

On May 6, 2025, the Voters of Pepper Pike have an opportunity to approve a revised Charter for the City. This Charter would replace the original Charter that was written in 1966.

- ❖ The City Charter establishes the structure of our local government. The existing Charter was adopted in 1966 and has not been comprehensively reviewed in over 58 years. As a result, it contains much antiquated language, and similarly antiquated provisions which are not seen as “best practices” for modern Municipal governments.
- ❖ The revised Charter was drafted by a Commission of nine Pepper Pike residents, selected by the Mayor and the Council, which met in open public sessions over a twenty week period.
- ❖ Input and suggestions were solicited from the City Administration, the City Council, and the public, using a variety of sources, including multiple email updates, a hard copy mailing, and the Pepper Pike Post. The proceedings of the Commission were covered by the Chagrin Valley Times.
- ❖ All meetings were advertised to the public, and the detailed minutes of all meetings were and are available on the City’s website, as are the Final Report and Summary of the work of the Commission.
- ❖ The Commission fully considered the input received from all sources, and decided on an incremental approach, making some needed changes now, and leaving other issues for consideration in 2030. **Most of the Charter would remain unchanged.**

Key aspects of the revised Charter are:

- ❖ **Updated language and removal of provisions not consistent with the current Ohio State Constitution and Ohio Law.**
- ❖ **Establishing qualifications for office, and provisions for removal from office, for cause or inability to serve, in accordance with Due Process principles and procedures, for members of the Council and the Mayor.**
- ❖ **Providing for true separation of powers, with the Council selecting their presiding officer, while the Mayor remains as the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Pepper Pike.**
- ❖ **Restructuring the Planning Commission to be an independent body, selected by the Mayor and the Council together, and providing for better public notice of zoning actions that may impact on adjacent and nearby properties.**