

**Pinellas County Charter Review Commission
Meeting Agenda
June 10, 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 May 23, 2024 & May 28, 2024, Meeting Minutes**
- V. Public Hearings – CRC Proposed Amendments to the Pinellas County Charter:**
 - a. Question #1: County Charter Amendment Providing for County Commissioner Term Limits**
 - b. Question #2: Revising County Initiative Petition Requirements and Process**
 - c. Question #3: Lowering Signature Percentage for Petition Drives to Propose County Charter Amendments**
 - d. Question #4: Charter Amendment Revising Thresholds for Appointment and Removal of County Attorney**
 - e. Question #5: Referenda on County Charter Amendments to Be Held at General Elections Only**
 - f. Question #6: Conforming Publication Requirements for County Charter Amendment Referenda to the Florida Election Code**
 - g. Question #7: County Charter Cleanup Amendment**
- VI. Old Business:**
 - a. Review & Approval of 2023-2024 CRC Report to the Citizens of Pinellas County**
- VII. Other Business**
 - a. Closing Comments from Facilitator and General Counsel**
- 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
May 23, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

The Pinellas County Charter Review Commission (CRC), as created by Chapter 80-950, Laws of Florida, met in regular session at 6:01 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 (appeared virtually)
Nick DiCeglie, Pinellas County State Legislative Delegation Appointee
Terri Lipsey Scott, BCC Appointee (Commissioner René Flowers)
James Millican, Public At-Large Citizen Appointee (appeared virtually)
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)
Alan Swartz, BCC Appointee (Commissioner Kathleen Peters)
Mike Twitty, Property Appraiser Constitutional Officers Appointee

Not Present:

Dave Eggers, County Commissioner, BCC Appointee

Others Present:

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 6:01 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 AND APPROVAL OF APRIL 22, 2024, AND MAY 2, 2024, MEETING MINUTES

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

OLD BUSINESS

Review and Discussion – Compilation of Latest Proposed Draft Charter Amendments to Date and Recommended Order/Numbering for Placement on the Ballot

Referring to a memorandum included in the agenda packet, Attorney Vose displayed a table containing the proposed charter amendments by ballot title and indicated that the amendments are in the suggested order for placement on the ballot; whereupon, he related that a common method for ordering the questions is generally from most to least impactful; and that this was used to establish the suggested order that is before the Board.

Attorney Vose indicated that Questions #2a through #2c relate to citizen initiative petitions and represent potential variations for the ballot; that Question #2a would combine the initiative petition requirements and process with the lowered signature threshold; and that Questions #2b and #2c represent the initiative petition requirements and process and the lowered signature threshold listed as separate ballot questions, noting that it is permissible to include both in a single question; whereupon, Attorney Vose requested direction from the Board.

Following a brief discussion, Chair Aungst indicated that the direction of the Board is to separate the initiative petition requirements and process and the lowered signature threshold into two questions.

Discussion ensued regarding the order of the charter amendment ballot questions and where other amendments are likely to appear on the ballot; whereupon, Chair Aungst confirmed that there is consensus to place the questions on the ballot in the order presented by Attorney Vose.

Attorney Vose indicated that he made additional corrections to some organizational names under the cleanup amendment.

Chair Aungst noted that final ballot language will be voted on at the May 28 public hearing; whereupon, Mr. Thomas, with input by Attorney Vose, discussed the public hearing process, indicating that each proposed ballot initiative will be heard separately.

OTHER BUSINESS

Updates from Facilitator and General Counsel

Mr. Thomas requested that the members continue to reserve June 6 to review the report and discuss any need for adjustments that may arise as a result of the first public hearing.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

This item was not addressed.

CRC COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

In response to queries by Mr. Posavec, Attorney Vose, with input by Mr. Thomas, related that approval of the report will be voted on by the CRC at the second public hearing and, with the Board's consent, will become the final report; and that June 10 should be the final meeting of the CRC.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Aungst adjourned the meeting at 6:27 PM.

**Charter Review Commission
Pinellas County
May 28, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

The Pinellas County Charter Review Commission (CRC), as created by Chapter 80-950, Laws of Florida, held its first public hearing 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
Anne-Marie Brooks, Municipal Elected Official Appointee
Nick DiCeglie, Pinellas County State Legislative Delegation Appointee
Dave Eggers, County Commissioner, BCC 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)
Alan Swartz, BCC Appointee (Commissioner Kathleen Peters)
Mike Twitty, Property Appraiser, Constitutional Officers Appointee

Not Present:

Linsey Grove, Public At-Large Citizen Appointee, Vice-Chair
Terri Lipsey Scott, BCC Appointee (Commissioner René Flowers)
James Millican, Public At-Large Citizen Appointee

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.
Shirley Westfall, 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.

PUBLIC HEARINGS – CRC PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PINELLAS COUNTY CHARTER

Chair Aungst provided information regarding the public hearing process and indicated that this is the first of two public hearings during which the CRC will finalize the ballot referenda language and the proposals that will be on the ballot; whereupon, he expressed his gratitude to everyone who has worked so diligently throughout this process, including Attorney Vose and his law firm, Mr. Thomas, County staff, and Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller Ken Burke's staff.

Attorney Vose read the ballot title and summary for the following seven Charter amendments:

Question #1: 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?

No one appeared upon the Chair's call for public comment.

Commissioner Eggers made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Twitty and carried by a vote of 9 to 1, with Mr. Steck dissenting.

Question #2: 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?

No one appeared upon the Chair's call for public comment.

In response to queries by Commissioner Eggers, Attorney Vose indicated that he shared the latest version of the proposed language with the Supervisor of Elections' office; and that he received no further feedback regarding the language.

Mr. Posavec made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steck and carried unanimously.

Question #3: 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?

No one appeared upon the Chair's call for public comment.

Commissioner Eggers made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steck and carried unanimously.

Question #4: 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?

No one appeared upon the Chair's call for public comment.

In response to comments and a query by Commissioner Eggers, Mr. Twitty indicated that he provided the proposed language to the Constitutional Officers; and that they did not express any concerns.

Ms. Overend made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded by Ms. Brooks and carried unanimously.

Question #5: 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?

No one appeared upon the Chair's call for public comment.

Senator DiCeglie made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Posavec and carried unanimously.

Question #6: 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?

No one appeared upon the Chair's call for public comment.

Ms. Overend made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steck and carried unanimously.

Question #7: 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?

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

In response to queries by Mr. Steck, Attorney Vose indicated that, aside from a scrivener's error, future cleanup actions would require a charter amendment.

Ms. Overend made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded by Mr. Strickland and carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Chair Aungst indicated that he is not aware of any old business that needs to be discussed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Updates from Facilitator and General Counsel

Mr. Thomas indicated that he and Attorney Vose have reviewed the draft report that memorializes the actions that the CRC has taken and suggested emailing the report to the members for their review; and that they contact him and Attorney Vose with any concerns. He related that if the CRC does not meet on June 6 to review the report, its next meeting would be on June 10 for the public hearing, at which the Board would also have the opportunity to discuss any last minute adjustments; and that there will be a request for approval of the report at the meeting; whereupon, in response to a query by Chair Aungst, Mr. Thomas related that he will provide the report to the members no later than Thursday morning.

Chair Aungst confirmed that the second public hearing will be held on June 10; that the June 6 meeting will be cancelled; and that the members are comfortable with receiving the draft report via email and providing their revisions or comments to Attorney Vose and Mr. Thomas prior to the June 10 meeting.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

This item was addressed under the Other Business agenda item.

CRC COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Aungst adjourned the meeting at 6:21 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
STEPHANIE M. VELO
CHLOE E. BERRYMAN
MARIA RONDEL

[†]BOARD CERTIFIED IN CITY, COUNTY &
LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW

[‡]RATED AV PREEMINENT BY MARTINDALE-HUBBELL

OFFICES
WINTER PARK
FORT MYERS
COCOA BEACH

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: 2024 Pinellas County Charter Review Commission
FROM: Wade C. Vose, General Counsel
DATE: May 24, 2024
SUBJECT: Compilation of CRC-Prepared Charter Amendments for Public Hearings

Pursuant to the CRC’s direction at its May 23, 2024 meeting, this memorandum compiles the charter amendments to be sent to the CRC’s two required public hearings scheduled for Tuesday, May 28, 2024, and Monday, June 10, 2024.

Please find below a table referencing the charter amendments by ballot title, presented with the ballot order and numbering discussed at the CRC’s May 23, 2024 meeting.

CRC-Prepared Charter Amendments for Public Hearings

Question #1	County Charter Amendment Providing for County Commissioner Term Limits
Question #2	Revising County Initiative Petition Requirements and Process
Question #3	Lowering Signature Percentage for Petition Drives to Propose County Charter Amendments
Question #4	Charter Amendment Revising Thresholds for Appointment and Removal of County Attorney
Question #5	Referenda on County Charter Amendments to Be Held at General Elections Only
Question #6	Conforming Publication Requirements for County Charter Amendment Referenda to the Florida Election Code
Question #7	County Charter Cleanup Amendment

COUNSEL TO EXTRAORDINARY GOVERNMENTS & LEADERS THROUGHOUT FLORIDA SINCE 1973

324 W. MORSE BOULEVARD • WINTER PARK, FLORIDA 32789
TELEPHONE: (407) 645-3735 • FACSIMILE: (407) 628-5670 • TOLL FREE: (866) 789-VOSE
INTERNATIONAL TEL. (LONDON, ENGLAND): +44 (0)20 3355 1473 • INTERNET: WWW.VOSELAW.COM

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 #2

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 #3

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 #4

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 #5

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 #6

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 #7

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.~~

**Report to the Citizens
of
Pinellas County**



**2023-2024 Pinellas County
Charter Review Commission May 2024**

Table of Contents

Section	Title	Page
I	Introduction	3
II	CRC Members and Staff	4
III	Summary of Charter Review Commission Review & Actions	5
IV	Charter Amendments Approved by the 2023-2024 CRC To Be Considered In The November 2024 General Election	16
Appendix A	2023-2024 CRC Operating Rules & Providing Comments to the CRC	34
Appendix B	Table of Charter Topics Reviewed	37
Appendix C	Consideration for Future CRC Topics	38
Appendix D	Table of CRC Meetings and Public Hearings	40
Appendix E	Meeting Agendas, Minutes, & Background Memos	42
Appendix F	Current Pinellas County Charter	TBD

SECTION I

Introduction

This Report is provided pursuant to Section 6.03 of the Pinellas County Charter (“Charter”) which requires that a Charter Review Commission (CRC) be appointed every eight years to review the Charter and all aspects of Pinellas County’s government on behalf of the citizens of Pinellas County. The CRC is authorized to place proposed amendments and revisions to the Charter on the November 2024 General Election ballot. Such proposed amendments do not require approval from the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). As amendments are not required to follow a “single subject” rule, multiple issues may be included in a single ballot question. The CRC may also take action in the form of advisory recommendations and requests or resolutions to the County or other entities.

The purpose of the report is twofold: (1) To provide the BCC and the public information on current topics of interest and the thought process used by the CRC in reaching its decisions to advance a topic or not; and (2) To provide a historical reference for future Charter Review Commissions, as some topics may resurface in subsequent Charter Review Commissions, and the report will provide history and research considered by the 2023-2024 CRC when reaching its decisions.

The 2023-2024 CRC has chosen to place seven (7) referenda items on the ballot for consideration by Pinellas County voters. This decision was reached after holding thirteen (13) commission meetings and after receiving input from County officials, staff, outside speakers, members of the public and other interested parties. Two sets of Public Hearings on the proposed Charter Amendments were conducted on May 28, 2024, and June 10, 2024, as required by the Pinellas County Charter which resulted in no substantive changes. *(The preceding sentence is subject to change based on the final actions of the CRC following the June 10th hearings.)*

This report contains a summary of the topics discussed and actions taken by the CRC, as described in Section III - Summary of Charter Review Commission Actions.

The CRC consists of 13 members from the following groups of people (as outlined in Section 6.03(a) of the Pinellas County Charter).

- One member from the Legislative Delegation who resides in Pinellas County;
- One County Constitutional Officer;
- One member who is an elected City Official;
- One member who is a County Commissioner;
- Seven (7) members from the Public, each of whom shall be nominated by a commissioner from among the residents of that commissioner’s district, and none of whom shall be an elected official; and
- Two (2) additional members from the Public at large, neither of whom shall be an elected official.

Robert’s Rules of Order governed the operations of the CRC. See Appendix A for the 2023-2024 CRC’s Operating Rules.

SECTION II

CRC Members and Staff

Member	Appointed By	Representing
Brian Aungst, Jr. - Chair	Commissioner Latvala	District 5
Linsey Grove – Vice Chair	Public At Large Citizen Appointee	Public At Large
State Senator Nick DiCeglie	Legislative Delegation	Pinellas Legislative Delegation
Ashley Overend	Commissioner Scott	District 2
Alan Swartz	Commissioner Peters	District 6
Anne-Marie Brooks	Municipal Elected Appointee	Elected City Official
Mike Twitty	Constitutional Officers	County Constitutional Officer
Rob Posavec	Commissioner Eggers	District 4
Tom Steck	Commissioner Justice	District 3
Dave Eggers	Board of Commissioners	County Commissioner
Terri Lipsey-Scott	Commissioner Flowers	District 7
Jim Millican	Public At Large Citizen Appointee	Public At Large
Mark Strickland	Commissioner Long	District 1

**Note: Todd Jennings & Richard Butler were original members of the 2023-2024 CRC but resigned in April 2024 following their election to the Belleair Town Commission and Pinellas Park City Council, respectively.*

CRC Staff

Douglas B. Thomas, Executive Vice President, Strategic Government Resources (SGR) of Lakeland, FL, provided Consulting and Facilitation services.

Wade Vose, Vose Law Firm LLP of Winter Park, FL, served as Legal Counsel.

Nancy McKibben, Assistant to the County Administrator, served as the Pinellas County Staff Liaison to the CRC.

Meetings of the CRC were recorded, and minutes prepared by the staff of the Board Records Department of the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

SECTION III

Summary of Charter Review Commission Review & Actions

The Charter Review Commission (CRC) commenced its work at its inaugural meeting on August 16, 2023, by receiving a briefing on its purpose/charge, and an overview on the Florida Sunshine Law and Public Records Act by Legal Counsel Wade Vose. Following a brief discussion, the CRC also adopted its Operating Rules (Appendix A). It subsequently approved the engagement of Strategic Government Resources (SGR) as its Facilitator, commenced discussions at a high-level of possible topics of interest to be considered, and scheduled its initial series of meetings.

During the second CRC meeting on September 20, 2023, the Members received an overview of the current Pinellas County Charter and reviewed the 2016 Charter Review Report and Recommendations, including the six (6) Ballot Initiatives that were recommended and subsequently approved by the Pinellas County Voters at the November 8, 2016, General Election. Additional input was solicited from the CRC Members regarding initial topics of interest, as well as extending an offer to the Board of County Commissioners, Constitutional Officers, and the County Administrator to provide any areas of interest that they would like the CRC to consider for further review.

At the November 1, 2024, meeting, the CRC reviewed, discussed, and voted on the below noted Major Groupings of Suggested Topics, with those topics receiving a substantial level of support advanced for subsequent research, review, and consideration as possible Ballot Initiatives.

The balance of the CRC meetings involved presentation of background information and research on the approved topics of interest and subsequent discussion and deliberations regarding proposed direction on the issues. A brief summary of each of the topics considered, along with their respective disposition are included below:

Governance Issues:

- 1. 3.01 Board of County Commissioners - Definition/clarification of County Commissioner At Large Districts (Districts 1, 2, & 3) and appointments re: whether Commissioner appointments to the Redistricting Board (or other Boards) for At-Large Districts must reside within the same Districts as the appointing Commissioners.**

Discussion/Research: Legal Counsel Vose advised that the requirements for Commissioner appointments to various Boards are driven by the particular Charter, ordinance, or resolution provision specifying the membership of such Board. For example, the County Redistricting Board created by Sec. 3.04 of the Charter requires that 7 of the members be appointed by a commissioner from among the residents of that Commissioner's district. Sec. 6.03 of the Charter, creating the CRC, contains a similar provision. In each instance, reference to the "residents of that commissioner's district",

with respect to the “At-Large Districts”, refers to the residents of that district. However, other Boards and bodies are governed by the particular Charter, ordinance, or resolution provision specifying the membership of such Board, and are not necessarily tied to residency in an appointing Commissioner’s district unless so stated.

Result: Based on the discussion, the CRC felt the matter did not require any further research or consideration as a possible Charter Amendment.

2. 3.01 Board of County Commissioners - Term Limits for County Commissioners.

Discussion/Research: During much of the 2023-2024 Florida Legislative Session, the CRC closely followed the progress of Proposed Florida House Bill 57 and Senate Bill 438 which if ultimately adopted and became State Law, would provide for eight-year term limits coupled with other potential restrictions for Florida County Commissioners. In the end, both proposed bills failed to achieve sufficient support to advance the issue as a State Law. Once that was known, the CRC deliberated on various proposed term limit structures for several meetings.

The CRC discussed the application of term limits on several occasions and ultimately focused on two options:

- Two four (4) year terms with a two (2) year “cooling off period” before an individual could run for Commission again; or
- Three four (4) terms with a four (4) year “cooling off period”

The CRC also considered whether the commencement of the initial term of a County Commissioner should be retroactive or prospective, considering the initial term of office commencing in November 2018, November 2022, or November 2026, and also considered the impact of any proposed term limits on sitting County Commissioners.

Based on the desires of a majority of the members it was recommended that language be proposed for term limits for a period of three four (4) terms starting from November 5, 2024, and requiring a four-year (4) “cooling off” period following completion of a term of office prior to individuals being eligible to run for a subsequent term of office following being term limited.

Result: A recommended amendment to the Charter is shown in Section IV of this report (Ballot Proposal and Text Revisions for Question #1).

3. 4.02 County Attorney - Appointment/Removal of County Attorney Procedures – Voting standards less specific than with County Administrator (higher threshold for appointment/removal).

Discussion/Research: The appointment of the County Attorney was clarified in response to the 2016 CRC’s efforts to establish the 12-member County Attorney Oversight Committee (CAOC) comprised of both County Commissioners (BCC) and Constitutional

Officers, although there were questions as to the process and number of votes required by the CAOC to remove the County Attorney under Section 4.02 of the County Charter. Under the current Charter provisions, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) could terminate the County Attorney regardless of the wishes of the Constitutional Officers, and if it were the intent of the CRC to provide Constitutional Officers with a fair footing, the CRC could consider modifying the procedure for termination of the County Attorney through requiring a supermajority vote from the CAOC instead of a simple majority vote or by adding a successive meeting vote requirement. The CRC felt that the establishment of a specific number of votes required from the BCC and the Constitutional Officers, separately, to establish a majority and a supermajority vote for the termination of the County Attorney may be confusing on a ballot; preferring instead to designate a number of total votes required for a majority and supermajority vote would be more effective.

The issue related to the voting threshold for the removal of the County Attorney by the CAOC at one meeting versus two consecutive meetings was also discussed, with support for the rationale utilized for revising the removal of the County Attorney would be to model the format used for the County Administrator and which is a common provision in other Charters. Following numerous discussions over a series of meetings, the CRC recommended that the CAOC could remove a County Attorney by an eight (8)-vote supermajority at one meeting or remove the County Attorney by a seven (7)-vote majority at two consecutive meetings.

Result: A recommended amendment to the Charter is shown in Section IV of this report (Ballot Proposal and Text Revisions for Question #4).

4. Elected County Administrator / County Executive.

Discussion/Research: The CRC initially reviewed information regarding elected County Executives and appointed Administrators in various locations in the State of Florida and received input from current Pinellas County Administrator Barry Burton at the April 4, 2024, meeting to learn more about the current Commission – Administrator form of government and how the Administrator works with the BCC as well as the various Pinellas County Constitutional Officers on policy and operational matters. As a follow-up, the CRC desired to hear from leaders who have served in a Strong Mayor/Elected Executive, as well as Commission – Manager form of government for further research into the topic. At the May 2, 2024, meeting, the CRC heard presentations from former Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn, (current Executive Vice President and Principal - U.S. Cities Practice for Shumaker Advisors Florida) and Pamela Brangaccio, former City Manager, City of New Smyrna Beach, Florida (current Program Manager, International City/County Management Association.)

Each speaker spoke about the strengths and challenges under each form of government and the CRC reviewed a variety of additional background information and reports about both structures.

Result: Following a lengthy discussion among the CRC Members, an informal vote was held on advancing the topic which resulted in a six to six deadlock, and as such, the measure did not advance for further consideration. Discussion ensued about the possibility of adding the issue as a possible topic for the BCC or the next CRC to possibly study further.

5. 6.02 Charter Initiative – Citizen Initiative Petitions and Referenda – Minimum thresholds of signatures to advance petitions and referendums and Time Period for Pinellas County Charter Petition Drives - What are other Charter Counties doing in this area?

Discussion/Research: Petition drives to propose Pinellas County Charter amendments are governed by Section 6.02 of the Charter and the subject section was amended in 2016 pursuant to a Charter amendment proposed by the 2016 CRC. That amendment lowered the number of signed petitions necessary to propose an amendment to the Pinellas County Charter from ten (10) percent of the registered voters in the County to eight (8) percent and expanded the length of time during which petitions can be gathered from 180 days to 240 days. The 2023-2024 CRC reviewed the associated signature percentage and time period required for Charter petition changes of the 20 Charter Counties in Florida and discussed various changes to facilitate citizen initiated proposed Charter changes.

Following the review of other Charter Commission's' ballot language for citizen initiative petitions, it was determined that most Counties require the submission of petitions to be submitted to the Supervisor of Elections within a specific timeframe to allow ample opportunity for processing of initiative petitions prior to an election. The CRC expressed interest in lowering the signature percentage threshold from eight (8) to five (5) percent of registered voters, noting the challenges posed by the eight percent requirement, coupled with maintenance of the multi-district requirement.

Several drafts were reviewed and discussed amending this section of the Charter and additional input was requested on the potential revisions to the initiative petition process with the Supervisor of Elections (SOE) Julie Marcus for procedural feedback. (It should be noted that the SOE staff clarified that they did not want to take positions to endorse any particular Charter amendments, including those that would directly impact the SOE office.)

Following multiple discussions on the topic, the CRC desired to advance two Ballot Proposals. The first would lower the threshold for the number of petitions necessary to propose an amendment from eight percent (8%) of registered voters in the County to five percent (5%).

The other would revise Pinellas County's initiative petition requirements and process, addressing the following points:

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

At one point, both the lowered threshold and all of the above points were considered to be included in one consolidated Ballot Proposal. However, it was felt that the issue of lowering the signature percentage should be proposed as a separate proposal from the other revisions for initiative petition requirements to allow voters to consider the issues independent of each other.

Result: Recommended amendments to the Charter are shown in Section IV of this report (Ballot Proposal and Text Revisions for Question #3 and #2, respectively.)

6. County Referendums – Should Pinellas County only advance Charter Amendments and Referenda on the General Election ballot?

Discussion/Research: There are currently three methods for amending the County Charter: (1) via proposal by the BCC; (2) an initiative petition proposed by the voters; and (3) via proposal by the CRC.

Currently, the Board of County Commissioners (“BCC”) can propose Charter amendments by ordinance passed by an affirmative vote of not less than a majority plus one member of the Commission. The scheduling of a referendum election on such a proposed Charter amendment is subject to referendum at the next scheduled Countywide election; provided, however, the BCC may call a special referendum election for said purpose. As such, a Charter amendment proposed by the BCC is not limited to consideration at a general election. Absent further action of the BCC, such an amendment would be considered at “the next scheduled Countywide election,” which could be, for example, a presidential preference primary (held in March of presidential election years), a primary (held in August in even-numbered years) or a general election (held in November in even-numbered years). The BCC has the further authority to call a special referendum election to consider the amendment, which would not be required to fall upon any of the listed elections.

An authorized Charter amendment proposed by petition shall be placed on the ballot by resolution of the BCC 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 BCC may call a special referendum election for said purpose.

The scheduling of a referendum election on a Charter amendment proposed by the CRC provides that the BCC 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 CRC.

It was noted that the Florida Legislature has not amended Florida law to require that County Charter amendments, or all County referenda more generally, must be considered only at general elections. As such, the Pinellas County Charter's authorization of Charter amendment referenda at elections other than a general election is presently permissible under Florida law.

Following a discussion regarding the three current processes, the CRC felt that given the importance of any changes to the County Charter which have significant operational and policy considerations, future Charter changes should only be placed on general election ballots to ensure the greatest amount of review and consideration by the voters.

Result: A recommended amendment to the Charter is shown in Section IV of this report (Ballot Proposal and Text Revisions for Question #5).

Charter Clean Up Issues: (Unanimous Support)

7. Remove all references to "His/Her" pronouns in Charter.

Discussion/Research: The CRC discussed and recommended the removal of all gender references in the Charter, changing "he" or "his" to other appropriate words (usually a repetition of the officer's title), and changing "chairman" and "vice-chairman" to "chair" and "vice-chair" in sections relating to the County Redistricting Board and Charter Review Commission.

Result: A recommended amendment to the Charter is shown in Section IV of this report (Ballot Proposal and Text Revisions for Question #7).

8. Any areas of Charter that may require updating due to changes in State Law since 2015-2016 CRC review?

Discussion/Research: Legal Counsel Vose reviewed the current Pinellas County Charter and indicated that any provisions that may require updating due to changes in State Law since the Charter was last updated could be addressed in a general Charter Clean Up provision by the CRC.

Result: Although the CRC is advancing a General Charter Clean Up Ballot Initiative (Question #7), no particular provisions in the Current Charter are proposed to be updated by such amendment due to changes in State Law since its last update.

9. Revising the publication requirements for Charter amendment referendum.

Discussion/Research: During the November 27, 2023, CRC meeting, County Attorney Jewel White addressed the Commission and raised an issue regarding the unique requirements in the Charter that specified the terms and processes for advertising proposed Charter Ballot Proposals that are different from other public notices. Following subsequent review and discussion, the CRC felt that the advertising requirements for Proposed Charter Ballot Proposals should be consistent with publishing provisions under State law.

Result: A recommended amendment to the Charter is shown in Section IV of this report (Ballot Proposal and Text Revisions for Question #6).

10.2.07 Environmental Lands – How to deal/include any future land acquisitions? **Initial understanding is that once so designated by the BCC, such lands will automatically receive Charter protection and cannot be removed without a referendum.**

Discussion/Research: Section 2.07 of the Charter addresses the treatment of environmental land acquired by Pinellas County and the protections regarding the disposition by conveyance, lease, or license of designated environmental lands. Specifically, designated environmental lands may not be conveyed, or leased or licensed for longer than ten (10) years, unless authorized by a referendum of Pinellas County electors. The environmental lands designation may be removed only by County Commission ordinance and approval at referendum (for lands more than one acre), or by County Commission ordinance (for lands one acre or less).

Section 2.07(c) specifically addresses the treatment of environmental lands designated by Pinellas County after the adoption of Section 2.07 in 2008:

- (c) Additional County-owned lands may be designated as environmental lands subject to the provisions of this Charter by adoption of an ordinance by the Board of County Commissioners.

The legal effect of Section 2.07(c) is to place additional County-owned lands that have been designated as environmental lands by ordinance on an equal footing with respect to the legal protections provided by Section 2.07.

Result: Based on the research and discussion, Legal Counsel Vose explained that the Charter is written so that future environmental lands, designated as such by a BCC-adopted ordinance, would automatically receive Charter protections and cannot be removed without a referendum. As such the CRC felt that there was no need for further research nor was there a desire to further advance the issue as a proposed Ballot Initiative.

11.5.02 Special Laws – (B) – Is the list of excluded Boards/Commissions current and correctly titled, and/or can this section just identify all current and future Boards/Commissions established by Special Acts?

Discussion/Research: It was determined that the Special Act creating the Pinellas County Industry Council was repealed by Ch. 98-485, Laws of Florida, with all assets and liabilities of that council transferred to Pinellas County. As such, the Pinellas County Industry Council was recommended for removal from the list of the protected Boards and Councils listed in Section 5.02(b).

Additional research was conducted regarding updating the names of two other organizations identified in the current Charter: (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.

The question regarding the Pinellas Planning Council and the name “Forward Pinellas” was similarly researched. As a technical matter, Forward Pinellas is a registered fictitious name under which both the Pinellas Planning Council and the Pinellas County Metropolitan Planning Organization operate. Pursuant to Ch. 2012-245, Laws of Florida, both entities share a single unified Board. However, for several reasons, including reasons related to federal MPO funding, each entity has a legally distinct identity. As such, it was recommended 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”. These changes were ultimately included as part of the County Charter Cleanup Amendment.

Result: A recommended amendment to the Charter to address the above noted changes in organizational names is shown in Section IV of this report (Ballot Proposal and Text Revisions for Question #7).

12. Section 6.05 Reconstitution of 2004 Charter Review Commission – Can this provision now be eliminated?

Discussion/Research: Based on a subsequent legal review, Legal Counsel Vose indicated that he did not see a legal reason to keep the current provision in the Charter regarding the reconstitution of the Charter Review Commission now that the CRC had undergone its reconfiguration. The removal of the subject reference to the 2024 Charter Review Commission is included as part of the County Charter Cleanup Amendment.

Result: A recommended amendment to the Charter is shown in Section IV of this report (Ballot Proposal and Text Revisions for Question #7).

Possible New Issues:

13. Any emerging issues, including what other Counties may be considering/adding to their Charters?

Discussion/Research: Based on discussions and feedback from General Counsel Vose and Facilitator Thomas, it was pointed out that many Charter initiatives being considered by other entities typically involve local issues of interest in said communities, and as such, are not necessarily of interest to other communities. As such, no topics of interest under this section were identified for further review or research.

Result: Based on the research and discussion and that no other topics under this section were raised by CRC members, it was felt that there was no need to advance any proposed Ballot initiative under this topic.

Other Questions to Be Addressed:

14. 4.01 County Administrator (c) (2) – What does “Unclassified” mean and what is the list of Unclassified Positions?

Discussion/Research: Legal Counsel Vose worked closely with County Attorney White to research the issue of “Unclassified” positions and the County’s process for appointing and removal of such positions. Based on the legal research, it was determined that the BCC adopted a resolution in 2001 that delegated the BCC’s authority over appointment and removal of Unclassified employees to the County Administrator. Additionally, the 2004 & 2006 CRC’s placed proposed Charter Amendments which effectively removed the impact of the subject section, with neither initiative receiving sufficient votes to amend the Charter. As a side note, the Charter does make a reference to the Unified Personnel Act which states that the County Administrator has authority to hire and fire employees under the County Administrator’s authority, which is what the 2001 BCC resolution similarly addressed.

Result: Based on the background review of the topic, the CRC did not feel the need to further research the issue nor desire to advance the topic as a possible Charter initiative.

15. Consolidation of Public Services – Consolidation of Fire Districts within Pinellas County that the 2016 CRC reviewed (Section 5) but did not have time to fully review before concluding.

Discussion/Research: Legal Counsel Vose researched and prepared a memorandum discussing various legal concepts bearing on the ability of a County Charter amendment to unilaterally require the consolidation or transfer of services from one local government to another, including, for example, independent fire districts. Based on the analysis, Mr. Vose concluded that it is likely presently beyond the scope of the Pinellas County Charter to unilaterally force consolidation of services. The memorandum addressed the law

applicable to Charter Counties generally, and discussed relevant provisions of the Pinellas County Charter.

In depth information regarding the topic can be found in the full legal memorandum titled “Overview of Constitutional Concepts Relating to Transfer of Powers and Consolidation of Services, and Discussion of Relevant Pinellas County Charter Provisions” provided by Legal Counsel Vose dated February 18, 2024, in the attached February 26, 2024, CRC Meeting Agenda packet.

Result: Based on the legal research on this topic, it was determined that not only is it generally beyond the scope of a County Charter to unilaterally force the consolidation or transfer of services, but it is also likely beyond the Pinellas County Charter’s scope to authorize Countywide regulations affecting those services to the extent the regulations would alter the service or the regulatory authority of municipalities or special districts, in the absence of dual referendum approval. As such, the CRC felt further consideration of the topic was moot.

16.2.02 – Human Rights – Securing the rights of citizens & protection of human rights.

Discussion/Research: Following a brief discussion regarding the topic, Legal Counsel Vose provided information regarding existing protections established by both the State of Florida and the County’s Code of Ordinances regarding employment discrimination, housing, etc., there are a number of current protections based on gender and gender expression.

Result: Based on the protections provided to citizens of Pinellas County under both State Law and the Pinellas County Code of Ordinances, no further action was taken to advance the issue for a proposed Ballot question.

17. Consider limiting the annual increase in the County’s budget to CPI or some other index – Are any other Counties limiting budget growth in their Charters?

Discussion/Research: Legal Counsel Vose researched and prepared a memorandum providing an overview of the relevant case law relating to County Charter amendments affecting County budgets and millages, examining instances in Miami-Dade, Charlotte, Hillsborough, and Brevard Counties. The general conclusion was that courts have found that such attempts are unconstitutional as being in conflict with Chapters 129 and 200, Florida Statutes, which set forth the statutory framework by which Counties are to establish budgets and millage rates, in the absence of special act authorization, as is found in the instance of Brevard County.

Further information regarding the topic can be found in the legal memorandum titled “Background Information – General Overview of Relevant Case Law Relating to County Charter Amendments Affecting Budget and Millage” provided by Legal Counsel Vose

dated February 18, 2024, in the attached February 26, 2024, CRC Meeting Agenda packet.

Result: Following the review of the subject legal opinion and discussion by CRC members, it was felt that no further research was required on the topic and the matter was not advanced for a possible Charter Ballot question.

DRAFT

SECTION IV

Amendments Approved by the 2023-2024 CRC
To Be Voted On In The 2024 General Election

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.

DRAFT

Question #2

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 said 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.

DRAFT

Question #3

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.

DRAFT

Question #4

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 #5

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 #6

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.

DRAFT

Question #7

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.~~

APPENDIX A

2023 – 2024 CRC Operating Rules & Providing Comments to the CRC

- A. Speaker Sign-In: A public sign-in sheet and appearance cards shall be provided for each meeting of the CRC.
- B. Public Comment Requirements:
 - 1. Public comment shall be taken at the beginning of the meeting and for each agenda item.
 - 2. There shall be a three-minute time limit for each speaker, unless the Chairman determines that a shorter time limitation is warranted based on the number of speaker cards submitted.
 - 3. If an action that would impact an amendment to the Charter is to be taken on an item not listed on that meeting's agenda, a vote on the action would be tabled to a subsequent meeting.
- C. CRC Vote Requirements:
 - 1. Unless otherwise provided by Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, or these rules, a majority vote of those members present shall be sufficient to move an issue forward at the time an issue is discussed.
 - 2. An issue that is initially voted down at a CRC meeting will be reconsidered following Robert's Rules on reconsideration.
 - 3. An affirmative vote of a majority of the full membership (affirmative vote of seven (7) members) shall be required for final approval of the final report.
- D. Recorded Votes. The votes of each CRC member shall be recorded by the Clerk.
- E. Expenses: Approval of the expenses of the Facilitator and General Counsel are delegated to the CRC Chairman.
- F. Virtual Attendance at Meetings:
 - 1. A quorum of members physically present must first be established.
 - 2. Members will be able to attend virtually/electronically under extraordinary circumstances. Extraordinary circumstances include:
 - i. Illness
 - ii. Pandemic or public health concerns
 - iii. Unavoidable business-related absence
 - iv. Absence of State Legislator when Legislature is in session.
 - 3. The existence of (other) extraordinary circumstances will be determined by the Commission by vote at the beginning of the meeting.
 - 4. A member deemed to have an extraordinary circumstance will be permitted to attend virtually and have all rights and privileges, including voting.
 - 5. The extraordinary circumstance justification will not be used merely for convenience.

Providing Comments to the Pinellas County Charter Review Commission

In writing: Complete the [BCC Agenda Comment Form](#) by 5 p.m. the day before the meeting at <https://pinellas.gov/bccagendacomment>.

By voicemail: Leave a voicemail message before 5 p.m. the day before the meeting by calling 727-464-4400. Recorded instructions are provided. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may provide public input on any agenda item through use of the [State of Florida's relay service](#) at 7-1-1.

In person: Preregister at the meeting and fill out a comment card before the meeting and you will be called to speak to the Charter Review Commission when it is your turn. Speakers will have three minutes or less to present, based upon the number of people signed up who wish to speak. The Chair may designate a set length of time for the public comment period for any particular item of discussion or the citizen comment period.

As a group: Five or more people may select one spokesperson to speak to the Charter Review Commission. That person will have 10 minutes to speak or the sum of the individuals' allowed time, whichever is shorter. The remaining people must be present and will not speak. Indicate when you sign up that you are speaking for a group and provide each person's name.

Virtually by phone or Zoom: Members of the public who have preregistered may attend a Charter Review Commission meeting via Zoom by visiting <https://pinellas.gov/attend> or by calling the Zoom webinar at one of the following numbers: 1-646-558-8656; or 1-312-626-6799; or 1-301-715-8592; or 1-346-248-7799; or 1-720-707-2699; or 1-253-215-8782. The Webinar ID number is 238 247 671. There is no guarantee against technology failures.

When addressing the Charter Review Commission:

- State your name and the city or unincorporated area where you live.
- Be respectful of the Charter Review Commission, other members of the public, and others' opinions, and refrain from making personal attacks or using obscene language. All content must be your own.
- Do not include Political Candidate Campaigning, commercial advertising, solicitation, or defamation as part of your presentation to the Charter Review Commission. Restrict your presentation to issues which are in the public interest and pertain to Pinellas County Charter issues.
- Please direct all comments to the Charter Review Commission as a whole, not to any individual Commissioner. This is not a question-and-answer session.

The Chair may interrupt or terminate any individual's speaking privilege if the Speaker's comments, attire, Visual Aids, or Electronic Aids constitute a personal attack; are slanderous, defaming, disruptive, or obscene; violate any law; or otherwise are in violation of this policy.

Visual Aids

Handouts: If you wish to provide handouts to the Charter Review Commission, please provide them to the staff at the welcome table when you fill out your comment card.

Posters and signs: For safety reasons, no signs or placards mounted on sticks or poles are allowed, and no materials are allowed that could interfere with other people's ability to view or participate in the Charter Review Commission meeting.

Digital materials: Any digital or audiovisual materials must be submitted at least **seven days** before the meeting. The Chair may approve or deny a request for use of these materials. All digital materials must be the speaker's own and may not be content recorded or taken from other sources. Digital materials such as presentations must be handled by the speaker.

Email Address for submitting materials, documents, and photos **ONLY** at crc019@pinellas.gov

Mailing Address:

Pinellas County Board Records
315 Court St.
Clearwater, FL 33756

All submissions **MUST** be accompanied by information that contains:

- The identity of the sender
- Contact information for the sender
- The Agenda date of the Charter Review Commission meeting

APPENDIX B

Table of Charter Topics Reviewed

Governance Issues:

- I. 3.01 Board of County Commissioners - Definition/clarification of County Commissioner At Large Districts (Districts 1, 2, & 3) and appointments re: whether Commissioner appointments to the Redistricting Board (or other boards) for At-Large Districts must reside within the same Districts as the appointing Commissioners.
- II. 3.01 Board of County Commissioners - Term Limits for County Commissioners.
- III. 4.02 County Attorney - Appointment/Removal of County Attorney Procedures – Voting standards less specific than with County Administrator (higher threshold for appointment/removal).
- IV. Elected County Administrator / County Executive.
- V. 6.02 Charter Initiative – Citizen Initiative Petitions and Referenda – Minimum thresholds of signatures to advance petitions and referendums and Time Period for Pinellas County Charter Petition Drives - What are other Charter Counties doing in this area? (9 Votes)
- VI. County Referendums – Should Pinellas County only advance Charter Amendments and Referenda on the General Election ballot?

Clean Up Issues:

- I. Remove all references to “His/Her” pronouns in Charter.
- II. Any areas of Charter that may require updating due to changes in State Law since 2015-2016 CRC review?
- III. Revising the publication requirements for Charter amendment referendum.
- IV. 2.07 Environmental Lands – How to deal/include any future land acquisitions? Initial understanding is that once so designated by the BOCC, such lands will automatically receive Charter protection and cannot be removed without a referendum.
- V. 5.02 Special Laws – (B) – Is the list of excluded Boards/Commissions current and correctly titled, and/or can this section just identify all current and future Boards/ommissions established by Special Acts?

- VI. Section 6.05 Reconstitution of 2004 Charter Review Commission – Can this provision now be eliminated?

Possible New Issues:

- I. Any emerging issues, including what other Counties may be considering/adding to their Charters?

Other Questions to Be Addressed:

- I. 4.01 County Administrator (c) (2) – What does “Unclassified” mean and what is the list of Unclassified Positions?
- II. Consolidation of Public Services – Consolidation of Fire Districts within Pinellas County that the 2016 CRC reviewed (Section 5) but did not have time to fully review before concluding.
- III. 2.02 – Human Rights – Securing the rights of citizens & protection of human rights.
- IV. Consider limiting the annual increase in the County’s budget to CPI or some other index – Are any other Counties limiting budget growth in their Charters?

DRAFT

APPENDIX C

Proposed Future CRC Topics

The 2023-2024 CRC spent some time exploring the possibility of proposing an elected County Administrator/County Executive position versus maintaining the current Commission – Administrator form of government where the County Commission appoints a County Administrator who reports to the full BCC. As part of their review, the CRC reviewed background information on the structure of Miami-Dade, Orange, and Duval Counties and their respective Charters which have various forms of elected chief executive positions. Additionally, the CRC heard from current County Administrator Barry Burton at the April 4, 2024, meeting to learn more about the current Commission – Administrator form of government and how the Administrator works with the BCC as well as the various Pinellas County Constitutional Officers on policy and operational matters.

As a follow-up, the CRC invited speakers who have served as a Strong Mayor/Elected Executive, and as an Administrator under a Commission – Manager form of government for further research into the topic. At the May 2, 2024, meeting, the CRC heard presentations from former Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn, (current Executive Vice President and Principal - U.S. Cities Practice for Shumaker Advisors Florida) and Pamela Brangaccio, former City Manager, City of New Smyrna Beach, Florida (current Program Manager, International City/County Management Association.) The CRC was also provided the below additional background information on the topic:

- The International City/County Association (ICMA) Code of Ethics
- 2024 Listing of Form of Government Data – Florida League of Cities
- Form of Government Statistics – ICMA
- *Smarter, Faster, Cheaper* – An Operations Efficiency Benchmarking Study of 100 American Cities by the IBM Business Global Services

Following the review of the associated background material and subject matter expert speakers, considerable discussion occurred with proponents of each form of government expressing why each form was best positioned to address current and future local government issues and operations. In the end, the CRC members deadlocked on the issue, which prevented the topic from being advanced for further consideration.

Given that this topic was considered late into the CRC schedule coupled with the significant change from the established form of government structure in Pinellas County, several CRC members thought that it might be of interest for a future CRC to consider earlier in their schedule and/or for the County Commission to consider the issue in greater detail outside the formal CRC process.

APPENDIX D

Table of CRC Meetings and Public Hearings

DATE	LOCATION OF MEETING	TYPE
09-20-2023	Palm Room, 333 Chestnut Street Clearwater, Florida 33756	Regular Meeting
11-01-2023	Palm Room, 333 Chestnut Street Clearwater, Florida 33756	Regular Meeting
11-27-2023	Palm Room, 333 Chestnut Street Clearwater, Florida 33756	Regular Meeting
01-22-2024	Palm Room, 333 Chestnut Street Clearwater, Florida 33756	Regular Meeting
02-26-2024	Palm Room, 333 Chestnut Street Clearwater, Florida 33756	Regular Meeting
03-21-2024	Palm Room, 333 Chestnut Street Clearwater, Florida 33756	Regular Meeting
04-04-2024	Palm Room, 333 Chestnut Street Clearwater, Florida 33756	Regular Meeting
04-22-2024	Palm Room, 333 Chestnut Street Clearwater, Florida 33756	Regular Meeting
05-02-2024	Palm Room, 333 Chestnut Street Clearwater, Florida 33756	Regular Meeting
05-23-2024	Palm Room, 333 Chestnut Street Clearwater, Florida 33756	Regular Meeting
05-28-2024	Palm Room, 333 Chestnut Street Clearwater, Florida 33756	1 st Public Hearings & Regular Meeting
06-10-2024	Palm Room, 333 Chestnut Street Clearwater, Florida 33756	2 nd Public Hearings & Regular Meeting

APPENDIX E

Meeting Agendas, Minutes, & Background Memos

(TO BE ATTACHED)

DRAFT

APPENDIX F

CRC Agenda Packets
(with MEETING MINUTES & Background Memos)

(TO BE ATTACHED)

DRAFT