



Berkeley County Government

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 20, 2019

Contact: Public Information Officer

Berkeley County Answers Questions about new Boundary Line

MONCKS CORNER, S.C. - (Monday, May 20, 2019) Berkeley County would like to welcome all new citizens, specifically in the area that was formerly governed by Dorchester County. The boundary dispute between Berkeley and Dorchester Counties was resolved on November 7, 2018 by the South Carolina Geodetic Survey. As a result, Berkeley County's boundary has been clarified to include approximately 2,900 acres of land that was formerly in Dorchester County, referred to as the "transition area". This includes approximately 329 parcels. A map showing the boundary line can be found here: https://gis.berkeleycountysc.gov/maps/new_zoning/

Berkeley County Government mailed letters on Thursday, May 16, 2019 to provide important information to Berkeley County citizens. Those FAQ's are outlined below.

Additionally, citizens will have an opportunity to publicly discuss the transition area at the Berkeley County Council meeting on **Tuesday, May 28**. Those wishing to speak must sign up at the meeting, prior to the beginning of the meeting. The County Council meeting will begin at 6 p.m. and will be held in the assembly room of the Berkeley County Administration building, located at 1003 Highway 52 in Moncks Corner.

Residents should be aware of the followings FAQ's:

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- Q: *Who will provide emergency services to those in the transition area?*
 - A: Those with an emergency should immediately call 911.
 - A: Berkeley County has responded to emergencies in the transition area since January 2019. Emergency responders will continue to provide service to all of Berkeley County.
 - A: The mutual aid agreements that were in place prior to the boundary line shift are still active. For questions about specific emergency departments, please contact the following.
 - **Berkeley County Sheriff's Office:** 843-723-3800
 - **Fire services:** The responding fire service depends on the location of the emergency. Maps here show the fire districts in the Northern and Southern part of the transition area:
https://gis.berkeleycountysc.gov/PDF/New_Berkeley_Area_Fire_Districts_North.pdf
https://gis.berkeleycountysc.gov/PDF/New_Berkeley_Area_Fire_Districts_South.pdf

The fire departments, phone numbers and chiefs are listed below.

1. Lebanon Fire Department: 843-688-4074, Chief Nicky Sweatman
2. C&B Fire Department: 843-873-0714, Chief Joshua Woodall
3. Pineridge Fire Department: 843-875-1822, Chief Benjamin Waring

- **Emergency Medical Services**

A: Berkeley County Emergency Medical Services has been and will continue to respond to emergencies in Berkeley County.

- Q: *Where should one go to drop off trash? Which County will provide trash pick-up services?*
 - A: The transition parcels are eligible for trash pick-up services by Republic Services at the Berkeley County Franchise area rate. Those with questions should call Republic Services at 843-552-4751 or Berkeley County Solid Waste Department at 843-719-2386.
 - A: Residents may drop-off their solid waste at any Berkeley County Convenience Center or Drop-Off Site. The closest locations to those in the transition area are Oakley Road, located at 606 Oakley Road, Moncks Corner, SC 29461 and Poplar Hill, located at 1029 Poplar Hill Road, Ridgeville, SC 29472. Information about Convenience Center and Drop Site locations, hours of operation, and the types of solid waste that are accepted at each facility is found here:
<https://bcws.berkeleycountysc.gov/departments/solid-waste/>
- Q: *Who will maintain County Roads?*
 - A: Berkeley County Roads & Bridges Department will provide road maintenance and repairs for roads that were formerly-maintained by Dorchester County. To reach the Roads & Bridges Department, call 843-719-4129.
 - State roads will continue to be maintained by South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), from the Moncks Corner or St. George office.
 - Moncks Corner SCDOT office: 843-761-8481
 - St. George SCDOT office: 843-563-3451
- Q: *Will Berkeley County will be responsible for water and sewer services in the transition area?*
 - A: Current utility providers will remain unchanged.
- Q: *Where will those in the transition area vote? Do you need to change your voter registration?*
 - A: New polling locations and district lines are currently being established by the State Legislature. When the County Boundary was changed, it left a gap between our precinct boundary and the new county boundary. Since all precincts are coded in law, the County cannot make any changes until the precincts are updated by the General Assembly. Senator Larry Grooms and Senator Paul Campbell have introduced the legislation in the Senate, with help from the S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office – Precinct Demographics team. The bill is in committee and was written with an effective date of any election taking place after June 30, 2019. Once this law goes into effect, Berkeley County can then get the voters registered in the correct place and will mail a card letting them know their new polling location and districts. Anyone affected, who was registered in Dorchester County, will be notified. **This will all be done prior to any November Municipal Elections in 2019.**
 - For more information on voter registration and elections, call 843-719-4056.
- Q: *Who is the Council District Representative?*
 - A: Councilman Caldwell Pinckney currently serves District 7, which includes the transition area. He can be reached via email at:
Caldwell.pinckney@berkeleycountysc.gov
 - All County Council members' information can be found here:
<https://www.berkeleycountysc.gov/drupal/county/officials>
- Q: *Where do residents in the transition area pay their taxes?*
 - A: Residents pay taxes at the County Administration building or online at www.berkeleycountysc.gov. The County Administration building is located at 1003 Highway 52 in Moncks Corner, SC. To reach the tax assessor's office, please call 843-723-3800.
- Q: *What is the status of any zoning changes related to the transition of my property to Berkeley County?*
 - A: In March 2019, mailers were sent out to unincorporated property owners affected by the "Transition Area" explaining the process and recommended zoning districts. The rezoning process is underway, and the Planning Commission made recommendations for these properties for County Council's consideration. A

more detailed description of the process and scheduled County Council meetings is available on the Planning Department's webpage at:

<https://www.berkeleycountysc.gov/drupal/dept/planning>.

If you have any questions about the zoning district that has been recommended for property that you own within the "Transition Area", please contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 843-719-4095.

TO ACCESS AN INTERACTIVE WEB MAP SHOWING THE ZONING DISTRICT AND FUTURE LAND USE MAP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR PROPERTY, PLEASE SELECT THE LINK HERE:
http://gis.berkeleycountysc.gov/maps/new_zoning/

Please note that after adoption of Zoning District Recommendations by County Council, a property owner or his/her authorized agent, may at his/her discretion, request a change in the zoning that was established for the affected property by submitting an "Application for Rezoning" and any necessary supporting documentation to the Berkeley County Planning and Zoning Department pursuant to the typical processes and deadlines as established in Article 22 of the Berkeley County Zoning Ordinance. **If an "Application for Rezoning" is submitted within six (6) months from the date that the Zoning District Recommendations are approved and adopted by County Council, the Department will waive the application fee.** You can find the application form here at:

https://www.berkeleycountysc.gov/drupal/sites/default/files/dept/Rezoning%20Application_2019.pdf

- How are students who are now zoned for Berkeley County School District impacted by this boundary shift?
 - A: Please contact Berkeley County School District, Dorchester District 4, or Dorchester District 2 to determine the plan for students.

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- Prepared by the Berkeley County Public Information Office -