

VIRGINIA: IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE COUNTY OF CHARLES CITY

**IN RE: PETITION FOR WRIT OF SPECIAL
ELECTION FOR REFERENDUM TO
ADOPT THE COUNTY BOARD FORM OF
GOVERNMENT FOR CHARLES CITY
COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

ROBERT H. TYLER,

Petitioner.

Case No.: CL25000245-00

**WRIT OF SPECIAL ELECTION FOR REFERENDUM
TO ADOPT THE COUNTY BOARD FORM OF GOVERNMENT
FOR CHARLES CITY COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

IT APPEARING to the Court by a Petition filed by Robert H. Tyler that a referendum should be held on the question of whether Charles City County, Virginia, will adopt the County Board form of government.

AND IT FURTHER APPEARING that the Petition for Writ of Special Election is found to be in proper order and the requisite number of signatures of voters are attached to the Petition.

AND IT FURTHER APPEARING that the special election for a referendum on whether Charles City County, Virginia, will adopt the County Board form of government should be held on April 14, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED that, pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-301, this Writ of Special Election is issued and the Electoral Board of the County of Charles City, Virginia, is directed to take steps and prepare such means as may be necessary to hold the Special Election for a referendum on whether Charles City County, Virginia, will adopt the County Board

form government on April 14, 2026, in the manner and at the places as would be executed for a general election. The question to appear on the ballot will be:

SHALL THE COUNTY OF CHARLES CITY CHANGE ITS FORM OF GOVERNMENT TO THE COUNTY BOARD FORM?

Yes

No

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT if a majority of the voters in that referendum special election vote in the affirmative, then a further election is ORDERED to take place on November 3, 2026, to fill the seat of the newly created at-large position on the Board of Supervisors of Charles City County, Virginia; such victor in that election will begin his or her term on January 1, 2027, and that term of office will end on December 31, 2027, coinciding with the terms of office of the other three seats on the Board of Supervisors of Charles City County.

This Court further ORDERS the Electoral Board and Registrar of the County of Charles City, Virginia, to observe the directives set forth in Virginia Code § 24.2-684 when conducting this special election. This Court further ORDERS that the Secretary of the Electoral Board must post a copy of this Writ of Special Election on the official website for the County and have notice of the election published three times in a newspaper having a general circulation in the County, with the first notice appearing no more than 35 days before the election and the third notice appearing no less than seven days before the election, and to post notice of the election at the door of the County courthouse. This Court further ORDERS that the Secretary of the Electoral Board must certify the results of the referendum election to the Commission on Local Government, to this Court, to the State Board of Elections, and to such other authority as may be proper to accomplish the purpose of the election.

The Clerk of this Court is further ORDERED to transmit a certified copy of this Writ of Special Election to Counsel for the Petitioner, the Secretary of the Electoral Board, the Virginia State Board of Elections, and the County Attorney for Charles City County, Virginia.

Entered: January 16, 2024

Jim DeFord
Judge

WE ASK FOR THIS:

WHETSTONE LAW, PLLC

By: J. S. Everard
Joshua S. Everard

VSb No. 93492
7584 Irish Creek Road
Vesuvius, Virginia 24483
Telephone: (540) 209-5539
E-mail: joshua@whetstonelawva.com

Counsel for the Petitioner

Joshua S. Everard
Attorney



Whetstone Law, PLLC
7584 Irish Creek Road
Vesuvius, Virginia 24483
(540) 209-5539
joshua@whetstonelawva.com

January 14, 2025

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Joshua P. DeFord, Chief Judge
Charles City Circuit Court
P.O. Box 86
10780 Courthouse Road
Charles City, VA 23030

Re: *Request for Entry of Writ of Special Election for Referendum to Adopt the County Board Form of Government for Charles City County, Virginia*
Case No.: CL 25000245-00

Dear Judge DeFord,

On November 17, 2025, my client Robert H. Tyler, by counsel, filed a Petition for Writ of Special Election for Referendum to Adopt the County Board Form of Government for Charles City County (the "Petition"). The Clerk issued a Certification that she had received and accepted the Petition and Statement on the very same day the Petition was filed. *See Virginia Code § 24.2-684.1(1)*. The Petition and attached exhibits are in the form and contain the substance required by Virginia Code §§ 15.2-400 *et seq.* and 15.2-300 *et seq.*

Since filing the Petition, my client and other qualified voters of Charles City County (the "County") have been diligently collecting the signatures of qualified voters of the County in order to reach the requisite number, which is 10% of the total number of the qualified voters of the County. Based on information from the General Registrar's office, there are 5,896 qualified voters in the County. 10% of that number is 590. According to the Clerk's Office, and based on confirmation by the General Registrar, we have submitted 615 signatures of qualified voters of the County. Because that amount exceeds 10% of the total qualified voters of the County, this matter is ripe for entry of a Writ ordering a special election for a referendum on whether the County will adopt the County Board form of government. Therefore, and by this letter, I move that the Court enter such a Writ. Attached to this letter is a copy of a draft Writ that complies with the requirements of the law and accomplishes the task set before the Court.

If the Court wishes to have a hearing on this matter before entering the Writ of Special Election, I ask that such hearing be held expeditiously and take precedence over the other civil matters on the Court's docket, because time is of the essence in complying with the timing parameters set by the Virginia Code when holding such a referendum special election. A Writ must be entered

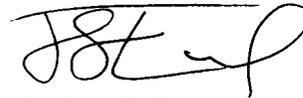
FILED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
CHARLES CITY COUNTY, VA.
DATE 1/14/2025 TIME 10:23 PM
Nicole Brown CLERK, DEPUTY CLERK

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in this matter by January 23, 2026, in order for a referendum special election to be held on April 14, 2026. However, it is my experience in filing past petitions for writs of special election that such hearings are not necessary – the question is merely whether the requisite number of signatures are attached to the Petition and whether the Petition complies with the law.

I understand that this is an unusual matter, and am happy to assist in any way possible. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JSE', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Joshua S. Everard
Counsel for Robert H. Tyler