
160	May 4, 2015 9:20 PM	no comment they refuse to be involved in families lives until a child has committed a crime. our children if the state need their involvement before a crime has
161	May 4, 2015 9:11 PM	happened
162	May 4, 2015 8:57 PM	Hire/Increase in salary based on education level up date training, better pay, people in management need to have experience dealing with officers and juveniles in a correctional setting.
163	May 4, 2015 8:30 PM	Need to go back to the basics. I work for this agency and plan to continue working with this agency for as long as they will have me. I love the communication between frontline staff and the agency director, as well as lower level management staff. My only complaint with the agency is that I feel the salaries need to be evaluated. The amount of work put in does not equal the amount of pay, regardless of the
164	May 4, 2015 8:29 PM	benefits that are provided. Consider a wage that would support the eduational requirements of a Bachelors Degree. Most staff have 2nd jobs at the end of their agency work day and on weekends to support themselves and their
165	May 4, 2015 8:28 PM	student loan debt. Every year with no pay increase where there is an increase in Insurance cost (which is every year), most of the state employees experience a pay cut. After seven or so pay cuts, we end up practically
166	May 4, 2015 8:18 PM	paying the State to work here. True recidivism is very high. There is no way to measure the effectiveness of the "Treatment" Division. Too many state dollars spent on grounds beautification i.e. cutting grass in the same place 3 times a week; paid state employees picking up pinecones, raking straw, and blowing off parking lots when the juvenile offenders don't have anything to do. Some employees have not had
167	May 4, 2015 8:18 PM	pay raises in 10 years. The people that work with the juveniles are dedicated and committed. There was a void created in leadership that contributed to the criminality exhibited by the juveniles. While in pursuit of innovation the agency has seemingly abandoned best practices established. The new director is competant and effective. However, to addresses the concerns currently present the potential for loss for juveniles and the frontline
168	May 4, 2015 8:15 PM	staff that serve them is troubling. The pay is too low for their employees. Hard working employees do not get any rewards for
169	May 4, 2015 8:13 PM	working hard except more work.

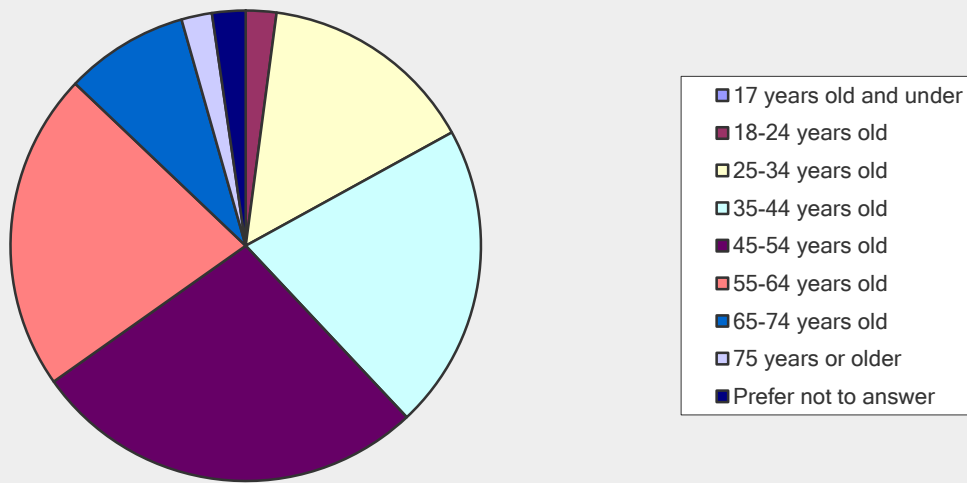
170	May 4, 2015 8:10 PM	DJJ functions very well in serving the public and in their attempts at rehabilitating juvenile offenders. Staff are resoponsive, and provide excellent service.
171	May 4, 2015 8:08 PM	More workers for larger counties so case workers can be more effective in the job. DJJ "front-line" employees are underpaid and overworked. The hiring process takes too long and therefore county offices are without the help they need.
172	May 4, 2015 8:06 PM	Need more staff. Need better pay.
173	May 4, 2015 8:06 PM	The hiring process is entirely to slow. The ability to suspend employees for policy violations are too slow. I have worked with SCDC and the process for hire and disciplinary issues moves a lot faster, making the job run better.
174	May 4, 2015 8:06 PM	Common sense & tougher penilities.
175	May 4, 2015 3:47 PM	The class action lawsuit and then the selections of Bill Byars and then Margaret Barber as Directors has resulted in a decade of change for DJJ. Improvements have not occurred overnight but they have been dramatic and have resulted in DJJ becoming a national leader in juvenile justice reform, which benefits the children/families of our state and which reflects positively on our state.
176	May 4, 2015 1:42 PM	Seem to be working hard to help kids, families, and communities
177	May 4, 2015 1:32 PM	their accounting staff is knowledgeable and conscientious.
178	May 4, 2015 12:41 PM	They attempt to work with their community partners and agencies. They need more funding to provide for transitional housing for kids 17-21 who have no where to go, otherwise they become career crimials.
179	May 4, 2015 3:14 AM	Not enough oversight on detainees to improve their rehab
180	May 2, 2015 2:58 PM	I believe the agency's financial management is excellent. One hears no bad news about DJJ's budget implementation.
181	May 2, 2015 12:52 PM	Lock the kids up don't waste mine or the tax payers money do the crime do the time
182	May 2, 2015 12:28 PM	They need to work more closely with social services in an effort to cure the REAL cause of juvenile problems
183	May 1, 2015 4:01 PM	
184	May 1, 2015 2:04 PM	Good, positive leadership even with difficult clients results in a true team making a real difference

Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

What is your age?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
17 years old and under	0.0%	0
18-24 years old	2.1%	26
25-34 years old	14.9%	185
35-44 years old	21.0%	261
45-54 years old	27.2%	337
55-64 years old	21.9%	272
65-74 years old	8.5%	105
75 years or older	2.1%	26
Prefer not to answer	2.3%	28
<i>answered question</i>		1240
<i>skipped question</i>		548

What is your age?

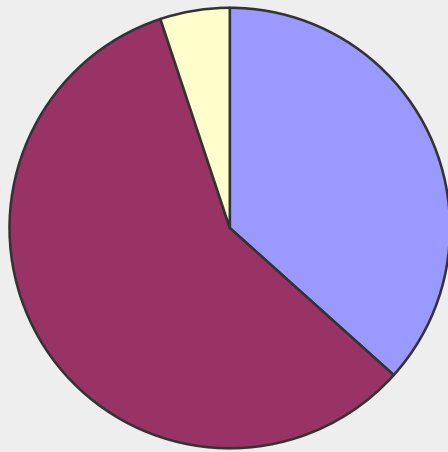


Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

Are there any children, seventeen years old and under, currently living in your home?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	36.6%	449
No	58.2%	714
Prefer not to answer	5.1%	63
<i>answered question</i>		1226
<i>skipped question</i>		562

Are there any children, seventeen years old and under, currently living in your home?

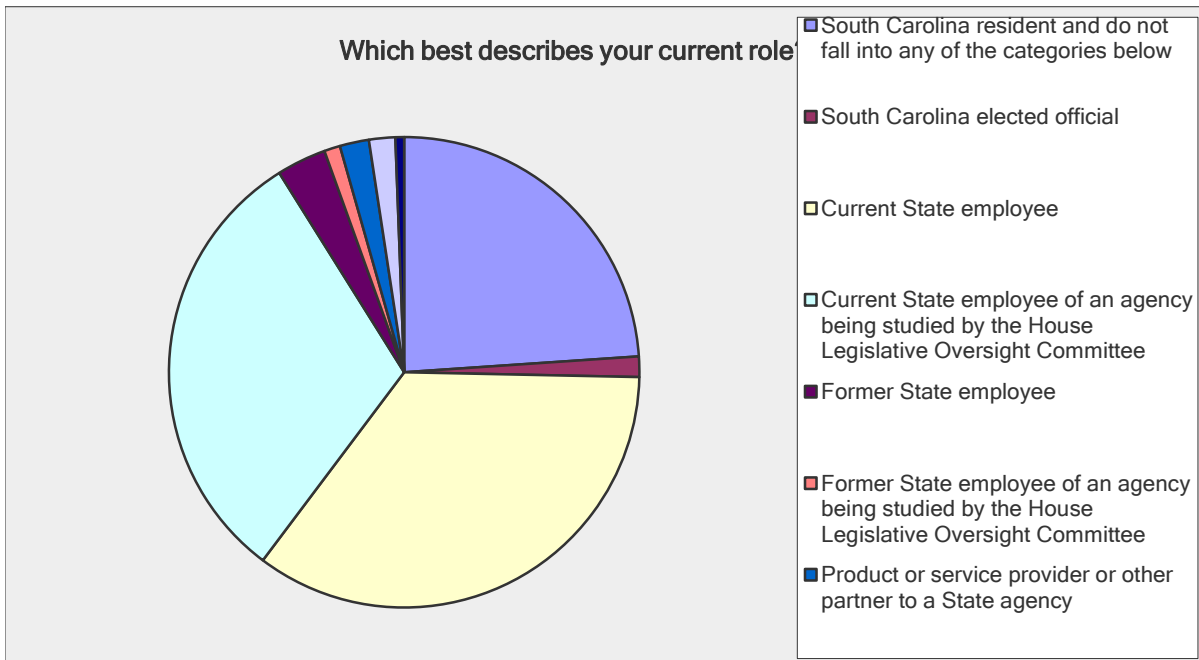


■ Yes
■ No
□ Prefer not to answer

Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

Which best describes your current role?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
South Carolina resident and do not fall into any of the	23.9%	288
South Carolina elected official	1.4%	17
Current State employee	34.9%	420
Current State employee of an agency being studied by	30.8%	371
Former State employee	3.4%	41
Former State employee of an agency being studied by	1.1%	13
Product or service provider or other partner to a State	2.0%	24
Product or service provider or other partner of an agency	1.8%	22
Not a South Carolina resident and do not fall into any of	0.6%	7
answered question		1203
skipped question		585



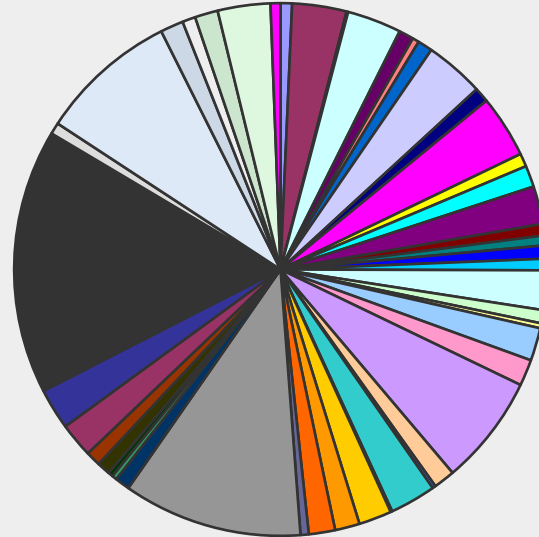
Provide Input to the South Carolina House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee

In which county do you live?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Abbeville	0.7%	8
Aiken	3.3%	39
Allendale	0.1%	1
Anderson	3.3%	40
Bamberg	0.9%	11
Barnwell	0.4%	5
Beaufort	0.9%	11
Berkeley	3.6%	43
Calhoun	0.9%	11
Charleston	3.8%	45
Cherokee	0.8%	10
Chester	1.3%	16
Chesterfield	2.3%	27
Clarendon	0.7%	8
Colleton	0.6%	7
Darlington	0.8%	9
Dillon	0.7%	8
Dorchester	2.4%	29
Edgefield	0.8%	9
Fairfield	0.3%	3
Florence	2.0%	24
Georgetown	1.6%	19
Greenville	6.7%	80
Greenwood	1.3%	16
Hampton	0.2%	2
Horry	2.8%	34
Jasper	0.1%	1
Kershaw	2.0%	24
Lancaster	1.5%	18
Laurens	1.6%	19
Lee	0.5%	6
Lexington	10.9%	131
Marion	0.9%	11
Marlboro	0.3%	4
McCormick	0.3%	3
Newberry	0.8%	10
Oconee	0.9%	11
Orangeburg	2.1%	25
Pickens	2.5%	30
Richland	16.1%	193
Saluda	0.7%	8
Spartanburg	8.4%	101
Sumter	1.4%	17
Union	0.8%	10
Williamsburg	1.4%	17

York	3.2%	38
Do not live in South Carolina	0.6%	7
	<i>answered question</i>	1199
	<i>skipped question</i>	589

In which county do you live?



- Abbeville
- Aiken
- Allendale
- Anderson
- Bamberg
- Barnwell
- Beaufort
- Berkeley
- Calhoun
- Charleston
- Cherokee
- Chester
- Chesterfield
- Clarendon
- Colleton
- Darlington
- Dillon
- Dorchester
- Edgefield
- Fairfield
- Florence
- Georgetown
- Greenville
- Greenwood
- Hampton
- Horry
- Jasper
- Kershaw
- Lancaster
- Laurens
- Lee
- Lexington
- Marion
- Marlboro
- McCormick
- Newberry
- Oconee
- Orangeburg
- Pickens
- Richland
- Saluda
- Spartanburg
- Sumter
- Union
- Williamsburg
- York
- Do not live in South Carolina