

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Luzerne County Council Meeting Public Comments](#)
Cc: [Gerard Notartomaso](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Public Statement to be read before vote on amendment to change Charter
Date: Monday, June 12, 2023 11:13:19 PM

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PLEASE READ MY STATEMENT BEFORE THE VOTE AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME (voting session agenda item)

Dear members of council. My name is Jay Notartomaso. I live in West Wyoming and am a business owner in Wilkes-Barre for 37 years. The politicization of the elections in Luzerne County by the current extremists running the Luzerne County Council is once again taking its toll on the citizens of our county. Instead of important issues being addressed, you are once again feeding your obsession with voting rights and creating more problems instead of solving them.

The proposed amendment should NOT be approved. This amendment will take away the independence of the Board of Election by giving the most partisan County Council we have ever had, direct authority to appoint all 5 members including the chair. It will also limit the chair's term from 4 to 2 years, which will further harm the ongoing problems due to lack of institutional knowledge needed to perform the job properly.

Instead of giving a voice to the citizens of Luzerne county and addressing real problems, County Council voted against the formation of a Citizen Commission which would have been composed of members elected by the public to study and formulate recommended changes to the Charter.

The clear political bias in this amendment is glaringly apparent, drafted in secret with no input from citizens.

Maintaining power, tampering with democracy, and keeping a low level of competency and fairness is not in the best interest of Luzerne county. Please vote against this amendment and instead get to work by addressing the real needs of our citizens like fixing roads, creating jobs with livable wages, and funding schools.

Thank you, Jay Notartomaso, West Wyoming
[REDACTED]

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