

Commissioner Election Task Force: Report to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners

The Commissioner Election Task Force is actively evaluating all options for election process and board composition. The process is being guided by two trained and qualified facilitators from two different counties. We have reflectively considered the task with which have been charged and have been collecting historical information to use in decision making.

We have had a presentation of options that can be considered, as well as a presentation by Bob Joyce from the UNC School of Government. Based off of North Carolina law and procedures, we have been examining and exploring all five options that are available to any county in the state to use as a voting method, in addition to the number of commissioners on the board.

We have gone through facilitated exercises as a group to gather input, assess questions and identify information the we need to gather for consideration.

We have discussed methods for seeking public input. We have agreed that we will have a structured format for public comment and currently have an online input form open. We are continuing to discuss the next steps for gathering public input.

We have had very positive dialogue. We have a task force that is working collaboratively and that is focused on the citizens of the county as a whole.

As a task force, we have agreed that we needed more than 2 meetings to make a formal recommendation to the board of commissioners. By not making a recommendation now, the earliest opportunity for this to appear as a referendum would be in 2020. We were advised by Bob Joyce of the UNC School of Government regarding the timing of referendums, legal requirements regarding redistricting, and following the proper procedures to appear on a referendum ballot. It is apparent, at this point, in order to make this as fair to the public as possible, it will not be able to be present on the 2018 ballot.

We encourage the public to provide comment and input via the online form and we will provide notification as soon as the task force as organized other opportunities for input.

We thank the Chatham County Board of Commissioners for the opportunity to work collaboratively on this process and to provide an eventual recommendation that reflect the needs of the citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

Peyton Holland
Chair, Election Task Force

Sara Lambert
Co-Vice Chair

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