



MEMORANDUM

TO: Pinellas County Charter Review Commission

FROM: Kurt Spitzer

DATE: April 17, 2006

RE: CRC Meeting Information
April 24th Meeting of the CRC
Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council
5:00 – 8:00 PM

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with information for your meeting set for April 24, 2006. That meeting will be held in the offices of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, located at 4000 Gateway Centre Boulevard in Pinellas Park.

Attached please find the information listed below. You will receive hardcopies of this material by Wednesday of this week.

- ✓ An Agenda for the meeting of April 24th.
- ✓ Copies of Minutes from your meeting of January 30, 2006.
- ✓ Copies of proposed amendments and other recommendations for your consideration.

Proposed Recommendations

Attached please find drafts of 12 recommendations for your consideration. These reflect the policy decisions made at your last meeting. The amendments and other recommendations have been reviewed by staff and reflect our best attempt to capture the intent of the Charter Review Commission (CRC). Generally, the recommendations are presented using one of the following mechanisms:

- ✓ Charter amendments that the CRC is authorized to place on the November 2006 ballot, such as the proposed amendments concerning future CRCs or the “dual vote.” They would be effective if approved by the countywide electorate during this November’s general election.
- ✓ Charter amendments that require the passage of a subsequent special act by the Legislative Delegation before they are effective. The measures concerning annexation fall into this category. If the ballot question passes during the November 2006 election, a subsequent special act must be adopted by the delegation prior to the measure becoming effective. The Legislative Delegation may or may not decide to accept such a recommendation.
- ✓ Recommended special acts. The measure concerning the dissolution of the independent fire districts falls into this category. The Legislative Delegation may or may not decide to accept the recommendation.

Fire Standards

The measure concerning the establishment of countywide fire standards is presented in two formats. Although the specific language amending the charter is identical in both approaches, one is a recommendation to the County Commission that they place an amendment concerning fire standards on the 2008 ballot. This approach assumes that another 2006 proposal (that which eliminates the dual vote requirement) is approved by the electorate this November.

The other approach is to recommend to the Legislative Delegation that they adopt a special act in 2007 presenting a charter amendment to the voters in 2008 that would authorize the establishment of countywide fire standards and exempt such measure from the dual vote requirements of the charter.

A table summarizing the approaches that are available to you is included in the amendment packet for your information and review.

Combining Amendments Together

There are at least eight amendments to the charter that could be placed on the November 2006 ballot. A common theory concerning voter reaction to multiple ballot questions is that the higher the number of questions, the greater the likelihood for confusion. If uncertain about ballot questions, voters may tend to vote negatively.

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If you agree with the premise that the higher the number of questions the greater the chances for a negative reaction, you may wish to consider combining one or more of the proposed measures together. For example, you could merge the measures on the abolishment of the mosquito control and water/navigation districts into one proposed amendment.

Remember that the CRC is not bound by a single subject rule. If you otherwise support the proposed amendments but are concerned with the number of ballot questions, you could combine two or more amendments together so that the total number of questions is reduced to seven, six or some other number.

Of course, another option is to delete a particular recommendation altogether.

Sale of Park Lands

You may remember that Commissioner Latvala identified the issue of procedures concerning the sale of county park lands as an issue for the CRC to consider at your last meeting. She has subsequently initiated the development of policy on this subject at the County Commission level and has requested that the topic be withdrawn from further consideration by the Charter Review Commission.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Attachments