

What is a Charter?

A charter provides a structure for self-governance like a constitution. It is a legal document that determines the type of government under which a city will operate and is customized to meet the needs of local residents. A charter describes how a city is organized and outlines its powers, functions, and procedures.

Why have a Charter?

Cities, such as Circleville, who do not have a charter are subject to rigid regulations. They are called statutory cities because they operate according to statutes in the Ohio Revised Code. When the statutes lack flexibility, local officials must lobby the state legislature to change state law.

Cities that have a charter can enact flexible ordinances which better address the needs of the residents. A charter allows citizens to determine how their government will be structured.

With the proposed charter, City Council will hire an experienced city manager to oversee the day-to-day operations of the city. Some of the city managers duties will include managing the city's multi-million-dollar budget, the delivery of city services, and helping to guide the future of the city.

What do you need to know about the Charter?

- This charter gives citizens a greater voice in government.
- City Council consists of seven representatives elected to four-year staggered terms.
- A City Manager with executive and administrative experience will be hired by council.
- A Mayor will be elected to be the ceremonial head of the city.
- The Finance Director will be hired to replace the Auditor and Treasurer.
- A Law Director will be hired.
- City Council will appoint the Council President from members of council.
- Top positions in Police and Fire can be hired from inside or outside the departments.
- Pre-charter elected officials can serve out their current terms.
- Citizens will be more informed and can address pending Council ordinances.
- Purchasing, competitive bidding, and other financial processes will be modernized.

- No city employee positions are changed in the Charter.
- Not all positions, boards, rules, laws, ordinances or other items are covered in the charter with the specific intention to give flexibility to the governing body. No statement means the current process remains. **If the charter is silent on an issue, there is no change.**