

## Board of County Commissioners

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## Carroll County Government

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Commissioners to Invite Other Forms of Government to Educational Meetings

**Westminster, MD, Thursday, January 10, 2019** – Today during Open Session, the Carroll County Board of Commissioners (BOC) voted unanimously to invite other county jurisdictions and the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) to present information to the commissioners regarding transitioning from a commission form of government to either code home rule or charter government.

Members of the BOC asked the board to discuss the option of forming a charter government committee as the first step in considering a change in the form of government for Carroll. County Attorney Timothy Burke detailed the process to the commissioners at the start of the discussion. Forming the committee, which would then write the charter, is the first step in a process culminating in a final decision made by Carroll County voters in the future.

The commissioners exchanged their views as they considered forming a charter government committee and ultimately decided to take time to investigate and learn more about code home rule and charter forms of government. They determined some of the best information will derive from areas which experienced a similar process. As a result, county staff will invite Maryland jurisdictions which recently transitioned to a different government structure to open meetings in Carroll County. The meetings will preferably occur in the evening so citizens can participate in the education process.

“As we strive to keep Carroll County strong and reach for even greater excellence, it is important to always measure where we are today and if change is needed,” said Board of County Commissioner President Stephen Wantz, “This is a critical decision which must be vetted with thorough and thoughtful debate and education. Reaching out to our neighbors who recently underwent government structural change is critical for our education and will be invaluable as we evaluate our options moving forward.”

Updates on the scheduling for these discussions will be released as details are confirmed.

### CARROLL COUNTY

The Americans with Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or who has a complaint should contact The Department of Citizen Services, 410.386.3600 or 1.888.302.8978 or MD Relay 7-1-1/1.800.735.2258 or email [ada@carrollcountymd.gov](mailto:ada@carrollcountymd.gov) as soon as possible but no later than 72 hours before the scheduled event.

More information about the Maryland forms of government and a comparison of local government structure can be found on the MACo website (<https://www.mdcounties.org/152/County-Government-Structure>)

Today's discussion and the entire open session will be available for viewing on the [county meeting portal](#), [YouTube channel](#), and the [county Facebook page](#). In addition, all meetings are replayed on Comcast Channel 24.

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