

**Pinellas County Charter Review Commission
Meeting Agenda
May 23, 2024
Palm Room-Pinellas County Communications Building
333 Chestnut Street
Clearwater, Florida 33756
6:00 PM**

- I. Call to Order - Brian Aungst, Chairman**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Public Comment**
- IV. Review and Approval of April 22, 2024 & May 2, 2024, Meeting Minutes**
- V. Old Business:**
 - a. Review & Discussion - Compilation of Latest Proposed Draft Charter Amendments to Date & Recommended Order/Numbering for Placement on Ballot**
- VI. Other Business**
 - a. Updates from Facilitator and General Counsel**
- VII. Upcoming Meeting Dates**
 - a. Tuesday, May 28, 2024 (Public Hearing #1)**
 - b. Thursday, June 6, 2024 (Hold in case needed)**
 - c. Monday, June 10, 2024 (Public Hearing #2)**
- VIII. CRC Commissioner Comments**
- IX. Adjournment**

Special Accommodations - Persons with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations to effectively participate in this meeting are asked to contact Pinellas County's Office of Human Rights by e-mailing such requests to accommodations@pinellas.gov at least three (3) business days in advance of the need for reasonable accommodation. You may also call (727) 464-4882.

Appeals – Persons are advised that, if they decided to appeal any decision made at this meeting/hearing, they will need a record of the proceeding, and, for such purposes, they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceeding is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

**Charter Review Commission
Pinellas County
April 22, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

The Pinellas County Charter Review Commission (CRC), as created by Chapter 80-950, Laws of Florida, met in regular session at 6:02 PM on this date in the Palm Room at the Pinellas County Communications Building, 333 Chestnut Street, Clearwater, Florida.

Present

Brian Aungst, Jr., Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Appointee (Commissioner Chris Latvala), Chair
Linsey Grove, Public At-Large Citizen Appointee, Vice-Chair
Nick DiCeglie, Pinellas County State Legislative Delegation Appointee
Dave Eggers, County Commissioner, BCC Appointee
James Millican, Public At-Large Citizen Appointee
Ashley Overend, BCC Appointee (Commissioner Brian Scott)
Mark Strickland, BCC Appointee (Commissioner Janet Long) (appeared virtually)
Alan Swartz, BCC Appointee (Commissioner Kathleen Peters)
Mike Twitty, Property Appraiser, Constitutional Officers Appointee

Not Present

Anne-Marie Brooks, Municipal Elected Official Appointee
Terri Lipsey Scott, BCC Appointee (Commissioner René Flowers)
Robert Posavec, BCC Appointee (Commissioner Dave Eggers)
Thomas Steck, BCC Appointee (Commissioner Charlie Justice)

Others Present

Nancy McKibben, County Staff Liaison, Assistant to the County Administrator
Wade C. Vose, Esquire, Vose Law Firm LLP, CRC Legal Counsel
Doug Thomas, Strategic Government Resources, Inc.
Tammy Burgess, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk
Other interested individuals

All documents provided to the Clerk's Office have been filed and made a part of the record.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Aungst called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM and welcomed the members.

ROLL CALL

At the Chair's request, those in attendance introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT

In response to the Chair's call for public comment, David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor, appeared and expressed his concerns.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF APRIL 4, 2024, MEETING MINUTES

Ms. Overend made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Twitty and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Compilation and Comparison of Elected Executive Provisions for Selected Counties and Municipalities

Referring to a memorandum and attached exhibits included in the agenda packet, Attorney Vose provided an overview of the compilation and comparison of provisions related to elected executives in selected charter counties and municipalities throughout Florida, noting that he thought it would help inform discussions if there is interest in pursuing an elected County executive position.

In response to comments by Chair Aungst, Attorney Vose indicated that he will provide information regarding term limits in effect for the offices reflected in the memorandum at the next meeting; and that the latest Florida Supreme Court guidance is that elections for all county offices must be partisan.

Chair Aungst, with input by Mr. Thomas, noted that the hope is to have a presentation at the next meeting regarding the form of government topic; and that the intent for this evening is to rollout the concept of an elected official position; whereupon, Mr. Thomas provided additional information regarding a speaker which has already been arranged related to the traditional council manager form of government and introduced former Florida City and County Management Association President Pam Brangaccio. He indicated that he and Chair Aungst are working on obtaining speakers for the strong mayor or chief executive format.

In response to comments by Attorney Vose, Chair Aungst indicated that he plans to poll the members regarding their interest in pursuing draft language following the presentation

at the next meeting; whereupon, in response to a query by Commissioner Eggers, he provided input regarding the number of votes required to continue moving a topic forward.

OLD BUSINESS

Draft Ballot and Charter Language – Charter Amendment Revising Initiative Petition Process

Referencing the CRC's February 26 meeting during which the members discussed the general direction of potential revisions to the initiative petition process with Supervisor of Elections' (SOE) Julie Marcus, Attorney Vose indicated that the draft ballot language now before them is a result of that discussion and feedback received from SOE staff. He noted that SOE staff clarified that they do not want to take hard positions to endorse any particular Charter amendments, including those that would impact their office.

Referring to a memorandum and attached exhibits included in the agenda packet, Attorney Vose indicated that the suggested revisions and feedback from the SOE's office were utilized to assist with creating the ballot summary; whereupon, he summarized the basic aspects of the amendment, as listed below:

- Establishes a uniform time period for the petition gathering process leading to November general elections
- Requires that the petition sponsor submit signed petitions to the SOE no later than 10 days after the end of each month
- Provides for a rolling 30-day deadline for the SOE to verify signatures on submitted petition forms
- Requires posting running tallies of verified signatures on the SOE website
- Requires the petition sponsor to prepare and submit ballot translations
- Requires registration as a political committee
- Establishes a time period starting August 1 for petition sponsors to have their petition form reviewed and approved by the SOE
- Establishes a deadline of June 15 for the SOE to certify whether the requisite number of signatures have been verified

Attorney Vose related that he also drafted a ballot summary, labeled as Exhibit B, which includes language combining the aforementioned provisions with a provision relating to lowering the threshold for the number of petitions necessary to propose an amendment from 8% to 5%. Responding to a query by Chair Aungst, Attorney Vose indicated that he believes that the timeline provisions and the lowered threshold provision could be combined into one ballot question.

Attorney Vose, with input by Chair Aungst and Mr. Thomas, responded to comments and queries by the members regarding the proposed and current timelines for signature collection, prior discussions related to lowering the signature threshold from 8% to 5%, petition sponsors registering as political committees, and signature verification deadlines; whereupon, in response to the Chair's request, Attorney Vose indicated that he will research the state process to determine whether a citizen initiative petition can be active for two election cycles.

Compilation of Draft Charter Amendments to Date

Attorney Vose referenced a memorandum and Exhibits A through F, included in the agenda packet, indicating that they reflect information and amendments that the CRC has discussed to date, excluding the initiative petition topic just discussed; that the amendments are not listed in recommended order; and that ballot order will be a topic for discussion at a future meeting; whereupon, he summarized information regarding the following amendments:

- Exhibit A – Provides for Charter cleanup
- Exhibit B – Conforms publication requirements for County Charter amendment referenda to the Florida Election Code
- Exhibit C – Provides that Charter amendments would be held only at General Elections
- Exhibit D – Lowers signature percentage for petition drives from 8% to 5%
- Exhibit E – Revises the thresholds for appointment and removal of the County Attorney
- Exhibit F – Addresses term limits

In response to a comment by Commissioner Eggers regarding the supermajority vote outlined in Exhibit E, Chair Aungst indicated that this can be finalized during the final discussion and vote.

In response to queries by Ms. Overend, Attorney Vose provided insight into the amendment to Charter Section 5.02, *Special laws*, contained within Exhibit A, as well as information related to special districts, and a discussion ensued. Attorney Vose indicated that he will prepare draft language regarding this topic for future review and discussion by the CRC.

OTHER BUSINESS

Updates from Facilitator and General Counsel

Mr. Thomas indicated that the next meeting is scheduled for May 2, at which he plans to have speakers arranged for the county executive or commission manager forms of government discussion; whereupon, he provided brief comments regarding moving toward a final draft report.

Chair Aungst, with input by Attorney Vose, suggested that Mr. Thomas send an email to the members requesting that they submit written comments for consideration if they are unable to attend the May 2 meeting; and that members who are interested in an elected county executive position be prepared to provide direction at the meeting, should the CRC decide to move forward with ballot language.

UPDATE REGARDING UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Upcoming meeting dates were addressed earlier in the meeting.

CRC COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

This item was not addressed.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Aungst adjourned the meeting at 7:15 PM.

**Charter Review Commission
Pinellas County
May 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

The Pinellas County Charter Review Commission (CRC), as created by Chapter 80-950, Laws of Florida, met in regular session at 6:03 PM on this date in the Palm Room at the Pinellas County Communications Building, 333 Chestnut Street, Clearwater, Florida.

Present

Brian Aungst, Jr., Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Appointee (Commissioner Chris Latvala), Chair
Linsey Grove, Public At-Large Citizen Appointee, Vice-Chair
Anne-Marie Brooks, Municipal Elected Official Appointee
Nick DiCeglie, Pinellas County State Legislative Delegation Appointee
Dave Eggers, County Commissioner, BCC Appointee
Terri Lipsey Scott, BCC Appointee (Commissioner René Flowers) (appeared virtually)
James Millican, Public At-Large Citizen Appointee
Ashley Overend, BCC Appointee (Commissioner Brian Scott)
Robert Posavec, BCC Appointee (Commissioner Dave Eggers)
Thomas Steck, BCC Appointee (Commissioner Charlie Justice)
Mark Strickland, BCC Appointee (Commissioner Janet Long)
Mike Twitty, Property Appraiser Constitutional Officers Appointee

Not Present:

Alan Swartz, BCC Appointee (Commissioner Kathleen Peters)

Others Present:

Nancy McKibben, County Staff Liaison, Assistant to the County Administrator
Wade C. Vose, Esquire, Vose Law Firm LLP, CRC Legal Counsel
Doug Thomas, Strategic Government Resources, Inc.
Franchesca DiNapoli, Board Reporter, Deputy Clerk
Other interested individuals

All documents provided to the Clerk's Office have been filed and made a part of the record.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Aungst called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM and welcomed the members.

ROLL CALL

At the Chair's request, those in attendance introduced themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT

In response to the Chair's call for public comment, David Ballard Geddis, Jr., Palm Harbor, appeared and expressed his concerns.

NEW BUSINESS: PRESENTATIONS REGARDING FORM OF GOVERNMENT OPTIONS

Bob Buckhorn, Executive Vice President and Principal, U.S. Cities Practice – Shumaker Advisors Florida and Former Mayor, City of Tampa, Florida

Chair Aungst indicated that the form of government topic is the last major topic for consideration and introduced Mr. Buckhorn and Ms. Brangaccio; whereupon, Mr. Thomas related that he and Attorney Vose thought that it would be helpful to provide speakers who have worked in different types of government and provided brief background information regarding Mr. Buckhorn's experience.

Mr. Buckhorn discussed his service and experience as mayor of the City of Tampa and provided examples of the benefits and abilities within a strong mayor form of government; whereupon, he indicated that he believes it to be the most efficient and responsive form of government.

Responding to comments and queries by the members related to this form of government, Mr. Buckhorn provided information regarding the following topics:

- Leadership and approach techniques
- Working with other strong mayors
- Relevant differences between Hillsborough and Pinellas counties
- Benefits of being nonpartisan
- Education and experience
- Challenges when a strong elected mayor lacks competency
- City manager form of government and related challenges

At the request of Mr. Twitty, Attorney Vose confirmed that the latest Supreme Court guidance indicates that an elected countywide officer would run for office as a partisan candidate.

Pamela Brangaccio, Program Manager, International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and former City Manager, City of New Smyrna Beach, Florida

Mr. Thomas provided information regarding Ms. Brangaccio's background and experience, noting that she has had the unique opportunity to work in a variety of different forms of government in Florida.

Ms. Brangaccio discussed her professional background and experience, differences with the various forms of government, including comparisons of a strong mayor to a city or county manager and potential impacts for the County, and the ICMA Code of Ethics.

In response to a query by Mr. Posavec, Ms. Brangaccio indicated that constitutional officers would continue to be elected, clarifying that she is not aware if the CRC has discussed changes in this area; that she does not believe that there would be any changes related to constitutional duties that are outlined in the Charter or by the State of Florida; and that she believes that a change, with a strong elected official, would be with regard to how annual budget negotiations occur.

Chair Aungst indicated that he would like for the members to discuss whether they would like to move forward with the form of government topic; whereupon, a lengthy discussion ensued. Senator DiCeglie provided insight into the reasons that he brought the topic of an elected official position forward; whereupon, he clarified that it was not related to the current County Administrator and his ability to perform his duties, but about accountability to the citizens.

Following an informal vote and input by Attorney Vose, Chair Aungst indicated that pursuant to Robert's Rules of Order, the members did not achieve a majority vote to pursue the topic further.

OLD BUSINESS

Revised County Charter Cleanup Amendment, with Revisions to Section 5.02

Chair Aungst explained that this agenda item is a follow-up to a discussion from the last meeting regarding Charter Section 5.02, *Special laws*; whereupon, referring to a memorandum provided to the members and the County Attorney's Office, which outlined a recommended change to the previously presented draft language, Attorney Vose related that upon further thought, he recommends the language previously provided in the cleanup amendment and provided additional information related to Sections 5.02(a) and 502(b), along with his rationale for the recommendation.

Chair Aungst suggested that Attorney Vose prepare a memorandum for use by future CRCs which provides an explanation of certain aspects of Section 5.02. In response to comments and a query by Ms. Overend, Attorney Vose indicated that he sees no legal implication from removing names of boards that have been abolished by appropriate legislative means or from revising names of boards, and brief discussion ensued; whereupon, Attorney Vose related that he will verify the names listed in Section 5.02(b).

Review and Discussion – Compilation of Draft Charter Amendments to Date

Referring to a document included in the April 22 meeting agenda packet regarding amendments discussed by the CRC, Mr. Thomas requested that the members provide any additional feedback in preparation for drafting the final report. Chair Aungst noted that the two items which can be discussed at the final meetings are the list of names in Section 5.02(b) and finalizing language relating to the process for the hire and termination of the County Attorney; whereupon, Attorney Vose pointed out that the ballot order of the amendments will need to be determined.

OTHER BUSINESS

Updates from Facilitator and General Counsel

This item was not addressed.

UPDATE REGARDING UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Chair Aungst indicated that he intends to hold the meeting scheduled for May 13 for a review of anticipated final draft language; that the proposed first public hearing would be held on May 23; and that the second and final public hearing would take place on June 6. Discussion ensued regarding future meeting dates and member scheduling conflicts; whereupon, Mr. Thomas requested that the members continue to reserve the meeting dates that are being held in the event that additional meetings are needed.

CRC COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

No one responded to the Chair's call for comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Aungst adjourned the meeting at 7:58 PM.

 **VOSE LAW FIRM** LLP
ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW

GRETCHEN R.H. (“BECKY”) VOSE[†]
WADE C. VOSE^{†‡}
NANCY A. STUPARICH
PAUL R. WATERS
GARRETT M. OLSEN
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M E M O R A N D U M

TO: 2024 Pinellas County Charter Review
FROM: Commission Wade C. Vose, General Counsel
DATE: May 16, 2024
SUBJECT: Compilation of Charter Amendments for CRC Review Prior to Public Hearings

As discussed at the CRC’s May 2, 2024 meeting, this memorandum compiles the latest versions of charter amendments presently anticipated to be sent to the CRC’s two required public hearings scheduled for Tuesday, May 28, 2024, and Monday, June 10, 2024.

Please find on the following page a table referencing the charter amendments by ballot title, presented in a recommended order and numbering for presentation on the ballot. In this instance, the questions are generally ordered from most to least impactful. The respective ballot titles, ballot summaries, and charter amendment language follow on the subsequent pages in the order presented below.

A particular note should be made concerning the three variants of Question #2 (2a, 2b, and 2c). Questions #2a and 2b are variations of the charter amendment revising the County initiative petition process, with Question #2a including the lowered signature percentages found in Question #2c, and Question #2b not including the lowered signature percentages in a single amendment. CRC direction at your upcoming May 23, 2024 meeting as to which options would be preferable (combine both in a single question, or leave them separate) would streamline the CRC’s upcoming public hearings and staff’s preparation of the CRC’s final report. Upon CRC direction, question numbering will be updated appropriately.

In addition, pursuant to direction at your last meeting, Question #6, the Charter Cleanup Amendment, has been revised to update the names of two organizations (from “Indian Rocks Special Fire Control District” to “Indian Rocks Fire District”, and from “Pinellas County Planning Council” to “Pinellas Planning Council”), along with a revised ballot summary to reference the changes.

Concerning the question of the Pinellas Planning Council and the name “Forward Pinellas”, Chloe Berryman with our office has had the opportunity to speak with Whit Blanton, Executive Director for Forward Pinellas. Mr. Blanton confirmed that as a technical matter, Forward Pinellas is a registered fictitious name under which both the Pinellas Planning Council and the Pinellas County

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Metropolitan Planning Organization operate. Pursuant to Ch. 2012-245, Laws of Florida, both entities share a single unified board. However, for a number of reasons, including reasons related to federal MPO funding, each entity has a legally distinct identity. As such, I would recommend that the updated name referenced in Section 5.02(b) of the Charter be the entity name as revised in Ch. 2012-245, Laws of Florida, namely “Pinellas Planning Council”.

I look forward to discussing these matters with you at your May 23, 2024 meeting.

Charter Amendments for CRC Review Prior to Public Hearings

Question #1	County Charter Amendment Providing for County Commissioner Term Limits
Question #2a	Revising County Initiative Petition Requirements and Process (<i>including lowered signature percentages</i>)
Question #2b	Revising County Initiative Petition Requirements and Process (<i>not including lowered signature percentages</i>)
Question #2c	Lowering Signature Percentage for Petition Drives to Propose County Charter Amendments
Question #3	Charter Amendment Revising Thresholds for Appointment and Removal of County Attorney
Question #4	Referenda on County Charter Amendments to Be Held at General Elections Only
Question #5	Conforming Publication Requirements for County Charter Amendment Referenda to the Florida Election Code
Question #6	County Charter Cleanup Amendment

Question #1

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. As used in this subsection, reference to 4 years (and likewise to multiples thereof) refers to a 4 year election cycle, without regard to the exact dates of election or beginning or end of term.

Question #2a

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

**REVISING COUNTY INITIATIVE PETITION
REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS**

Amending the Pinellas County Charter to lower the number of signed petitions necessary to propose Charter amendments from eight (8) percent of registered county voters to five (5) percent, and to provide for a uniform time period for an initiative petition drive from September through April before a November general election, monthly submission deadlines for signed petitions, running tallies of verified petitions on the Supervisor of Election’s website, preparation of ballot translations, and related procedures.

_____ 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. 6.02. - Charter initiative.

- (a) *General requirements.* Amendments to the Charter may be proposed by a petition signed by registered electors equal to at least five (5) ~~eight (8)~~ percent of the number of registered electors of the county at the time of the last preceding general election. No more than forty (40) percent of those registered electors signing petitions shall reside in any one (1) at-large county commission district. No more than thirty (30) percent of those registered electors signing petitions shall reside in any one (1) single-member county commission district. Such petition shall be filed with the clerk of the circuit court in his capacity as clerk of the board of county commissioners, together with an affidavit from the supervisor of elections certifying the number of signatures which has been verified as registered electors of Pinellas County at the time the signature was verified. Each such proposed amendment shall embrace but one (1) subject and matter directly connected therewith. Each charter amendment proposed by petition shall be placed on the ballot by resolution of the board of county commissioners for the general election occurring in excess of ninety (90) days from the certification by the supervisor of elections that the requisite number of signatures has been verified. ~~However, the County Commissioners may call a special referendum election for said purpose.~~ Notice of said referendum, together with the exact language of the proposed amendment as submitted on the petition, shall be published by the board of county commissioners once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of

general circulation in the county, the first such publication being at least forty-five (45) days prior to the referendum. Passage of proposed amendments shall require approval of a majority of electors voting in said election on such amendment.

- (b) Initiation and overview of process. The sponsor of a petition amendment shall, prior to obtaining any signatures, register as a political committee and submit the text of the proposed amendment to the supervisor of elections, with the form on which the signatures will be affixed, and shall obtain the approval of the supervisor of elections of such form. The style and requirements of such form shall be specified by ordinance. Concurrent with this submission, the sponsor shall prepare and submit translations of the ballot title and ballot summary into those languages required by law for placement on the ballot. The sponsor may make the aforementioned submittals no earlier than August 1 of the year preceding the general election at which the proposed amendment would be considered. Within fifteen (15) days after the aforementioned submittals, the supervisor of elections shall render a determination on the form on which signatures will be affixed. The beginning date of any petition drive shall commence upon the date of approval by the supervisor of elections of the form on which signatures will be affixed, or September 1 of the year preceding the general election at which the proposed amendment would be considered, whichever is later. and sSaid drive shall terminate on, and signatures may be signed and collected through, April 30 of the year of the general election at which the proposed amendment would be considered. two hundred forty (240) days after that date. In the event sufficient signatures are not acquired during the specified that two hundred forty (240) day period, the petition initiative shall be rendered null and void and none of the signatures may be carried over onto another identical or similar petition. ~~The sponsor shall submit signed and dated forms to the supervisor of elections and upon submission pay all fees as required by general law. The supervisor of elections shall within forty five (45) days verify the signatures thereon.~~ Notwithstanding the time limits hereinabove signatures on a petition circulated prior to one general election shall not be valid beyond the date of that election.
- (c) Submission of signed petitions; verification of requisite signatures. The sponsor shall submit all signed and dated petitions received by the sponsor during a month to the supervisor of elections for signature verification no later than the tenth day of the following month, and upon submission pay all fees as required by general law. The supervisor of elections shall verify the validity of signatures for each signed petition submitted within thirty (30) days after submittal to the supervisor of elections. No later than June 15 of the year of the general election at which the proposed amendment would be considered, the supervisor of elections shall certify whether the requisite number of signatures has been verified. No signature shall be valid unless handwritten and submitted on a paper petition form completed and submitted in a manner consistent with this section. The supervisor of elections shall post a running tally of the number of signatures verified for each initiative petition on the supervisor of elections' website for public view. Otherwise valid signatures

not timely submitted to the supervisor of elections shall not be counted towards the total number of signatures required under Section 6.02(a).

- (d)(e) *Effective date of initiative petition charter amendment.* If approved by a majority of those electors voting on the amendment at the general election, the amendment shall become effective on the date specified in the amendment, or, if not so specified, on January 1 of the succeeding year.

Question #2b

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

**REVISING COUNTY INITIATIVE PETITION
REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS**

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to revise the County initiative petition process by providing for a uniform time period for an initiative petition drive from September through April before a November general election, monthly submission deadlines for signed petitions, running tallies of verified petitions on the Supervisor of Election’s website, preparation of ballot translations, and related procedures?

_____ 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. 6.02. - Charter initiative.

- (a) *General requirements.* Amendments to the Charter may be proposed by a petition signed by registered electors equal to at least eight (8) percent of the number of registered electors of the county at the time of the last preceding general election. No more than forty (40) percent of those registered electors signing petitions shall reside in any one (1) at-large county commission district. No more than thirty (30) percent of those registered electors signing petitions shall reside in any one (1) single-member county commission district. Such petition shall be filed with the clerk of the circuit court in his capacity as clerk of the board of county commissioners, together with an affidavit from the supervisor of elections certifying the number of signatures which has been verified as registered electors of Pinellas County at the time the signature was verified. Each such proposed amendment shall embrace but one (1) subject and matter directly connected therewith. Each charter amendment proposed by petition shall be placed on the ballot by resolution of the board of county commissioners for the general election occurring in excess of ninety (90) days from the certification by the supervisor of elections that the requisite number of signatures has been verified. ~~However, the County Commissioners may call a special referendum election for said purpose.~~ Notice of said referendum, together with the exact language of the proposed amendment as submitted on the petition, shall be published by the board of county commissioners once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, the first such publication being at least forty-five

(45) days prior to the referendum. Passage of proposed amendments shall require approval of a majority of electors voting in said election on such amendment.

- (b) Initiation and overview of process. The sponsor of a petition amendment shall, prior to obtaining any signatures, register as a political committee and submit the text of the proposed amendment to the supervisor of elections, with the form on which the signatures will be affixed, and shall obtain the approval of the supervisor of elections of such form. The style and requirements of such form shall be specified by ordinance. Concurrent with this submission, the sponsor shall prepare and submit translations of the ballot title and ballot summary into those languages required by law for placement on the ballot. The sponsor may make the aforementioned submittals no earlier than August 1 of the year preceding the general election at which the proposed amendment would be considered. Within fifteen (15) days after the aforementioned submittals, the supervisor of elections shall render a determination on the form on which signatures will be affixed. The beginning date of any petition drive shall commence upon the date of approval by the supervisor of elections of the form on which signatures will be affixed, or September 1 of the year preceding the general election at which the proposed amendment would be considered, whichever is later. and sSaid drive shall terminate on, and signatures may be signed and collected through, April 30 of the year of the general election at which the proposed amendment would be considered. two hundred forty (240) days after that date. In the event sufficient signatures are not acquired during the specified that two hundred forty (240) day period, the petition initiative shall be rendered null and void and none of the signatures may be carried over onto another identical or similar petition. ~~The sponsor shall submit signed and dated forms to the supervisor of elections and upon submission pay all fees as required by general law. The supervisor of elections shall within forty five (45) days verify the signatures thereon.~~ Notwithstanding the time limits hereinabove signatures on a petition circulated prior to one general election shall not be valid beyond the date of that election.
- (c) Submission of signed petitions; verification of requisite signatures. The sponsor shall submit all signed and dated petitions received by the sponsor during a month to the supervisor of elections for signature verification no later than the tenth day of the following month, and upon submission pay all fees as required by general law. The supervisor of elections shall verify the validity of signatures for each signed petition submitted within thirty (30) days after submittal to the supervisor of elections. No later than June 15 of the year of the general election at which the proposed amendment would be considered, the supervisor of elections shall certify whether the requisite number of signatures has been verified. No signature shall be valid unless handwritten and submitted on a paper petition form completed and submitted in a manner consistent with this section. The supervisor of elections shall post a running tally of the number of signatures verified for each initiative petition on the supervisor of elections' website for public view. Otherwise valid signatures

not timely submitted to the supervisor of elections shall not be counted towards the total number of signatures required under Section 6.02(a).

- (d)(e) *Effective date of initiative petition charter amendment.* If approved by a majority of those electors voting on the amendment at the general election, the amendment shall become effective on the date specified in the amendment, or, if not so specified, on January 1 of the succeeding year.

Question #2c

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

**LOWERING SIGNATURE PERCENTAGE
FOR PETITION DRIVES TO PROPOSE
COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENTS**

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to lower the number of signed petitions necessary to propose an amendment to the Pinellas County Charter from eight (8) percent of the registered voters in the county to five (5) percent?

_____ 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. 6.02. - Charter initiative.

- (a) Amendments to the Charter may be proposed by a petition signed by registered electors equal to at least five (5) ~~eight (8)~~ percent of the number of registered electors of the county at the time of the last preceding general election. No more than forty (40) percent of those registered electors signing petitions shall reside in any one (1) at-large county commission district. No more than thirty (30) percent of those registered electors signing petitions shall reside in any one (1) single-member county commission district. Such petition shall be filed with the clerk of the circuit court in his capacity as clerk of the board of county commissioners, together with an affidavit from the supervisor of elections certifying the number of signatures which has been verified as registered electors of Pinellas County at the time the signature was verified. Each such proposed amendment shall embrace but one (1) subject and matter directly connected therewith. Each charter amendment proposed by petition shall be placed on the ballot by resolution of the board of county commissioners for the general election occurring in excess of ninety (90) days from the certification by the supervisor of elections that the requisite number of signatures has been verified. However, the County Commissioners may call a special referendum election for said purpose. Notice of said referendum, together with the exact language of the proposed amendment as submitted on the petition, shall be published by the board of county commissioners once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, the first such publication being at least forty-five (45) days prior to the referendum. Passage of proposed amendments shall require approval of a majority of electors voting in said election on such amendment.

Question #3

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

**CHARTER AMENDMENT REVISING
THRESHOLDS FOR APPOINTMENT AND
REMOVAL OF COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to provide that the 12-member County Attorney Oversight Committee shall select and appoint a County Attorney by an 8-vote supermajority, and may remove the County Attorney only by a 7-vote majority at two consecutive meetings, or by an 8-vote supermajority at one meeting?

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. 4.02. County attorney.

- (a) There shall be a county attorney selected by a county attorney oversight committee, consisting of the county commissioners and the sheriff, tax collector, property appraiser, supervisor of elections, and clerk of the circuit court and comptroller, who shall serve at the pleasure of the county attorney oversight committee. The county attorney shall be selected and appointed by the affirmative vote of eight (8) members of the county attorney oversight committee, and shall serve until such time as the county attorney shall be removed either by a vote for removal of seven (7) members of the county attorney oversight committee voting for removal in two (2) consecutive meetings of the committee held at intervals of not less than fourteen (14) days, or by a vote of removal of eight (8) members of the county attorney oversight committee at any one meeting of the committee. The office of county attorney shall not be under the direction and control of the county administrator but shall instead be responsible directly to the board of county commissioners, and shall be subject to annual review by the county attorney oversight committee. The county attorney as of the effective date of this amendment shall not be subject to the selection provision of this subsection, but shall be subject to all other provisions thereof.

Question #4

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

**REFERENDA ON COUNTY CHARTER
AMENDMENTS TO BE HELD AT GENERAL
ELECTIONS ONLY**

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to require that referenda on county charter amendments proposed by initiative petition, or proposed by the Board of County Commissioners, shall be held only at the General Election held in November of even-numbered years?

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. 6.01. Proposed by county.

The board of county commissioners by ordinance passed by an affirmative vote of not less than majority plus one (1) member shall have the authority to propose amendments to this Charter. Any such amendment shall be subject to referendum at the next ~~general scheduled countywide~~ election; ~~provided, however, the board of county commissioners may call a special referendum election for said purpose.~~ Said referendum shall be called by the board of county commissioners and notice of said referendum, together with the exact language of the proposed amendment, shall be published once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, the first such publication being at least forty-five (45) days prior to the referendum. Passage of proposed amendments shall require approval of a majority of electors voting in said election on such amendment.

Sec. 6.02. Charter initiative.

- (a) Amendments to the Charter may be proposed by a petition signed by registered electors equal to at least eight (8) percent of the number of registered electors of the county at the time of the last preceding general election. No more than forty (40) percent of those registered electors signing petitions shall reside in any one (1) at-large county commission district. No more than thirty (30) percent of those registered electors signing petitions shall reside in any one (1) single-member county commission district. Such petition shall be filed with the clerk of the circuit court in his capacity as clerk of the board of county commissioners, together with an affidavit from the supervisor of elections certifying the number of signatures

which has been verified as registered electors of Pinellas County at the time the signature was verified. Each such proposed amendment shall embrace but one (1) subject and matter directly connected therewith. Each charter amendment proposed by petition shall be placed on the ballot by resolution of the board of county commissioners for the general election occurring in excess of ninety (90) days from the certification by the supervisor of elections that the requisite number of signatures has been verified. ~~However, the County Commissioners may call a special referendum election for said purpose.~~ Notice of said referendum, together with the exact language of the proposed amendment as submitted on the petition, shall be published by the board of county commissioners once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, the first such publication being at least forty-five (45) days prior to the referendum. Passage of proposed amendments shall require approval of a majority of electors voting in said election on such amendment.

- b) The sponsor of a petition amendment shall, prior to obtaining any signatures, submit the text of the proposed amendment to the supervisor of elections, with the form on which the signatures will be affixed, and shall obtain the approval of the supervisor of elections of such form. The style and requirements of such form shall be specified by ordinance. The beginning date of any petition drive shall commence upon the date of approval by the supervisor of elections of the form on which signatures will be affixed, and said drive shall terminate two hundred forty (240) days after that date. In the event sufficient signatures are not acquired during that two hundred forty (240) day period, the petition initiative shall be rendered null and void and none of the signatures may be carried over onto another identical or similar petition. The sponsor shall submit signed and dated forms to the supervisor of elections and upon submission pay all fees as required by general law. The supervisor of elections shall within forty-five (45) days verify the signatures thereon. Notwithstanding the time limits hereinabove signatures on a petition circulated prior to one general election shall not be valid beyond the date of that election.
- (c) If approved by a majority of those electors voting on the amendment at the general election, the amendment shall become effective on the date specified in the amendment, or, if not so specified, on January 1 of the succeeding year.

Question #5

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

**CONFORMING PUBLICATION
REQUIREMENTS FOR COUNTY CHARTER
AMENDMENT REFERENDA TO THE
FLORIDA ELECTION CODE**

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to revise the Charter's publication requirements for county charter amendment referenda to conform to the Florida Election Code?

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. 6.01. Proposed by county.

The board of county commissioners by ordinance passed by an affirmative vote of not less than majority plus one (1) member shall have the authority to propose amendments to this Charter. Any such amendment shall be subject to referendum at the next scheduled countywide election; provided, however, the board of county commissioners may call a special referendum election for said purpose. Said referendum shall be called by the board of county commissioners and notice of said referendum, together with the exact language of the proposed amendment, shall be published in the manner provided in Section 100.342, Florida Statutes. ~~once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, the first such publication being at least forty five (45) days prior to the referendum.~~ Passage of proposed amendments shall require approval of a majority of electors voting in said election on such amendment.

Sec. 6.02. Charter initiative.

- (a) Amendments to the Charter may be proposed by a petition signed by registered electors equal to at least eight (8) percent of the number of registered electors of the county at the time of the last preceding general election. No more than forty (40) percent of those registered electors signing petitions shall reside in any one (1) at-large county commission district. No more than thirty (30) percent of those registered electors signing petitions shall reside in any one (1) single-member county commission district. Such petition shall be filed with the clerk of the circuit court in his capacity as clerk of the board of county commissioners, together with an affidavit from the supervisor of elections certifying the number of signatures which has been verified as registered electors of Pinellas County at the time the

signature was verified. Each such proposed amendment shall embrace but one (1) subject and matter directly connected therewith. Each charter amendment proposed by petition shall be placed on the ballot by resolution of the board of county commissioners for the general election occurring in excess of ninety (90) days from the certification by the supervisor of elections that the requisite number of signatures has been verified. However, the County Commissioners may call a special referendum election for said purpose. Notice of said referendum, together with the exact language of the proposed amendment as submitted on the petition, shall be published by the board of county commissioners in the manner provided in Section 100.342, Florida Statutes. ~~once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, the first such publication being at least forty five (45) days prior to the referendum.~~ Passage of proposed amendments shall require approval of a majority of electors voting in said election on such amendment.

...

Sec. 6.03. Charter review commission.

...

- (e) Each charter review commission established pursuant to this section shall complete its review and submit a report to the citizens of Pinellas County by July 31, 2016, and each eight (8) years thereafter in order to coincide with the presidential election cycle. Included within the report shall be any proposed amendments to the Charter, together with the wording of the question or questions which shall be voted on at referendum. Proposed amendments may, at the discretion of the charter review commission, be included in a single question or multiple questions. If proposed amendments are included in the report, the charter review commission may, at its discretion, remain constituted through the general election. The board of county commissioners shall call a referendum election to be held in conjunction with the 2016 general election and each eight (8) years thereafter, for the purpose of voting on the proposal or proposals submitted by the charter review commission. Notice of each such referendum, together with the exact language of the proposed amendment or amendments as submitted in the report of the charter review commission, shall be published by the board of county commissioners in the manner provided in Section 100.342, Florida Statutes. ~~once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, the first such publication being at least forty five (45) days prior to the referendum.~~ If an amendment or revision to the charter is to be recommended, the charter review commission shall conduct at least two (2) public hearings on any amendment or revision, at intervals of not less than ten (10) days but not more than twenty-one (21) days, immediately prior to its transmittal of its recommendations to the board of county commissioners. Passage of proposed amendments shall require approval of a majority of electors voting in said election on such amendment.

Question #6

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

**COUNTY CHARTER CLEANUP
AMENDMENT**

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to remove certain one-time provisions that have since occurred or elapsed, remove gender references, update organization names, and remove references to organizations that no longer exist?

_____ 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. 3.04. Redistricting.

...

- (b) No later than thirty (30) days after initial appointment, the county redistricting board shall meet for the purposes of organization. The county redistricting board shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership. Further meetings of the board shall be held upon the call of chairman or any three (3) members of the board. All meetings shall be open to the public. A majority of the members of the county redistricting board shall constitute a quorum. The board may adopt other rules for its operations and proceedings as it deems desirable. The members of the board shall receive no compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses pursuant to law.

...

Sec. 4.01. County administrator.

...

- (b) The county administrator shall be a full-time position. The county administrator He shall serve at the pleasure of the board of county commissioners and shall be appointed solely on the basis of the individual's his-executive and administrative qualifications.

- (c) The county administrator shall have the following duties:
- (1) To administer and carry out the directives and policies issued to the county administrator ~~him~~ by the board of county commissioners, acting as an official body, except that the county administrator ~~he~~ shall not be directed or given authority to make appointments of members to any county boards, commissions or agencies.

...
- (3) To supervise all departments, department heads and employees of the board of county commissioners and, in the county administrator's ~~his~~ discretion, to terminate for cause the employment of any employees of the board of county commissioners. Termination of persons in unclassified positions shall be subject to confirmation by the board of county commissioners.
 - (4) After policy has been established by the board of county commissioners, to supervise all aspects of carrying into effect such policy to its completion. The county administrator ~~He~~ shall thereupon report or order a full report to the board of county commissioners of the action taken upon such policy and directives of the board of county commissioners.

...
- (6) To perform such other duties as may be required of the county administrator ~~him~~ by the board of county commissioners, acting as an official body, or by this Charter.

Sec. 4.02. County attorney.

- (a) There shall be a county attorney selected by a county attorney oversight committee, consisting of the county commissioners and the sheriff, tax collector, property appraiser, supervisor of elections, and clerk of the circuit court and comptroller, who shall serve at the pleasure of the county attorney oversight committee. The office of county attorney shall not be under the direction and control of the county administrator but shall instead be responsible directly to the board of county commissioners, and shall be subject to annual review by the county attorney oversight committee. ~~The county attorney as of the effective date of this amendment shall not be subject to the selection provision of this subsection, but shall be subject to all other provisions thereof.~~
- (b) The county attorney shall be an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Florida for at least three (3) years. Upon appointment, the county attorney ~~he~~ shall be employed full time by said county. The county attorney shall employ such assistant county attorneys and special assistant county attorneys, on either a full-

time or part-time basis, as may be necessary, upon approval of the board of county commissioners.

...

Sec. 5.02. Special laws.

...

- (b) This document shall in no manner change the status, duties or responsibilities of the following boards, authorities, districts and councils: Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, Emergency Medical Services Authority, Fresh Water Conservation Board, Indian Rocks ~~Special Fire Control District~~, Juvenile Welfare Board, License Board for Children's Centers and Family Day Care Homes, Palm Harbor Special Fire Control District, Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board, ~~Pinellas County Industry Council~~, ~~Pinellas County Planning Council~~, Pinellas County Personnel Board, Pinellas Park Water Management District, and Pinellas Police Standards Council.

...

Sec. 6.02. Charter initiative.

- (a) Amendments to the Charter may be proposed by a petition signed by registered electors equal to at least eight (8) percent of the number of registered electors of the county at the time of the last preceding general election. No more than forty (40) percent of those registered electors signing petitions shall reside in any one (1) at-large county commission district. No more than thirty (30) percent of those registered electors signing petitions shall reside in any one (1) single-member county commission district. Such petition shall be filed with the clerk of the circuit court in that officer's ~~his~~ capacity as clerk of the board of county commissioners, together with an affidavit from the supervisor of elections certifying the number of signatures which has been verified as registered electors of Pinellas County at the time the signature was verified. Each such proposed amendment shall embrace but one (1) subject and matter directly connected therewith. Each charter amendment proposed by petition shall be placed on the ballot by resolution of the board of county commissioners for the general election occurring in excess of ninety (90) days from the certification by the supervisor of elections that the requisite number of signatures has been verified. However, the County Commissioners may call a special referendum election for said purpose. Notice of said referendum, together with the exact language of the proposed amendment as submitted on the petition, shall be published by the board of county commissioners once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, the first such publication being at least forty-five (45) days prior to the referendum. Passage of

proposed amendments shall require approval of a majority of electors voting in said election on such amendment.

...

Sec. 6.03. Charter review commission.

...

- (b) Each charter review commission shall meet prior to the end of the third week in August 2015, and every eight (8) years thereafter for the purposes of organization. The charter review commission shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership. Further meetings of the commission shall be held upon the call of chairman or any three (3) members of the commission. All meetings shall be open to the public. A majority of the members of the charter review commission shall constitute a quorum. The commission may adopt other rules for its operations and proceedings as it deems desirable. The members of the commission shall receive no compensation but shall be reimbursed for necessary expenses pursuant to law.

...

Sec. 6.05. Reconstitution of 2004 Charter review commission.

- ~~(a) — The members of the charter review commission appointed to serve in 2003 shall be deemed members of a reconstituted 2004 charter review commission, which shall serve from November 8, 2004 through December 1, 2006. Vacancies shall be filled within thirty (30) days in the same manner as the original appointments.~~
- ~~(b) — On behalf of the citizens of Pinellas County, the reconstituted charter review commission shall continue to examine the Pinellas County Charter, the operations of the Pinellas County government and any limitations imposed upon those operations by the charter or any special acts of the Legislature. This examination will include review of the Pinellas Assembly process, further investigation by consultants as deemed necessary and discussions with municipal officials and members of the Pinellas County Legislative Delegation. After such examination, the reconstituted charter review commission will have the authority to make recommendations for amendments, including substantial revision of the Charter. Prior to submitting such recommendations, the reconstituted charter review commission shall hold three public hearings at intervals of not less than ten (10) nor more than twenty (20) days. At the final hearing, the reconstituted charter review commission shall incorporate any recommendations it deems desirable, vote upon a proposed form of revised charter, and forward said charter to the board of county commissioners.~~

- ~~(c) — The reconstituted charter review commission established pursuant to this section shall complete its review and submit a report to the board of county commissioners no later than June 30, 2006, unless such time is extended by the board of county commissioners. Included within the report shall be any proposed amendments to the Charter, which may include substantial revisions of the Charter, together with the wording of the question or questions, which shall be voted on at referendum. Proposed amendments may, at the discretion of the reconstituted charter review commission, be included in a single question or multiple questions. The board of county commissioners shall call a referendum election to be held in conjunction with the 2006 general election, for the purpose of voting on the proposal or proposals submitted by the charter review commission. Notice of each such referendum, together with the exact language of the proposed amendment or amendments as submitted in the report of the charter revision commission, shall be published by the board of county commissioners once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, the first such publication being at least forty five (45) days prior to the referendum. Passage of proposed amendments shall require approval of a majority of electors voting in said election on such amendment.~~
- ~~(d) — Except as otherwise provided in this Section 6.05, the provisions of Section 6.03 of the Charter shall apply to the operation of the reconstituted 2004 charter review commission.~~
- ~~(e) — This section 6.05 shall be repealed effective January 1, 2007.~~