



June 19, 2023

The Honorable Mike Barnes
Greenville County Council
301 University Ridge, Suite 2400
Greenville SC 29601

RE: June 20, 2023, Greenville County Council Budget Vote

Dear Councilman Barnes:

As Greenville County Republican Party (GCRP) county & precinct leaders representing all the voting precincts in your district, we have many questions about the expansive 2023-25 biennial budget up for third reading on Tuesday, June 20th. There is substantial confusion among voters in the district and all across Greenville County as to specifics surrounding the budget appropriations, the process and who had input in that process, and the need for a tax increase during these tough economic times. This current budget and tax increase appears purposefully rushed to avoid transparency and public input.

The majority of our fellow District voters are a “NO” for any tax increases without substantial transparency as to the need for such an increase. If you are unable to find a solution to the budget (*with no tax increases*), we would respectfully request for the vote on the budget on Tuesday to be **(#1) appropriately delayed / tabled for six months** and **(#2) to have public hearings for reviewing the budget needs prior to another vote**. We would also like to ask county administrator, **Joe Kernell**, to personally present and answer questions in these public hearings as to the budget and any tax increases.

“Yes” votes by Republican Councilmen Tuesday *which includes a millage increase*, will lead to:

- 1) Censure by the Precincts in your District as well as the full Greenville County Republican Party,
- 2) Securing and supporting primary candidates willing to support the SC Republican Platform.

Thank you for all you do for the great State of South Carolina as we pray for God to fill you with wisdom and guide your steps.

Sincerely,

**Yvonne Julian, Chairman
GCRP**

**Joe Dill, 1st Vice Chair
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**Jeff Davis, State EC
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