

**Ken Coffey Meeting with the Frederick News-Post  
Editorial Board  
April 19, 2011**

**Frederick County Charter Board-Accomplishments  
during first 20 days**

1. Agreed upon Basic Principles for the Charter

A. To create a charter that provides the structure for an efficient, effective, and responsive county government.

B. To create a charter that establishes a division of duties, responsibilities, and checks and balances between the executive and legislative branches of government.

C. To create a charter writing process and ultimately a charter document that promotes and encourages citizen participation.

2. Approved a Board statement on the Referendum initiative (attached).

3. Created an Outreach Subcommittee (Rocky Mackintosh, Debra Borden, Dr. Tom Browning, Joan Aquilino, and alternate Dana French) to work on a multi-faceted outreach approach to provide education and solicit input from the public throughout the county. This Subcommittee will be reporting on dates, times and locations for our initial "Town Hall" meetings and some initial recommendations for consideration at our next Board meeting on May 10.

4. Established a [web site](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.Gov/Charter): [www.FrederickCountyMD.Gov/Charter](http://www.FrederickCountyMD.Gov/Charter) and email address: [charterboard@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:charterboard@frederickcountymd.gov) to encourage citizen accessibility to information and participation in the process.

5. Vic Tervalo, a recognized expert on Home Rule/Charter Govt., provided an insightful presentation at the last Board meeting on Charter writing process and some of the successes and failures of past charter writing efforts around the state.

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### Key Strategic Issues

1. Referendum Petition
2. If there is a referendum, regardless of who is seated, there are essentially 4 major issues that the charter writing process must address.
  - A. Elected or appointed Executive
  - B. Size of the Legislative Body-5, 7, 9 members and what responsibilities and checks and balances it would have.
  - C. How is the Legislative body elected: elected at large or by councilmanic district or be required to live in their district but elected county-wide.
  - D. If passed, how will the transition from the Commissioner form of government to Charter form of government be handled.

This is a historic moment for the people of Frederick County. **For 263 years, the State has ruled** what powers the County government has at its disposal. This charter writing process ***allows the voters (those of us who call Frederick County our home)***, to establish the rules under which the county operates.

The Charter is the "peoples" document.

It's time for home rule government for the people of Frederick County.