

Question A - [Resolution 688](#)

Text of Proposed Charter Amendments (additions in **BOLD CAPS**; deletions in ~~striketrough~~):

Article 4, Section 409. Review of Administrative Structure. By the year 2006 and every four years thereafter, the Council shall ~~have made~~ **CONDUCT** an evaluation of the organizations, functions, powers, and duties of each department, agency, and office in the executive branch of the Government. The evaluation shall **BE CONDUCTED WITHIN THE FIRST FISCAL YEAR OF EACH COUNCIL TERM AND** address the efficiency and effectiveness of programs, services, and administration.

Question B - [Resolution 689](#)

Text of Proposed Charter Amendments (additions in **BOLD CAPS**; deletions in ~~striketrough~~):

Article 5

Section 504. Preparation of the County Budget

Not later than May 4 **15** of each year, the Council shall prepare a proposed Budget for the ensuing fiscal year. The proposed Budget shall present a complete financial plan for the Government reflecting anticipated revenues from all sources, expenditures, and any surplus or deficit in the general or special funds of the Government. The proposed budget shall be reproduced and made available to the public.

Article 5

Section 507. Action on the Budget by the Council.

- (a) The adoption of the Budget shall be by the affirmative vote of not less than three members of the full Council in a law enacted not later than ~~May 31~~ **JUNE 15** and to be known as the "Annual Budget and Appropriations Ordinance of Dorchester County".

Question C - [Resolution 686](#)

Text of Proposed Charter Amendments (additions in **BOLD CAPS**; deletions in ~~striketrough~~):

Article 4

Section 405. County Manager.

- (a) The Council shall appoint a County Manager who shall serve at the pleasure of the Council. Except as otherwise provided in this Charter or State law, all departments, agencies, and offices of the Government shall be subject to the direction, supervision, and control of the County Manager under the authority of the Council. The County Manager shall:
- (1) Direct, supervise, and coordinate the administration and functions of all departments, agencies, and offices of the Government, except as may be otherwise provided by law or this Charter;
 - (2) Except as may otherwise be provided in the Charter, hire, suspend, and remove all heads of departments, agencies, and offices of the Government, subject to approval by the Council. **DURING A VACANCY IN ANY SUCH POSITION, THE COUNTY MANAGER MAY FILL THE VACANCY WITH AN INTERIM APPOINTEE UNTIL COUNCIL APPROVAL.**
 - (3) Ensure that all laws and provisions of the Charter, which may be subject to enforcement by the County Manager or by officers who are subject to the County Manager's direction and supervision, are faithfully executed;
 - (4) ~~Be entitled to attend~~ Attend all Council meetings, except those concerning the salary or future employment of the County Manager; but the County Manager may not vote;
 - (5) Be responsible for the care and custody of Government buildings and all real property of the Government;
 - (6) Be responsible for administering the purchasing policies of the Government;
 - (7) Present a proposed capital and annual expense budget in a manner and form described in the Charter;
 - (8) Fully advise the Council as to the financial condition and future needs of the County and make appropriate recommendations;
 - (9) Within 90 days following the end of the fiscal year, provide the Council a complete and detailed report on the finances and administrative activities of the Government for the preceding year. Copies of the report shall be available for distribution to the public;
 - (10) **WHENEVER APPROPRIATE, OR UNDER** Under the direction of the Council, make, or cause to be made, studies or investigations that are in the best interests of the County, including but not limited to investigations of the affairs, functions, acts, methods, personnel or efficiency of any department, agency, office, or officer;
 - (11) Recommend legislative, **POLICY AND REGULATORY** measures to the Council when appropriate; and
 - (12) **APPOINT AN ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER, SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION AND COUNCIL APPROVAL, WHO SHALL FUNCTION AS**

INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER WHEN THE COUNTY MANAGER IS TEMPORARILY UNAVAILABLE DUE TO DISABILITY, EXTENDED ABSENCE OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES, OR WHEN THE POSITION IS VACANT.

- (13) Perform other duties as may be prescribed by law, this Charter, or the Council.

(B) THE COUNTY MANAGER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT. NO INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL SHALL GIVE ORDERS TO ANY SUBORDINATE EMPLOYEE, EITHER PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY.

(C) WHEN THE COUNTY MANAGER POSITION BECOMES VACANT, THE COUNCIL SHALL CONDUCT A SEARCH AND APPOINT AN INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER WITHIN SIX MONTHS. NO MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL MAY BE APPOINTED INTERIM COUNTY MANAGER.

Question D - [Resolution 687](#)

Text of Proposed Charter Amendments (additions in **BOLD CAPS**; deletions in ~~striketrough~~):

Article 6

SECTION 606. GOVERNMENTAL TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC ACCESS.

(A) THE COUNCIL SHALL ENSURE THE ABILITY OF THE PUBLIC, ITS REPRESENTATIVES, AND THE MEDIA TO ATTEND, IN PERSON OR REMOTELY, OBSERVE, REPORT ON, AND BROADCAST MEETINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND TO WITNESS THE PHASES OF DELIBERATION, POLICY FORMATION, AND DECISION MAKING BY THE GOVERNMENT'S PUBLIC BODIES.

(B) THE COUNCIL SHALL ENABLE THE PUBLIC, ITS REPRESENTATIVES AND THE MEDIA TO HAVE ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT RECORDS WITHOUT UNNECESSARY COST OR DELAY. UNLESS EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE, THE CUSTODIAN OF THE GOVERNMENT'S RECORDS SHALL PROVIDE SUCH ACCESS TO REQUESTED RECORDS.

(C) THE COUNCIL SHALL ENSURE THAT MEETING MINUTES OF THE GOVERNMENT'S PUBLIC BODIES, UPON APPROVAL, ARE PROMPTLY POSTED AND OTHERWISE MADE ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC, ITS REPRESENTATIVES AND THE MEDIA.