

- The first step is that a Metropolitan Government Charter Commission shall be formed.
- The commission may be created by the following ways (T.C.A §7-2-101):
 1. The commission may be created by the adoption of a consolidation resolution by the governing body of a county and by the adoption of a substantially similar resolution by the governing body of the principal city in the county.
 2. In counties having a board of county commissioners, the commission may be created by the adoption of a consolidation resolution by either the governing body of the county or the board of county commissioners and by the adoption of a substantially similar resolution by the governing body of the principal city in the county.
 3. The commission may be created in any county in the manner prescribed by private act of the general assembly.
 4. The commission may be created upon receipt of a petition, signed by qualified voters of the county, equal to at least ten percent (10%) of the number of votes cast in the county for governor in the last gubernatorial election. *(551 would be the magic #)*
- Such Commission shall prepare and file a charter within nine (9) months after the date of its initial meeting with the county clerk, the city clerk of each incorporated municipality and with the county election commission. Such charter shall be made available to the public. (T.C.A §7-2-105)
- After a copy of the proposed charter has been certified to the county election commission, the county election commission shall hold a special referendum election. (T.C.A §7-2-106(a))
- The question on the ballot shall be “For Consolidation of (name of principal city) and (name of county)” and “Against Consolidation of (name of principal city) and (name of county.)” (T.C.A §7-2-106(a))
- The special election shall be held on a date fixed by the county election commission not less than eighty (80) days nor more than one hundred (100) days subsequent to the filing of the charter. (T.C.A §7-2-106(b))
- The charter is ratified only if approved by a majority of those voting within both the principal city and the majority of those voting outside the principal city (T.C.A §7-2-106(b)).
- A smaller city within the county can become part of the metropolitan charter.

- The election would be held in a manner similar to the election of the proposed charter of the principal city.
- The election would be held on the same day as the election involving the principal city.
- The terms of including the smaller city as part of the metropolitan charter would be treated as an appendix to the charter.