

Pinellas Charter Referendum Issues Thru 5/4/2016		Sponsors	Research/ Comments/ Dates
<p><b>Note: Any dates proposed for topic discussion are subject to change.</b></p>			
1	Term Limits	Ahern/Sewell	Removed from discussion on 2/17/2016
1a	Term limits for county commissioners		
1b	Term limits for constitutional officers		
1c	CRC Members Long and Burke should recuse themselves in the vote on amendment(s) for term limits		
1d	The amendment for term limits should not allow grandfathering of commissioners or constitutional officers already reaching the proposed term limit.		
1e	Consider changing length of term of county commissioners to 6 years instead of the current 4 years.		Length of term is governed by FL Constitution
1f	Limits terms to two consecutive four year terms by prohibiting incumbent county commissioners who have held a seat on the board of Pinellas County Commissioners for the preceding eight years from appearing on the ballot for re-election to that board. Terms of office beginning before amendment approval are counted. Impacted elected officials who have already exceeded the limit will be allowed to finish their term.		
2	Dual Vote, Section 6.04 of Charter	Steck/Bardine	In Jan. 20 meeting, voted to remove from agenda.
3	Shall County commissioners serve <b>only as a county commissioner</b> , meaning <b>not to formally serve on or be appointed to any other board or advisory board</b> , e.g. such as the PSTA, Tourism (TDC), County Charter Review Commission, etc.?	NONE	N/A
4	Selection of CRC Members	Ahern/Burke	

1/20/2016 discussion framed the topic under the following 3 areas:			
**	a. Composition of CRC		1/20- Agreed fine as is
**	b. Who selects CRC members		1/20- Agreed fine as is
	c. Representation- geographic coverage of CRC members		2/7- Agreed to move forward
4a	Amend <b>Sec. 6.03- Charter review commission.</b> One (1) member from the elected board of county commissioners;		
4b	<b>Shall the charter be amended to read that</b> citizens of Pinellas County who want to serve on the Charter Review Commission <b><u>be elected by the voters of Pinellas County</u> instead of being appointed by the county commissioners?</b>		
	Makeup of the commission itself. Section 6.03(a) of the Charter. No referendum will be Required.		
	The makeup of the Charter Review Commission was obviously decided by the Commission itself at another time, not decided by the state legislature.		
	The Commission created the rules which decided the way people would be appointed to that commission to amend the Charter.		
4c	This means that this Commission can and should change the rules as to WHO may sit on this Review Commission. I am advocating the pool of volunteers that apply to be picked out of a hat and the only qualification be a citizen and a resident of Pinellas County. 41 citizen volunteers applied and 13 political appointees were chosen to sit on this commission, all one has to do is look at the bio of each sitting member on the CRC, although a fine group, not your average taxpayer living in Pinellas County. Politically tied candidates are bound to be chosen for this commission every time and this does not well represent the voice of the residents of this county to directly influence the structure of their local government.		
5	<b>Shall</b> citizens be able to speak at and before the elected county commissioner at regular agenda public meetings, under agenda item: Hearing of the Public to <b>go to 5 min</b> to be heard instead of the present allotted 3-minutes?	NONE	N/A

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6	<b>Shall</b> the part-time County commissioners FY base pay be revised to be set at \$52,295? (See pg. 2of2 for additional information.)	<b>NONE</b>	There is a state statute which provides a formula for determining pay.
7	<b>Shall</b> each county commissioner, when they receive a communication from a constituent, be it from a phone call, email or letter, be required to acknowledge receiving it within five (5) days from a constituent's communication?	<b>NONE</b>	N/A
8	<b>Representation</b>		<b>Topic not moved forward; April 6</b>
8a	Greater representation from unincorporated areas of Pinellas County	Burke/Caron	
11 8b	Section 3.01- Board of County Commission number of 7- Is this still an appropriate number to ensure proper representation of all citizens?		
8c	Require BCC to meet monthly (or every other month) to discuss unincorporated issues, budgets, planning, and how the unincorporated areas are being covered (projects) based on Penny Revenues, special funds (Gulf Oil Spill, etc.), county grants, QTI programs, and tourism. BCC meetings should be grouped based on scope: countywide ordinances / issues, and issues that are cover governance of / within an unincorporated area.		Added from new email
8d	Require appointments to other boards (MPO, PSTA, Tourist Development, Parks & Conservation, ...) to have a citizen from an unincorporated area (ideally – representation from the two largest unincorporated areas).		Added from new email
8e	Establish an unincorporated citizen committee (representing major unincorporated communities) that meets with the County Administrator (or designated staff representative) at least quarterly to review and prioritize unincorporated issues (penny projects, funding, roads, traffic, etc.).		Added from new email

8f	Redistricting- propose a board of citizens, possibly 5, redraw the 4 single member commission districts instead of the board of commissioners themselves. This would take the power away from the elected officials and allow communities of mutual interests to be represented. This could also effect the unincorporated areas and their representation. As to the composition of the 5 citizens, that could be decided using the examples of other counties.		<b>4/6- Agreed to move forward</b>
9	Section 2.02 (e) Protection of human rights- Change "Sex" to say "gender and sexual orientation." Also consider handicapped and pregnancy.	Shulman/Harless	In Jan. 6 meeting, voted to remove from agenda.
10	Section 2.04 (k) Development and implementation of civil preparedness programs. Change "civil preparedness" to "emergency preparedness."		Put in bucket of "changes in law"
11	Renumbered to 8b	<b>NONE</b>	N/A
12	Consolidation of public services		In Jan. 20 meeting, voted to remove from agenda.
12a	Consolidation of fire districts		
12b	Consolidation of various public services like fire services and policing/sheriff, etc. Invite Sheriff Gualtieri, Chief Holloway (St. Pete), Chief Slaughter (Clearwater), Chief Stellges, Chair of Pinellas Police Standards Council	For Policing Agencies	

12c	<p>City vs County Services: This amendment is intended to provide citizens of the 24 municipalities in Pinellas County information that will allow them to decide on an annual basis whether or not they want to continue the city structure of government in the area in which they live.</p> <p>At the end of each county fiscal year, County staff will prepare budget information for police and fire protection by comparing the expense of each city against those same services if they were provided by the County, and make it prominently available on the county and respective city's website.</p> <p>Should at least 10% of the registered voters living within the city or town sign a petition asking for a citywide vote on continuation or dissolution of the city, the County supervisor of elections shall arrange for a vote as part of the next election cycle. If 60% of the registered voters (either total registered, or voting in the election) vote against the city government's continued existence, within the next 12 months procedures will be established and completed to efficiently transfer city services to the appropriate county agencies, and provision will be made for city files to be archived and stored.</p>		Added 1/19/16; raised by Tom Steck
13	Add a recall provision for county commissioners and constitutional officers.	Shulman/Burke	In Jan. 6 meeting, voted to remove from agenda.
14	Change the election of constitutional officers to non-partisan elections.	Shulman/Bardine	In Jan. 6 meeting, voted to remove from agenda.
14a	Change election of all municipal offices (city councils and city commissioners and Mayors) to partisan on a county wide basis.	Public Inut form	In Feb. 3 meeting, voted to remove from agenda.
15	Campaigning should be restricted to not starting until 60 days before an election (ie. TV ads, signs, robocalls, etc.)	Steck/Sewell	In Jan. 20 meeting, voted to remove from agenda.

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16	Sec. 2.04. - Special powers of the county Remove paragraph (t) which currently shows as "Reserved" and renumber remaining. (Original paragraph was found to be unconstitutional and removed.)	Long/Burke	No research. Voted to move forward
17	Sec. 2.07. - Annexation Remove Sec. 2.07. which currently shows as "Reserved" and renumber remaining.	Long/Burke	No research. Voted to move forward
18	Sec. 3.01. - Board of county commissioners- remove language no longer relevant (increasing # of commissioners and initial redistricting).	Long/Sewell	No research. Voted to move forward
19	Sec. 5.02. - Special Laws Remove reference to Ozona, Crystal Beach, and Pinellas Sports Authority.		No research. Voted to move forward
20	PSTA: Can the county create an amendment to have responsibility over PSTA?		In Jan. 20 meeting, voted to remove from agenda.
21	BCC appointments to Boards, Councils and Committees / Special Districts should be made by the County Commission as a whole – no individual county commissioner appointments. Due to the importance and authority being given to the various committees and boards, the appointments will be made by vote from a list of submitted applications - the candidate with the most votes will be appointed. Additional appointments will be made in similar manner. Authority for individual commissioners to make appointments to committees and boards should be eliminated.		Jan 6 meeting- removed from agenda

The BCC has commented on several occasions that they would like more public participation / comments. If you want to make a comment about a proposed agenda item or upcoming vote and have that comment heard or discussed during the board meeting, you have to attend in person - most people have to work during the regular BCC meetings.

- 22 I would propose that the charter be updated to require the BCC to provide a means to allow Residents (electorate) to present "Comment Cards" via an electronic method addressing specific agenda items. The Clerk of the Court, BCC Chair, or Pinellas County staff member would be required to read the comments and indicate if the individual submitting the comment supports, opposes, or is undecided.

Jan 6 meeting-  
removed from agenda

Clarify the charter regarding County Administrator appointments.

What members does this article refer to? BCC members or applicants to any appointed board, commission, or agency.

If it is deemed that the County administrator is not authorized to make appointments to boards and committees – what is the qualifier that determines if the BCC makes the appointment or the County Administrator?

- 23 Under Section 4.01.- County Administrator.

Subsection c) The county administrator shall have the following duties:

(1) To administer and carry out the directives and policies issued to him by the board of county commissioners, acting as an official body, **except that he shall not be directed or given authority to make appointments of members to any county boards, commissions or agencies.**

Jan 6 meeting-  
removed from agenda

24	Under Section 2.02. - Security of rights of citizens. The charter should be amended to establish a formal grievance procedure for any citizen or group that wants to challenge the actions or ordinances established by the BCC that maybe unlawful. Grievances that are not resolved and determined by a judge to have merit can be litigated such that the county would be required to pay for ALL legal fees in such a manner that neither side has an advantage. Why should a citizen be required to pay legal fees to challenge sunshine law violations, voter rights violations (term limits not codified), etc.?		In Feb. 3 meeting, voted to remove from agenda.
25	Non-conforming properties: If the code is changed after a building was built, and the building is destroyed, the building should be grandfathered under the old code.	Steck	4/20- Topic withdrawn. Citizen satisfied there are existing resolutions in place.
26	Move of county seat	Bradbury	In Feb. 3 meeting, voted to remove from agenda.
27	Section 4.02: Modify language to allow Constitutional Officers rights to be involved in selection and review process of County Attorney.	Ken Burke	No research. Voted to move forward
28	Procurement process: Add provisions to allow public comment (public at large, bid applicants, and bid respondents) on large (dollar) procurement	Pressman/Bradbury	<b>Topic not moved forward; April 6</b>
29	Reclaimed water variance	Public Comment	3/16 Mr. Geddis clarified this topic is not for Charter amendment. Removed from agenda.
30	Sec. 6.02 Charter Initiative: Amendments to the Charter may be proposed by a petition signed by registered electors equal to at least five (5) percent	Public Input Form	
30a	Reduce signature requirement and lengthen time to collect signatures.		Discussed 4/6; Vote tabled to 4/20

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30b	Sec. 6.02.- Change or remove restriction concerning percentage of signatures of electorate from at-large county commission districts and single-member county commission districts.		In May 4 meeting, voted to remove from agenda.
31	Should a Fiscal Impact Study be included as part of each referendum item?	CRC	In May 4 meeting, voted to move forward