




**SOUTH CAROLINA
REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE**

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MEMORANDUM

To: County Auditors
School Superintendents
Municipal Officials

From: Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director 

Date: February 4, 2026

Subject: Millage Rate Increase Limitation for FY 2026-27 - Inflation Component

This memo is to provide an update regarding the millage rate increase limitations for local jurisdictions for FY 2026-27. While the full millage rate limits will be provided later as the population data become available, we would like to advise you on the inflation component.

The millage rate increase limitation as defined in SC Code of Law § 6-1-320 is the increase in the Consumer Price Index for the preceding calendar year plus the percentage increase for the previous year in the population of the entity as determined by the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office. The Consumer Price Index increased 2.63 percent from calendar year 2024 to calendar year 2025. This is the figure we will use for the calculation of the millage rate increase limits. Each political entity's limit will be based upon 2.63 percent plus any increase in population as applicable.

The millage rate increase limitations for counties and school districts will be published following the release of the 2025 county population estimates by the US Census Bureau. The millage rate increase limitations for municipalities will be published following the release of the 2025 population estimates for incorporated places. For your information, we have included the current release schedule as published by the US Census Bureau below.

Census Bureau Population Release Dates (as of February 3, 2026):

Counties: March 2026

Incorporated Places: May 2026

We hope that this information will be helpful to local governments in planning for their budgets. If we may be of additional assistance, please feel free to contact Mary Katherine Miller at marykatherine.miller@rfa.sc.gov or (803) 734-3322.