

Pinellas County Charter Review Commission

Final Recommendations

July 27, 2010

Pinellas County CRC

- CRC constituted every six years. Meets for six months.
- Operated independently of Board of County Commissioners.
- 13 members. Four elected officials; nine laypeople.

Pinellas County CRC

Ronnie Duncan, Chair

Ricardo Davis, Vice Chair

James Angle

Paul Bedinghaus

Gerald Figurski

William Harvard, Jr.

Honorable Ed Hooper

Melissa Jagger

Deborah Kynes

Honorable Diane Nelson

Ray Neri

Honorable Andy Steingold

Honorable Ken Welch

Pinellas County CRC

“The CRC shall review, on behalf of the citizens of Pinellas County, the operation of county government in order to recommend amendments to this Charter, if any.”

Pinellas County Charter

“Limited” Home Rule – Some amendments must undergo extraordinary process before consideration and/or adoption by voters

- Only charter retaining Legislative oversight concerning amendments relating to the County Constitutional Officers
- Only charter containing a legislatively-adopted policy requiring a “dual vote” of electorate to approve amendments authorizing BCC to set minimal countywide standards

Charter policy on CRC frustrates comprehensive review

2010 CRC Process

2010 CRC Process

Gathered information and suggestions from three primary sources:

1. CRC Members –

- Examined issues from last CRC. Identified those for review in 2010.
- Identified other issues for further research/review by staff and consideration by CRC

2010 CRC Process

Gathered information and suggestions from three primary sources:

2. Elected Officials, Community Leaders/Organizations

- County Constitutional Officers
- Mayors Council and Beach Communities
- CNCN
- CONA
- League of Women Voters
- USEM
- Political Parties – both Republican and Democratic

2010 CRC Process

Gathered information and suggestions from primary three sources:

3. Public –

- 10 public meetings
- Robust website
- Suggestions received via e-mail

2010 CRC Process

Issues identified for further consideration by CRC:

1. Supervisor of Elections – Election of the SOE on non-partisan basis
2. Pinellas Planning Council – The status, structure and duties of the PPC.
3. Fire/EMS – Revisions to the delivery of fire/EMS services in Pinellas County
4. Single-member districts for the BCC
5. Term Limits for the BCC

2010 CRC Process

Issues identified for further consideration by CRC:

6. Elected Mayor – Whether the head of the Executive Branch of the County should be directly-elected by the voters; the powers granted to that position.
7. Sports Authority – Whether the Sports Authority should be recreated and the form/powers thereof.
8. Airport Authority – Whether an airport authority should be created within Pinellas County

2010 CRC Process

Issues identified for further consideration by CRC:

9. CRC – Whether the charter’s provisions on future CRC’s should be revised and how, including the “single-subject” rule.
10. Repeal – Whether the question of whether the voters should be granted the power to repeal the charter at some point in the future.
11. Ethics/Lobbying Policy – Whether current ordinances should be revised.

Final Recommendations

1. Charter Review Commissions

- Frequency – Adjusted to every eight years to coincide with Presidential Elections when voter turnout is higher.
- Term - BCC required to appoint not later than August 1st of year prior to presidential election. Currently during December prior to election.

Final Recommendations

1. Charter Review Commissions

- Hearings – If charter amendments proposed, must hold at least two public hearings prior to final adoption.
- Duration - If charter amendments are proposed, CRC may remain in existence through general election.

Final Recommendations

2. Lobbying Ordinance

Recommendation to BCC to amend Code concerning county policy on lobbying.

- “Lobbying” should include any type of contact, including telephone and electronic.
- Contact forms should be copied and provided to all Commissioners upon filing.

Tentative Recommendations

2. Lobbying Ordinance

Recommendation to BCC to amend Code concerning county policy on lobbying.

- All lobbyist registration forms and related record should be posted on county website.
- Penalties for failure to comply with lobbying policy should include debarment.

Questions?

Pinellas County
Charter Review Commission
2010