

COMMENTS ON LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS PRESENTED ON SEPT. 15, 2020

1. Centralized Trash Collection:

I am against this legislative proposal. Placing trash service under the County minimizes the ability for the resident to decide what service is appropriate for them. Most centralized trash service is based upon an RFP from various vendors and contracted by the local government for all residents. Not all residents require trash service (we do not as we compost and recycle and only take refuse to the landfill about twice a month utilizing the County tag a bag program). With all probability, regardless of a resident's use or lack thereof for service, all residents would have to, in all likelihood, pay for this service by way of a fee on their annual tax bill.

5. Veteran Tax Credit:

I support this legislative proposal. This proposal, if enacted, will show the County to be a friend to the veteran community. The only difference I have with the proposal as presented is that I would allow the tax credit to stay with the surviving spouse as long as they were a widow/widower to the veteran and continue to live in the principal residence.

12. Removal of Licensee from Liquor License:

I support this legislative proposal. There are currently certain election districts within the County that are over capacity for the number of liquor licenses for a specific election district. This over capacity came about when the number of licenses issued within an election district were over the amount at the time that the capacity limits were enacted.

- a.** Currently when a liquor license is in jeopardy of revocation, the loss of the license would have an economic impact on the license holder as well as any other businesses and the property owner of the complex. Liquor stores/bars/restaurants are normally the anchor for small business complexes.
- b.** A couple of our election district have only one or two liquor licenses assigned to that election district based on the caps that were enacted. A revocation of a license in those election districts would mean that issuance of a new license not being available would have direct hardship on that community. Most of these types of liquor stores are small Mom and Pop based operations that provide a much needed service for groceries and sundries along with the ability to purchase alcohol. It goes without saying that the inability to have a liquor license tied to these types of businesses would mean that that business would, in all likelihood, cease to be able to stay in business due to the economic loss.

13. Student Member

I support this legislative proposal. The student represents the student body of the Charles County school system. A right to have a vote is intrinsic to the representation of that body. I agree that the ability to vote should not include personnel matters.

19. Internet

I support this legislative proposal. Having internet accessibility for all households is no longer a luxury; it is now a utility that should be available in all households and should be classified and treated as any other utility.

20. Tax Credit for EMS/Fire Service/Teachers/County Employees

I do not support this legislative proposal as written. Take out all tax credits from this proposal for all individuals except for volunteer fire and rescue personnel. County and School Board employees are hired and paid to do their job just like every other County resident that has a job. It is the responsibility of the County Government and the Board of Education to set the salaries for their employees. If you want to attract and sustain quality employees within the County Government and School System, increase the salaries of said employees. In either case, the taxpayers are still footing the bill for either the salaries or the tax credit but it is more appropriate for the salaries to be adjusted not the property tax payments.