

Village of Jonesville Proposed City Charter Information Sheet



Process to Create a Charter

Charter Commission was elected August 6, 2013.

Charter Commission has 90 working days from its election to create a charter.

Draft charter is submitted to the Governor's Office for legal review.

Once the proposed charter is deemed legally sufficient, the residents of the Village will have the opportunity to vote on the charter. If the vote is affirmative, the charter is filed with the State of Michigan.

Election of Mayor and City Council.

New city begins operation on the date proposed in the charter.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Charter? A charter is a legal document that establishes the City. The charter establishes the form of government, essential administrative and personnel functions as well as services.

Does the Village currently have a charter? No, the Village of Jonesville operates under the principles set forth by the General Law Village Act.

What will happen if the Village of Jonesville becomes a city? The Village of Jonesville would be a Home Rule City instead of a General Law Village. As a city, Jonesville will operate independent of Fayette Township. Jonesville residents, businesses, and property owners would no longer pay taxes to Fayette Township.

Will incorporation as a city result in higher taxes? As a city, Jonesville's governing body can levy a maximum of 20 mills, the same as the village can currently levy. The city intends to levy 16.388 mills, the same as the village currently levies.

Will incorporation result in the creation of a city income tax? No, a city income tax is fairly uncommon in Michigan municipalities and requires a vote of the people to become effective.

What changes will result from the charter? The proposed City of Jonesville would have to take on the services of Assessing, Tax Collection, and Elections. Residents will no longer have to pay taxes to Fayette Township. The proposed City would have a mayor and city council yet retain a Council-Manager form of government. The intent of the charter commission was to create a document that would not change existing municipal operations in Jonesville.

Will Village Ordinances and Regulations Change? No, all of the existing ordinances and by-laws would remain in effect.

Incorporation Process to Date

Village Council appoints committee to explore the impact of city incorporation. (08/17/2011)

Committee solicits community input and conducts educational sessions with residents (Aug-Nov 2011)

Committee develops recommendation to council (11/16/2011)

If the Village Council proceeds with cityhood, they initiate a petition process, which includes the proposed boundaries.(11/16/2011)

Petition must contain signatures of 5% (113) of registered voters who own property in the village. (04/18/2012)

After collection of signatures, petition is then filed with State Boundary Commission (SBC). (04/18/2012)

SBC conducts "Sufficiency Hearing" to ascertain the accuracy of application and proposed boundaries. (08/08/2012)

If petition sufficient, SBC establishes date for public hearing. (10/17/2012)

Village residents have 45 days to file a petition opposing city incorporation. (03/25/13)

If no petition is filed, SBC establishes a date for the election of Charter Commission (nine members). (08/06/13)

Village Council Members

Robert Snow-President, Gerry Arno-President Pro Tem, Tim Bowman-Trustee, Jerry Drake-Trustee, Ron Hayes-Trustee, Jim Marks-Trustee, Andy Penrose-Trustee

Charter Commission Members

David Steel-Chairman, Jim Marks-Vice Chairman, John Ciaravino, Betty Fast, Ron Hayes, Les Hutchinson, Scott Leising, Jim Pope, Mike Venturini

Open House

The Village of Jonesville Charter Commission will be hosting an open house on **Tuesday, October 22, 2013** at the Jonesville Fire Department (116 W. Chicago).

There will be two sessions to give residents an opportunity to ask questions and hear a little bit about the process for developing a charter from the commissioners and staff.

The first session will run from **10:00 A.M. to Noon.**

The second session will run from **7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.**

For future meetings and additional information regarding the Charter Commission, visit our website at www.jonesville.org.

Your input is appreciated.

Written comments will be accepted by email to Jeff Gray, Village Manager at manager@jonesville.org; or by U.S. Mail to the Village Hall at 265 E. Chicago Street, Jonesville, MI 49250.

Or feel free to call the Village Hall at (517) 849-2104 to speak with someone about your questions, comments or concerns.