The information provided here is for informational and educational purposes and current as of the date of publication. The information is not a substitute for legal advice and does not necessarily reflect the opinion or policy position of the Municipal Association of South Carolina. Consult your attorney for advice concerning specific situations.

SOUTH CAROLINA DOR DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Alcohol Beverage Licensing

AUDIT, LICENSING & ENFORCEMENT | TAMMY SULLIVAN & DANIELLE WALKER

Ownership

- Sole Proprietor
  - Individual owner
- Corporations
  - All officers and owners divulging 100% ownership
- Partnerships
  - All partners must be divulged
- Limited Liability Companies (LLC)
  - If managed by **members**, all members must be divulged
  - If managed by **managers**, all managers and any members holding 25% interest or more must be divulged

Any employee that has day-to-day operational management responsibilities

Beer And Wine Requirements

- **OFF PREMISE:** Only needs a permanent location
- **ON PREMISE:** Needs a permanent location and functioning restroom for customers

Liquor By The Drink (PLB, PLC)

- Restaurant
- Hotel
- Nonprofit Organization

Restaurant

- Seating for 40 (seats at the bar do not count)
- Separate kitchen
- Working grill, stove, microwave
- 21 cubic feet cold storage (food only)
- Menu or sign listing meals
- Adequate food on the premise to feed 40 a hot meal
- Hot meals during normal mealtimes

Restaurant (Continued)

- Grade A from Department of Agriculture
- Restrooms available to customers

Hotels

- Must have at least 18 rooms to rent to the public for lodging
- Rooms must be contiguous
- Places that rent condos, Airbnb's, or other forms of lodging may not always qualify as a hotel
- Management agreements, property management agreements, and food and beverage agreements help determine who has control over the premises and should be the license holder

SOUTH CAROLINA DOR DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Nonprofit (Private Club)

- Bona fide nonprofit organizations
- Fixed method of electing members
- Collect dues on monthly, quarterly, or annually basis
- Dues must be used to maintain the organization
- Elected board of directors
- Must not be open to the public, must have limited membership

SOUTH CAROLINA DOR DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Nonprofit (Private Club) continued

- Functioning restrooms
- If the organization ceases operations, all assets must be turned over to another nonprofit. No member or shareholder may be given any assets

Retail Liquor Store (PRL)

- Allows the sale of liquor to-go in sealed containers only
- No other goods or wares may be sold
- Limit of six licenses may be issued to one licensee

Brewery

- **Instate Brewery (PWY):** A brewery operated for the production of any beer, ale, porter, or other similar malt or fermented beverage containing no more than 14% alcohol by weight
- May hold a liquor by the drink and on-premise beer and wine permit

Wineries

- **Instate Winery (PWY):** Manufactures or blends wines using fruit and berries, the majority of which are grown out-of-state
- **Domestic Winery (PDW):** Manufactures or blends wines using fruits and berries, the majority (60%) of which are grown in-state
- **7-Day Winery (P7W):** Manufactures or blends wines using fruits and berries, all of which are harvested, processed, fermented, bottled and sold at the same contiguous location

Instate Liquor Producers (PML,PMD)

- **Liquor Manufacturer:** Distills, rectifies, brews, ferments, blends, or bottles alcoholic liquors
- **Micro-Distillery:** Distills, blends, and bottles alcoholic liquors on the premises with an alcohol content greater than 17% and produces a maximum of 125,00 cases per year

- May apply for liquor by the drink and on-premise beer and wine

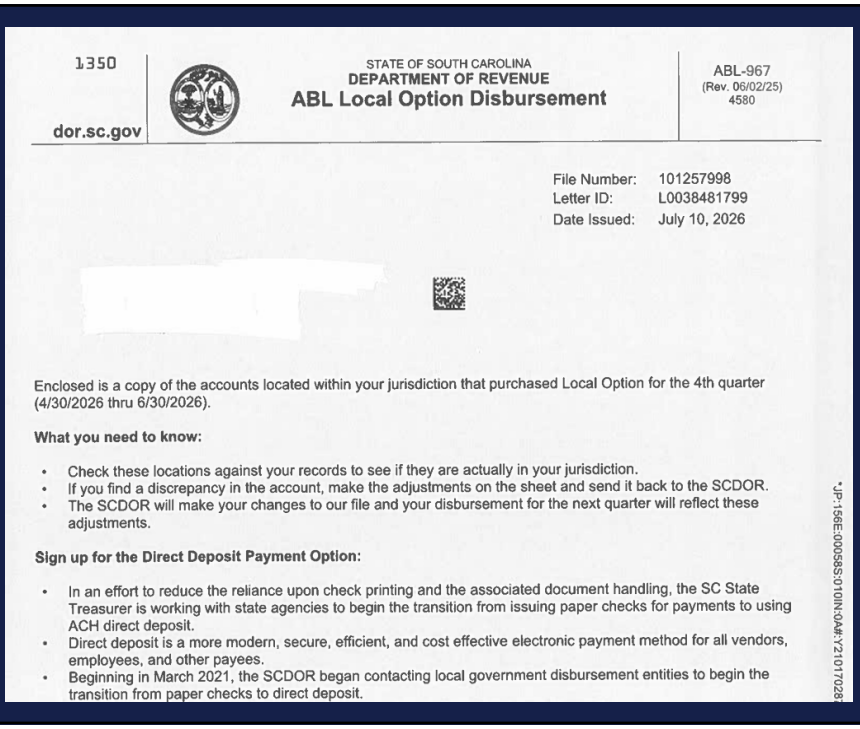
Local Option Permits (LOP)

- Only in cities or counties that have passed a favorable referendum
- Allows restaurants and hotels to sell on premise liquor by the drink on Sundays
- On Sundays ***only*** from 12 a.m. – 2 a.m. and 10 a.m. – 11:59 p.m.

LOPs

- **Single Sunday LOP:** May purchase a single Sunday or as many as you like. The fee is $200 per Sunday
- **Annual 52 week LOP:** May purchase 52 consecutive Sundays for $3,050
- ***Apply on MyDORWAY until noon Saturday for faster processing!***

SOUTH CAROLINA DOR DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE



1350

dor.sc.gov

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
ABL Local Option Disbursement

ABL-967
(Rev. 06/02/25)
4580

File Number: 101257998
Letter ID: L0038481799
Date Issued: July 10, 2026

Enclosed is a copy of the accounts located within your jurisdiction that purchased Local Option for the 4th quarter (4/30/2026 thru 6/30/2026).

What you need to know:

- Check these locations against your records to see if they are actually in your jurisdiction.
- If you find a discrepancy in the account, make the adjustments on the sheet and send it back to the SCDOR.
- The SCDOR will make your changes to our file and your disbursement for the next quarter will reflect these adjustments.

Sign up for the Direct Deposit Payment Option:

- In an effort to reduce the reliance upon check printing and the associated document handling, the SC State Treasurer is working with state agencies to begin the transition from issuing paper checks for payments to using ACH direct deposit.
- Direct deposit is a more modern, secure, efficient, and cost effective electronic payment method for all vendors, employees, and other payees.
- Beginning in March 2021, the SCDOR began contacting local government disbursement entities to begin the transition from paper checks to direct deposit.



GL Code: 1-04-003970 Local Option Permit Sunday

County Code:

City Code:

Business Name	File Number	Address	Zip	Allocation Amount
BLU MARTINI	320377640	1 COLLEGE ST GREENVILLE SC 29601-2009 USA	29601-2009	$150.00
DOC'S TAVERN	106497808	1178 WOODRUFF RD STE 8&9 GREENVILLE SC 29607-4130 USA	29607-4130	-$1,350.00
LA BARRITA	122673909	2217 W BLUE RIDGE DR GREENVILLE SC 29611-3645 USA	29611-3645	$600.00
LARKINS "L"	115538864	211 E BROAD ST STE B GREENVILLE SC 29601-2813 USA	29601-2813	$450.00
LARKINS SAWMILL	115495213	22 GRAVES DR GREENVILLE SC 29609-3801 USA	29609-3801	$750.00
MARISCOS EL CHEF DE NAYARIT LLC	121961733	1791 WOODRUFF RD STE F GREENVILLE SC 29607-5964 USA	29607-5964	$450.00
OLIVE GARDEN ITALIAN RESTAURANT THE	320394943	3290 N PLEASANTBURG DR GREENVILLE SC 29609-2925 USA	29609-2925	$150.00
POMEGRANATE ON MAIN	109037970	618 S MAIN ST GREENVILLE SC 29601-2505 USA	29601-2505	$150.00
RICK ERWINS WEST END GRILLE	320715927	648 S MAIN ST GREENVILLE SC 29601 USA	29601-9601	$150.00
SHARKEYS PUB LLC	111521942	112 N MAIN ST GREENVILLE SC 29601-2721 USA	29601-2721	$150.00
THE ANCHORAGE	115634634	586 PERRY AVE GREENVILLE SC 29611-4852 USA	29611-4852	$150.00
THE OTTARAY	106788085	1418 LAURENS RD GREENVILLE SC 29607-2350	29607-2350	$600.00

Renewals

- Licenses must be renewed every 2 years
- The renewal schedule is based on the county where the business is located
- Renewal notices are mailed 60 days in advance
- ***Renew online through MyDORWAY for faster processing!***

SOUTH CAROLINA DOR DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

RENEWAL CYCLE

	Odd Years	Even Years
February	Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley	Charleston, Clarendon, Colleton, Dorchester, Georgetown, Hampton, Jasper, Williamsburg
May	Cherokee, Chester, Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Fairfield, Florence, Horry	Lancaster, Marion, Marlboro, Union, York
August	Calhoun, Kershaw, Lee, Orangeburg, Sumter	Richland, Out of State
November	Abbeville, Aiken, Anderson, Edgefield, Greenville, Greenwood	Laurens, Lexington, McCormick, Newberry, Oconee, Pickens, Saluda, Spartanburg

Renewal: Denial

- **Why would my renewal be denied?**
  - If any principals have an outstanding debt with the SCDOR
  - Failure to file your SC Income Tax returns
  - Failure to list a principal
  - Failure to answer a question on the form
  - Change of ownership
  - Failure to attach required documents

SOUTH CAROLINA DOR DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Public Protests

The public has a right to protest a location applying for or renewing an alcohol license. **There are two ways to protest:**

- Newspaper advertisement
- SLED's Notice of Application sign on the location

The protest must be received by the SCDOR ***no later than 15 days*** from the date the proposed location was posted by SLED or the date to protest as sworn in the Notice of Advertisement in the newspaper, whichever is later.

SOUTH CAROLINA DOR DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Public Protest (continued)

Submit the **ABL-20 form** to the SCDOR to notify us that you are protesting a location. **For protest to be valid:**

- You must submit the ABL-20 form
- You must live in the same county and/or within five miles of the location you are protesting
- You must be willing to attend a court case hearing at the Administrative Law Court.
- You must have protested by the deadline for the SLED's posted sign or Newspaper Affidavit

SOUTH CAROLINA DOR DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Special Events

- Is there a mobile license available?
  - **No**
- A Special Event Permit/License is for fairs and special functions
- On premise sales **only**
- Special event applications: ABL-900 and ABL-909
  - ***Now available online through MyDORWAY for faster processing***
- Application must be submitted at least 3 days prior to the event

Do I need a license for my event?

- A license or permit is required when beer, wine, or liquor are sold.
- **A sale is considered to take place if:**
  - There is a per drink charge
  - An admission fee is charged
  - A donation is accepted
  - Tickets are sold with respect to the event where these beverages are provided
  - Such beverages are provided as part of a meal
  - Any consideration is accepted or required with respect to the event where these beverages are provided.

Nail Salons/Barbershops

- **License is required**
- You must pay for a service to receive the complimentary drink

Unless anyone who walks in is offered the same drink without having to pay for the service*

Eventbrite/Ticketmaster Sales

- **License is required**
- Bottle service is illegal
- Cannot have one party selling online and a separate party selling at the location
- Owe Admissions tax
- Owe Sales tax

Unlicensed Social Functions

- The person holding the function may provide beer, wine, or liquor at no charge or without consideration or form of payment.
- The product must be purchased from a retailer.
- Once the host of the event hires someone else to provide the beer, wine or liquor, **a license is required.**
- Hiring bartending services is ok without a license, if they are only providing and being paid for the service.
- ***Example: A wedding without a cash bar***

Who should apply for the event?

- The entity that is selling the tickets, charging admissions, or receiving the funds from a cash (direct pay) bar.
- An entity that is receiving donations.

******Only nonprofit organizations registered with the SC Secretary of State's office can apply for liquor at a special event.***

Can you partner with a non-profit on a special event?

- **No**, for the nonprofit to be the license holder, they must receive 100% of all the proceeds from the beer, wine, and liquor.
- If a nonprofit has a promoter, the promoter cannot sell tickets that include any beer, wine, or liquor. The promoter should be paid by the nonprofit for its service, not receiving a portion of the proceeds.

Events at Licensed Locations

- If the host is selling tickets that includes beer, wine, or liquor, the licensed location may not use their license.
- They can provide the bartending services only.
- The host must obtain the special event license and purchase their alcohol from a wholesaler.

Violations

- If you receive 3 violations within a 3-year period, your permit or license may be revoked.
- You will be prohibited from applying for another beer/wine permit for 2 years.
- If your liquor license is revoked, you are prohibited from applying for another one for 5 years.

Violations

- Some violations could result in automatic revocation for a first offence:
  - Failure to maintain restaurant requirements
  - Permitting any act that constitutes a crime under the laws of SC
  - Permitting gambling
  - Hindering/delaying inspection
  - Permitting an act that tends to create a public nuisance
- Most violations have a graduated penalty imposed
  - See SC Revenue Procedure #26-3 (revised July 27th, 2026)

Most Common Violations

- Selling to underage
- Selling to nonmember
- Discount pricing for on premise consumption
- Selling during restricted hours
- Storing or selling nonalcoholic merchandise
- 3 tier violation - Failure to purchase from a wholesaler

New Penalty Guidelines: Beer And Wine

61-4-580(A); Prohibited Acts Penalties:

- First offense: Fine of $2,500
- Second offense within 2 years: Suspension up to 14 days
- Third offense within 3 years: Revocation

Common Violations Issued To Special Events

- 61-2-140(C)- Improper transfer of license and/or permit to another location
- 61-2-145(F)- Failure to use a forensic digital scanner
- 61-4-200- Improper transfer of beer or wine
- 61-4-580(A)(1)- Selling beer or wine to someone under 21
- 61-6-1610- Violating the terms of the alcoholic liquor by the drink license
- 61-6-1636(A)- Failure to purchase alcoholic liquor form a class B Wholesaler

SOUTH CAROLINA DOR DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

MyDORWAY

Without an account:

- Apply for a new location
- Make a payment
- Search for wholesalers and retail dealers that hold a class B permit
- Search for licensed, suspended, or revoked locations
- Search for Alcohol Server certificates

SOUTH CAROLINA DOR DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

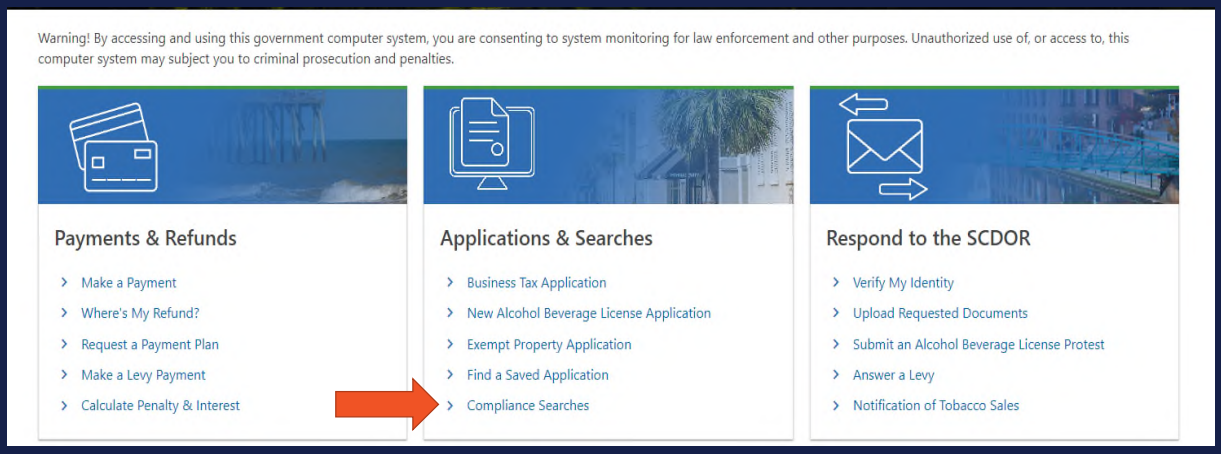
MyDORWAY

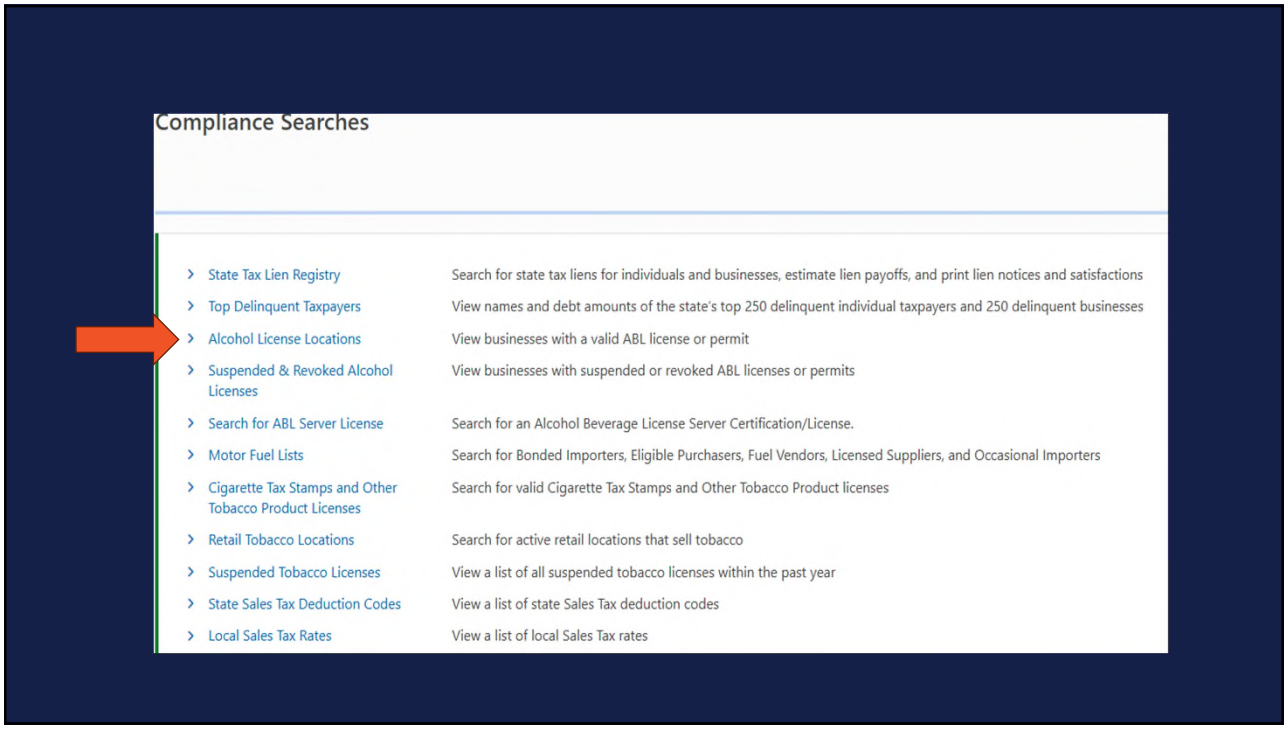
With an account:

- Obtain a Sunday Local Option Permit
- Renew permit/license
- Amend a renewal
- View letters
- Apply for mitigating factors for insurance
- Make changes to your account (mailing address, email address, etc.)

SOUTH CAROLINA DOR DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Search For Wholesalers





Resources

- **South Carolina Constitution**
  - Article 8-A - Alcoholic Liquor and Beverages
- **South Carolina Code of Laws**
  - Title 61 - Alcohol and Alcoholic Beverages
    - Chapter 2 - General Provisions
    - Chapter 3- Alcohol Server Training
    - Chapter 4 - Beer, Ale, Porter and Wine
    - Chapter 6 - Alcoholic Beverage Control Act
- **South Carolina State Code of Regulations**
  - Chapter 7 - Alcoholic Beverages, Beer and Wine

SOUTH CAROLINA DOR DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Visit the ABL page on our website

- **Need help?**
- **Phone:** 803-898-5864
  Email: ABL@dor.sc.gov
- **Report alcohol-related violations:**
  South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED)
  803-896-5591
- Sign up to receive ABL emails at **dor.sc.gov/emails**

Taxpayer Assistance Hours

Monday	8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday	8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	**9:30 a.m.** – 4:30 p.m.
Thursday	8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Friday	8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Need more help with Alcohol Beverage Licensing?

803-898-5864
ABL@dor.sc.gov
Call Center Hours

Monday	8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday	8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	**9:30 a.m.** – 4:30 p.m.
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SOUTH CAROLINA DOR DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

SOUTH CAROLINA DOR DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

STAY CONNECTED WITH US!

dor.sc.gov

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