

**From:** [Denise Williams](#)  
**To:** [Luzerne County Council Meeting Public Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]: Public Comment for Luzerne County Council Work Session 1/11/21 Public Comments  
**Date:** Monday, January 11, 2021 10:36:59 AM

---

**WARNING:** This message is from an external email address. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you recognize the sender **AND** you know that the contents of the email are safe to open.

---

Submission by: Denise Williams, Shavertown, Kingston Township

For: Luzerne County Council Work Session Public Comments

I am writing regarding Walter Griffith's proposed amendments to the County Home Rule Charter.

First, his proposed amendment to change the makeup of the County Election Board to include three county council members is of great concern. The Charter specifically states in **Section 2.04 that council members are prohibited from serving on any other board.** This was put into the charter for good reason.

The County Council currently appoints the four members of the County Election Board. This board then appoints the fifth member. This current process appears very non-partisan.

His proposed amendment has all the appearances of trying to create an election board that would have the ability of being partisan in nature. The majority party of the council would be able to determine that the appointed election board members would support their agenda. This would be wrong.

Why does Walter Griffiths think this current Election Board, that the County Council appointed the members of, needs to be changed? Why does he think council members need to be on the board? What other boards should council members be on? Certainly the Election Board isn't the only concerning board is it?

Second, his proposed amendment for the county council hiring its own solicitor is also very concerning. Is he not satisfied with the current County Solicitor's work? Was not the current County Solicitor's appointment confirmed by the County Council? Why would it be necessary to hire an additional solicitor just for the council? Is the council okay with using taxpayer money for services we already pay for? I'm not.

In today's Citizens Voice it states that Mr. Griffiths and Mr. Urban have said that it poses a potential conflict for the "office of law" to serve as counsel for both county

administration and county council since the chief solicitor reports to the county manager. Don't they realize that "**THE LAW IS THE LAW**"? So, what could the "conflict of interest" be? If it is that the county solicitor also reports to the county manager - well, isn't the county manager appointed by the Council? So what would be the problem of the chief solicitor reporting to both council and manager? It seems like something funny is going on here...

Both of these amendments have very obvious and serious flaws and concerns. They also seem very partisan in nature. Any amendments to the Home Rule Charter must be motivated by good reasoning, address the good intentions of all Luzerne County citizens, and pass a strict litmus test of non-partisanship.

Sincerely,

Denise Williams  
Shavertown  
Kingston Township

If you have concerns about the validity of this message, contact the sender directly, or the Luzerne County IT Department at [Cybersecurity@LuzerneCounty.org](mailto:Cybersecurity@LuzerneCounty.org)