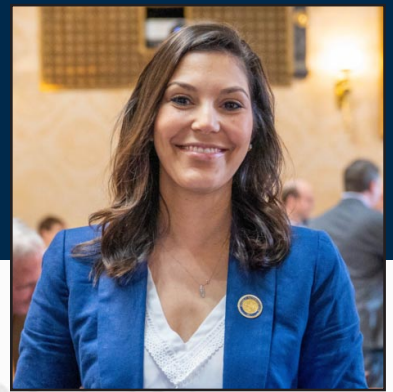


FAWN PEDALINO

Representing State House District 64- Clarendon & Sumter Counties

2024 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



Dear District 64 Friends and Neighbors:

My second year in the State House has been a very busy one. As I believe strongly in transparency and accountability, I'm sending this report about what we've been doing in Columbia. What your elected officials do has great impact upon our communities and it's a trust we must take very seriously.

As my first term in the House is wrapping up, I realize how fortunate I am to have the support of my fellow legislators as well as many of you back home. Thank you for your prayers, support, and encouragement.

I serve on the House's "3M" Committee - Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs. Serving on this Committee has given me an opportunity to work on a number of issues important to our district. On this committee, we've worked to address rural health care, support first responders and do more to look out for our military veterans. As a former EMT, it means a lot to put my experience to work to do more for those who do so much to keep us safe!

The single most important thing the Legislature does every year is pass a state budget. I was proud to support this year's budget that does three key things: Invest in state infrastructure, pay our public servants better and return dollars back to taxpayers. Here are some highlights from this year's budget:

Income Tax Cut: This year, the House budget will cut our rate down from 6.4% to 6.3%. The rate will continue to be lowered until it reaches 6%. Once fully implemented, this will save South Carolina taxpayers \$1 billion annually.

Teacher Pay Increase & More for Education: This budget will provide a \$4,500 pay increase in the starting teacher salary schedule, raising the starting pay to \$47,000. This represents over a \$13,000 increase since the 2018-2019 school year. It also provides funding for additional school resource officers.

More Road Funding: The House budget also proposes to provide \$200 million to expedite our bridge replacements. This request made by SCDOT will accelerate our current bridge replacement program and is extremely important for those of us in more rural areas of the state.

College Tuition Freeze: For the sixth year in a row, we are freezing the cost of tuition at Universities and Technical college systems. This will help make college more affordable for those who are struggling to take this important step forward in their lives.

Reserve Funds: This budget plans ahead by adding \$24 million to our general reserve fund. Our state will now have over \$1.1 billion dollars in reserves for future emergencies, should they arise. I am a strong supporter of planning ahead for future needs.

In the rest of this legislative update report, I'll discuss some of the legislation that was passed into law by the General Assembly this year.

My FIRST priority is to be here when you need me! If you have questions or concerns about these issues - or any other issues of concern to you - please contact me ANYTIME.

Yours truly,

Fawn Pedalino

An important part of my job is to ensure local needs are addressed. To help meet these needs, I submit budget and grant requests for local governments and organizations which have qualifying needs.

Here are some funding requests I have submitted in the last two years:

Public Safety

Clarendon County - Davis Station Fire Rescue Station Replacement
\$550,000

Sumter County Sheriff's Office - Phase II of Training Center
\$879,000

Clarendon County - Turbeville Area Fire Station
\$1,000,000



Local Government Aid

Clarendon County - Newman Branch Swamp Flood Prevention
\$950,000

Clarendon County - North Shore Development
\$700,000

Town of Turbeville - Town Hall Renovations
\$40,000

Education & Youth Development
BRAVO Foundation of Clarendon County - Teacher Innovation & Service Learning Grant Program
\$50,000

Turbeville Children's Home
\$100,000

Turbeville Library - Books, computers, desks & startup costs.
\$50,000

Camp Happy Days - Youth camp in Summerton
\$500,000



Keep in touch with Representative Pedalino!
fawnsc.com FawnPedalino 803-566-0120

Here's some of what the General Assembly has been doing this year:

In the two-year legislative session which just wrapped up, over 230 bills became law, touching many aspects of our lives. While there is a lot to choose from, I wanted to focus on an assortment of some of the laws we were able to get passed into law before we adjourned this year.

Protecting Children (House Bill 3424): I believe all of us will agree explicit material on the internet has not had a positive impact on society but more importantly the youth of America. This session we passed a bill which requires pornographic websites to require age verification. The access to materials that all of us would find inappropriate for children is sadly now available with just the click of a mouse or a google search. Red and Blue states around the country have joined this effort to require this simple step for people to access these sites. I am proud to vote to have South Carolina join them. Protecting children should be one of our state's top priorities.

Telehealth (House Bill 4159): Telehealth is changing how healthcare is delivered all over the world and can help improve health care in rural districts like this House district. The South Carolina Telehealth and Telemedicine Modernization act will ensure that the standards of telehealth are the same as those who see physicians in person. This bill which the House voted on last year was adopted by the Senate this year.

Supporting Our Veterans (House Bill 3116): I proudly voted for a bill that extends property tax exemptions to permanently and totally disabled veterans and thoughtfully amended by the Senate, to their surviving spouses. This bill is a great way for us to honor our veterans and their families who sacrificed so much for us. Never forget to thank the veterans in your life every chance you get.

"Firefighter Cancer Health Care Benefit Plan" (Senate Bill 728): This legislation will provide insurance coverage for firefighters who are diagnosed with cancer, including volunteer firefighters, who are the backbone of our area's first responder ranks. Local firefighters were vocal on this issue and I was glad to support them. There was a companion bill in the House (House Bill 4680) which came through my committee, which I also supported.

Mobile Optometry Services (House Bill 4333): Like telehealth, mobile health services, including mobile optometry services, are vital in rural areas. This legislation will allow non-profit organizations to operate, providing much needed assistance to lower-income families.

Robert Smalls Monument (House Bill 5042): Our State House complex honors individuals, groups and important moments in South Carolina history. Robert Smalls was an inspirational and courageous individual who, along with his family, staged a daring escape from slavery during the Civil War. After the war, he settled down in Beaufort and became a prominent public and business leader. Smalls also served in the State House, State Senate and U.S. House. I was proud to be a co-sponsor of legislation to place a memorial to Robert Smalls on the State House grounds.

Election Integrity (Senate Bill 1126): In a bi-partisan vote, a Constitutional Amendment will be considered by the voters to make a one-word change. That change is to say "Only" Citizens can vote in elections in South Carolina. Only citizens are allowed to vote now in federal and state elections, but this would stop cities from allowing non-citizens to vote in municipal elections as some have across the country. This question will be on the ballot this year for you to ratify.

Penalties for Phones in Prisons (House Bill 4002): Inmates with phones in prison have coordinated criminal activities from behind bars. They have even gone so far as to coordinate riots and plan hits from their prison cells. This bill creates penalties for inmates who use and possess phones in prison. This will help keep corrections staff and the general public safer. I supported this much-needed legislation, which passed both the House and Senate unanimously.

Sales Tax Exemption for Feminine Hygiene Products (House Bill 3563): Many people are unaware that South Carolina does not charge a sales tax on medication because people should not be punished with a tax on something like medicine that they need to survive. A similar kind of logic should apply to feminine hygiene products which women must use and if they don't, can have serious health consequences. This year we corrected that mistake by adding them to the current medical sales tax exemption. This bill passed unanimously in both bodies and I was glad to support this legislation.

Seizure Safety Programs in Schools (House Bill 3309): This new law requires school districts and charter schools to train their staff in how to recognize signs of seizures as well as how to respond in these situations. This training would include how to administer any prescribed medications.

Work Zone Safety Education (House Bill 5023): In case you didn't know it, any work zone is far more dangerous, statistically speaking, than roadways where work is not taking place. Also, the vast majority of serious injuries and deaths in work zone traffic incidents are motorists, not workers. This bill requires that the drivers' license test include education about work zone safety. This can make our work zones safer for everyone. I was one of the co-sponsors of this new law.

If you would like to see what other legislation was passed this year, you can view a full searchable report online at <https://www.scstatehouse.gov/legislation.php>.

About Representative Fawn Pedalino:



- * Married to Joe Pedalino, mother of two children: Selah and Rumer
- * Licensed Realtor
- * Small Business owner
- * 10 years' experience as an EMT
- * Volunteer, Can Do Camp for burned children
- * Member, National Association of Realtors
- * Sumter Board of Realtors

State House Service:

- * Interstate Cooperation
- * Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs
- * State Child Fatality Advisory Committee

Follow the General Assembly Online

<https://scstatehouse.gov>

Download the SC Legislature Mobile App

<https://scstatehouse.gov/mobileappinfo.php>

State Government Online Resources

General Assembly Website

<http://www.scstatehouse.gov>

Governor's Office

<http://governor.sc.gov>

S.C. Department of Education

<http://ed.sc.gov>

S.C. Department of Revenue

<http://dor.sc.gov>

S.C. Department of Transportation

<http://www.scdot.org>

Always Here for YOU!

In serving in the House, I've learned there is a "60-30-10" rule of thumb to serving in the General Assembly:

The first **sixty percent** is assisting residents with issues related to state agencies or other governmental entities.

Thirty percent is identifying proposed legislation that is not in our best interests and working to either amend these bills or helping to stop them.

The final **ten percent** is promoting new, good legislation that improves our state and it's citizens lives.

Please let me know if I can be of assistance!

Want to Visit Me at the State House?

The General Assembly is in session on weekdays, usually from late January through May each year. Please take some time to come see state government at work!

If you are coming to visit, please contact me and let me know BEFORE you come. The more advance notice you provide, the better.

My legislative office is Room 314-A at the Blatt Building at the State House Complex in Columbia.



Keep in touch with Representative Pedalino!
fawnsc.com  [FawnPedalino](https://www.facebook.com/FawnPedalino)  803-566-0120