

I only wanted to share some information on Charter Government since our elected officials have not yet done so as they should. Transparency is important. This effort can't be fairly accomplished as the Charter is being formed AND written. Only a few stand to gain from this form of Government. Creating this form of Government without community input (initially and not during the creation) only portrays a lack of transparency, integrity and fairness by leadership. This is an ongoing issue that needs to stop for the good of all of the people in the County and not just one race or one entity.

Additionally, for those of you who don't know, please take heed to the information being shared.

Q. In voter-friendly terms, what is charter government?

A. A charter is a document that spells out the powers, duties and structures of government and the rights of citizens. It is often compared to constitutions at the local level.

Q. So why are they controversial?

A. Some cities have had charters for years. Counties traditionally did not. A Charter Government leaves all of the power in the hands of one, which given what is going on now, will be dangerous for the County overall.

Normally City voters approve their charters when they incorporate. The charter provides for the City Council's terms in office, defines its powers and that of the city administration -- and the rights of voters to approve or reject certain proposals or recall council members from office. But originally, counties were mostly rural and didn't have charters. They were set up by the state, not by voters, and the state decided what powers were granted to county officials.

In some counties, voters can recall a City Council member or vote. Voters in different counties can't recall county commissioners from office or approve most county proposals. Since the late 1960s, for example, states like Florida has allowed counties to have charters, if their voters approve, and attain city-type powers.

Q. Would any elected positions change?

A. For example, Florida law allows charters to transform the duties of their elected "constitutional" officers -- the sheriff, property appraiser, tax collector, clerk of court and supervisor of elections -- to appointed staff positions under the county administrator. In this case, it would, most likely, be the same so voters and taxpayers in Charles County should have a stake in this mission and provisions should be made for voters to retain the voters' rights to elect their

constitutional officers. This should not have been in the hands of anyone else, especially the County Commissioners given the crookedness that has been going on for so long already.

Q. What role do county commissioners play in charter government?

A. Commissioners would have the same role as now, setting countywide policy. Any changes would be should only by a countywide vote, especially given the unfair actions and lack of integrity currently ongoing with the 3-2 vote of commissioners. There is definitely an agenda to defraud the people in the County with what is going on now.

This is a request that needs to be imposed to ensure fairness, no bias, integrity and transparency

Q. Can the public make sure commissioners don't abuse the power of a charter?

A. Voters can reduce commissioners' opportunity for abuse by insisting the charter include a recall provision. This way, they can collect petition signatures and put a commissioner on the ballot for a recall vote.

The opinion of many voters and taxpayers

Q. What prompted the current move?

A. Greed, bias, favoritism and a lack of integrity.

Q. What would the proposed charter allow?

A. Unless it is changed before it goes to ballot, it would:

Require countywide votes

Needs to be added - Provide for recall elections for county commissioners and/or Charter Board Members.

Needs to be added- Leave unchanged county commissioners' salaries and scheduled raises.

Needs to be added- Must follow the Open Meetings Act for transparency, honesty, fairness and integrity