



## ***LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 3/31/06***

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On Thursday the House gave final approval on a \$6.3 billion budget. The House also moved forward two other controversial bills that would spend \$230 million on new programs, higher education, and construction projects. Charleston and Beaufort Counties lost \$20 million in funding to their school districts making it difficult for their delegations to support the proposed budget. The decrease was due to the way the state formula calculates school funding. One important note, the House also gave approval for around \$2.6 million in sewer and other improvement grants for rural government.

A Senate Finance Subcommittee met again Tuesday and Thursday to discuss proposed property tax reform plans. As we understand the Subcommittee gave approval to a proposal that will increase the state sales tax by 1 cent and the revenue generated will provide relief to the school operations part of property tax. A \$300,000 homestead exemption and homeowners will pay **no more** than 5% of their income on property taxes, which is a concept called a “circuit breaker”. **Please contact your Senator on the Finance Committee list provided and ask, *what impact will the proposed property tax plan have on funding my special purpose district?***

### ***Update on Eminent Domain***

A Senate Subcommittee began debate on their version of the Eminent Domain bill, **S.1030**. Currently this bill does not change the way SPD’s can exercise their power of Eminent Domain. Also, the bill does not include the “takings legislation”; however there will be a strong push by certain organizations to include it in the Senate bill. The subcommittee did not meet this week but is expected to meet next week. Members of the Senate Subcommittee include: Senator Gregory (Chair), Senator Elliot, Senator Ford, Senator Rankin, Senator Sheheen, and Senator Campsen.

***There is still time!***  
***Register now, for the 2006 SPD Leadership Program!***  
***Tuesday, April 25, 2006***  
***(Registration 9:30 am)***  
***10:00 am – 4:00 pm***  
***The Summit Club***  
***Columbia, SC***