

AGENDA

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

**Wednesday, October 13, 2021
8:00 a.m.**

(Times are approximate)

8:00 a.m. - ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- Acknowledgment of Quorum
- Adoption of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes of September 8, 2021
- Welcome of Newest Commissioner: Galina Teverovsky

8:05 a.m. - REVIEW SCHEDULE OF LISTENING SESSIONS

- Virtual – Wednesday, November 3, 2021, 7:00 pm
- Virtual - Sunday, November 14, 2021, 2:00 PM
- Virtual - Saturday, December 11, 2021, 10:00 AM
- In-person – Council Office Building Lecture Hall (1st Floor) – Wednesday, Jan. 19, 6:00 p.m.
- In-person – Upcounty Regional Services Center, Germantown – Wednesday, Feb. 9, 6:00 p.m.

8:30 a.m. - REVIEW OF DRAFT PRESS RELEASE FOR LISTENING SESSIONS

- See draft text on following page

9:00 a.m. – DISCUSSION OF PROCESS FOR VIRTUAL SESSIONS

9:30 a.m. - ADJOURNMENT

- Next meeting: November 10, 2021 (Topic: discussion of feedback from first listening session and preparation for 11/14 listening session)
- Motion to adjourn

DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

Montgomery County Charter Review Commission to hold virtual and in-person public listening sessions on three potential Charter amendments

For Immediate Release: [DATE]

Rockville, Maryland, [Date]- The Montgomery Charter Review Commission will hold five listening sessions with the public between **October 20, 2021** and **February 9, 2022** to receive input as to three potential Charter amendments as outlined below.

In contrast to the first three sessions, which will be virtual, the last two are tentatively scheduled to be in person. However, should circumstances dictate otherwise (e.g. inclement weather or if the current Covid 19 state of emergency continues to close access to county buildings), notice will be provided that the in-person sessions will change to virtual sessions.

The Montgomery County Charter is the constitution of the Montgomery County government. As provided in the Charter, the Charter Review Commission is an eleven-member, ~~multi-party body of County residents~~ appointed by the County Council ~~every four years~~ to study and recommend changes to the Charter. ~~The Commission reports to the Council in May of every even-numbered year with recommendations for possible Charter revisions.~~ These recommendations may lead to proposed Charter amendments placed on the ballot that are voted upon by registered voters.

The Commission has tentatively ~~as it awaits input from the public before making a final decision~~—considered – ~~and seeks public input on~~ – the following amendments:

- Whether to amend Section 206 of the Charter regarding the *removal of a County Executive* for the additional reasons of *serious misconduct in office or willful neglect of duty, provided that the willful neglect of duty must be demonstrated to have occurred for 180 consecutive days*. The proposed amendment would additionally require an affirmative vote of *not less than 80%* of the County Council, in lieu of the current threshold of six of nine members of the Council. The Commission is also interested in hearing whether to amend Section 118, applicable to ~~grounds for removal of~~ Councilmembers, to provide similar ~~additional~~ provisions for removal.
- Whether to amend Section 203 of the Charter so as to increase the length of time that an individual must reside in the County in order to qualify to serve as *County Executive*, from the current requirement of one year to a ~~new~~ *three-year residency requirement*. Similarly, the Commission tentatively considered, subject to review following the listening sessions, to recommend that Councilmembers meet the same three-year residency ~~requirement~~ (there is none currently).
- Whether to amend the Charter to clarify what occurs *when two questions on the ballot are both approved by the voters but are irreconcilable*, as was possible last election when two diametrically opposing proposals as to the composition of the County Council were on the ballot. The Commission has tentatively proposed, subject to revision after the listening sessions, that in such an instance only the amendment

that receives the ~~higher~~-highest number of favorable votes would take effect ~~and amend the Charter~~.

~~In addition,~~ Three remote virtual listening sessions will be held on the following dates and times:

- Wednesday, November 3, 2021, 7:00 pm
- Sunday, November 14, 2021, 2:00 PM
- Saturday, December 11, 2021, 10:00 AM

~~In addition,~~ Two in-person listening sessions will be held at the following times and locations, subject to being changed to virtual sessions due to inclement weather or should buildings be closed due the Covid 19 emergency:

- Council Office Building Lecture Hall (1st Floor) – Wednesday, Jan. 19, 6:00 p.m.
- Upcounty Regional Services Center, Germantown – Wednesday, Feb. 9, 6:00 p.m.

If you would like to pre-register to speak at the in-person listening sessions, please sign up [here](#).

If you have a prepared statement, which is not necessary, please bring courtesy copies to share with the Commissioners or email the statement to charterreview.commission@montgomerycountymd.gov.

If you would like to participate in one of the three remote virtual ~~sessions~~, you must preregister at least 2 business days in advance at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/boards/calendar.html?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D156075850>, or you may call 240-777-7905. If you have not preregistered, the Commission cannot guarantee that you will be able to speak at the session.

All speakers will be provided 3 minutes each to speak. If one has spoken at a previous listening session, he or she will be placed at the end of the queue to speak again.

Members of the public also are welcome to submit written comments to the Charter Review Commission at charterreview.commission@montgomerycountymd.gov .

If a listening session is canceled due to inclement weather, please submit your written comments to the above email address. Emergency closure information is available at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cupf/info-cupf/emergency.html>.