



Establishment of a Charter County

All information pertaining to the establishment of a Charter County can be found in Article XII, Sections 5,6,7,8, & 9. After conducting a keyword search of Arizona Revised Statutes and a visual search through A.R.S. Title 11, no other information regarding the formation or creation of Charter County was found.

Art XII Section 5 of the Arizona Constitution contains the provision and timetables for the creation of a Charter County. Below is a summary, in chronological order of the events that need to take place, for the establishment of Charter County. A brief discussion regarding taxation and appointed v. elected officials will take place at the end.

Step 1	BOS calls for an election on its own regard or within 10 days of receipt of a petition signed by at least 10% of all ballots cast, in the county, for all candidates in the most recent general election for Governor or President.	Initial Step	Formation of a Charter Committee and election of 15 Charter Committee members elected evenly by Supervisorial districts. (Note. All qualified electors, including elected officers are eligible)
Step 2	If a majority of electors vote to form the Charter Committee, then the Charter Committee will prepare and submit a proposed Charter for the county (must be signed by a majority of the members) and fill it with the Clerk of the BOS, after which the committee is dissolved	120 days after the election to form the committee	Draft and submittal of a proposed County Charter to be voted on.
Step 3	The county will publish the proposed Charter in the official newspaper of the county once a week for three consecutive weeks	First publication must take place within 20 days after being filled with the Clerk of the BOS	Initial public notification
Step 4	The proposed Charter shall be submitted to a vote of the electors of the county at a general or special election (if a general election is to be held within 90 days then the Charter shall be submitted at this general election)	45-90 days after final publication	Final vote on the Charter. The full text of the proposed Charter must be printed and mailed to each household containing a registered voter at least 11 days prior to the election.
Step 5	If a majority of electors ratifies the Charter, the Charter and a statement setting forth the submission to the electors and its ratification shall be certified by the Clerk of the BOS and submitted to the Governor for Approval.	Approval within 30 days	The Governor must approval the charter unless it is in conflict with the Constitution or the laws of this state. On approval of the Governor the Charter becomes law.



Taxation and County Officers

The decision to include a Charter provision authorizing taxation must be placed on the ballot as a separate question when ratifying the Charter. The Taxation authority is restricted to

- Taxes on a countywide basis to provide services on a countywide basis.
- Taxes on a specially designated area basis to provide services or special levels of services to that area.

The Charter must provide for an elected governing body. If the Charter provides for the office of Supervisor, then the number of Supervisors must be between 5 and 9. If the Charter does not provide for the office of Supervisor then it may provide for the elimination of the office. If the Charter provides for the elimination or appointment of an officer previously elected then the effective date must be after the expiration of the current elected officer(s) term. The Provision to eliminate or appoint an officer that was previously elected shall be placed on the ballot as a separate question when ratifying the Charter.

The result of the voting on any provision authorizing taxing powers, appointing, or eliminating elected officers of the county, does not affect the result of the voting on ratifying the Charter.