

Good evening Commissioners. I come before you tonight in response to the event that occurred on Tuesday, March 5th. That event being a Work Session regarding the proposed legislation to remove a Commissioner from office.

First, a definition of REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT which is what I thought we had in this country: I found the following definition in an online basic Government class: **Representative government in the United States means that the American citizens can choose representatives that will support their political objectives. Those representatives will lead the local, state or national government and make political decisions based AND HERE IS THE IMPORTANT PART, on the citizen's wishes.**

In the late summer/early fall of 2023 there was a request from the County Commissioners for legislative proposals from the citizens of Charles County. Citizens submitted 18 proposals, 6 of which, that's 1/3 of the proposals were related to the removal of a Commissioner. I would think that would indicate to you that this is seen by the citizens to be a very important concern.

The legal staff drafted legislation which was presented to the public, a Public Hearing was conducted with many concerns and recommendations voiced. The legal staff took those concerns and recommendations amended the legislation and presented that amended legislation to the Commissioners on March 5th where it was promptly killed using the excuse that no other Code Home Rule county had such legislation and we shouldn't either. Really, is that the best you could do. My girlfriend's 10 year old daughter has to have a better excuse than that to not do something.

Rumor has it that there will be a provision in the proposed Charter for removal of a Commissioner. We citizens are not stupid. This issue should not be a marketing tool to push Charter, especially when the Charter government proposal came from the Commissioners, not the people. Having a charter is not the only way to have a provision to remove a Commissioner. This Board need only have the will to do it!!

Let's revisit that definition of Representative Government:
Representative government in the United States means that the American citizens can choose representatives that will support their political objectives. Those representatives will lead the local, state or national government and make political decisions based **AND HERE IS THE IMPORTANT PART, on the citizen's wishes.**

