



# Pinellas County Charter Review 2015 - 2016

June 1, 2016

June 15, 2016

*Diane Meiller  
and Associates, Inc.*

# Agenda



# CRC Overview – Purpose of Charter

- Specifies the structure of government
- Allows powers of self-government unless inconsistent with the Constitution or State law
- May provide for initiative, referendum, and recall at the county level
- May require an Administrative Code detailing all regulations, policies, and procedures
- May provide that a “municipal utility tax” is levied in the unincorporated area



# Overview – CRC Member Selection

- Appointed by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) from pool of applicants
- Independent from the BOCC
- Begins convening in August; Completes review by July 31
- Comprised of Pinellas County representatives:
  - 1 Legislative Delegation Member
  - 1 Constitutional Officer
  - 1 Elected City Official
  - 1 Board of County Commissioner
  - 9 from Public at large (may not be an elected official)



# CRC Overview – CRC Members

**Chairman, Dr. Jim Olliver**

*Retired, Provost St. Petersburg College*

**Vice Chairman, Tom Steck**

*Realtor*

**Member, Larry Ahearn**

*Florida House Representative, District 66*

**Member, Johnny Bardine**

*Practicing Attorney*

**Member, Keisha Bell**

*Practicing Attorney and Author*

**Member, Sandra Lee Bradbury**

*Mayor, Pinellas Park*

**Member, Ken Burke**

*Pinellas County Clerk of Court and  
Comptroller*

**Member, Ashley Caron**

*Associate Director Accreditation, Assessment  
St. Petersburg College*

**Member, Barclay Harless**

*Business Development Officer, C1 Bank*

**Member, Janet C. Long**

*Pinellas County Commissioner, District 1*

**Member, Todd Pressman**

*Consultant specializing in Land Use and Zoning*

**Member, Dr. Jim Sewell**

*Author and Consultant, Retired FDLE*

**Member, Josh Shulman**

*Certified Financial Planner*



The Charter Review Committee is an independent board that was assisted by the following organizations and staff:

**Diane Meiller and Associates – Facilitation Team**

*Diane R. Meiller-Cook, President*

*Flo Sena, Principal Consultant*

**Vose Law Firm - Charter Review Legal Expert**

*Wade Vose, Esquire*

**Pinellas County Administrator's Office**

*Mary Scott Hardwick, Intergovernmental Liaison*

## 3 Methods

- ❑ The Board of County Commissioners can pass an ordinance to propose an amendment to the Charter.
- ❑ An amendment can be proposed via petition signed by registered voters.
- ❑ The Charter Review Commission, which convenes once every 8 years, can propose amendments.

# CRC Overview - Process

Identification of charter amendment topics

Education and consideration of topic(s)

Determination on whether to develop a referendum on the topic

Approval on language for the specific charter amendment(s) and for the ballot language

Hold 2 mandatory Public hearings before final report to BOCC

***Upon completion of the process, referendum(s) are added to the November election ballot.***



# 6 Referendums Resulted

1. Lowering Signature Percentage and Expanding Time Period for Petition Drive to Propose County Charter Amendments
2. Financial Impact Statement for Proposed Charter Amendments
3. Creation of County Redistricting Board
4. Selection, Termination, and Annual Review of County Attorney by County Commissioners and Constitutional Officers
5. Charter Review Commission Members Residence Requirements
6. Pinellas Charter Cleanup Amendment



# Ballot Question 1

**Ballot Proposal: The ballot title and summary for Question #1 are as follows:**

## **LOWERING SIGNATURE PERCENTAGE AND EXPANDING TIME PERIOD FOR PETITION DRIVE TO PROPOSE COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENTS**

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to lower the number of signed petitions necessary to propose an amendment to the Pinellas County Charter from ten (10) percent of the registered voters in the county to eight (8) percent, and to expand the length of time during which petitions can be gathered from 180 days to 240 days?

Yes  
 No



# Ballot Question 2

**Ballot Proposal: The ballot title and summary for Question #2 are as follows:**

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS**

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to provide that for each proposed charter amendment placed on the ballot, a brief financial impact statement prepared by the county auditor shall be placed after the ballot summary for the amendment, estimating the increase or decrease in revenues or costs to the county resulting from approval of the proposed charter amendment?

Yes  
 No



# Ballot Question 3

**Ballot Proposal: The ballot title and summary for Question #3 are as follows:**

## **CREATION OF COUNTY REDISTRICTING BOARD**

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to create a County Redistricting Board, appointed by the County Commission every ten years after the Census, to provide advisory recommendations to the County Commission on redrawing county commission districts, and providing parameters for such recommendations, including not favoring political parties or incumbents, not denying racial or language minorities equal opportunity for political participation, and where feasible, consideration of unincorporated areas and municipal boundaries?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No



# Ballot Question 4

**Ballot Proposal: The ballot title and summary for Question 4 are as follows:**

**SELECTION, TERMINATION, AND ANNUAL REVIEW OF COUNTY ATTORNEY BY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS**

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to provide that the County Attorney shall be selected by, serve at the pleasure of, and be subject to annual review by, a committee consisting of the seven county commissioners and the five county constitutional officers (sheriff, tax collector, property appraiser, supervisor of elections, and clerk of the circuit court and comptroller) rather than the board of county commissioners alone?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes  
\_\_\_\_\_ No



# Ballot Question 5

**Ballot Proposal: The ballot title and summary for Question #5 are as follows:**

## **CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MEMBERS RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS**

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to specify that each of the seven county commissioners shall nominate to the Charter Review Commission a member who resides in the commissioner's district?

Yes  
 No



# Ballot Question 6

**Ballot Proposal: The ballot title and summary for Question #6 are as follows:**

## **PINELLAS CHARTER CLEANUP AMENDMENT**

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to remove certain provisions found unconstitutional by court ruling, remove certain transitional provisions that have since occurred, revise certain references to be consistent with Florida Statutes, and remove references to certain organizations that no longer exist?

Yes  
 No



# Open Discussion



# Public Input



**Dr. Jim Olliver**  
Chairman, Charter Review Commission