

Friday 2 January 2026

Dear Nicholas,

Thank you for expressing interest in the discussion regarding whether the Arlington County Board should approve a charter to establish an advisory panel that would have examined Arlington's form of government. On behalf of my colleagues on the Board, I am providing you with an update on where things stand.

At the December 2025 Board meeting, the Board listened to public testimony and, on an alternative motion made by Board member Julius D. "JD" Spain, Sr., committed to a series of initial efforts between December 2025 and the July 2026 Board meeting. This motion was seconded by Board member Susan Cunningham and was unanimously adopted.

We have deemed these next steps the "Examination of Arlington's County Board Structure and Performance," and an associated document and timeline is available [here](#). In addition to designating Board members Spain, Sr., and Cunningham as County Board liaisons to this process, the initial efforts include, but are not limited to:

- A legal review of the County's current form of government under Virginia Law and government structures used in other counties and cities;
- Engaging with non-partisan external research partner(s) to analyze the history of the current Arlington Government structure;
- Identifying, no later than March 15, the financial resources and procurement process to support this external research;
- Engaging with the Arlington School Board and the Arlington Electoral Board on this process; and
- Reporting back at the July 2026 Board meeting on findings to date and next steps.

We appreciate your thoughts and contributions to this discussion. To keep up with updates on this process, please visit our [Examination of Arlington's County Board Structure and Performance webpage](#).

Sincerely,

Takis Karantonis, Chair
Arlington County Board