

A look back at the position of Chairman

Vote 'Yes' on charter issues

Kansas City Star, The (MO)-October 15, 2000

.

.

Question No. 2 - Would increase the membership of the Board of County Commissioners from five to seven, with one member elected at-large. That official would be chairman of the commission.

.

.

Johnson County lacks a central, unifying leader. The at-large chairman would fill this role, similar to the mayor of a city.

.

.

Voters should support all three questions. County government in Kansas dates to statehood in the 19th century. This is an opportunity for Johnson County to break into the 21st.

Johnson County commission did its homework

Kansas City Star, The (MO)-October 31, 2000

Author: DAVID WYSONG, Special to The Star

.

.

For some 15 months, a 25-member Charter Commission of people from all walks of life met once a week for 2 1/2 hours to study the county government structure and process. The purpose was to upgrade Johnson County government in the next century.

After 15 long months, the final recommendations were thoroughly deliberated. The commission took a vote.

The tally was 24-1 to present the first two recommendations to the county commissioners for the purpose of placing the questions on the Nov. 7 ballot.

.

.

2. Should the Board of County Commissioners go from five commissioners and an annual rotating chairman or chairwoman to a seven-member board with an at-large four-year chairman or chairwoman?

This is probably the most important of the three questions. Our county needs one strong voice to represent us on metropolitan issues.

.

.

In closing, it is interesting that The Kansas City Star and Olathe Daily News, along with Steve Rose and The Sun, feel as I do, that our Johnson County government needs to be changed and that the charter should be passed by the voters.

We need a voice that reaches out to the entire metropolitan area...

.

.

A county official with clout

Kansas City Star, The (MO)-August 1, 2002

Author: YAEL T. ABOUHALKAH, The Kansas City Star

.

.

The new chairman is going to be involved in key funding and planning decisions for many areawide issues. The new chairman should be expected to help lead efforts to:

Build new roads in the county while trying to hold down urban sprawl.

Connect trails and greenways to others in the region.

Work on programs to shore up older neighborhoods so they don't deteriorate and wind up looking like dilapidated areas of Kansas City and Kansas City, Kan.

Fight for bistate tax funding for worthwhile projects in Johnson County.

Improve mass transit across state lines.

Forge agreements that could limit unproductive tax breaks in the county - and the region.

Promote the expansion of a regional parks system.

But will one person make that much difference? Sure, if that person uses his or her clout appropriately.

The new, voter-selected chairman will set the tone for how seriously Johnson County and its desires will be taken in the rest of the metropolitan area.

.

.