

# Overview of Executive Branch Structure

Pinellas County Charter Review Commission  
April 13, 2010

## Electorate in 20 of 67 Counties Have Adopted Charters

COUNTY	Adopted	Population	# Cities
Alachua	1987	228,607	9
Brevard	1994	494,102	15
Broward	1975	1,669,153	30
Charlotte	1986	148,521	1
Clay	1991	149,901	4
Columbia	2002	58,372	2
Duval	1968	809,394	5
Hillsborough	1983	1,055,617	3
Lee	1996	475,073	5
Leon	2002	248,039	1

## Electorate in 20 of 67 Counties Have Adopted Charters

COUNTY	Adopted	Population *	# Cities
Miami-Dade	1957	2,312,478	31
Orange	1986	955,865	13
Osceola	1992	193,355	2
Palm Beach	1985	1,183,197	37
Pinellas	1980	933,994	24
Polk	1998	502,385	17
Sarasota	1971	339,684	4
Seminole	1989	387,626	7
Volusia	1971	459,737	17
Wakulla	2008	30,700	2

*\* About 80% of Florida's residents live in a charter county.*

## Executive Options

- **Head of Executive Branch**
  - County Commission Form
  - Appointed Professional Administrator
  - Elected Chair – Volusia/Tallahassee
  - Elected Mayor – Orange/Orlando
  - Elected Executive – Tampa/JAX

## Commission-Administrator Form (council-manager form)

### Origins in Early 1900s

- response to corruption/unethical behavior/gross inefficiencies
- separation of policy-making and implementation
- professional management in transparent structure
- most widely used structure of local government in US

## Commission-Administrator Form (council-manager form)

### Elected Commission

- Sets Legislative Policy on Collective Basis
- Hires/Fires Manager

### Non-partisan/Apolitical Professional Manager

- Administers Policy/Supervises all Staff
- Employed based on Training/Education/Experience

# Commission-Administrator Form (council-manager form)

## Florida

- Standard Practice in all non-charter Florida counties greater than 75,000
- Practice in all charter counties, unless directly-elected head of Executive Branch

## Executive Structures

	Elected Chair	County Mayor	Elected Executive
Executive Head	Manager	Mayor	Mayor
BCC Chair	Directly Elected for four years  Ceremonial head of County	Mayor is Ceremonial and Managerial head of County  Mayor is Member of BCC and Chair	Mayor is Ceremonial and Managerial head of County  BCC elects Commission Chair
Professional Manager required?	Yes - Reports to BCC	Yes - Reports to Mayor	No – Chief of Staff
Veto?	No	Depends on charter	Yes but depends on charter
Sunshine Law?	Yes b/t BCC	Yes – Mayor remains member of BCC	No – Mayor is not member of BCC. Sunshine law remains applicable to BCC

# Executive Branch

## Elected Chair

- Directly selected by Voters for four year term
- Chairperson of BCC
- Ceremonial leader of county
- Manager retained, who is hired/fired by BCC
- Chair remains member of BCC
- Consistent “team” with Manager

# Executive Branch

## Elected Mayor

- Chairperson of BCC
- Ceremonial and managerial leader of county
- Retains Manager, who reports to Mayor
- Mayor remains voting member of BCC

# Executive Branch

## Elected Executive

- Ceremonial and managerial leader of county
- Not a member of BCC
- Charter may or may not retain position of Manager
- Highest level of Separation of Powers between Executive and Legislative

# Elected Head

- Places County Mayor on par with municipal leaders within community
- Places County Mayor on par with County Constitutional Officers
- Creates stronger leadership position for Pinellas on regional issues in Tampa Bay area

## Elected Head

- Diminishes role of professional manager
- Tends to increase chances of managerial decisions becoming politicized
- Changes (diminishes) role and responsibilities of remaining Commissioners

Questions?