



JOE REARDON
President and
Chief Executive Officer

August 29, 2018

The Honorable Scott Burnett
County Legislature Chairman
Jackson County Government
415 E. 12th Street, #200
Kansas City, MO 64106

Dear Chairman Burnett:

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors for the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce to request that the Jackson County Legislature remove the Charter amendment questions from the November 6 ballot. The KC Chamber Board is concerned that the 2018 Charter amendments were crafted without a clear process and with limited opportunity for citizen and business input. We feel that this is a very important set of changes to the Charter to be moving forward without greater input from the community.

Therefore, the KC Chamber calls on Jackson County elected leaders to remove the Charter amendments from the November 6 ballot and engage in a more comprehensive citizen review process. We urge the County to establish a formal charter review commission to conduct a comprehensive study of the current charter and county needs, collect citizen and business input, review local government best practices, and make a recommendation for appropriate charter modernization amendments to be placed on the ballot at a future date.

The KC Chamber, the largest business advocacy organization in the region, believes sound professional local government is vital to provide a sustainable foundation for business growth and economic vibrancy. Our leaders want to work with the County Legislature and the County Executive in order to promote well-thought-out policy measures that advance the county, its infrastructure and a greater quality of life for Jackson County residents.

Should the County be unable or unwilling to remove the current Charter amendments from the November 6 ballot, the KC Chamber will establish a position on the individual amendments likely leaving us little choice but to oppose the amendment measures due to lack of comprehensive study and formal review process.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Reardon', written in a cursive style.

Joe Reardon
President and CEO

cc: Mary Jo Spino, Clerk