



Be In the Know...Your El Dorado County Charter

What is a county charter?

The California Constitution recognizes two types of counties: general law counties and charter counties. El Dorado County is a Charter County, determined by a vote of the people in 1994. It is one of 13 Charter counties in California. General law counties adhere to state law when it comes to the number and duties of county elected officials. Charter counties, on the other hand, have a limited degree of “home rule” authority that may provide for the election, compensation, terms, removal, and salary of the governing board; for the election or appointment (except the sheriff, district attorney, and assessor who must be elected), compensation, terms, and removal of all county officers; for the powers and duties of all officers; and for consolidation and segregation of county offices. A charter does not give county officials extra authority over state and federal laws, local regulations, revenue-raising abilities, budgetary decisions, or intergovernmental relations.

El Dorado County Charter Preamble

The El Dorado County Charter provides a Preamble as follows:

We, the people of El Dorado County, adopt the charter to provide a county government that is responsive to the public safety, infrastructure, and other appropriate needs as to be provided by county government in a democratic and just manner. The people expect that the business of the county will be conducted using equitable methods and that the results shall benefit no individual or group(s) of individuals to the detriment of the people.

What is the purpose of the Charter Review Committee?

A Charter Review Committee is convened by the Board of Supervisors (Board) at least once every 5 years. The committee must convene at least two public hearings (meetings) and make recommendations for amendments to or revisions of the charter to the Board. The Board may provide the committee with charter topics to be reviewed and the committee may choose to review and make recommendations for updates to any portion of the charter.

Articles of the Charter

Article	Title	Summarized Topics
I	Powers of the Electors (voters)	Elections; Initiatives; Recall
II	Board of Supervisors	Terms; Compensation; Election of Officers; Powers and Duties
III	Chief Administrative Officer	Appointment; Compensation; Powers and Duties
IV	Department Heads, Boards and Commissions	Powers and Duties; Elected and Appointed Department Heads; other Boards and Commissions
V	Personnel	Civil Service Commission; Compensation; Disciplinary Actions
VI	Finance	County preference; Contract Administration
VII	General	Charter Review; General Law Governs; Grand Jury

There's More!

The El Dorado County Charter is a local governing document enacted by county voters in 1994. By visiting the webpage below, citizens will learn more about the charter and how it guides county governance.

Learn more about the Charter at:

[https://www.edcgov.us/government/bos/Charter/pages/County Charter - Table of Contents.aspx](https://www.edcgov.us/government/bos/Charter/pages/County%20Charter%20-%20Table%20of%20Contents.aspx)