

Resolution To Defeat The Freeholders' Charter

The Republican Party believes that transparency is essential to good governance.

Whereas, this Freeholders' Charter limits the quantity and quality of information that is easily and directly obtained by the people and their elected representatives. Three full-time Commissioners are replaced by five "Councilors" who only meet twice a month. These Councilors will be totally dependent on staff for critical information and department oversight. Only the at-large Council Chair is allowed to speak publicly on County business. (See Section 2.2); and,

The Republican Party is deeply committed to the principle that government must be accountable and responsive to the citizens it serves.

Whereas, the Freeholders' Charter removes power from the voter and their Commissioners, and transfers the power to an unelected Manager, staff and the at-large Council Chair. The Charter diminishes representative democracy in Clark County and once lost cannot be reclaimed. (See Section 2:6); and,

The Republican Party believes in the importance of checks and balances on power.

Whereas, the Initiative/Referendum offered in the Charter as a check on power is a toothless tiger which offers no real check on power. The Freeholders' Charter specifies that due to Constitutional limits, Charter prohibitions and court decisions, the initiative/referendum offered in the Charter does not allow citizens to use a petition to address taxes, budgets, fees, projects, policy issues or even the Charter itself. (See Section 7.2A1-6); and,

The Republican Party is an advocate for limited and cost-effective government.

Whereas, confusion is expensive. No information is available on what the new Manager will be paid. There is no reasonable estimate on the cost of the transition were the Charter to pass. Due to the greatly increased authority and responsibility of the unelected County Manager, and because this Manager will determine starting salaries for management employees as well as negotiate union contracts, logic dictates that there will be increased costs to the taxpayer. There will be long term costs associated with reducing the authority and ability of the Commissioners to manage and keep bureaucratic growth in check. The Freeholders' Charter will grow government. (See Section 3B1-9); and,

The power now rests with the people and their elected representatives, the Commissioners. They are readily accessible and accountable to the voters, a truly representative democracy.

Whereas, the Freeholders' Charter unnecessarily changes this long established form of County government.

Now therefore, be it resolved, we the Clark County Republican Party urge the defeat of the Freeholders' Charter when it appears on the November 2014 ballot.