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Draft Charter Summary for Dayton-Montgomery County, Ohio

Dayton Together

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This draft charter combines two major restructuring efforts in a single vote:

1. Restructuring County Government to eliminate some elected offices and streamline county operations under an elected County Executive; and
2. Merging Dayton with Montgomery County.

There are two ways to accomplish this: gain the approval of the *legislative authority* of the jurisdiction transferring its powers and duties to the County **OR** a charter ballot...or be approved by a majority of those voting: (1) in the county; (2) a majority of those voting in Dayton; and (3) a majority of those voting *inside* the county, but *outside* the city of Dayton. Those are three distinct voting populations that must have majority approval before a charter can be adopted. In all cases, “majority” equals 50%-plus-1 of those voting that election.

- This draft charter also allows communities, at any time, to join a Dayton-Montgomery County consolidation by the consent of a community’s legislative authority or a majority vote as outlined above.
- In the case of conflict between the exercise of powers granted by this Charter and the exercise of powers granted by the Ohio Constitution, the powers of the municipality or township shall prevail. (like?)

Creation of County Executive

Elected by majority vote. The powers, duties, salary and length of elected term of the executive are outlined by the charter placed on the ballot. Usually, the executive is the CFO of the county having all administrative duties and powers now vested in a county commission, including appoint, suspend and remove all county personnel, except those elected to office or are, by law, under the jurisdiction of bodies other than the county commission. A charter may specify the Executive’s reporting duties: For instance, an annual budget report to the county commission, etc.

A charter may grant powers to the Executive to investigate county personnel for official conduct and should specify a line of succession should the Executive position become vacant.

Creation of a County Council

Charter must specify the number of elected county commissioners or councilpersons---and whether to elect them by districts, by at-large seats, or a combination of both. *If we choose to propose a mix of both, no more than half may be elected at-large.*

Creation of an Urban Council to represent former city of Dayton

If the electorate believes Dayton should have representation on the County Council or Commission so it can advocate for specific urban core issues and/or levying an “urban service district” fee here are some options:

- An Urban Core Caucus that advises County Council. “Advice” is non-binding and would not need to be created by the Charter.
- Charter could create an Urban Council with elected representatives. Details must be included about election method, succession, vacancy appointments, etc.

Some Key Questions

1. How many county row offices shall be appointed, not elected?
2. Include economic development article in the Charter about how transfer of municipal powers to the County may improve area’s economic competitiveness?