

From: [Carole Shearer](#)
To: [Luzerne County Council Meeting Public Comments](#); [Luzerne County Council Members](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: [Please read aloud into the public record at this evening's Council voting session] RE: Introduction of amendment to the Luzerne County Charter 5/23/23
Date: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 2:58:19 PM

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Dear members of the Luzerne County Council, On your agenda this evening (May 23, 2023) is the introduction of an amendment to change the make-up of the Luzerne County Election Board. As a 20-year resident of the county, I have questions about the timing and transparency of this introduction of amendment. As the County Council is now overwhelmingly composed of one political party, and not at all representative of the overall political make-up of Luzerne County, this move is ill advised. The current charter ensures that the Election Board is non-partisan and independent, as it should be: membership split evenly between the two parties, independently electing a chair, unable to serve as an elected county official. The proposal would dismiss the checks and balances in place by the current County Charter, would ONCE AGAIN promote cronyism and favoritism in this county, and would destroy the ability to retain institutional knowledge from election cycle to election cycle. Does the County Council not retain valuable lessons from previous results of corruption and partisanship in the county? Council recently voted against the creation of a Citizen Commission, which would have been composed of elected members of the public charged with studying and formulating recommended changes to the Charter. Instead, there is an emergent effort to force changes onto the November ballot, with no transparency or accountability. Council should spend its valuable time working on issues that will affect and assist the citizens who elected you - meaningful and lasting improvements to our roads and bridges, support for small businesses, high-paying jobs, and good, safe schools for our kids. Sincerely,
Carole Shearer Butler Township District 04 Luzerne County

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