

Walker County Sole Commissioner Vote Petition

The online version of this petition, on [change.org](https://www.change.org), allowed signers to leave comments along with their names. Here's a sampling of those comments:

"I feel like the tax paying citizens of walker county are getting treated unfairly and while we elect the ones in charge they show no compassion towards us" -Donald Burgess, LaFayette

"I am signing because one person should not have this much power." -Chase Thomas, Trion

"I want to see accountability in Walker County." -Winston Wallin, LaFayette

"..It's time to end this archaic form of government." -Kathi Sprayberry, LaFayette

"We need a panel for decision making, kind of a check and balance method. Get rid of sole commissioner!" -Susan Kemp, LaFayette

"Our local government can no longer be ran by a sole commissioner. There needs to be a commission board of several people. There needs to be more accountability." -Kimberly Lively, LaFayette

"Walker County is a large area and we need district representation so our voice can be heard. North, South, East, West and Central county representation for a five person council. We need open government and accountability. We need for the voices of ALL residents to be heard and the needs and concerns of ALL residents met, not just the elite, politically connected few as it is now. ... A sole commissioner government has passed its prime. ALLOW THE WALKER COUNTY CITIZENS TO VOTE FOR A FIVE PERSON COUNCIL. PLEASE!" -Joanne Leach, Rossville

"My children deserve a better county with better leaders. Truth...we need integrity!" -Kristy Black, LaFayette

"There is NO accountability for our county with a sole commissioner. [Commissioner Heiskell] has been free to make poor decisions with no one to counteract those bad decisions." -Lisa Roerdink, LaFayette

"Our county government is operating without any oversight and without any real accountability to the citizens. Failure to allow the citizens a vote on the commissioner issue denies the citizens an opportunity to exercise their right to have a true voice in the leadership of our government. Don't deny us that right. Allow our voices to be heard." -Melissa Hegwood, LaFayette

"I want a better chance of my tax dollars actually helping my community." -Damon Lindsey, LaFayette

"We should have the right to vote on the style of government we have. I know I am young, however one cannot go through school without knowing about the government. As old of a government style as this is, with everyone else changing around us, we should choose if we want to change as well." -Hannah Smith, LaFayette

"I am tired of the way things are run with our sole commissioner. It is time to have more than one person deciding how to take care of the needs of our county. The people should have our say in it. We have been cheated enough." -Karen Brown, LaFayette

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“We need a check and balance when comes to a commissioner...” -Caleb Robinson, LaFayette

“Very concerned that a sole commissioner is not representative of the views of the entire county.” - Kathy Ragon, Chickamauga

“I do not feel we are truly listened to or that our best interests are met in Walker County with only one commissioner. We need a multi-member commission for simple checks and balances . This one person system is very outdated. Thank you .” -Gerald Burns, LaFayette

“We need all the people represented in our county and all parts of the county and not just one person pulling on the purse strings.” -Viola Smith, LaFayette

“Our county government is operating without checks and balances. I would like to be able to choose the type of leadership my county has” -Celeste Sanders, LaFayette

“We are a representative democracy; a government of the people, for the people, by the people. We should have a say in how and by whom we are represented. Be very leery of those who are afraid of losing control. It should be about responsible representation with accountability, not control.” - Christopher Finkbone, LaFayette

“We need more voices! I'm tired of having stuff Crammed down our throats” -Chad Capehart, Chickamauga

“I'm signing because the current system isn't working for the citizens. It's time for a change and that change starts with the voters electing what type of leadership they have.” -Daniel Young, LaFayette

“One person should not be able to decide the fate of so many people. Never understood this. Even families have two people to decide things(most families) point being who watches or checks [the commissioner's] decision ?” -Janet Pierce, Chickamauga

“No one person should be able to control what goes on in this county or any other one. It should be voted on by at least 3 maybe5. Then they should have to bring it to the citizens before a final decision is made.” -Judy Barclay, Rossville

“... Having a sole commissioner who decides the faith of the people's hard earn tax dollars and doesn't answer to where or how the money is spent is wrong. They get power hungry as if they were kings and queens of our fair county. I would like to see a board, where things are talked about and approved, nothing done under the table.” -Kay Pope, Cloudland

“With a sole commissioner there are no checks and balances to important decisions that might be made ‘for the welfare of the citizens of Walker County’. I would rather have a group think, and get more than one opinion..... It feels like a monarchy, where the people have NO say at all.” -Sandra Gribble, LaFayette

“Sharing of power. Not having one person in control. The residents should have a choice.” -Cynthia Morrison, Rossville

“Don't think one person should make all the final decisions for an entire county” -Pamela Germain, Chickamauga

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“A single person with this much power is against all principles of American government.” -Lowell MacMillan, LaFayette

“Need more than 1 commissioner to keep county government honest.” -James Tate, Chickamauga

“The current way is corrupt and not working for the county” -Jason Dahl, Chickamauga

“Because ‘government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.’” -Daniel Gilbreath, LaFayette

“We do not need a king/queen, we need a government.” -Christopher Barrett, Chickamauga

“One person should not have that much control. There should be a council or group that provides checks and balances for our county.” -Jennifer Clark, Rock Spring

“The ‘good ole boy’ type of government is over. ... The citizen of Walker County want checks and balances and accountability!” -Keith Martin, LaFayette

“As Americans we should have a choice and a chance. We are behind the times in Walker County and an embarrassment to the nation.” -Lindsey Stephenson, Chickamauga

“Government accountability is a must. Walker County government is out of control” -Daniel Clark, Rossville

“Feel it would be better for the county by provide more checks and balances.” -Brett Aalfs, Flintstone

“One person should not be in charge of how our money is wasted!” -Sharon Heming, Rossville

“When a sole commissioner can implement a tax hike disregarding the concerns of the citizens, and without any justification or even being able to produce a budget prior to implementing the hike, there is definitively something wrong and we need a change.” -Jeremy Morrow, LaFayette

“There needs to be a new way to do things. One person making the decisions for everyone does not work!” -Evan Crutchfield, Rossville

“We need representation who will listen to the people and not do as this commissioner does as she pleases like it is her own money. ... We need a five person board to represent all areas of our county.” -Priscilla Conley, Rossville

“Sole commissioner does not work anymore.. Abuse of power needs to stop.” -Patrick Chastain, LaFayette

“We need a board not just a single commissioner. I believe this would provide better accountability to the taxpayers of Walker Co.” -Brian Neal, Summerville

“I want more than one person saying where county money is spent.” -Martha Gates, LaFayette

“A sole commissioner system offers no checks and balances. One person controls everything which can lead to abuse of power.” -Sandra Rhoads, LaFayette

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“Having a Sole Commissioner is like living in a Dictatorship. Unacceptable....” -Kelly Searles, Chickamauga

“I agree that one person cannot oversee the entire county. We need a board to be responsible to each other and the county as a whole.” -Jenn Williams, LaFayette

“Checks and balances are needed.” -Pat Holloway, LaFayette

“No single person should have the authority to decide for a government.” -Matthew Hyde, LaFayette

“We need a better form of County government that represents all of the people of the County and prevents unilateral decision making. A sole commissioner system lack accountability.” -Sarah Rapier, LaFayette

“We need a mixed board making decisions on where our money is spent. Accountability!” -Steve Ramsey, Rossville

“I'm tired of the decisions being made by one single person” -Debbie Frye, Chickamauga

“This is an obsolete way of government and need changing” -Tony Davis, Rossville

“Because I believe we need a multi person commision” -Courtney Buckner, Rossville

“With one commissioner they have all the power and say so with how they run our county!” -Larry McWhorter, Chickamauga

“...this form of Government is outdated and we would benefit from a board of commissioners.” -Ray Jackson, Flintstone

“Sole commissioner government is truly a relic of the past and the wrong direction for Walker County!” -Chris Zelk, Flintstone

“there should be more than 1 party making deciisions for the whole county” -Mary Romans, LaFayette

“We more than one person in charge of making decisions for the County.” -Vickie Hartman, Flintstone

“Walker County deserves a chance to grow and it will not happen as long as we have a sole commissioner. To much power and the good buy way of business is what we have now and we deserve a change. If now businesses and people will continue to flee to Catoosa, surrounding counties, and Tennessee. As a resident and taxpayer in Walker County the people should be allowed to vote for this change.” -Roger Wood, Chickamauga

“It is time for a change in Walker County! We need checks & balances in place and this will not happen with a sole person in charge and not held accountable.” -John D Romans, LaFayette

“..we need a panel of people to decide and not someone who spends all the money on what they want and not what is needed!!!” -Alice Rector, LaFayette

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“There need to be multiple commissioners” -S Underwood, Flintstone

“The ‘sole commissioner’ system is fraught with opportunities for mis-management, fraud, and pure carelessness or ignorance. The rest of the USA has recognized the benefits of a Board of commissioner, which makes as much sense for a county as it does a school system, doesn't it? Would you rather have a ‘sole school commissioner’ instead of the representative boards? If it makes sense for one body, it certainly should make sense for the other!” -Art Thompson, LaFayette

“I don't think one person should have unchecked control.” -Randy Cumbee, Rock Spring

“We need more than one person making these important decisions.” -Debra Marsee, Chickamauga

“Need more than one person making decisions for our tax dollars.” -Betty Cooke, Rossville

“Because the power of this position should not be given to just one person. I feel a board gives better representation for citizens county wide.” -Julian Stephenson, LaFayette

“Democracy over dictatorship. 5 minds are better (and more fair) than 1.” -Joshua Harmon, Chickamauga

“With one commissioner you do not have equal representation. If you split the county up and had a 5 member commission then everyone living in the county would be better represented.” -James Dale Powell, Chickamauga

“Its time for change . Equal representation for the entire county. Something that has been lacking for years.” -William Glad, Rossville

“I'm signing because i am FED UP. I want to change the status in Walker County from Sole Commissioner to a Board of officers who are NOT currently active in any position in this county.” - Kerry Autry, Chickamauga

“...We need a multi member board that answers to the taxpayers that respects and implements changes to benefit the community. Current sole commission status is allowing one person to make whatever outlandish choice that one person chooses. This position is paid for by the taxpayers and the taxpayers should have the voice in expenditures.” -Linda Bowen, Rossville

“I feel Mrs.Heiskell's actions no longer represent the best interests of the citizens of Walker County. It is time to abolish the sole commission and follow what all other counties within the state have chosen to do and implement a board.” -Mike Schmidt, Chickamauga

“I don't believe that a sole commissioner can serve the best interests of the county One person cannot be effective with a county this large” -Phyllis Nichols, Chickamauga

“There is no oversight with a single commissioner.” -Jeremy Whitman, Rock Spring

“Having one person to make decisions for such a huge county does not make sense. There should be a committee/board elected so one person's wants or wishes do not out-weigh the wants or wishes of all the people of the county. In today's time, it's very scary for one person to have that power.” -Cindy Tumblin, Rock Spring

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"It is insane for 1 person to have control of that much money. It's time for a change." -William Blevins, Chickamauga

"One person have sole control is ridiculous. Walker county needs to get in the current century and out of the 1900's" -Elsa Mikell, LaFayette

"I don't feel the county's needs are being equally met by one commissioner. Democracy is needed." -Derek Wilbanks, LaFayette

"One person can not take care of all of Walker County's business!" -Connie Bernal, Chickamauga

"We need more leadership for this county, one person can not do and see everything that is going on in this county!" -Cathy Kelly, Chickamauga

"Absolute power corrupts absolutely. Walker county deserves a 5 commissioner system that is concerned with all the residents of the county and is not concerned with pet projects that only benefit parts of the county." -Kellie Putman, Rossville

"This form of representation is well outdated. It's past time for a change." -Ernest Broome, Rossville

"We need a change in the way commissioner is being ran. Too much responsibility for one person ." -Judy Meeks, LaFayette

"I want the right to vote for more than one commissioner over walker county." -Sharon Lyons, Rising Fawn

"Too large a county to be run by a sole individual. Also, lack of accountability with a sole commissioner." -Pam Rasmussen, LaFayette

"there should be NO one person with that much power in an county" -Jeanette Broom, Rossville

"I own property in Walker County and would like to build a house and become a Georgia resident, but I will not as long as this archaic type of government, with no checks and balances, continues to be in place." -Jill Wyse, Rising Fawn

"I don't like one person having control." -Nancy Debord, LaFayette

"A sole commissioner with no accountability and the ability to waste taxpayers money on whatever she wants needs to be changed NOW." -Jamie Waller, Rock Spring

"I believe everyone should vote on this. That is what is wrong in America now. Our voices should be heard individually and the votes taken! That is the way democracy works" -Paula Moore, Chickamauga

"I'm signing because I am tired of not being represented" -Rockie Tinker, Chickamauga

"One commissioner is not smart government!" -Joanie Jackson, LaFayette

"Sole commissioner is driving our county into the ground!" -Kittie Palmer, LaFayette

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“A sole commission doesn't make sense to me. No one person should make decisions that effect so many” -Randall Pittman, Rossville

“One person shouldn't make all the decisions concerning County Issues” -John Allen, Chickamauga

“A sole-commissioner governance needs to be changed. I've been upset for years over how things have been done.” -Sarah Jane Reynolds, Rossville

“I live in Catoosa county, where we do not have a sole commissioner. I own property in Walker county. Not having a sole commissioner is one reason I reside in Catoosa, not Walker at this time.” - Renee Southerland, Rossville

“It's time for a serious change in our county” -Antonio Lumpkin, Rock Spring

“Bad leadership, taxation without representation coupled with a huge dose of arrogance.” -Joe Pryor, Chickamauga

“A single commissioner allows ‘absolute power’ to one person. As history teaches us time and time again, absolute power corrupts absolutely. As this county grows it needs a better representation of the people by more commissioners and a better checks and balances. A single commissioner is generally dangerous and foolish for a community of this size.” -David Wharton, Lookout Mountain

“All of the power should not be given to one person. Walker Co. is the only county I know of that only has one. We need a change.” -Pat Wasdin, LaFayette

“Too much power for one person. Need more than one voice.” -Steve Moss, Rossville

“Having the largest county in ga with only 1 sole person running it is wrong. The government leaders are supposed to reflect the majority vote but with one person in charge, who is keeping Bebe real, honest? Change is necessary for growth...” -Kelly Suits, Chickamauga

“I think it's important because it would give the people of Walker County more voice in the way the government is run.” -Hugh Abernathy, LaFayette

“I feel a sole commissioner is not working for our county!” -Angie Haynes, Flintstone

“Walker County deserves better.” -David Swinford, Flintstone

“I want fair representation for the entire county.” -Charles Akin, Flintstone

“I believe that we need more than one commissioner in Walker County so that there are some checks and balances in place” -Maria Thornton, Rossville

“We should not have a sole commissioner. Too much money not accounted for!” -Brandi Blevins, Chickamauga

“A county this large represented by a sole commissioner is not only ineffective, antiquated, and opaque at best, it does not represent the democratic values of checks and balances this country was founded on.” -Caulie Young, Flintstone

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“This is an outdated system that I can not believe is still in effect in this day and age. If someone has a problem with more than one person being a county commissioner you have to ask why? Why would you not want someone looking over the other person's shoulder to ensure proper handling of the tax payer's money?? I don't care who that person is - I would want a co-commissioner.” -Edward Schub, Rising Fawn

“I submit to you that people in Walker County are not getting represented like they want to be. They have no say over anything.” -Sheryl Bruce, LaFayette

“Because the walker county commissioner affects my place of employment, and many many friends and family members. I think at people in every district, walker, catoosa etc, should be able to vote for whom they trust, and every 1 to 2 years re-elect so that the person in that position stays accountable for his/her actions.” -Ann Michelle Chandler, Ringgold

“It is unwise to put the needs of 70,000 citizens in the hands of one person (a single commissioner), who may or may not share the majority's views on important issues. A board composed of multiple representatives can more accurately represent the voice of the people.” -John M Hart, Rossville

“There should be more transparency in government.” -Stanley Lowe, Rising Fawn

“No one person can run the whole county! PERIOD!” -Kenny Tomlin, LaFayette

“I agree that one person cannot oversee the entire county. We need a board to be responsible to each other and the county as a whole.” -Sandra Heming, Chickamauga

“One individual can not over see everything. It is not fair to the people.” -Barbara Williams, Chickamauga

“Walker county citizens should have the opportunity to vote to discontinue or continue the local government being run by a sole commissioner. Walker county is too large of a county in square footage and population to be effectively governed and represented by one person. “ -Caitlin Persun, LaFayette

“We need several decision makers not just one.” -Brian Carlock, Rock Spring

“I think district representation would vastly help in decision making.” -Ronald Cates, Chickamauga

“It's time for a change. This form of government has failed us and now we have a commissioner that refuses to listen to us OR follow our wishes. We the people are the boss of this government and it's time we take back control.” -Jeremy Wallin, LaFayette

“the management of our county would be better served with more than one voice making decisions that affects every person living in walker county....I think iam right in saying the sole commissioner is the only form of Govt. that one person makes decisions solely on their own.there can be very handly under the table deals done without answering to anyone. A board of comissioners can hold each other accountable and openly let the taxpayers know where the money is going and that we are getting our moneys worth...” -Joel Tucker, LaFayette

“One person should not have sole control” -Ellen Ford, Lookout Mountain

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"Walker county needs more then one simple minded commissioner there must be a balance" - Charles Reese, Rossville

"Sole Commisioner is like having a President who is elected every 4 years but has the power of an executive and legislative body!" -Kevin Woody, Chickamauga

"Tired of 1 person deciding what to do with my money that I work for and wasting it on things that aren't needed and not using it wisely" -Penney Carter, Chickamauga

"I care about what happens in the community where I live, and 1 person cannot have full responsibility of deciding what's best for it!" -Rebekah Goodwin, LaFayette

"Walker County needs a change, please allow us to vote on changing our county government." - Tamara Reel, Rossville

"The wellbeing of a County and its future should not be left to the decisions and thoughts of one person." -Jason Thompson, LaFayette

"We need more than one person deciding the fate of our county. No checks and balances!" -Bob Cheli, LaFayette

"We need a more balanced government in Walker County" -Sue Ellen Hammond, LaFayette

"We need a change! We need a vote! Our money needs to be managed better!" -Larry Taylor, LaFayette

"The sole commissioner system is completely illogical. Needs to be abolished. I do live in Walker County." -Christy Williams, Summerville

"It's time to step out of the past and into the future..." -Stephen Laymon, LaFayette

"I think this should be put to a vote by the people and if the people choose a sole commissioner by vote then this matter can be put to rest." -Joan Gregory, LaFayette

"How county is not run like it should be. We need to have more than one person in control" - Donna Brown, LaFayette

"I have many concerns about a sole commissioner government, but my primary concern is the lack of checks and balances. You can not properly govern with one person serving as both legislative and executive leader." -James Lockwood, Chickamauga

"A single commissioner system leaves too much opportunity for mischief and does not allow for sufficient representation." -Jeff Daniels, LaFayette

"Walker county needs more accountability regarding the budget!" -Ralph Eller, Lookout Mountain

"There needs to be a system of checks and balances. I think 70 years of one person making decisions for such a large county is enough. Let's enter modern times. Divide the county into districts and let the people vote in a rep from their area." -Connie Sargeant, Chickamauga

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"I think we need more than one commissioner to conduct the affairs of Walker County." -Nancy Richardson, Rock Spring

"There needs to be several opinions explored when tax money is spent on development in Walker County.." -Susan Gaylon, Chickamauga

"Our county is HUGE. One person can't do it any more." -Betsy Hill, Flintstone

"We do not live in a dictatorship and should not be governed as if we did." -Vicki Evans, Ringgold

"The system needs a team working for WCounty, not one ruler!!" -Pat Horton, Rossville

"Walker County needs to move away from the sole commissioner to allow for greater accountability." -Jenny Morgan, LaFayette

"We need a transparent governing body. We need more than one person making decisions for our county to ensure all interests are considered. We need more accountability with tax payers monies." -Joyce Keller, Lookout Mountain

"We live in the United States. This means fair representation, not a dictatorship." -Gwendolyn Kiester, LaFayette

"I believe voters should at LEAST be entitled to a vote when it comes to how OUR county government is represented. Regardless of whether or not a citizen of this community desires the leadership of one single individual or a small diverse group comprised of community members, the main point of contention here is allowing us as concerned citizens the RIGHT TO VOTE ON THE ISSUE." -Wendy Dowda, LaFayette

"One person should not have that kind of control. Even our president doesn't!" -Janet Middlebrooks, Rock Spring

"I live in walker county. I have to feel the effects of corruption, arrogance, or flat-out ignorance from the few that represent our county. I would much like to be able to vote big and small issues alike. I don't feel that it is right to take away our voting rights because of some hothead views it as little importance to the public, or we just shouldn't have the right to vote on it regardless." -Mason Walker, LaFayette

"One person does not have the right to chose for every one." -Jeffery Fitzpatrick, LaFayette

"Because even the president has congress to help him think." -Cynthia Davis, Chickamauga

"Accountability; Check & Balance. I feel the county budget is too large for one individual to manage. Also, there are issues that need discussion and input before being made." -Ray McWhorter, Rock Spring

"I don't believe this county is fairly represented by having 1 commissioner. The commissioner pretty much does what she pleases because she doesn't have anyone to stand up to her about her spending or whatever else she does. We came from a county in Ohio that was not as large as Walker County and we had 4 commissioners. I think Walker Vounty should have at least 3 commissioners." -Linda Coontz, LaFayette

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“The many cities and communities within our county need wider representation.” -John Logan, LaFayette

“Our government is out of control from the county to the federal level. Let the citizens of Walker County make this decision.” -Tony Tucker, Lookout Mountain

“The residents of Walker deserve better representation and accountability. A board presents better representation and accountability than that of just one person.” -Patricia Campbell, Lookout Mountain

“Free-spending, unaccountable, and free-reign leadership should be brought into a system of checks and balances by a multi-commissioner board.” -Denise Manley Shahan, LaFayette

“There is less accountability when you're the only one making the decisions.” -Ashley Chapman, LaFayette

“i feel a board of people are better than one person. It will be best for our county.” -Crystal Hale, Chickamauga

“Commisioner should be held accountable. A GROUP, or at least TWO, would have to discuss and come to compromise for the good of all involved.....not for their own greedy intentions.” -Sharron Cockrell, LaFayette

“Everyone should have the right to vote on their choice of county government” -Deb & Bill Taylor, Chickamauga