

CADDO PARISH CHARTER STUDY REVIEW COMMISSION REPORT TO PARISH COMMISSION

This is the official report of the Caddo Parish Charter Study Review Commission ("**Committee**") serving pursuant to the provisions of Section 9-12 of the Caddo Parish Charter ("**Charter**").

Pursuant to the Charter, the President of the Caddo Parish Commission ("**Commission**"), Honorable John-Paul Young, the Parish Administrator, the Honorable Erica Bryant, and the Parish Attorney, the Honorable Donna Frazier, served on the Committee. In addition, pursuant to the Charter, the Commission appointed Mr. Versa Clark, Dr. Steven Coleman, Mr. Mike Johnson, Dr. Jimmy Jones, Mr. Curtis Joseph, Ms. Mavice Thigpen to serve on the Committee. The Committee selected Dr. Jimmy Jones to serve as Chairman, Mr. Mike Johnson to serve as Vice Chairman and the Commission Clerk, Honorable Jeff Everson, served as Secretary for the Committee.

The Committee met on August 14, September 18, October 2, October 9, October 23, and November 13, 2024, to consider suggested amendments to the Charter.

The Committee voted to recommend to the Commission the following amendments to the Charter:

Adding the Department of Communications and the Department of Information Systems to the Department listings.

The Committee also decided to resubmit the changes from the 2020 Charter Review Committee that have yet to have a public vote. Those recommendations, as is the case with the new one, were not considered time sensitive enough to warrant the cost of an election. The committee agreed that ideally these items would find themselves on a fall ballot with participation and turnout to ensure more awareness to voters and a more cost-effective process for tax payers. Those 2020 amendments are listed below:

Amendment No. 1 - Virtual Meeting Authority

Amend Section 3-07(A) of the Charter by adding the underlined language below:

- A. The commission shall meet regularly at least once in every month at such times and places as the commission may prescribe. Special meetings may be held on the call of the president of the commission or in the absence of the president, the vice-president, or a majority of the membership of the commission with such notice as may be required by state law. To meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property or public safety, the commission may meet upon call of the parish administrator, the president of the commission or in the absence of the president, the vice-president, or a majority of the commissioners at whatever notice it shall be convenient to give. The call convening a special or emergency meeting of the commission shall state the objects of the meeting. The power of the commission to act at a special or emergency meeting shall be limited, under penalty of nullity, to the objects specifically enumerated in the call. In the event of a national declaration of disaster or emergency, a state declaration of disaster or emergency, or a local declaration of disaster or emergency, that includes all or any part of Caddo Parish, the Commission shall meet via teleconference, video conference, or any technical digital means, to the extent allowed by law, to conduct all Caddo Parish Commission business, until it is declared to be safe for all to return to in-person meetings by a majority of the commissioners.

Amendment No. 2 - Authority of the President of the Commission

Amend Section 3-07(H) of the Charter to add the language underlined below:

- H. The president shall be the head of the parish government for ceremonial purposes ~~and~~ for purposes of military law, and for purposes of The Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, but shall have no administrative duties with regard to the parish administration.

Amendment No. 3 - Removing the Department of Fleet Services from the Charter

language: Amend the Charter by deleting Section 5-05.2, the deletion to be of the following struck-through

~~Section 5-05.2. Department of fleet services.~~

~~A. The head of fleet services shall be the director of fleet services.~~

~~B. The director of the department of fleet services shall direct and be responsible for the following activities:-~~

~~(1) Operation of a central facility for the repair and maintenance of parish government vehicles and equipment.~~

~~(2) operation of a central signage facility for the creation, repair, and maintenance of parish government signs.~~

~~(3) other such activities as may be directed by the administrator.~~

The Committee discussed many items in their review, but ultimately there were no other recommended changes. Additional discussions and review can be found in the minutes of the Charter Review Committee located on their webpage at <https://caddo.gov/caddo-parish-charter-review-committee/> .

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,
/s/Dr. Jimmy Jones, Chairman
December, 2024