



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD
GOVERNOR

PO BOX 12267
COLUMBIA, SC 29211

FACT SHEET: 2007-2008 Executive Budget

- Fiscal Responsibility:*** Gov. Sanford's FY 2007-08 Executive Budget is a balanced, \$6.5 billion spending plan that holds government growth to a population plus inflation rate of 5.5 percent (excluding constitutionally mandated spending). The governor's budget addresses current and future liabilities by dedicating \$439 million toward previously-unfunded healthcare liabilities, \$41 million toward unfunded liabilities associated with the Tuition Prepayment Program, \$21 million toward repaying state debt, and holding annualizations to \$73 million.
- Taxpayer Dividend:*** By holding the line on spending to just over 5.5 percent growth, Gov. Sanford's budget will allow \$98 million in recurring revenue to be put toward income tax relief. The governor's budget also proposes a 30-cent increase to South Carolina's cigarette tax, which would generate another \$107 million to be put toward income tax relief. That \$205 million would be used to cut income taxes for individuals, businesses or some combination of the two.
- Job Creation:*** The Executive Budget recommends \$7 million for the S.C. Department of Commerce's closing fund to assist the Executive Branch in finalizing projects. The budget includes \$13.4 million in additional marketing dollars for the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism and \$10 million toward expanding Myrtle Beach International Airport in an effort to grow South Carolina's number one industry, tourism. Additional recommendations include \$100 million for a Port Access Road for the North Charleston Naval Base terminal project, and \$1.5 million for Clemson's International Center for Automotive Research.
- Savings:*** Gov. Sanford's FY 2007-08 Executive Budget proposes over \$92 million in specific cost savings and reinvests those funds in priority areas of education, job creation, healthcare and public safety.
- Restructuring:*** As part of the overall cost savings, Gov. Sanford's budget recommends agency realignment resulting in \$19 million in recurring savings.
- Education:*** The governor's budget fully funds the Base Student Cost with an additional \$94 million in recurring funds. In addition, the budget funds continuation of the state's 4k pilot program and puts \$1 million toward the Statewide Charter School District. The budget funds teacher salaries at \$300 above the Southeastern average.
- Law Enforcement:*** The Executive Budget includes funding for 295 new law enforcement officers, including 100 new Troopers, all part of \$25 million additional recurring dollars and \$47 million new one-time dollars for law enforcement.
- Healthcare:*** The budget recommends a \$60 million increase in Medicaid funding, as well as \$4 million for prevention partnership grants.
- Natural Resources:*** Gov. Sanford's budget plan adds \$20 million to the existing \$15 million in the Conservation Land Bank, for a total of \$35 million aimed at bolstering the state's ability to set aside ecologically important land.