

**York County Council
Referendum for Changing to Four-Year Terms
November 8, 2016**

Currently York County is only one of two remaining counties within South Carolina, Anderson being the other, that have their county council members on a two-year election cycle. All the others are four-year terms. Citizens in our county will have this issue on the ballot for voter approval on November 8, 2016.

Some facts as to York County and the responsibility of the seven members of the county council:

1. The county has over 1,100 employees
2. The expense budget is \$113 million
3. They oversee over \$600-\$750 million in capital programs

Just based on the above, York County would qualify as a Fortune 2000 company if it were a private entity based on budget and number of employees.

Additionally a few York County statistics are as follows:

1. \$200 million annually in new business development since 1995
2. One of the top five counties in SC for population growth and property value
3. One of the top seven counties in personal income and total number of jobs.

With the difficult responsibility of governing a growing and ever-changing county, the terms for our County Council members need to be changed from two to four years for these reasons:

- The positive countywide programs and relationships currently in place have a better chance of continuing and concluding with a successful outcome
- Citizens and business have much more certainty that local issues and problems will be addressed consistent county polices and long-term planning
- Continuity will be increased with less turnover of council members (In the past 12 years, one County Council district has had a turnover of six members, and representation in two other districts changed five times. This does not provide the continuity that we the citizens require in our government.)
- All other local elected officials in our county (including mayors and school board members) are on four-year terms.

The referendum on the election ballot will read as follow

“Shall the terms of office of members of the York County Council be changed from two-year terms to four-year staggered terms, effective with the term of office commencing on January 2, 2017; provided that of those members of the County Council elected in the November 2016 general election, four of such members who receive the highest number of votes shall serve four-year terms and the remaining three members elected shall receive initial terms of two years only, and thereafter, all members of the York County Council shall be elected on a staggered basis for four-year terms?”

In favor of the question/yes

We recommend you vote this box on the ballot

Opposed to the question/no