

TERM LIMITS LITIGATION TIMELINE

- November 1996: Voters approved a charter amendment imposing term limits on the offices of the county commissioners and county constitutional officers; the ballot measure had been placed on the ballot after receipt of the requisite signatures in a citizens' petition.
- July 1996: A Pinellas County resident and taxpayer sued the County and various elected officials challenging the constitutionality of the proposed amendment; Eight is Enough (the citizens group that had sponsored the charter amendment by petition) intervened as a defendant to defend its constitutionality.
- January 26, 1999: The Sixth Judicial Circuit Court declared the amendment constitutional and entered judgment in favor of Eight is Enough.
- May 19, 2000: The 2nd DCA affirmed on appeal.
- The Clerk of Court, Tax Collector and Sheriff sought review of the 2nd DCA order with the Florida Supreme Court; the case was consolidated with Cook vs. City of Jacksonville.
- July 18, 2002: The Supreme Court quashed the 2nd DCA's decision in Eight is Enough and issued a mandate to the 2nd DCA.
- May 21, 2003: The 2nd DCA, pursuant to the Supreme Court's mandate, reversed the 1999 circuit court judgment in Eight is Enough that had upheld the constitutionality of the charter amendment and remanded the case to the circuit court for proceedings consistent with Cook.
- September 8, 2003: Pursuant to the 2nd DCA's mandate after Eight is Enough, the circuit court invalidated the 1996 proposed term limits amendment to the County's charter as unconstitutional.
- May 2012: The Florida Supreme Court receded from Cook but did not reverse the 2003 judgement invalidating the 1996 proposed amendment to Pinellas County's charter.
- June 26, 2012: Several Plaintiffs sued four county commissioners, the County, and the Supervisor of Elections to enforce term limits against the four named commissioners under the voided 1996 amendment; the circuit court granted summary judgment to Defendants, ruling the County's current charter has no term limits on the county commissioners.
- June 17, 2013: The Plaintiffs appealed the circuit court's decision to the 2nd DCA.
- April 16, 2014: The 2nd DCA affirmed the circuit court's judgment without a written opinion, eliminating any further opportunity for appeal.
- September 30, 2014: Some of the prior Plaintiffs filed a suit for mandamus against the Pinellas County Attorney and Chief Judge of the 6th Judicial Circuit seeking to compel the County Attorney to insert the 1996 term limits proposal into the County Charter and the Chief Judge to vacate the September 8, 2003 circuit court order.
- December 18, 2014: After the case was transferred to the 2nd DCA, that court denied the petition.