

# BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CHARTER AND NON-CHARTER COUNTIES

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## NON-CHARTER

- ❖ Structure of county government specified in State Constitution and State Statutes. Only amending the State Constitution or State law can change structure.
- ❖ Counties have powers of self-government as prescribed by the State Legislature.
- ❖ State Statutes do not provide for initiative or referendum, or recall of county officers.
- ❖ State Statutes do not require an Administrative Code.
- ❖ County cannot levy a utility tax in the unincorporated area.

## CHARTER

- ❖ Structure of county government specified in Charter as approved by the electorate. Structure can be tailored by the local electorate to meet the needs of the county.
- ❖ Counties have all powers of self-government unless they are inconsistent with the Constitution or State law.
- ❖ County charter may provide for initiative, referendum and recall at the county level.
- ❖ County Charter can require an Administrative Code detailing all regulations, policies and procedures.
- ❖ County Charter can provide that a “municipal utility tax” is levied in the unincorporated area.