

## Richland County Committee

### Agenda Item Cover

**Agenda Item Name: Changes to the County Committee Structure Document and County Board Rules regarding Committee on Committee and filling vacant committee, commission and board seats during a session**

<b>Department</b>	Administration	<b>Presented By:</b>	Administrator
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	October 7 <sup>th</sup> , 2021	<b>Action Needed:</b>	Vote, Resolution
<b>Disclosure:</b>	Open Session	<b>Authority:</b>	Structure C
<b>Date submitted:</b>	September 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 2021	<b>Referred by:</b>	
<b>Action needed by no later than (date)</b>	N/A	<b>Resolution</b>	N/A, <u>needed</u> , prepared, reviewed

#### **Recommendation and/or action language:**

- 1). Recommend ... resolution to the County Board to replace existing Committee Structure Document language regarding Committee on committees (as presented / with amendments), and recommend resolution to the Richland County Board.
  - 2). Recommend...resolution to the County Board to amend the Rule 6 of the County Board regarding committee on committee and filling vacant positions (as presented/ with amendments) and recommend resolution to the Richland County Board.
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#### **Background:** *(preferred one page or less with focus on options and decision points)*

The following changes are recommended to support the continued path of efficiency in filling vacant positions and adding responsibility and authority to the County Board Chair and Administrator roles. With these changes the committee on committee is no longer a ballot-elected committee, it is a committee with a majority of seats appointed by the Board Chair and exists only during the organizational meeting, and upon the creation of a new committee requiring Chair appointments. The Committee on Committee then advises the Board Chair on the seating for standing committees and standing committee chairperson assignments. The checks and balances to this system is that: 1) the County Board elects the Chair and Vice, and 2) assignments to the standing committees and chair assignments require board confirmation.

The historic structure and functions of the committee on committees has served the County well, however I feel that these proposed changes are warranted because:

1. Richland County faces growing financial challenges in the next session, this configuration allows the elected Chair to have significant influence in shaping standing committees to achieve her/his objectives during the board session.
2. It is my opinion that it is a challenge for a ballot-elected committee on committee member to disagree with a pier's desired placement on a committee, and there were multiple incidents of reluctant, declined, and contested assignments to chair positions on several committees, boards and commissions.

## Richland County Committee

### Agenda Item Cover

3. This process will stream-line appointments. The current process of electing a committee on committee at the April County Board, having a Committee on Committee meeting in April to recommend appointments, confirming the appointments at the May County Board, and resuming committee meetings in May-June often delays and compresses department and organizational operations.

This change will likely cause some concerns, angst and some divisiveness moving forward into the next session as the process of appointing seats becomes a more executive and political, and less democratic and member-interest. I would argue that this is appropriate. The status quo of members gravitating towards their most valued services has contributed to our current situation. I recommend the Board establish an elected chair role with more discretion in shaping the committees to tackle the challenging decisions of the next session. Richland County is in need of operational and service changes to establish sound financial projections for the future, and this additional structural change can help facilitate the decision processes to lead to a common direction. Understanding, that the future common direction will likely be more contentious than previous years, and possibly decided by a fifty-one percent vote.

Future chairs will likely need to be in tune with political views (votes) on the challenges at hand and balancing supervisors': availability, historical knowledge, skill-sets, and constituency concerns.

Changes to Rule #6 include appointments for vacancies in committees, boards and commissions and excludes the committee on committee as a ballot elected body.

#### Attachments and References:

Attachment #1 Structure Document Changes impacting Committee on Committees	Attachment #2 Changes to Board Rule #6
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#### Financial Review:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other funding Source		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

(summary of current and future impacts)

No foreseeable financial impacts

#### Approval:

#### Review:

*Clinton Langreck*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Head  
applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Administrator, or Elected Office (if

## Richland County Committee

### Agenda Item Cover

#### ATTACHMENT #1 Changes to Committee on Committee

————(Current Language) ————

##### COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

~~A. Seven members.~~

~~B. The chairman and vice chairman are automatic members of this committee with the five additional members being elected by the Board for a two (2) year term.~~

————(Proposed Language) ————

##### Committee on Committees

a. The committee shall consist of the chairperson and the vice-chairperson of the Board as well as three Board members selected and appointed by the Board chairperson without need of County Board confirmation.

b. The Board chairperson shall serve as the Committee on Committees chairperson.

c. At the County Board organizational meeting, or in the event of the creation of a new body requiring county board chair appointments, the committee on committee shall advise the County Board Chair on the appointment of members of various standing committees of the county, as well as advise the appointment of committee chairs to the standing committee, all subject to confirmation by the County Board.

d. The Committee on committees may provide recommendations to the County Administrator on the appointments to boards, commissions and various organizational seats.

## Richland County Committee

### Agenda Item Cover

#### ATTACHMENT #2 Changes to Committee on Committee and filling vacancies

##### Rule 6

The Chair shall preserve order and decorum and decide all questions of order, subject to appeal to the Board. The Chair shall, after receiving the advice of the committee on committees, in the organizational meeting or upon the creation of a new body requiring Board chair appointments, shall appoint all standing committees, and standing committee chairs, subject to confirmation by the County Board by motion.

The following committees shall be elected by a majority of those present by ballot, and these committees will determine their own chair by election:

~~Committee on Committees; the Chair and Vice Chair shall be automatic members;~~

Highway and Transportation Committee;

Pine Valley Board of Trustees.

The first ballot for any committee seat shall be an informal ballot. Each succeeding ballot shall be a formal ballot and supervisors may only vote in formal ballots for all persons who have received the top three numbers of votes on the informal ballot for that seat.

At the time of the expiration of the Highway Committees first 1-year term in a County Board session, if there is no objection by any county board supervisor, the County Board chair may call for reelection of the seated Highway Committee members by motion of the Board. If there is an objection the Board shall reelect Highway Committee members by ballot.

In the event of a ~~prolonged, unexcused absence of~~ vacancy in a Supervisor or citizen member of a committee, board or commission, the chair of that committee, board or commission shall notify the County Board Chair and County Administrator of the ~~absence~~ vacancy. Except as to the Highway Committee and the Board of Trustees of Pine Valley Community Village, the County Board Chair shall have the authority to make an ~~temporary~~ appointment upon the ~~prolonged, unexcused absence~~ vacancy of any Supervisor or citizen member of any committee. The Administrator shall have the same authority for boards or commissions, with confirmation of such appointments by of the County Board. ~~Such temporary appointments shall cease upon the return of the absent member. Permanent~~

Vacancies of a citizen member seat on a committee, ~~board, or commission,~~ except the Board of Trustees of Pine Valley Community Village, the Veterans Service Commission and the

## Richland County Committee

### Agenda Item Cover

Commission on Aging, shall be filled by ~~the appointment by the County Board Chair with confirmation by the County Board after receiving the recommendation by the body with the vacancy, which shall have solicited nominations for the vacancy by a two consecutive week notice in The Richland Observer, which notice shall also be posted on the County's website.~~ The same shall apply to the County Administrator for appointments of citizens to boards and commissions.

No Supervisor or citizen member shall serve without interruption for the equivalent of more than 3 full consecutive, 2-year terms county board sessions on any committee, board, commission or seat to partner organization. An individual who has served as a citizen member of a committee, board or commission who becomes a Supervisor is eligible to serve as a Supervisor member of the same committee, board or commission for a term not to exceed 6 years any part of 3 consecutive sessions as a supervisor. A supervisor who has served on a committee, board or commission and who ceases being a Supervisor is eligible to be appointed as a citizen member of the same committee, board or commission for a term not to exceed 6 years any part of 3 consecutive sessions as a citizen member.

The first section of this paragraph does not apply to:

- (a) committees elected by ballot and members serving on a related State board of committee;
- (b) citizen members of the Fair and Recycling Committee;
- (c) statutory 3-year terms of members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment;
- (d) service on committees, boards or commissions for a term of less than 3 years in length;
- (e) service by a Supervisor for a partial Supervisory term
- (f) committees, boards or commissions with terms established by state statute or federal code
- (g) the County Board Chair or Vice serving on a committee with representation specified, or serving in an ex-officio role

~~Except for committees elected by ballot and members serving on a related State board or committee, no Supervisor or citizen member shall serve without interruption for the equivalent of more than three consecutive, two year terms on any committee or board, commencing in April, 1976. This limitation shall not apply to the statutory 3 year terms of members of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Service on all committees, boards and commissions for term of less than 3 years in length shall not be counted for the purposes of this Rule, nor shall service by a Supervisor for a partial Supervisory term be counted.~~