

Pinellas County Charter Review Commission

Proposed Charter Amendment #3
(revised 6-15-06)

Future Charter Review Commissions

Section 6.03 of the Pinellas County Charter, as created by Chapter 80-590, Laws of Florida, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec 6.03. Charter Review Commission.

- (a) Not later than June 1 of the year 2011 and every year thereafter, During the month of December, 1985 and every six (6) years thereafter, there shall be established a charter review commission composed of thirteen (13) members. The members of the commission shall be appointed by the board of county commissioners of Pinellas County from the following groups:
- (1) One (1) member from the Pinellas County Legislative Delegation residing in Pinellas County;
 - (2) One (1) constitutional officer;
 - (3) One (1) member from elected city officials;
 - (4) One (1) member from the elected board of county commissioners;
 - (5) Nine (9) members from the public at large.

Vacancies shall be filled within thirty (30) days in the same manner as the original appointments.

(b) Each charter review commission shall meet within 30 days after being appointed ~~prior to the end of the third week in January 1986, and every six (6) 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 the 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 members 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.

- (c) Expenses of the charter review commission shall be verified pursuant to the rules of the ~~by a majority vote of the~~ commission and forwarded to the board of county commissioners for payment from the general fund of the county. The board of county commissioners shall provide space, secretarial and staff assistance, provided that the charter review commission may employ staff, and consult or retain experts as it deems necessary and desirable. The board of county commissioners may accept funds, grants, gifts, and services for the charter review commission from the state, the government of the United States, or other sources, public or private.
- (d) The charter review commission shall review, on behalf of the citizens of Pinellas County the operation of county government and the charter in order to recommend amendments to this Charter, if any.
- (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, ~~2012~~ 1986, and each eight (8) ~~six (6)~~ years thereafter. 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 an amendment or revision to the charter is to be recommended, the charter review commission shall conduct at least two (2) public hearings, at intervals of not less than ten (10) days but not more than twenty-one (21) days, immediately prior to the transmittal of its recommendations to the board of county commissioners. The board of county commissioners shall call a referendum election to be held in conjunction with the ~~2012~~ 1986 general election and each eight (8) ~~six (6)~~ 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 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. The charter review commission may remain in existence until the general election for the purpose of conducting or supervising informational or educational efforts concerning the proposed amendments but shall cease to exist as of the date of the general election.

This amendment shall take effect upon approval by a majority vote of the electors of Pinellas County voting in a referendum election on November 7, 2006.

BALLOT TITLE: AMENDS CHARTER TO REQUIRE HEARINGS, AND REDUCE
FREQUENCY OF CONVENING

BALLOT QUESTION: Shall Section 6.03 of the Charter be amended to require hearings, reduce frequency of convening Charter Review Commission from every 6 to 8 years, permit employment of independent staff and experts, and allow Charter Review Commissions to remain in existence until the general election to supervise informational or educational efforts?

[] YES FOR APPROVAL

[] NO FOR REJECTION