



In 2024, You Can Determine the Future of Charles County Government.

In June 2023, a Charles County Charter Board was appointed to meet regularly, consult with the community, and draft a charter document. The draft charter will propose a new administrative and legislative structure for county government, changing the county's form of government from Code Home Rule to Charter. Charles County voters will consider whether to approve the draft charter in November 2024.

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What is the Difference?

CODE HOME RULE GOVERNMENT (CURRENT)

Charles County has five members on its Board of Commissioners. Each of the four districts has an elected Commissioner who represents its residents. A Commissioner President is elected countywide and serves as the Board's chair.

Each Commissioner has an equal vote on both executive and legislative decisions for county government. An appointed County Administrator manages local government operations.

No power to impose new types of taxes or fees without the state enabling legislation, or to establish a tax cap. Bonding authority for debt on infrastructure projects (schools, parks, roads, etc.) is not capped.

Code Home Rule has broad authority over planning and land use decisions, and has been enabled by the state to enact school construction excise taxes, and impact fees on new development.

Corrections department, or warden, may be done through enactment by Commissioners of a public local law. Police department still requires General Assembly approval.



CHARTER GOVERNMENT (PROPOSED)

Charles County would have a County Council to enact local laws and oversee legislative functions of government. The charter will define its representation and composition.

A charter may require an elected County Executive to serve as the chief executive officer and oversee the day-to-day operations of county government.

Cannot impose new taxes. Can establish tax cap and enact regulatory licenses and fees. Bonding authority to cap (at 15%) debt on infrastructure projects (schools, parks, roads, etc.)

Charter government has similar broad authority over planning and land use decisions; however, it does not have the authority to impose development impact fees or excise taxes.

Ability to establish separate police and corrections departments established by Charter.

UNDERSTANDING CHARLES COUNTY'S FORM OF GOVERNMENT

THE CHARTER BOARD

Charles County's Charter Board was convened in June 2023 to draft a charter that will propose a new administrative and legislative structure for county government, similar to a constitution. Charles County voters will consider whether to approve the draft charter in November 2024. If voters approve it, the draft charter will be adopted and formally change the form of government from Code Home Rule to Charter.

The Charter Board is meeting regularly and engaging the public in a process to draft a charter that will include the following topics, some of which are addressed in the current Code Home Rule structure:

1. Authority, functions, term limits, and compensation of elected officials
(Term limits are not applicable to the current Code Home Rule structure)
2. Designation of elected and appointed positions, and qualifications for each group
3. District and at-large election of Council members, and Council meeting requirements
4. Process for the approval of the budget and local laws
5. Coordination of public safety functions
6. Referendum procedures for voter approval on specific policy issues
7. Transition process should the charter be approved

BOARD MEETINGS

The Charter Board meets two times a month, generally on the second and fourth Thursdays at 6 p.m. in the Charles County Government Building (200 Baltimore Street, La Plata MD). Four public hearings have been scheduled, one per voting district.

CHARTER BOARD MEMBERS

Board Members	District 1: Cheryl Botts and Sarah Hammett
	District 2: Marjorie Chiles and Mary Stokely
	District 3: Ramonda Davis and Christopher Harrington
	District 4: Eileen Lynch-Britt and Gregory Waring
Member At-Large	Dottery Butler-Washington
Board Chair	Gregory Waring
Board Vice-Chair	Dottery Butler-Washington
Board Alternates	James Crawford, Michael White, and William Smith

YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED



Visit our website to regularly provide comments, take surveys, and provide feedback on the charter as it is drafted over the next year.

www.CharlesCountyMD.gov/Government/Boards-Commissions/Charter-Board



PUBLIC HEARINGS

The purpose of the hearings is to receive public feedback on the proposed document before it is presented to the Board of Commissioners. The public hearings are in person unless otherwise indicated. Dates are tentative. Always check www.CharlesCountyMD.gov for the most accurate meeting schedule.

Nov. 9, 2023 • 6-8 p.m.	DISTRICT 1 Public Hearing (In Person and Virtual) Charles County Government Building 200 Baltimore Street • La Plata, MD
Dec. 7, 2023 • 6-8 p.m.	DISTRICT 2 Public Hearing (In Person Only) Potomac Branch Library 3225 Ruth B Swann Drive • Indian Head, MD
Jan. 25, 2024 • 6-8 p.m.	DISTRICT 3 Public Hearing (In Person Only) Waldorf West Library 10405 O'Donnell Place • Waldorf, MD
Feb. 15, 2024 • 6-8 p.m.	DISTRICT 4 Public Hearing (In Person Only) Regency Blue Crabs Stadium 11765 St Linus Drive • Waldorf, MD

MILESTONES

- June 2024 — Submission of draft charter
- November 2024 — Voters to consider charter approval on the ballot
- Within 30 days after election — If approved, transition process would begin as specified within the draft charter.



STAY CONNECTED

CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Charter Board meetings are broadcast live on CCGTV (Comcast 95 and Verizon Fios 10). The meetings are also recorded for later broadcast. Additional options to watch on demand anytime include Roku or Apple TV streaming devices (Charles County Government).

All meetings are posted in the video library at: www.CharlesCountyMD.gov/VOD

Learn more, and follow the Charter Board:
www.CharlesCountyMD.gov/Government/Boards-Commissions/Charter-Board

For more ways to connect with your County Government, visit:

www.CharlesCountyMD.gov/GetConnected

Find links to news and alert services and pages such as: CCGTV, YouTube, Podcasts, Facebook and Twitter, and more.