



MASC Municipal Association
of South CarolinaSM

Legislative Process

January – June

The General Assembly meets annually in Columbia convening the second Tuesday in January and adjourning the first Thursday in June. In the event that legislators do not finish pending issues, leadership may call for a special session in late June or July to finish the state budget and gubernatorial vetoes. Municipal Association lobbyists and local officials work during the session on the proactive legislative initiatives adopted by the board of directors as well as other issues that arise during the session.

July

A year-end legislative review is distributed at the Association's Annual Meeting in July along with a recap of the legislative action of the session.

August

Municipal Association legislative staff begins meeting with legislators to shore up support and float ideas for possible legislation, while also reaching out to partner organizations to identify common interests and garner support for issues during the upcoming legislative session.

September – October

Local officials around the state participate in a series of ten Regional Advocacy Meetings to discuss local challenges and possible legislative solutions with the Association's legislative staff. In 2014, legislators were invited to join the group for lunch to share their thoughts on the upcoming session and local priorities.

November

The Municipal Association staff synthesizes the information from the Regional Advocacy Meetings into a draft agenda and presents it to the Association's legislative committee. After the legislative committee approves the agenda, the legislative committee chair presents the recommendations to the full Municipal Association board of directors. The board approves the agenda during the fall board retreat.

December

Legislative priorities are rolled out to the full membership, partner organizations, legislators and news media through a press release, blog posts, *Uptown* articles, affiliate meetings and social media.
