



## Fast Facts

### South Carolina Policy Council

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## Budget Watch 2011: *The Spending Train Returns*

*Government spending grew every year from 2002 to 2009. In 2010, the overall budget decreased by less than a half of 1 percent – not because lawmakers cut spending, but because revenues dropped. This year's budget continues down the same path...*

- South Carolina lawmakers are on track to pass the largest budget in state history. It's **\$1.37 billion more than last year's total budget.**
- Every part of this year's budget is **larger than last year's** – the General Fund is up by \$957 million, Fines and Fees are up by \$246 million, and Federal Funds are up by \$168 million.
- With the economy still on the ropes, the General Fund alone is set to **grow a record 19 percent.**
- Combined, federal, state, and local government spending in South Carolina amounts to **40.5 percent of the state economy.**
- Over the last ten years, **state spending has grown at almost twice the rate of incomes.** State spending grew by 44 percent while per capita income increased by only 24 percent.
- As spending has grown, the state's economy has faltered. South Carolina has one of the **slowest rates of private sector growth in the nation.**
- The budget has **increased faster than inflation** in 7 of the last 10 years.
- In this year's budget, Medicaid spending has gone from **\$724 million to \$917 million** – a 26 percent increase.
- South Carolina government is more than \$40 billion in debt – **22 percent of the economy.** That's the 4th highest in the nation.
- Amount of anticipated surplus this year's budget will return to taxpayers: **\$0.00.**

## Budget Watch 2011, contd.

*Legislators are insisting that state government “can’t afford” to return any surplus revenues to the taxpayer. Instead, here are just a few of the ways they’re planning to spend your money . . .*

- Tourism marketing campaigns
- “Economic development” schemes
- A state plane
- Recruiting filmmakers
- Private trade associations
- The Boll Weevil Eradication Program
- Etc., etc., etc.