

# A Better Choice!

By Jack Alan Brown Jr

Our home-rule charter defines the form and powers of government in Josephine County. Not many people have seen a copy, let alone read it. Have you? The voters gave county government in general, and the Board of County Commissioners in particular, a blank check when they approved our current charter in 1980. They provided in Sections 5, 6, & 7 that...

*"Except as this charter provides to the contrary, the county has authority over matters of county concern to the fullest extent now or hereafter granted or allowed by the constitutions and laws of the United States and the State of Oregon... The charter shall be liberally construed... The county has all powers necessary or convenient for the conduct of its affairs, including all powers that counties may now or hereafter assume under the home rule provisions of the constitution and laws of Oregon... Except as this charter provides to the contrary... all other powers of the county not vested by this charter elsewhere are vested in the Board of County Commissioners..."*

Are you comfortable with this expansive grant of power to county government? If you contrast the current charter's underlying philosophy with that of the Declaration of Independence and our State and National Constitutions, the need to revise the County Charter will be obvious. We think you will want to help us place a better charter on the ballot.

There are six areas in the current charter needing revision: (1) power of government must be restricted to specific, delegated ones; (2) regional representation must be created on the Board of County Commissioners that cannot be dominated by the population center of the county; (3) the electoral process must be reformed to allow "yes" and "no" votes on candidates; (4) the taxing and budgeting process must be changed, subjecting the salary and benefit-setting of elected officials to the ordinance making process, so that it is subject to citizen initiatives and referendums; (5) our personal liberties and property rights must be safeguarded with a bill of rights; and (6) a glossary must be provided of terms used in the charter, so it cannot be misconstrued.

(see other side)

# A Better Choice!

By Jack Alan Brown Jr

Our home-rule charter defines the form and powers of government in Josephine County. Not many people have seen a copy, let alone read it. Have you? The voters gave county government in general, and the Board of County Commissioners in particular, a blank check when they approved our current charter in 1980. They provided in Sections 5, 6, & 7 that...

*"Except as this charter provides to the contrary, the county has authority over matters of county concern to the fullest extent now or hereafter granted or allowed by the constitutions and laws of the United States and the State of Oregon... The charter shall be liberally construed... The county has all powers necessary or convenient for the conduct of its affairs, including all powers that counties may now or hereafter assume under the home rule provisions of the constitution and laws of Oregon... Except as this charter provides to the contrary... all other powers of the county not vested by this charter elsewhere are vested in the Board of County Commissioners..."*

Are you comfortable with this expansive grant of power to county government? If you contrast the current charter's underlying philosophy with that of the Declaration of Independence and our State and National Constitutions, the need to revise the County Charter will be obvious. We think you will want to help us place a better charter on the ballot.

There are six areas in the current charter needing revision: (1) power of government must be restricted to specific, delegated ones; (2) regional representation must be created on the Board of County Commissioners that cannot be dominated by the population center of the county; (3) the electoral process must be reformed to allow "yes" and "no" votes on candidates; (4) the taxing and budgeting process must be changed, subjecting the salary and benefit-setting of elected officials to the ordinance making process, so that it is subject to citizen initiatives and referendums; (5) our personal liberties and property rights must be safeguarded with a bill of rights; and (6) a glossary must be provided of terms used in the charter, so it cannot be misconstrued.

(see other side)

# A Better Choice!

By Jack Alan Brown Jr

Our home-rule charter defines the form and powers of government in Josephine County. Not many people have seen a copy, let alone read it. Have you? The voters gave county government in general, and the Board of County Commissioners in particular, a blank check when they approved our current charter in 1980. They provided in Sections 5, 6, & 7 that...

*"Except as this charter provides to the contrary, the county has authority over matters of county concern to the fullest extent now or hereafter granted or allowed by the constitutions and laws of the United States and the State of Oregon... The charter shall be liberally construed... The county has all powers necessary or convenient for the conduct of its affairs, including all powers that counties may now or hereafter assume under the home rule provisions of the constitution and laws of Oregon... Except as this charter provides to the contrary... all other powers of the county not vested by this charter elsewhere are vested in the Board of County Commissioners..."*

Are you comfortable with this expansive grant of power to county government? If you contrast the current charter's underlying philosophy with that of the Declaration of Independence and our State and National Constitutions, the need to revise the County Charter will be obvious. We think you will want to help us place a better charter on the ballot.

There are six areas in the current charter needing revision: (1) power of government must be restricted to specific, delegated ones; (2) regional representation must be created on the Board of County Commissioners that cannot be dominated by the population center of the county; (3) the electoral process must be reformed to allow "yes" and "no" votes on candidates; (4) the taxing and budgeting process must be changed, subjecting the salary and benefit-setting of elected officials to the ordinance making process, so that it is subject to citizen initiatives and referendums; (5) our personal liberties and property rights must be safeguarded with a bill of rights; and (6) a glossary must be provided of terms used in the charter, so it cannot be misconstrued.

(see other side)

**revision highlights...**

- Get real manager skills for county operations, with an elected Public Works Director**
- Stop the recall & appointment ‘madness’**
- Get true local representation for your area**
- Just say “no” to candidates you don’t like (& “yes” to the ones you do)**
- Don’t let people without property tax your property away**
- Get your property rights back & give them to your children**
- Do away with outrageous permit charges**
- Make your local public servants live on less – you do**
- Insure your right to speak out publicly on matters of concern to you**

I have posted my proposal and a link to the current charter on my website, [jackbrown.org](http://jackbrown.org), for you to evaluate and compare for yourselves. If you do not have internet access, you may contact me for a printed copy of the proposed charter revision, or with your questions. Please call to volunteer your services in the gathering of signatures to qualify the proposed revision for the ballot. Most of all, I need your signature to put these changes to a vote of the people. Call me: 541-474-9343(home) / 541-659-4313(cell)

Contributions will also be helpful for the printing and mailing expenses incurred by this campaign. You are entitled under the current tax and election laws of Oregon to take a tax credit of up to \$50 each year for contributions made to support measures and qualified candidates that will appear on the ballot in the State of Oregon, and couples filing jointly can take a tax credit of up to \$100. (You must include a statement of occupation or employer with any contributions sent.) Make checks payable to ABC PAC, and mail to 745 NE 12th Street, Grants Pass OR 97526

**revision highlights...**

- Get real manager skills for county operations, with an elected Public Works Director**
- Stop the recall & appointment ‘madness’**
- Get true local representation for your area**
- Just say “no” to candidates you don’t like (& “yes” to the ones you do)**
- Don’t let people without property tax your property away**
- Get your property rights back & give them to your children**
- Do away with outrageous permit charges**
- Make your local public servants live on less – you do**
- Insure your right to speak out publicly on matters of concern to you**

I have posted my proposal and a link to the current charter on my website, [jackbrown.org](http://jackbrown.org), for you to evaluate and compare for yourselves. If you do not have internet access, you may contact me for a printed copy of the proposed charter revision, or with your questions. Please call to volunteer your services in the gathering of signatures to qualify the proposed revision for the ballot. Most of all, I need your signature to put these changes to a vote of the people. Call me: 541-474-9343(home) / 541-659-4313(cell)

Contributions will also be helpful for the printing and mailing expenses incurred by this campaign. You are entitled under the current tax and election laws of Oregon to take a tax credit of up to \$50 each year for contributions made to support measures and qualified candidates that will appear on the ballot in the State of Oregon, and couples filing jointly can take a tax credit of up to \$100. (You must include a statement of occupation or employer with any contributions sent.) Make checks payable to ABC PAC, and mail to 745 NE 12th Street, Grants Pass OR 97526

**revision highlights...**

- Get real manager skills for county operations, with an elected Public Works Director**
- Stop the recall & appointment ‘madness’**
- Get true local representation for your area**
- Just say “no” to candidates you don’t like (& “yes” to the ones you do)**
- Don’t let people without property tax your property away**
- Get your property rights back & give them to your children**
- Do away with outrageous permit charges**
- Make your local public servants live on less – you do**
- Insure your right to speak out publicly on matters of concern to you**

I have posted my proposal and a link to the current charter on my website, [jackbrown.org](http://jackbrown.org), for you to evaluate and compare for yourselves. If you do not have internet access, you may contact me for a printed copy of the proposed charter revision, or with your questions. Please call to volunteer your services in the gathering of signatures to qualify the proposed revision for the ballot. Most of all, I need your signature to put these changes to a vote of the people. Call me: 541-474-9343(home) / 541-659-4313(cell)

Contributions will also be helpful for the printing and mailing expenses incurred by this campaign. You are entitled under the current tax and election laws of Oregon to take a tax credit of up to \$50 each year for contributions made to support measures and qualified candidates that will appear on the ballot in the State of Oregon, and couples filing jointly can take a tax credit of up to \$100. (You must include a statement of occupation or employer with any contributions sent.) Make checks payable to ABC PAC, and mail to 745 NE 12th Street, Grants Pass OR 97526