

GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

BOROUGH OF CARLISLE

April 2015

Issue No. 13

PROPOSED HOME RULE CHARTER GOES TO VOTERS

The Cumberland County Board of Elections will place the following question on the ballot at the Borough of Carlisle municipal primary election on May 19, 2015:

"Shall the Home Rule Charter contained in the report, dated March 3, 2015, of the Government Study Commission, prepared in accordance with the Home Rule Charter and Optional Plans Law, be adopted by the Borough of Carlisle?"

This ballot initiative is the culmination of almost two years of study and work by the Borough of Carlisle Government Study Commission. The commission firmly believes that the proposed charter will increase the effectiveness, efficiency and responsiveness of local government in Carlisle, and provide opportunities for greater public participation in local government.

A copy of the final report and charter as well as a new document on Frequently Asked Questions can be found [here](#) on the Borough of Carlisle web site. We encourage you to visit this site and become familiar with the proposed charter and the issues it addresses.

Since early March the government study commission has conducted an aggressive education campaign to inform citizens about the charter and its content, and how the proposed changes will improve the effectiveness of Carlisle municipal government. Commission members have met, and will continue to meet, with civic organizations, neighborhood associations and other groups. Commission members have also met with the editorial board of *The Sentinel*. The proposed home rule charter was featured on the WITF Radio program Smart Talk (click [here](#) to listen to the program). The proposed home rule charter will also be the subject of a Dickinson Clarke Forum panel on April 27th at 7pm in the community room of Allison Hall (the former Allison United Methodist Church). Commission members will have a table at the Amani Festival on May 2nd. Please contact the commission at CarlislePaHR@gmail.com if you know of an opportunity or venue to improve awareness and understanding of the proposed charter.

A copy of the final report will be mailed to all postal patrons in the Borough to arrive on or about May 1, 2015. The commission will also place additional notices in *The Sentinel* and other print media. The commission will hold a final public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12th at Borough Hall to address any issues and concerns citizens may have as a result of the education campaign. We hope these collective efforts will increase public awareness of the proposed charter and improve turnout at the primary election on May 19th.

The commission asks for your help in getting the word out on the proposed charter. Please ensure the widest possible dissemination of this newsletter. Please attend, and encourage others to attend, the education events in the organizations or associations in which you participate. Finally, encourage everyone to get out and vote on May 19th. The commission is confident that with your help, Home Rule will become a reality in Carlisle and will indeed increase effectiveness, efficiency, responsiveness and public participation.

Please contact the commission via e-mail at CarlislePaHR@gmail.com if you have questions or need additional information. You can also find the commission on Facebook at Carlisle Home Rule Study Commission.

Commission Members

Ken Womack, Chairman; David Sheridan, Vice Chairman; Robert Winston, Secretary/Treasurer; Bill Berwick; Stephen Hughes; Bert Lennon; John Sacrison; Phil Shevlin and Blake Wilson.