



Charter Review Committee City Commission meeting

April 3, 2024

2023 Charter Review Committee

Committee appointed every six years.
Eleven members appointed in April 2023

- Peter Hernandez, Chair – Citywide Appointment
- Suzanne Gunzburger, Vice Chair – Citywide Appointment
- Satonya Baker – District 6 appointment
- Christine Corbo – District 2 appointment
- Larry Davis – Citywide appointment
- Sandra Einhorn – Citywide appointment
- Abeo Manning – District 5 appointment
- Alex Recio – District 3 appointment
- Andrew Ruffner – District 1 appointment
- Gabe Seghi – District 4 appointment
- Guy Simani – Citywide appointment

Monthly meetings regularly scheduled on the 3rd Tuesday, 5:00 PM

Committee Responsibilities

- Created for the purpose of conducting a comprehensive study of the City Charter, and any or all phases of City government.
- Shall have at least three public hearings.
- By a vote of two-thirds, shall submit proposals to amend the Charter to the City Commission no later than the first Tuesday in June.

City Commission Responsibility

- The City Commission shall place the Charter Review Committee's proposal with the associated ballot language on the ballot at the next presidential or gubernatorial election, whichever occurs first.
- Election is November 5, 2024.

Articles II and III – City Commission and Elections

- These amendments would amend Article II of the City Charter entitled “The City Commission.”
 - The first amendment would clarify the responsibilities in the absence of the Mayor and Vice Mayor, shall be fulfilled by the sitting City Commissioners who have previously service as Vice Mayor, in order of most recent.
 - The second amendment would require Citizens’ Comments be held at (both) regularly scheduled City Commission meetings.

Articles II and III – City Commission and Elections

- The third amendment would clarify that a Commissioner shall remain a full time resident of the district in which he/she is elected and members shall be “a full-time resident” and delete “resides in” or domiciled in”.
- The fourth amendment would delete Campaign Finance Reform provisions that are inconsistent with State Law.
- QUESTION: Should Article II of the City Charter entitled “The City Commission” and Article III of the City Charter entitled “Elections” be amend in the various ways described above?

Article IV - Initiative

- These amendments would amend Article IV of the City Charter entitled “Initiative”.
 - The first amendment would clarify ordinance vs measure language.
 - The second amendment would clarify initiative petition submission process to the Office of the City Clerk before obtaining any signatures, and the City Attorney shall indicate whether the language is legally sufficient or insufficient within 30 working days of the initiative petition’s submission to the City Clerk.

Article IV - Initiative

- Question: Should Article IV of the City Charter entitled “Initiative” be amended in the various way described above?

Article V - Referendum

- These amendments would amend Article V of the City Charter entitled “Referendum”.
 - The first amendment would clarify ordinance/measure vs petition language in various sections and that referendum shall not apply to resolution of the City so long as prohibited by State Statute.

Article V - Referendum

- The second amendment would clarify referendum petition submission process to the Office of the City Clerk before obtaining any signatures, and the City Attorney shall indicate whether the language is legally sufficient or insufficient within 30 working days of the initiative petition's submission to the City Clerk.
- QUESTION: Should Article V of the City Charter entitled “Referendum” be amended in the various ways described above?

Article VI, VII and VIII – City Manager, City Attorney and Officers & Employees

- The first amendment would amend Article VI “City Manager” to clarify that at no time shall there be a vacancy in the position of City Manager.
- The second amendment would amend Article VII “City Attorney” and Article VII “Officers and Employees” to clarify the City Attorney can appoint or remove all personnel in his or her administration.

Article VI, VII and VIII – City Manager, City Attorney and Officers & Employees

- The third amendment would clarify that Commission members shall not interfere with City staff.
- Question: Should Article VI of the City Charter entitled “City Manager”, Article VII of the City Charter entitled “City Attorney”, and Article VIII of the City Charter entitled “Officers & Employees” be amended as described above?

Article XI – Charter Review Committee

- This amendment would amend Article XI “Charter Review Committee” to change the creation of the Committee from six years to 10 years; have committee appointed in January instead of March; ballot language will be presented the following April instead of June to the City Commission.
- Question: Should Article XI of the Charter entitled “Charter Review Committee” be amended in the various ways described above?

Article XIII - Limitation On Sale, Lease or Purchase of City Owned Real Property

- These amendments would amend Article XIII “Limitation On Sale, Lease or Purchase of City Owned Real Property”.
 - The first amendment would remove under Sale or Lease of City property the language “or by a majority vote of the City electors voting on such proposal.”
 - The second amendment would clarify the types of property under Sale of City-owned real property by removing “beach or beachfront” and “east of the intracoastal” clarify “to otherwise dispose of”; and add and “or city owned and designated historic property”.

Article XIII - Limitation On Sale, Lease or Purchase of City Owned Real Property

- The third amendment under Lease of City Owned Real Property would add new language “Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, any city-owned real property that is a park, a golf course or another recreational facility, or city owned and designated historic property, or which is east of the Intracoastal, which the city proposes to lease or to otherwise encumber, inclusive of all options to renew, for a period of 50 years or more, must be approved by a majority vote of the city electors.”

Article XIII - Limitation On Sale, Lease or Purchase of City Owned Real Property

- Question: Should Article XIII of the City Charter entitled “Limitation on Sale, Lease or Purchase of City Owned Real Property” be amended in the various ways described above?

Discussed But Not Recommended

- Commissioners elected citywide to represent an individual district
- Strong Mayor
- Citizens Bill of Rights

Questions?