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**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO: 2024 Pinellas County Charter Review Commission**  
**FROM: Wade C. Vose, General Counsel**  
**DATE: March 28, 2024**  
**SUBJECT: Draft Ballot and Charter Language – Charter Amendment Providing for Term Limits for County Commissioners**

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Pursuant to the CRC’s discussion at its March 21, 2024 meeting, please find following for the CRC’s review and discussion various drafts of ballot and charter language for a charter amendment providing for term limits for county commissioners.

As discussed at that meeting, the CRC requested the preparation of a series of options for commissioner term limits, generally centering on either:

- 8-year term limits with a 2 year “cooling off period” before an individual could run for commission again; or
- 12-year term limits with a 4 year “cooling off period”.

Discussion was also had concerning the application of the term limits to sitting county commissioners. The CRC discussed a number of options, including setting some sort of separate, potentially shorter term limit for sitting county commissioners, or having a certain number of past years of service count toward the generally established term limits, by making terms beginning at some point in the past count toward the term limits.

After initial drafting attempts, in light of the 75-word limitation on ballot summaries, and in the interest of avoiding voter confusion, the drafts included herein center upon varying the application of term limits to sitting county commissioners by making the term limits retroactive to various November general elections.

Attached as Exhibit “A” is a composite draft, laying out each of the options consistent with the structure described above. Attached as Exhibits “B” and “C” are clean examples of the language with 8-year/2-year limitations and 12-year/4-year limitations, to review as they might appear on the ballot. Exhibits “B” and “C” list dates from which the term limits would count as November 3, 2026 and November 5, 2024, respectively, but these are ultimately just placeholder dates to be revised at the CRC’s direction.

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Also attached as Exhibit “D” is an Excel spreadsheet providing an analysis of the application of retrospective term limits to the sitting Pinellas County Commissioners. Please understand that due to the short turnaround time from the CRC’s previous meeting, this spreadsheet is “quick and dirty”. Accordingly, this spreadsheet will be further reviewed, and any errata will be noted by subsequent communication. In addition to a PDF of the spreadsheet, CRC Commissioners will be provided with a copy of the original Excel spreadsheet in case any have an interest in further analysis.

I look forward to discussing these matters with you at your April 4, 2024 meeting.

**Exhibit “A”**  
**Composite Draft Ballot and Charter Language**

**A. Ballot Proposal:** The ballot title and summary for this question are as follows:

**COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENT  
PROVIDING FOR COUNTY  
COMMISSIONER TERM LIMITS**

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to provide for County Commissioner term limits by prohibiting County Commissioners who have held the office for the preceding **[8 years] OR [12 years]** from appearing on a ballot for reelection and requiring a minimum of **[2 years] OR [4 years]** off the County Commission before serving again, with terms of office beginning on or after **[November 6, 2018] OR [November 3, 2020] OR [November 8, 2022] OR [November 5, 2024] OR [November 3, 2026]** counting toward the term limits. *(65 words)*

Yes  
 No

**B. Text Revisions:** Upon approval of this question at referendum, the following portions of the Pinellas County Charter are amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 3.01. Board of county commissioners.**

(a)        The legislative body of county government shall be the Board of County Commissioners. The Board of County Commissioners shall consist of seven commissioners, with four of the seven commissioners residing one in each of four county commission districts, the districts together covering the entire county and as nearly equal in population as practicable, and each commissioner being nominated and elected only by the qualified electors who reside in the same county commission district as the commissioner, and with three of the seven commissioners being nominated and elected at large. Each of the three at-large commissioners shall reside one in each of three districts, the three districts together covering the entire county and as nearly equal in population as practicable. The election, term of office, and compensation of members shall all be in accordance with general law.

(b)        *Term limits.* A person may not appear on the ballot for reelection to the office of commissioner if, by the end of the person’s current term of office, the person will have served, or but for resignation would have served, as a commissioner for **[8 consecutive years] OR [12 consecutive years]**. Such person may not qualify for or appear on the ballot for the office of commissioner, regardless of district, with a term of office beginning less than **[2 years] OR [4 years]** after such consecutive years of service have concluded. Service of a term of office which commenced before **[November 6, 2018] OR [November**

3, 2020] OR [November 8, 2022] OR [November 5, 2024] OR [November 3, 2026].  
shall not be counted toward the limitation imposed by this paragraph.

**Exhibit “B”**  
**8-Year/2-Year Option – Draft Ballot and Charter Language**

**A. Ballot Proposal:** The ballot title and summary for this question are as follows:

**COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENT  
PROVIDING FOR COUNTY  
COMMISSIONER TERM LIMITS**

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to provide for County Commissioner term limits by prohibiting County Commissioners who have held the office for the preceding 8 years from appearing on a ballot for reelection and requiring a minimum of 2 years off the County Commission before serving again, with terms of office beginning on or after November 3, 2026 counting toward the term limits.

\_\_\_\_ Yes  
\_\_\_\_ No

**B. Text Revisions:** Upon approval of this question at referendum, the following portions of the Pinellas County Charter are amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 3.01. Board of county commissioners.**

- (a) \_\_\_\_ The legislative body of county government shall be the Board of County Commissioners. The Board of County Commissioners shall consist of seven commissioners, with four of the seven commissioners residing one in each of four county commission districts, the districts together covering the entire county and as nearly equal in population as practicable, and each commissioner being nominated and elected only by the qualified electors who reside in the same county commission district as the commissioner, and with three of the seven commissioners being nominated and elected at large. Each of the three at-large commissioners shall reside one in each of three districts, the three districts together covering the entire county and as nearly equal in population as practicable. The election, term of office, and compensation of members shall all be in accordance with general law.
- (b) \_\_\_\_ Term limits. A person may not appear on the ballot for reelection to the office of commissioner if, by the end of the person’s current term of office, the person will have served, or but for resignation would have served, as a commissioner for 8 consecutive years. Such person may not qualify for or appear on the ballot for the office of commissioner, regardless of district, with a term of office beginning less than 2 years after such consecutive years of service have concluded. Service of a term of office which commenced before November 3, 2026, shall not be counted toward the limitation imposed by this paragraph.

**Exhibit “C”**  
**12-Year/4-Year Option – Draft Ballot and Charter Language**

**A. Ballot Proposal:** The ballot title and summary for this question are as follows:

**COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENT  
PROVIDING FOR COUNTY  
COMMISSIONER TERM LIMITS**

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to provide for County Commissioner term limits by prohibiting County Commissioners who have held the office for the preceding 12 years from appearing on a ballot for reelection and requiring a minimum of 4 years off the County Commission before serving again, with terms of office beginning on or after November 5, 2024 counting toward the term limits.

\_\_\_ Yes  
\_\_\_ No

**B. Text Revisions:** Upon approval of this question at referendum, the following portions of the Pinellas County Charter are amended to read as follows:

**Sec. 3.01. Board of county commissioners.**

- (a) \_\_\_ The legislative body of county government shall be the Board of County Commissioners. The Board of County Commissioners shall consist of seven commissioners, with four of the seven commissioners residing one in each of four county commission districts, the districts together covering the entire county and as nearly equal in population as practicable, and each commissioner being nominated and elected only by the qualified electors who reside in the same county commission district as the commissioner, and with three of the seven commissioners being nominated and elected at large. Each of the three at-large commissioners shall reside one in each of three districts, the three districts together covering the entire county and as nearly equal in population as practicable. The election, term of office, and compensation of members shall all be in accordance with general law.
- (b) \_\_\_ Term limits. A person may not appear on the ballot for reelection to the office of commissioner if, by the end of the person’s current term of office, the person will have served, or but for resignation would have served, as a commissioner for 12 consecutive years. Such person may not qualify for or appear on the ballot for the office of commissioner, regardless of district, with a term of office beginning less than 4 years after such consecutive years of service have concluded. Service of a term of office which commenced before November 5, 2024, shall not be counted toward the limitation imposed by this paragraph.

**Exhibit "D"**

**Analysis of Application of Retrospective Term Limits to  
Sitting Pinellas County Commissioners  
Prepared for the 2024 Pinellas County Charter Review Commission**

Revised 03/28/24

**8 Year Term Limits Analysis**

County Cmmn. Seat	Type	Commissioner	Start of Continuous Service	Next Election Year	Years of Service as of Nov. 2024	Year Termed Out If	Years of Cont. Serv.	Year Termed Out If	Years of Cont. Serv.	Year Termed Out If	Years of Cont. Serv.	Year Termed Out If	Years of Cont. Serv.	Year Termed Out If	Years of Cont. Serv.
						8 Years Counted from Nov. 2018	when Counting from Nov. 2018	8 Years Counted from Nov. 2020	when Counting from Nov. 2020	8 Years Counted from Nov. 2022	when Counting from Nov. 2022	8 Years Counted from Nov. 2024	when Counting from Nov. 2024	8 Years Counted from Nov. 2026	when Counting from Nov. 2026
District 1	At Large	Janet Long	2012	2024	12	2028	16	2028	16	2032	20	2032	20	2036	24
District 2	At Large	Brian Scott	2022	2026	2	2030	8	2030	8	2030	8	2034	12	2034	12
District 3	At Large	Charlie Justice	2012	2024	12	2028	16	2028	16	2032	20	2032	20	2036	24
District 4	SM	Dave Eggers	2014	2026	10	2026	12	2030	16	2030	16	2034	20	2034	20
District 5	SM	Chris Latvala	2022	2024	2	2032	10	2032	10	2032	10	2032	10	2036	14
District 6	SM	Kathleen Peters	2018	2026	6	2026	8	2030	12	2030	12	2034	16	2034	16
District 7	SM	Rene Flowers	2020	2024	4	2028	8	2028	8	2032	12	2032	12	2036	16

**12 Year Term Limits Analysis**

County Cmmn. Seat	Type	Commissioner	Start of Continuous Service	Next Election Year	Years of Service as of Nov. 2024	Year Termed Out If	Years of Cont. Serv.	Year Termed Out If	Years of Cont. Serv.	Year Termed Out If	Years of Cont. Serv.	Year Termed Out If	Years of Cont. Serv.	Year Termed Out If	Years of Cont. Serv.
						12 Years Counted from Nov. 2018*	when Counting from Nov. 2018	12 Years Counted from Nov. 2020	when Counting from Nov. 2020	12 Years Counted from Nov. 2022	when Counting from Nov. 2022	12 Years Counted from Nov. 2024	when Counting from Nov. 2024	12 Years Counted from Nov. 2026	when Counting from Nov. 2026
District 1	At Large	Janet Long	2012	2024	12	2032	20	2032	20	2036	24	2036	24	2040	28
District 2	At Large	Brian Scott	2022	2026	2	2034	12	2034	12	2034	12	2038	16	2038	16
District 3	At Large	Charlie Justice	2012	2024	12	2032	20	2032	20	2036	24	2036	24	2040	28
District 4	SM	Dave Eggers	2014	2026	10	2030	16	2034	20	2034	20	2038	24	2038	24
District 5	SM	Chris Latvala	2022	2024	2	2036	14	2036	14	2036	14	2036	14	2040	18
District 6	SM	Kathleen Peters	2018	2026	6	2030	12	2034	16	2034	16	2038	20	2038	20
District 7	SM	Rene Flowers	2020	2024	4	2032	12	2032	12	2036	16	2036	16	2040	20