



April 25, 2012

**STATEMENT FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT C.ELLEN CONNALLY
ON THE 2012 CHARTER AMENDMENT PROCESS**

Over the next few months, Cuyahoga County Council will be considering placing a limited number of Charter amendments on the November 2012 ballot. We are doing this in 2012 for two reasons – cost and clarity.

Because 2012 is a presidential general election year, it will cost the county less money to place amendments on the ballot. During this first year, we know from our experience the need for clarifying some confusion over key issues.

We solicited proposed changes from Council Members, from the Executive Administration, and from the Prosecutor's Office. The proposals will be publicly discussed throughout May, June and July by the Council's Rules, Ethics and Charter Review Committee. As with all Council meetings, members of the public are welcome to attend and comment. And, of course, voters will have the ultimate say on any changes.

Council's 2012 process is a limited one, focusing on topics that the Council and/or the administration believe are important and urgent enough for action now. In September 2012, a Charter Review Commission will be convened to work throughout most of 2013. The Charter Review Commission has a broader mandate, one that involves reviewing the entire Charter for possible amendments. The Commission's process will also be public, with proposals to be presented for Council consideration in July 2013.

As the newly formed legislative body, we plan to address the most pressing issues this year at a lower cost to the county. All of these proposed amendments will be fully heard by the Council and subject to final approval of the voters.

Please visit <http://council.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/2012-Charter-Proposals.aspx> for more information and to read the Charter Amendment proposals which have been submitted to Council.