

PROPOSAL NUMBER ONE, AN AMENDMENT

**Allowing for the Revision of the Ulster County Charter § C-10 Commission
on Reapportionment (Redistricting)**

"Shall Section C-10 of the Ulster County Charter be amended to provide for the creation of an independent Redistricting Commission, designed to exclude political influence in revising county legislative districts, as proposed and unanimously approved by the Ulster County Charter Revision Committee?"

YES

NO

Abstract:

The purpose of this Ballot Question is to allow the voters of Ulster County to determine whether the Ulster County Charter should be amended to provide for the creation of an independent Redistricting Commission. The County is required to periodically reexamine the boundaries of its legislative districts based on changes in the population. The Ulster County Charter Revision Commission was convened pursuant to the Charter to create a method for doing so. It has proposed a method of reapportionment of the 23 Ulster County legislative districts, which is the subject of this Ballot Question. Under the proposal, a new Redistricting Commission will be created every ten years following each census. The Commission will consist of seven members. Four members will be chosen by the majority and minority leaders of the County Legislature. The remaining three members will be chosen by those appointees. The final legislative district map will not require approval by the County Legislature. The proposal prohibits elected officials from serving on the Commission, and establishes principals to be used in creating districts. This new process has been designed to exclude political influence in revising county legislative districts. It is proposed after having been unanimously approved by the Ulster County Charter Revision Commission.

If a majority voting on this Question votes NO, the proposed Charter revision will not be adopted.

If a majority votes YES, the proposed Charter revision will be adopted.

*Ulster County, NY
Monday, September 10, 2018*

Chapter C. Charter

Article I. Ulster County and Its Government

§ C-5. Amendment or revision of Charter.

- A. Amendment through the Legislature. The County Executive, any Legislator, the Legislature collectively or any person may make recommendations at any time to the County Legislature for amendments to the Charter. A proposed amendment or proposed amendments to this Charter may be adopted in the manner provided by the Municipal Home Rule Law.
- B. Amendment or revision by Commission. Within five years after the enactment of this Charter, and at least every 10 years thereafter, a Charter Revision Commission shall be appointed to review and make recommendations to the County Executive and Legislature on amendments, additions or revisions to this County Charter. The Commission shall consist of 11 qualified electors of Ulster County and representing the different geographic areas and reflective of the demographic diversity of the County, with five members appointed by the County Executive, three members to be appointed by the leader of the party in the Legislature with the most members, and three members by the leader of the party in the Legislature with the second most members. No appointee to this Commission shall be a County employee or elected official at the time he or she serves on this Commission.
 - (1) The first meeting of the Commission members shall be convened by the County Executive in the second week after the deadline for its appointment for the purposes of electing a Chairman and receiving its charge. The Chairman of this Commission shall be elected at that meeting by a majority vote of the entire membership of the Commission.
 - (2) The Legislature shall provide such funds as are necessary for the Commission to conduct its business effectively. No member of the Charter Revision Commission shall receive any compensation, but each member shall be reimbursed by the County of Ulster for all actual and necessary expenses incurred in the course of the performance of his or her duties as a member of the Commission.
 - (3) The Commission shall call upon necessary expertise in the community and state, shall hold public hearings to gather citizen opinion on the strengths and weaknesses of the Charter and proposed improvements, and shall maximally publicize its work through the print and electronic media and the County website. The Commission shall issue a written report to the County Legislature and County Executive at the conclusion of its deliberations, but no later than one year from the date of its first meeting, containing its findings and recommendations, if any, for amendments or revisions of the Ulster County Charter to be placed by the County Legislature before the people of Ulster County for their consideration at the next scheduled general election at least 60 days after the report is delivered to the Clerk of the Legislature. The Commission shall be dissolved on the day following its report or one year and one day from the date of its first meeting.

- (4) The Commission, by two-thirds vote of its members, may place directly before the voters for their approval at referendum proposals to amend or revise Charter provisions pertaining to the County in Article II or III of this Charter. These amendments or revisions must be filed with the Ulster County Board of Elections timely so as to allow a vote upon them at the next scheduled general election after the Commission reports. No later than one month before the scheduled referendum at which its adoption will be considered, the Commission must hold at least one public hearing on any Charter change proposed directly to the ballot. Amendments or revisions proposed directly to the ballot by the Commission will be deemed adopted if approved by a majority of voters casting ballots on the question during the next scheduled general election. Notwithstanding other provisions of this Charter, if the Charter Commission proposes a matter for direct ballot consideration, the Commission will continue to function until the day after election day of the year of consideration of its proposal on the ballot.