

**Possible Questions to ask Elected Official of other Maryland Counties with Charter Government
September 1, 2011 at Winchester Hall**

To Ulman: You have been a county executive and county councilman; describe the differences in your role and how your perception of each office has changed over the years.

To Craig: You have a Council President elected "at large: by all of the voters of Harford County? What advantages disadvantages do you see in such an arrangement? Has the council president ever outpolled the executive? Has that caused a problem?

To both:

1. What interaction do individual council members have with Directors and Staff?
2. How do you balance the need to maintain direct management authority over staff with the need of council members to be responsive to their constituents regarding county services?
3. Describe your experience with appointing and removing Directors.
4. How are compensation determinations made with respect to "at will" Directors.
5. Does the county "outsource" services and if so what types and what has been your experience with Public Private Partnerships.
6. Describe your budgeting process and the give and take between the council and executive.
7. Can the council add to the budget?
8. Your council is elected by districts. How are the districts established?
9. As executive, how often do you find yourself dealing with the parochial interests of a particular council district and how does that affect your relationship with that council member or the rest of them?
10. As a council person how often did you find yourself at odds with the Executive or council over county wide vs. district wide issues?
11. What is the partisan balance of your board? Would you characterize your councilmanic districts as competitive on a partisan basis?
12. How partisan would you describe (a) the work of the council; (b) the personal dynamics of the council?
13. What is your relationship with the legislators? The administration? Are you consulted by either on a regular basis? What types of interaction do you have with other executives?
14. Have you used the veto during your administration and for what purpose?
15. Have any issues been brought to referendum?
16. Have you had any charter amendments or proposed charter amendments.
17. How does the council function when not considering actual legislation?
18. Do you attend council meetings?
19. How do you communicate generally with the council?