

Why am I opposed to Charter

Let's start at the beginning.

1) We were told by Commissioner Patterson, that it was the "Will of the people". I have to question that statement. If it truly was the will of the people, a grassroots campaign BY the people would have resulted in the Board of Commissioners being presented with a petition circulated by the people requesting a change in the form of government. Instead, a Charter Board tasked with creating a Charter was voted into being by the Board of Commissioners without so much as a public hearing on the matter.

2) One should not change a process, practice or procedure without first identifying a problem, investigating the reason that the problem exists, analyzing options to correct the problem, and then picking the option that best solves the problem. I have to ask what problem was identified within County Government that required a change in the FORM of County government to correct. I certainly haven't heard one.

This is what I hear from pro Charter people . People want term limits that can be done without Charter Government

Another one people want accountability in County Government an Office of Inspector General can be established without Charter Government to investigate and hold government officials accountable.

And this one, accountability for actions of individual Commissioners who do unethical or potentially criminal acts. Can be done without charter Government. The past 2 years Charles County citizens have proposed processes to address the issue only to have the 3 pro-Charter Commissioners vote to kill the proposed citizen written legislation.

The only thing that needs to happen under Code Home Rule is for the Commissioners who are pushing Charter to put those items on the agenda and vote FOR them. That has not been done. So this begs 2 questions, Why haven't they been put on the agenda and by not putting those items on the agenda What's in it for them?

When the Charter Board was established one of the first things done by them was to solicit testimony from County Executives in counties with Charter Government. I listened to the testimonies and the one common thread I heard was It is not the form of government, it is the elected officials that matter.

The election of 2022 approved a provision to elect Commissioners by district. The election of 2026 will be the first opportunity to elect Commissioners by district. That Commissioner Patterson is the will of the people. I truly feel that the new process for electing Commissioners needs to occur before a change in the FORM of government occurs. Who knows, voting by district just might give us candidates and ultimately Commissioners who truly care about the Citizens of Charles County.

