

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
Wednesday, September 9, 2020 – 8:00 a.m.
Remote/Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Minutes

<p>Commission Members Present: George Margolies, Chair Laura Goddeeris, Vice Chair Christopher Danley Katherine Gugulis David Hill Larry Lauer Perry Paylor Ronald Stubblefield Nichole Thomas</p> <p>Commission Members Not Present: Courtney Walker Susan Miles</p>	<p>Staff Present: Ed Lattner, Office of the County Attorney Christine Wellons, Office of the County Council Marie Jean-Paul, Office of the County Council</p>
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Commission Chair George Margolies called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

I. Opening Remarks

Mr. Margolies acknowledged the presence of a quorum. The agenda was adopted without objection. The minutes of the June 10, 2020 meeting were adopted without objection.

II. Discussion about 2020 Ballot Questions on Charter Amendments

The Commission discussed with staff ballot questions that will appear on the 2020 general election ballot. The discussion of questions included:

1. Question A. Question A, spearheaded by Councilmember Friedson, would prohibit the Council (under Section 305) from raising the property tax rate above the prior year's rate, unless Councilmembers unanimously approve the increase.
2. Question B. Question B, the result of a citizen petition, would prohibit the Council from setting a property tax rate that would raise revenues above the prior year's revenues plus inflation.
3. Question C. Question C, spearheaded by Councilmember Glass, would alter the composition of the County Council to consist of 7 district members and 4 at-large members.

4. Question D. Question D, the result of a citizen petition, would alter the composition of the County Council to consist of 9 district members.

III. Discussion about Topics to be Studied by the Commission for its 2022 Report

The Commission discussed potential topics for study, including the following:

1. Whether to make the Council President an elected position (a topic mentioned by Councilmembers);
2. Whether to have residency requirements for at-large Councilmembers (a topic mentioned by Councilmembers);
3. Whether to increase the length of time that an individual must reside in the County in order to qualify to serve as County Executive under Section 203 (a topic suggested by Mr. Margolies);
4. Whether to amend Section 111 to require 90-days advance public notice before enacting any legislation (a topic suggested by Ms. Gugulis);
5. Whether to amend Sections 206 and 118 regarding the removal from office of elected officials (a topic suggested by Mr. Stubblefield);
6. Whether Section 510 should be amended to provide that unions may not be involved in disciplinary actions and public safety policies (a topic suggested by Mr. Lauer);
7. Whether to amend Section 213 to make the position of County Attorney elected (a topic suggested by Mr. Danley);
8. Whether to amend Section 101 regarding the Council's role as the Board of Health, and to require the Board of Health to consist of health professionals (a topic suggested by Ms. Gugulis); and
9. Whether to amend the Charter to establish school-choice vouchers or charter schools (a topic suggested by Ms. Gugulis).

IV. Conclusion

Mr. Margolies informed Members that a public hearing on Council Bill 31-20 – regarding amendments to public campaign financing – would be held on September 15, 2020 at 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Margolies reminded Members that the next Commission meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2020. The topic of the meeting will be a continuation of the discussion about which topics the Commission should study next.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.