

**Open Work Session
Ballot Questions
November 1, 2016**

Mrs. Laura Hurley said she was requested to go over the ballot questions for the November 8th election coming up. Starting with Question A, it pertains to the manner in which the Wicomico County Board of Education members are selected. There are three options. Option one is to retain the current appointed Board system in which the Governor appoints the members of the Board. Option two is to change to an elected Board with five members elected by voters within the voters' council district and two at-large members elected by all voters of Wicomico County. Option three is the hybrid option and that is to change to a combination of members of who are elected and appointed with five members elected by the voters within the voters' council district and two members appointed by the Wicomico County Council from a list of nominees proposed by a school board nominating commission. Mrs. Hurley continued; she said Questions B through J are charter amendment questions, which Council had public meetings on and adopted by Resolution No. 101-2016. Voters will have the option to vote for the charter amendment or against the charter amendment. Question B pertains to Charter Sections 205 and 206. It is to amend the County Charter to require a special election to fill a County Council vacancy if an appointment to fill a vacancy in the Council is made more than 30 days before the filing deadline for the primary for President of the United States. The person appointed to fill the vacancy shall serve until the first Tuesday in December following the general election for the President of the United States. She said for clarification, a special election is an election for the voters of Wicomico County that is separate from the primary and general election. Mr. Kilmer said the special election would take place at the same time as the general election and that it is special in the fact that it does not occur on the regular cycle of elections. Mrs. Hurley said that is correct. Mrs. Hurley continued; she said Question C pertains to Charter Section 315. It is to amend the County Charter to extend the time for the Council to act to confirm or reject any appointment by the County Executive of the Director of Administration, the head of a department in the executive branch, or a member of a board or commission from 30 days to 45 days from submission and to require submission at a legislative session of Council. Question D pertains to Charter Section 407. It is to amend the County Charter to require a special election for County Executive if a vacancy occurs within the first 12 months of a term and providing for an interim appointee before the special election. If a vacancy occurs after the first 12 months of a term, then the County Council is authorized to permanently fill the vacancy by a majority vote within 45 days after the vacancy occurred. The current Charter requires the Council to fill a County Executive vacancy by Resolution within thirty (30) days. Mrs. Hurley continued she said Question E pertains to Charter Section 410. It is to amend the County Charter to direct that the Director of Administration shall perform the duties of County Executive in the event of a temporary absence or disability of the County Executive. This Amendment would remove the County Executive's option to designate in writing some other person in the executive branch to perform the duties of County Executive in the event of a temporary absence or disability of the County Executive. Question F pertains to Charter Section 414. It is to amend the County Charter to limit the term of an appointment as an "Acting Director of Administration" or any "Acting" head of a department to a period of 90 days; and providing that the Council may extend the appointment every 90 days. The current charter limits the temporary appointment by the County Executive of an "Acting Director of Administration" or an acting head of a department only if the person does not possess all the qualifications of office as required by the charter. Mrs. Hurley continued she said Question G pertains to Charter Section 504. It is to amend the County Charter to provide that a reorganization includes any change of functions, responsibilities, or powers of any part of the Executive Branch or a management-

initiated rearrangement of reporting relationships, including terms of financial compensation, of multiple positions within or between executive departments, offices, or agencies. Question H pertains to Charter Section 507. It is to amend the County Charter to change the role of the County Attorney in the representation of the County Council and the council's right to employ counsel. The current charter requires that the County Attorney be the legal advisor of the Council and the charter amendment modifies this requirement. She said Question I pertains to Charter Section 601. It is to amend the County Charter to authorize the County Council to establish by Law a Personnel System, and to provide that the County Executive may propose changes or revisions for adoption by the Council. Question J pertains to Charter Section 705. It is to amend the County Charter to provide that in the event the County Council and County Executive do not agree upon the expenditure of a surplus resulting from the Council's decreasing or deleting budget items, the surplus will be placed in the Undesignated Fund Balance. She said again voters will have option to vote for or against each charter amendment. Ballot questions have been placed on the County's website for people to read and review and the Council Office is happy to answer any questions the public has. She said early voting is taking place now and continues through November 3rd at the Wicomico County Youth and Civic Center. The General Election is Tuesday, November 8th from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at polling places throughout Wicomico County. Mr. Cannon said the Council went to great lengths to propose the Charter Amendments over a great period of time. The Council took a lot of care and consideration, and he certainly wants the public to review the charter amendments very carefully and to make their decision as to how they want to vote on the amendments. He said if anyone has any questions, they can call the County Council Office or call any of the council members at any time. Mr. Kilmer said he has been getting telephone calls.

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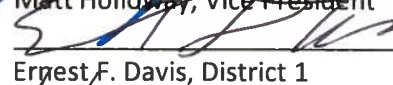
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John T. Cannon, President



Matt Holloway, Vice President



Ernest F. Davis, District 1



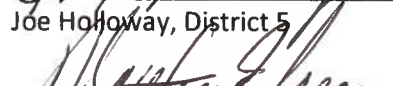
Marc Kilmer, District 2



Larry W. Dodd, District 3



John B. Hall, District 4



Joe Holloway, District 5



Matthew E. Creamer, Council Administrator