



Local Ballot Measures November 5th, 2024

[Pinellas County](#)
[Dunedin](#)
[Largo](#)
[Seminole](#)
[Tarpon Springs](#)

Pinellas County

Pinellas County Referendum 1: Approval of One Mill Ad Valorem Tax for School District Operating Expenses with Independent Oversight

Ballot Language:

Shall a Pinellas County School District ad valorem millage of one mill per year be levied beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2029, for necessary operating expenses including funds to recruit and retain quality teachers and support staff; preserve music, art and reading classes; provide current technology, while sharing funds with public charter schools proportionate to student enrollment as required by law, with expenditure oversight by an independent citizens financial oversight committee

Synopsis:

This referendum is about continuing and increasing funding for Pinellas County schools. An ad valorem millage is a tax on the value of real estate or other property. There is currently an ad valorem tax of one-half mill that provides funding for Pinellas County schools. If not extended through this referendum, this funding will expire on June 30, 2025. This referendum would increase this school funding and extend it for four (4) years, from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029. If this referendum does not pass by 50% or more, this source of school funding will be eliminated entirely (it will not be kept at the current level).

Pinellas County residents have been voting on and passing ad valorem tax school funding referendums since 2004. These funds have been used to support teacher salaries, provide up-to-date technology, and bolster reading, music and art programs. A citizen oversight committee is in place to ensure that funds are used as voters intended.

On May 14, 2024, the Pinellas County School Board unanimously passed a resolution placing this measure on the ballot asking voters to approve a one mill ad valorem tax for four years. This is an increase of one-half mill, which means that a resident with a home assessed at \$400,000 will now pay \$400 annually instead of \$200 annually. School Board members state that this increase is necessary to keep Pinellas County schools competitive, as most other districts in the greater Tampa Bay area already have a one mill rate that enables them to attract and retain teachers and staff (Pasco, Manatee, Sarasota and Hernando). This funding will support an increase in teacher salaries and will also support the salaries of bus drivers, cafeteria workers, instructional aides, and other support staff. 15% of the funds will continue to be used to support technology, reading and arts programs.

Supporters: Pinellas County Commissioners, Pinellas County School Board, League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County, League of Women Voters of St Petersburg, St Petersburg Chamber of Commerce, Pinellas Classroom Teachers Association, Pinellas County Economic Development, Pinellas County Council PTA.

Opponents: None known at this time.

A Yes Vote Would...: Extend Pinellas County ad valorem school funding and increase the millage rate from one-half to one mill in order to provide funds to recruit and retain quality teachers and support staff at a level competitive with surrounding counties, preserve reading, music, and art programs, and provide for up-to-date technology.

A No Vote Would...: Eliminate all school funding from this source as of July 1, 2025.

Pinellas County Charter Amendment 1: County Charter Amendment Providing for County Commissioner Term Limits

Ballot Language:

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to provide for County Commissioner term limits by prohibiting County Commissioners who have held the office for the preceding 12 years from appearing on a ballot for reelection and requiring a minimum of 4 years off the County Commission before serving again, with terms of office beginning on or after November 5, 2024 counting toward the term limits?

Synopsis:

Currently, there are no term limits for Pinellas County Commissioners. If passed, this amendment would put in place term limits to restrict commissioners to serving a maximum of 12 consecutive years at one time, after which they would be required to take a 4-year break before they could run to serve on the commission again. Term limits would begin with terms of office that begin on or after November 5, 2024. This amendment is not retroactive. Sitting commissioners are not impacted until the next applicable election for that seat.

This amendment was placed on the ballot by the Pinellas County Charter Review Commission. This commission is an independent citizen commission that is appointed every eight years to review the operation of the county government and recommend amendments to our County Charter.

Supporters: Pinellas County Charter Review Commission, Pinellas County Commissioners

Opponents: None known at this time

A Yes Vote Would...: Create a 12-year term limit for Pinellas County Commissioners, with a 4-year "off" period in order to run again in the future.

A No Vote Would...: Leave the current policy of no term limits for County Commissioners in place.

Pinellas County Charter Amendment 2: Revising County Initiative Petition Requirements and Process

Ballot Language:

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to revise the County initiative petition process by providing for a uniform time period for an initiative petition drive from September through April before a November general election, monthly submission deadlines for signed petitions, running tallies of verified petitions on the Supervisor of Election's website, preparation of ballot translations, and related procedures?

Synopsis:

Citizen initiative petitions provide a pathway for the residents of Pinellas County to directly propose amendments to the Pinellas County Charter. This amendment is about the process through which a citizen initiative petition can be placed on the ballot in Pinellas County. Once on the ballot, a citizens initiative amendment must receive 50% approval from the voters to pass.

Citizen initiatives require petition drives to collect signatures from county residents in support of placing the initiative on the ballot. To place an initiative on the ballot, the county charter currently requires signed petitions from 8% of the registered voters in the county, gathered over a period of 240 days.

This amendment would provide the following additional requirements for citizen initiatives:

- Establish a uniform time period for when petition signatures may be gathered, from September 1 to April 30 in the year preceding the November general election in which the initiative would appear on the ballot.
- Establish a time period during which petition sponsors may have their petition signature collection form reviewed and approved by the SOE, starting no earlier than August 1 of the year preceding the general election in which the initiative would appear on the ballot (i.e., one month before the start of the proposed petition collection time period).
- Require that the petition sponsor submit signed petitions to the Supervisor of Elections (SOE) no later than 10 days after the end of each month.
- Provide for a rolling 30-day deadline for the SOE to verify signatures on submitted petition forms, require posting running tallies of verified signatures on the SOE website, and establish a deadline of June 15 for the SOE to certify whether the requisite number of signatures have been verified.
- Require the petition sponsor to prepare and submit ballot translations for legally required languages.
- Require the petition sponsor to register as a political committee.

These changes would provide increased standardization for the county initiative process and would also increase the costs and administrative requirements for initiative sponsors.

This amendment was placed on the ballot by the Pinellas County Charter Review Commission. This commission is an independent citizen commission that is appointed every eight years to review the operation of the county government and recommend amendments to our County Charter.

Additional input was requested on the potential revisions to the initiative petition process from the Supervisor of Elections (SOE) for procedural feedback. However, the Supervisor of Elections has clarified that they did not want to take positions on any proposed charter amendments, including those that would directly impact the SOE office.

Supporters: Pinellas County Charter Review Commission, Pinellas County Commissioners

Opponents: None known at this time

A Yes Vote Would...: Establish new requirements and standardized timeframes for all stages of petition signature gathering and processing for citizen initiatives proposing amendments to the Pinellas County Charter.

A No Vote Would...: Leave the current process for gathering signed petitions for county citizen initiatives unchanged.

Pinellas County Charter Amendment 3: Lowering Signature Percentage for Petition Drives to Propose County Charter Amendments

Ballot Language:

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 eight (8) percent of the registered voters in the county to five (5) percent?

Synopsis:

Citizen initiative petitions provide a pathway for the residents of Pinellas County to directly propose amendments to the Pinellas County Charter. This amendment is about the process through which a citizen initiative petition can be placed on the ballot in Pinellas County. Once on the ballot, a citizens initiative amendment must receive 50% approval from the voters to pass.

The county initiative process is governed by Section 6.02 of the County Charter. Citizen initiatives require petition drives to collect signatures from county residents in support of placing the initiative on the ballot. In 2016, an amendment proposed by the County Charter Review Commission passed, lowering the number of signed petitions necessary to place an initiative on the ballot from 10% of the registered voters in the county to 8%.

If passed, this amendment would lower the signature requirement from 8% of registered county voters to 5% of registered county voters. This change would make it easier for citizen initiatives proposing changes to the County Charter to make it to the ballot for a vote.

This amendment was placed on the ballot by the Pinellas County Charter Review Commission. This commission is an independent citizen commission that is appointed every eight years to review the operation of the county government and recommend amendments to our County Charter.

Additional input was requested on the potential revisions to the initiative petition process from the Supervisor of Elections (SOE) for procedural feedback. However, the Supervisor of Elections has clarified that they did not want to take positions on any proposed charter amendments, including those that would directly impact the SOE office.

Supporters: Pinellas County Charter Review Commission, Pinellas County Commissioners

Opponents: None known at this time

A Yes Vote Would...: Lower the current signature requirement for getting a county citizen initiative on the ballot from 8% of registered county voters to 5% of registered county voters.

A No Vote Would...: Leave the signature requirement for getting a county citizen initiative on the ballot unchanged at 8% of registered county voters.

Pinellas County Charter Amendment 4: Charter Amendment Revising Thresholds for Appointment and Removal of County Attorney

Ballot Language:

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to provide that the 12-member County Attorney Oversight Committee shall select and appoint a County Attorney by an 8-vote supermajority, and may remove the County Attorney only by a 7-vote majority at two consecutive meetings, or by an 8-vote supermajority at one meeting?

Synopsis:

Under the current Charter provisions, the Board of County Commissioners can terminate the County Attorney regardless of the wishes of the county's Constitutional Officers. The Constitutional Officers include the Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller, the Property Appraiser, the Sheriff, the Supervisor of Elections and the Tax Collector.

A 12-member County Attorney Oversight Committee (CAOC) comprised of both the County Commissioners and the Constitutional Officers already exists to select and provide annual review for the County Attorney. This amendment would further define the selection and removal process for the County Attorney. It would define that the County Attorney is appointed by the affirmative vote of 8 members of the CAOC and can only be removed by either an affirmative vote of 8 members of the CAOC in one meeting or an affirmative vote of 7 members of the CAOC in two consecutive meetings.

This amendment was placed on the ballot by the Pinellas County Charter Review Commission. This commission is an independent citizen commission that is appointed every eight years to review the operation of the county government and recommend amendments to our County Charter.

Supporters: Pinellas County Charter Review Commission, Pinellas County Commissioners

Opponents: None known at this time

A Yes Vote Would...: Require an 8-vote supermajority at one meeting of the County Attorney Oversight Committee or a 7-vote majority at two consecutive meetings to remove a County Attorney from office. Require an 8-vote supermajority to appoint a County Attorney.

A No Vote Would...: Leave the current process in place where County Commissioners alone can vote to terminate a County Attorney.

Pinellas County Charter Amendment 5: Referenda on County Charter Amendments to be Held at General Elections Only

Ballot Language:

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to require that referenda on county charter amendments proposed by initiative petition, or proposed by the Board of County Commissioners, shall be held only at the General Election held in November of even-numbered years?

Synopsis:

Florida law allows for County Charter amendments and county referendums to appear on the ballot during elections other than the November general election. This means that amendments to the County Charter may be placed on the ballot during Municipal elections and Primary elections, which tend to have lower voter turnout.

This amendment was placed on the ballot by the Pinellas County Charter Review Commission. This commission is an independent citizen commission that is appointed every eight years to review the operation of the county government and recommend amendments to our County Charter.

The Charter Review Commission provided reasoning that, given the importance of changes to the County Charter to operational and policy considerations in the county, future amendments should only be placed on the November general election ballot to ensure the greatest amount of review and consideration by the voters.

Supporters: Pinellas County Charter Review Commission, Pinellas County Commissioners

Opponents: None known at this time

A Yes Vote Would...: Limit voting on amendments to the County Charter to general elections only.

A No Vote Would...: Leave current process in place which allows for amendments to the County Charter to be voted on in any election, including Municipal elections and primaries.

Pinellas County Charter Amendment 6: Conforming Publication Requirements for County Charter Amendment Referenda to the Florida Election Code

Ballot Language:

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to revise the Charter's publication requirements for county charter amendment referenda to conform to the Florida Election Code?

Synopsis:

The Pinellas County Charter that specifies the terms and processes for advertising proposed amendments to the Charter is different from other public notices. This amendment would make the requirements for advertising proposed amendments to the County Charter consistent with the requirements for public notices outlined in State law (Florida Statute 100.342).

Currently, proposed amendments to the County Charter are published once a week for 4 consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. The first publication must be at least forty-five (45) days prior to the referendum. Florida statute 100.342 requires that there must be at least 30 days' notice in a newspaper of general circulation and that the publication must be made at least twice, once in the fifth week and once in the third week before the week in which the election or referendum is to be held.

This amendment was placed on the ballot by the Pinellas County Charter Review Commission. This commission is an independent citizen commission that is appointed every eight years to review the operation of the county government and recommend amendments to our County Charter.

Supporters: Pinellas County Charter Review Commission, Pinellas County Commissioners

Opponents: None known at this time

A Yes Vote Would...: Update the notification rules for amendments to the County Charter to be consistent with Florida Statute 100.342, requiring only 30 days notice and 2 notifications during that time.

A No Vote Would...: Leave the current notification rules in place for amendments to the County Charter, requiring publication once a week for 4 consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, with the first publication at least 45 days prior to the election or referendum.

Pinellas County Charter Amendment 7: County Charter Cleanup Amendment

Ballot Language:

Shall the Pinellas County Charter be amended to remove certain one-time provisions that have since occurred or elapsed, remove gender references, update organization names, and remove references to organizations that no longer exist?

Synopsis:

This amendment would remove gendered references in the County Charter and replace them with the position name (e.g., replacing the word "he" with "the county administrator"). It would also update or remove outdated organization names.

This amendment was placed on the ballot by the Pinellas County Charter Review Commission. This commission is an independent citizen commission that is appointed every eight years to review the operation of the county government and recommend amendments to our County Charter.

Supporters: Pinellas County Charter Review Commission, Pinellas County Commissioners

Opponents: None known at this time

A Yes Vote Would...: Update the County Charter to remove one-time provisions that are no longer applicable, gendered references to positions, and outdated organization names.

A No Vote Would...: Leave one-time provisions that are no longer applicable, gendered references to positions, and outdated organization names in the County Charter.

Dunedin

Dunedin Charter Amendment 1: Amending the Language in Sections 3.02 and 3.06 to Recognize Both Genders

Ballot Language:

Should sections 3.02 and 3.06 of the City Charter be amended to revise "he" to "he or she" and "his" to "his or her" so as to recognize both genders when describing a Commission member and his or her office, as further described in Ordinance No. 24 – 18?

Synopsis:

Currently, sections 3.02 and 3.06 of the City Charter state "he" and "his" in various sentences referencing commission members. This proposed amendment would modify the language to a more inclusive "he or she" and "his or her".

This amendment was placed on the ballot by the City Charter Review Committee, which is appointed at least once every 5 years by the Dunedin City Commission and is comprised of registered voters from the city.

Supporters: Charter Review Committee, Dunedin City Council

Opponents: None known at this time

A Yes Vote Would...: Modify language in the City Charter to change "he" and "his" to "he or she" and "his or her" when referencing commission members.

A No Vote Would...: Leave references to commission members as "he" and "him" only.

Dunedin Charter Amendment 2: Revising the Language of Various Charter Sections for Consistency by Replacing "Voters" with "Electors"

Ballot Language:

Should Sections 5.04, 5.06, 5.07, 5.08, 5.09 and 5.10 of the City Charter be amended to change the term "voters" to "electors;" to be consistent throughout the Charter, where "electors" is a defined term in the Charter, as further described in Ordinance No. 24 – 19?

Synopsis:

Currently, the City Charter uses the terms "voters" and "electors" interchangeably. This proposed amendment would eliminate the use of the term "voters", and exclusively and consistently use the term "electors" in the Charter. The term "electors" is currently defined in Section 5.01 of the City Charter as follows: "[a]ll persons qualified to vote as an elector of this State, under the Constitution and Statutes of the State of Florida, who reside within the corporate boundaries of the City of Dunedin, and who are duly registered on the registration books of Pinellas County".

This amendment was placed on the ballot by the City Charter Review Committee, which is appointed at least once every 5 years by the Dunedin City Commission and is comprised of registered voters from the city.

Supporters: Charter Review Committee, Dunedin City Council

Opponents: None known at this time

A Yes Vote Would...: Change language in the City Charter to consistently use the word "electors" instead of using the words "electors" and "voters" interchangeably.

A No Vote Would...: Leave the City Charter as is, using the terms "voters" and "electors" interchangeably.

Dunedin Charter Amendment 3: Adding an Introductory Sentence Explaining from Where the City Commission Derives Its Power

Ballot Language:

Should section 3.01 of the City Charter be amended to add an introductory sentence which provides that the City Commission has certain powers and authorities as derived from the Florida Constitution, Florida Statutes, this Charter, and as otherwise provided by law, as further described in Ordinance No. 24 – 20?

Synopsis:

This proposed amendment would add the following sentence to the beginning of Section 3.01 of the City Charter, which lays out the composition of the City Commission and its duties and responsibilities: "As the governing body of a

municipality, the City Commission has certain powers and authorities as derived from the Florida Constitution, Florida Statutes, this Charter, and as otherwise provided by law.”

The rest of Section 3.01 remains the same and the duties and responsibilities of the City Commission remain unchanged.

This amendment was placed on the ballot by the City Charter Review Committee, which is appointed at least once every 5 years by the Dunedin City Commission and is comprised of registered voters from the city.

Supporters: Charter Review Committee, Dunedin City Council

Opponents: None known at this time

A Yes Vote Would...: Adds an introductory sentence to section 3.01 of the City Charter stating the governing documents that grant the City Commission its powers.

A No Vote Would...: Leaves Section 3.01 as is.

Dunedin Charter Amendment 4: Revising Multiple Charter Sections to Renumber and Correct Formatting, Cross-References, Grammatical and Punctuation Errors

Ballot Language:

Should Sections 1.02, 1.03, 4.01, 4.06, 5.03, 5.04, 5.06, and 5.09 of the City Charter be amended to renumber two sections, correct improper grammar and punctuation, reformat paragraphs without changing the language, and correct internal references to sections within the City Charter, as described in Ordinance No. 24 - 21?

Synopsis:

The purpose of this proposed amendment is to correct various issues in the City Charter, such as improper grammar and punctuation, incorrect numbering, and formatting. This amendment does not change the language of the City Charter.

This amendment was placed on the ballot by the City Charter Review Committee, which is appointed at least once every 5 years by the Dunedin City Commission and is comprised of registered voters from the city.

Supporters: Charter Review Committee, Dunedin City Council

Opponents: None known at this time

A Yes Vote Would...: Correct various grammatical, numbering and formatting issues in the City Charter.

A No Vote Would...: Leave the City Charter as is, with existing grammatical, numbering and formatting issues.

Largo

Largo Referendum 1: Authority of City Commission to Convey City Owned Real Property

Ballot Language:

Shall the City Commission be authorized to convey fee simple title to all or a portion of approximately 14 acres of city-owned property located at 201 Highland Avenue North, as legally described in Exhibit A to Ordinance No. 2024-57, for a mixed-use development which may only include residential, retail, restaurants, professional offices, public safety operations, and recreational uses serving a primary use, as determined by the City Commission in accordance with Ordinance No. 2024-57?

Synopsis:

Largo has a new project, Horizon West Bay, in downtown that includes the construction of a new City Hall and eliminates the necessity for the current City Hall. The City Commission wants to sell the current City Hall site to allow for redevelopment for a use that would be beneficial to the community. The size of the property is 14 acres.

Redevelopment would be limited to residential (single family and multi-family), professional offices, retail and restaurants (with no single occupant exceeding ten thousand interior square feet), and/or recreational use, and facilities for police, fire rescue and other public safety operations.

The City Charter requires referendum approval by voters for any conveyance of fee simple title to any real property owned by the City which exceeds 1.5 acres.

Supporters: Largo City Council

Opponents: None known at this time

A Yes Vote Would...: Allow the City to sell the current City Hall property at 201 Highland Avenue to allow for mixed-use redevelopment.

A No Vote Would...: Prevent the City from selling the current City Hall property at 201 Highland Avenue.

Seminole

Seminole Charter Amendment 1: Requiring Referendum Approval for Disposition of City Owned Real Property Designated as Recreational

Ballot Language:

Shall Section 1.02 of the City of Seminole Charter be amended to require referendum approval by two-thirds of City electors to approve the sale, lease, or other alienation of real property owned or acquired by the City and designed by ordinance as recreational?

Synopsis:

Currently, the City Council has the power to sell, lease, mortgage, pledge or otherwise dispose of property with a supermajority vote (5 of 7 council members).

This proposed amendment would change the City Charter to require a referendum vote, approved by two-thirds (2/3) of city voters, in order to approve the sale, lease or other transfer of recreational property owned by the city.

This amendment was placed on the ballot by the city's Charter Review Committee. The City Charter requires the establishment of a Charter Review Committee every 5 years to review the operations of city government and recommend amendments.

Supporters: Charter Review Committee, Seminole City Council

Opponents: None known at this time

A Yes Vote Would...: Require a referendum vote, approved by two-thirds of city voters, for the city to sell, lease or otherwise transfer recreational property owned by the city.

A No Vote Would...: Leave the current process in place, which allows the City Council to sell, lease or transfer recreational property with a supermajority vote of the city council.

Seminole Charter Amendment 2: Reducing the Number of Votes Required to Replace the Vice-Mayor from Five to Four

Ballot Language:

Shall Section 3.05 of the City of Seminole Charter be amended to reduce the number of votes required for the City Council to replace the Vice-Mayor from five to four?

Synopsis:

Currently, the City Council selects a Vice-Mayor at the second business meeting in November. The Vice-Mayor may be replaced with any other member at any time by a vote of 5 members of the City Council. This proposed amendment would lower the requirement from a supermajority vote of 5 members to a simple majority of 4 members.

This amendment was placed on the ballot by the city's Charter Review Committee. The City Charter requires the establishment of a Charter Review Committee every 5 years to review the operations of city government and recommend amendments.

Supporters: Charter Review Committee, Seminole City Council

Opponents: None known at this time

A Yes Vote Would...: Reduce the number of City Council votes required to replace the Vice-Mayor from 5 to 4.

A No Vote Would...: Leave the number of City Council votes required to replace the Vice-Mayor at 5.

Seminole Charter Amendment 3: Clarifying Provisions Concerning Forfeiture of Office Due to Unexcused Absences

Ballot Language:

Shall Section 3.07 of the City of Seminole Charter be amended to clarify that a City Council member who fails to attend three consecutive business meetings of the City Council without being excused by vote of the City Council shall forfeit his or her office?

Synopsis:

Currently, the City Charter states that if a City Council member “fails to attend three consecutive regular meetings of the Council without being excused by vote of the Council” they may be removed from office. This proposed amendment would specify that the “meeting” must be a business meeting and that other meetings do not count towards the 3 meeting threshold.

This amendment was placed on the ballot by the city’s Charter Review Committee. The City Charter requires the establishment of a Charter Review Committee every 5 years to review the operations of city government and recommend amendments.

Supporters: Charter Review Committee, Seminole City Council

Opponents: None known at this time

A Yes Vote Would...: Specify that only business meetings count towards the threshold of unexcused absences that can result in the removal of a City Council member.

A No Vote Would...: Leave current language in place, which implies that all meetings count towards the threshold of unexcused absences that can result in the removal of a City Council member.

Seminole Charter Amendment 4: Amending the Length of Term for Council Member Who Fills a Vacancy

Ballot Language:

Shall Section 3.07 of the Charter for the City of Seminole be amended to provide that a Council Member who is appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve the remainder of the vacant, unexpired term rather than serving until the vacancy may be scheduled for a regular election?

Synopsis:

Currently, a vacancy in the City Council is temporarily filled within 60 days of its occurrence by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Council. The appointed individual then serves until the position can appear on the ballot for a regular election, when the voters then elect the candidate who will serve the remainder of the term. This proposed amendment would leave the appointed individual in office until the end of the actual term of that council seat. This would eliminate the need for a special election for a partial term seat, and would also mean that voters are represented by the appointed individual for a longer period of time.

This amendment was placed on the ballot by the city’s Charter Review Committee. The City Charter requires the establishment of a Charter Review Committee every 5 years to review the operations of city government and recommend amendments.

Supporters: Charter Review Committee, Seminole City Council

Opponents: None known at this time

A Yes Vote Would...: Modify the process for filling a vacant City Council seat to leave an appointed individual in office until the end of the actual term of that seat.

A No Vote Would...: Continue to require that individuals appointed to fill a vacant City Council seat only serve until the council seat can be voted on at the next election.

Seminole Charter Amendment 5: Amending the Length of Term for a Vice Mayor who Becomes Interim Mayor

Ballot Language:

Shall Section 3.07 of the Charter for the City of Seminole be amended to provide that a Vice Mayor who becomes Interim Mayor due to the Mayor's permanent absence shall serve the remainder of the Mayor's unexpired term rather than serving until the next regular election?

Synopsis:

Currently, a vacancy in the Mayor seat is temporarily filled by the Vice-Mayor until a regular election, when the voters select the candidate who will fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term. This proposed amendment would leave the Vice-Mayor as Interim Mayor until the end of the Mayor's actual term. This would eliminate the need for a special election for a partial term seat.

This amendment was placed on the ballot by the city's Charter Review Committee. The City Charter requires the establishment of a Charter Review Committee every 5 years to review the operations of city government and recommend amendments.

Supporters: Charter Review Committee, Seminole City Council

Opponents: None known at this time

A Yes Vote Would...: Modify the process for filling a Mayoral vacancy to leave the Vice-Mayor as Interim Mayor until the end of the actual term of the Mayor's seat.

A No Vote Would...: Continue to require the Mayor seat to be voted on at the next election to cover the remainder of the Mayor's term.

Seminole Charter Amendment 6: Amending the Term for Mayor/Council Member Filling a Vacancy For Which No Candidate Qualifies

Ballot Language:

Shall Section 6.05 of the Charter for the City of Seminole be amended to provide that a Mayor or Council Member who is appointed to fill a vacancy occurring because no candidate qualifies for the office shall serve the entirety of the term of the vacant office rather than serving until the next regular election?

Synopsis:

Currently, any vacancy for City Council or Mayor for which no candidate qualifies is temporarily filled by appointment, based on a vote of a majority of the City Council. The partial term position then appears on the ballot again in the next regular election. This proposed amendment would leave the appointed individual in place until the end of the actual term of that seat. This would eliminate the need for a special election for that seat, and would also mean that voters are represented by the appointed individual for a longer period of time.

This amendment was placed on the ballot by the city's Charter Review Committee. The City Charter requires the establishment of a Charter Review Committee every 5 years to review the operations of city government and recommend amendments.

Supporters: Charter Review Committee, Seminole City Council

Opponents: None known at this time

A Yes Vote Would...: Modify the process for filling vacancies in cases where no candidate qualifies to leave the appointed individual in office until the end of the actual term of that seat.

A No Vote Would...: Continue to require a temporary seat appointment to be voted on at the next election to cover the remainder of that seat's term.

Seminole Charter Amendment 7: Amending the Year and Increments that the Charter Review Committee is Established

Ballot Language:

Shall Section 10.03 of the Charter for the City of Seminole be amended to change the year and increments that the Charter Review Committee is established from five years to six years

beginning in 2030 to conform with the general election cycle and avoid the expense of special elections?

Synopsis:

Currently, the city's Charter Review Committee meets every 5 years to review the operations of city government and recommend amendments to the City Charter. This proposed amendment would change the cycle from every 5 years to every 6 years so that it lines up with the regular general elections schedule. This would eliminate the need for special elections on Charter Amendments.

This amendment was placed on the ballot by the city's Charter Review Committee. The City Charter requires the establishment of a Charter Review Committee every 5 years to review the operations of city government and recommend amendments.

Supporters: Charter Review Committee, Seminole City Council

Opponents: None known at this time

A Yes Vote Would...: Change the Charter Review Committee schedule to take place every 6 years so that it occurs in the same year at regular general elections.

A No Vote Would...: Leave the current Charter Review Committee schedule in place to occur every 5 years.

Tarpon Springs

Tarpon Springs Referendum 1: Authorize the purchase of the "Stamas Property" on L and R Industrial Boulevard

Ballot Language:

The City proposes to purchase a 14-acre vacant parcel that is located on the north side of the Anclote River from Anclote Properties, LLC for \$5,250,000 for the purpose of a permanent dredge spoil site, expanded water utility facilities, recreational trail parking/access, and other municipal uses. This acquisition supports the City's infrastructure and sustainability efforts, future dredging needs, enhanced public amenities, and provides long-term benefits for the community. Shall this purchase be approved?

Synopsis:

This property has been leased by the city for use as a dredge spoil site for more than 7 years, at a cost of approximately \$770,000. The city was able to offset 80% of the lease cost through grant funds. However, there is no guarantee that grant funds will continue to be available in the future. Accounting for expected annual inflation of 3%, the future projected lease costs for a dredge spoil site during the next anticipated dredge event between 2039 and 2044 would be approximately \$1.4 million dollars.

This property is approximately 14 acres with an average appraised value of \$3.675 million based on two separate appraisals of \$3.6 and \$3.75 million. The city proposes to use the property for future dredge spoil disposal needs, future expansion of city water utility facilities, recreational trail parking/access, and other municipal uses as allowed by the city's Comprehensive Plan, Official Zoning Atlas, and Land Development Code. The property will be purchased with a 10-year debt obligation to be repaid with general government funds.

Dredging is the process of removing sediment and debris from aquatic ecosystems. Dredge spoil is the sand, silt, soil, and other organic matter that is removed. The most common reasons for dredging a water body are: for maintaining safe shipping channels, ports, harbors, dams and bridges, to remove excess sediment in sensitive habitats or to remove contaminated sediment containing toxic materials, and for flood control and management. The ideal dredge spoil area is immediately adjacent to the area being dredged.

Supporters: Tarpon Springs Commissioners

Opponents: None known at this time

A Yes Vote Would...: Allow the city to purchase a 14 acre parcel of land for \$5,250,000 to use as a permanent dredge spoil site, expanded water utility facilities, provide recreational trail parking/access, and other municipal uses.

A No Vote Would...: Not allow the city to purchase this land, requiring the city to continue leasing the property needed for a dredge spoil site.