

Home Rule County Charter Consistent With The USA's Founding Christian Constitutional Principles

Draft Provisions to Possibly Incorporate in County Charter (provided as a way to open up discussion about what provisions the charter should include)

- I. Preamble that acknowledges God like our Michigan Constitution does: “We, the people of Ottawa County, grateful to Almighty God for the blessings of freedom, and earnestly desiring to secure these blessings undiminished to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this constitution.”
- II. Adoption date that acknowledges Christian chronology with the words “in the Year of our Lord”, at the conclusion of the County Charter once adopted
- III. Public utility provision that municipalizes all electric utility services not already municipalized by municipalities in the County and transfers such services over to a non-profit member-owned cooperative of the County consumers, upon the proper vote of the County electors to do so. The Board of this cooperative will be elected by the members. This does not necessarily entail all assets of the currently private utility companies will be municipalized, if the cooperative decides not to municipalize them but rather to rent them, but the J.H. Campbell Generating Plant will definitely be municipalized. This also allows the cooperative to contract for services with private companies, including Consumers Energy and DTE. Concurrent with the Charter vote, there would be a vote regarding municipalizing the electric services not already municipalized by municipalities in the County, including an explicit provision that the J.H. Campbell Generating Plant will definitely be municipalized upon the favorable vote of the electors.
- IV. Bill of Rights like the Federal Constitution has
 - Liberty of religious conscience
 - Liberty of speech
 - Liberty of press
 - Liberty of association
 - Medical rights to protect oneself and one's children
 - Parental rights
 - Medical practitioner rights
 - “Second amendment” rights and duty: Recognition of the right and even duty of a well-regulated citizens militia consistent with US and Michigan constitutional law, appropriately armed to be called upon as necessary by elected government officers, and under strict regulation by County and State officials such that it would in no wise be vigilante.
 - Right to life of all humans, from conception to death
 - Recognition of the right of the citizens to petition for citizens grand jury with sufficient petition signatures (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QXJ7DWn455M>)
 - The other rights listed in the “Bill of Rights” in the Federal Constitution

- V. Establish a countywide neighborhood watch network of all the legal citizens residing in Ottawa County, electing its leaders by block, precinct, and district, via open ballot system, under the regulation of the elected County Sheriff. This potentially could be mobilized into the County's citizens militia if so ordered by elected County officials in consultation with State officials. Establishment of an electronic and non-electronic communication network of this neighborhood watch network, so that it can be apprised of what is happening with respect to crime, emergencies, invasions, dangers, etc., and mobilized as necessary. This network should also facilitate use of recall provisions of officeholders.
- VI. Affirmation and agreement with what the Michigan Constitution states regarding marriage: "Sec. 25. To secure and preserve the benefits of marriage for our society and for future generations of children, the union of one man and one woman in marriage shall be the only agreement recognized as a marriage or similar union for any purpose."
- VII. Provisions to secure and maintain election integrity in the County, including an accurate Qualified Voter File only consisting of legal resident citizens; watermarked ballots; voting machines which are secure and tested; hand-counting of ballots to confirm voting machine results; self-identification beyond just signature (which is often subject to varied interpretation) [eg, fingerprint], especially with mail-in ballots; and right of all citizens who want their vote choices to be publicly displayed to be publicly displayed and shown how it is part of the tally total. Also there should be encouragement of caucuses of electors to decide officeholders.
- VIII. Maintenance of recall provisions of elected officials, including the new county executive position
- IX. Initiative provision by which citizens can get a new ordinance passed by petition
- X. Right of the Board of Commissioners to impeach the elected County Executive and force an election so the electors can decide whether the County Executive may remain in office
- XI. The elected County Executive is intended as a full-time position (replacing the unelected full-time county administrator), and the elected commissioners on the Board of Commissioners is intended as a part-time position.
- XII. Statement that no services be performed by County government which can as well or better be performed by the private sector
- XIII. Recognition that administration of welfare for the needy is primarily the domain of family, churches and charitable organizations, and not the civil government. Any taxpayer-funded government support money to these institutions for the needy should be limited to the truly needy citizens of the county and not other parties.
- XIV. Products sold on the market should be subject to product liability, including vaccines. It is wrong that vaccines are given special protection from product liability.
- XV. Gold and silver are the rightful constitutional money of the USA and therefore should not be subject to taxation. In addition, citizens should not be taxed, or

taxed extra, simply because of inflation of fiat currency, because such fiat currency is itself an abuse of government power.

- XVI. All spending, taxes, resolutions, and ordinances must begin in the Board of County Commissioners elected by district and not in the County Executive.
- XVII. The Board of Commissioners may override a County Executive veto by a vote of _% of the Board
- XVIII. Line-item veto of the County Executive as a way to control County expenditures
- XIX. High threshold for passing tax increase by Board of Commissioners
- XX. No illegal immigrant will be allowed to reside in the County for any extended period of time, and the elected County Sheriff will enforce this provision. The County will also cooperate with Federal and State officials in the extradition of illegal immigrants.
- XXI. Local control of zoning will not be infringed. (See <https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2023/12/26/michigans-new-law-shifts-control-of-solar-wind-farm-development-from-local-to-state/> and <https://www.michbar.org/file/barjournal/article/documents/pdf4article3954.pdf>.)
- XXII. Historical acknowledgments

- Acknowledgment that the open ballot system and not the secret ballot system was the election methodology of the first century of US history and should at least be considered as something to return to in order to better secure election integrity.
- Recognition of traditional English and American common law and the rights and liberties therein protected, including as referenced in the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, Northwest Ordinance, and Federal Constitution, and acknowledgment that the common law was developed over history based upon Biblical Christian principles. God-given rights and liberties and elected government at the consent of the governed were two important principles affirmed.
- Acknowledgement of the historical facts regarding the evolution of the constitution and character of the USA from its founding: the Declaration of Independence affirmed various God-given rights and liberties of the American people built upon the foundation of the British common law rights inherited by us; the original decentralized, Christian constitution of the USA (the Articles of Confederation) affirmed and incorporated these rights and liberties for the states of the USA; the Confederation Congress authorized and supported the publication of the Bible for the inhabitants of the USA; the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 affirmed the common law rights and the Articles of Confederation as the national constitution of the states like Michigan created out of the Northwest Territory; the procedures for amending the Articles of Confederation were not followed but this original constitution was illegally and blatantly overthrown, to the objection and consternation of Antifederalists; and the Federalists pushed through the Federal Constitution and had to add its first ten amendments (called the Bill of Rights) to assuage enough Antifederalists to be able to keep the Federal Constitution in

place. Power in the USA has become more and more centralized and secularist whereas it was very decentralized and Christian in its beginnings.

The Need for a Slate of County Commissioner Candidates Supporting Such a County Charter

We need a slate of commissioner candidates supporting such a county charter in order to help bring it into effect: <https://sites.google.com/view/need-for-christian-antifederal/home> .

Run a Slate of Candidates for Charter Commissioner Who Approve of a Finalized Charter Consistent With The USA's Founding Christian Constitutional Principles

After County electors have voted in favor of a charter commission, the next step is for them to elect charter commissioners responsible for drafting a County Charter. A slate of electors should run who support a finalized charter (or provisions) consistent with the USA's founding Christian constitutional principles.

If elected, this slate of candidates should then draft the charter the electors expected them to draft when running.

The draft charter is then submitted to the Michigan Governor for approval, and legal steps are followed if the Governor disapproves. It is possible a draft Charter will be put up for a vote of the County electors without the Governor's approval of the draft charter.

After that hurdle the County electors vote on the draft Charter, and the Charter is adopted upon their vote of acceptance.