

## Comments/Recommendations for Charter document

Janice Wilson <[REDACTED]>

Wed 5/22/2024 7:58 AM

To: Charter Board <CharterBoard@charlescountymd.gov>

 1 attachments (24 KB)

Recommendations for Proposed Charter Government - May 2024 - Complete.docx;

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Hello Charter Chair and Members,

Attached to this message is a document with my comments and recommendations for the proposed charter government document,

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Wilson

## Comments for Charter Board Meeting

May 20, 2024

Janice Wilson

Good evening Chair, Mr. Greg Waring and Charter Board members. Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments/recommendations for the proposed Charter government proposal for Charles County.

First of all. I recommend that a Preface be added to this proposal describing the current form of government that exists in Charles County. In addition, I recommend that citizens are informed of what a charter form of government would bring to citizens. Why is charter government being proposed? Will we be better off under charter government 4 years from now? What will this cost taxpayers?

I took the time to review the proposal and would like to offer a few thoughts/recommendations:

The most important elements of any form of government are: COST, CONTROL, COMMUNICATION and CONSEQUENCES

I was most surprised to discover that the word Accountability is not written any place in this document!

I propose that to be eligible to serve as County Executive a person should be at least 30 years old and a resident of the County for at least seven (7) years

In Article 2 that references "Council members should not miss more than four (4) meetings per year" I recommend that consequences be included should a person miss more than 4 meetings

I recommend that the DEI policy be included in this proposal and that consequences be included for any violation of this policy by the County Executive. Council members or any one employed by County government.

I recommend that there be spelled out in this proposal an office or process for citizens to file complaints regarding any alleged discrimination that they have experienced

I recommend that a statement be included regarding any information received regarding misuse of government funds by any County elected official. This statement should include consequences for any violation of this policy and this information should be made available to the public

Section 212 states any Agency: What Agencies? Please spell out

Section 215: All political parties should be spelled out in the interest of inclusion

I recommend that the citizens be made aware of any wrongdoing committed by the County Executive and Council members within seven (7) days of the occurrence of such incident

I recommend that language be included that spells out the consequences of any ethical violations by the County Exec and Council members and this information is shared with the public

I recommend that a Policy statement be included in this proposal stating no tolerance for any type of discrimination by or against any official or employee of County government and a statement regarding the consequences for any violation of this Policy e.g. Suspension. Removal from office etc.

I recommend more information be written about the role of the Inspector General e.g. The person selected for this position should have a proven track record of performing with the highest level of integrity and should provide examples of cases/examples of their experience with challenging cases and how they performed to rectify any given situation

I recommend that there be included in this proposal accountability for any organization receiving County funds to include non-profits. There should be a process to require non profits to submit full accounting for funds given to them from the County. There should be a process put in place for timely and quarterly reporting. Any non-profit who fails to complete this requirement should be held accountable and required to reimburse all funds spent without proper reporting

I Recommend that yearly audits be performed for all departments within County government