

SECTION III

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT CONCEPTS

The 2016 CRC heard from elected officials and members of the public who recommended or suggested a variety of charter amendment concepts. Concepts were assigned to interested CRC members for further research and evaluation. This section of the Final Report contains a summary of each of those proposals along with the final action taken on each measure by the 2016 CRC.

A. Article II – Legislative Branch: Board of County Commissioners Proposals

1. Sec. 202 – Commission Districts Expansion of County Commission Districts

Proposal Summary: A proposal reviewed by the 2016 CRC was to expand the number of County Commissioner Districts from six (6) to eight (8) to accommodate increases in Orange County's population. The work group agreed to research the issue and reviewed multiple alternatives. The work group's recommendation was to increase the Orange County Commission from seven (7) members to nine (9) members, with eight (8) Commissioners elected in single-member districts, plus a Mayor elected countywide, with the seats to be implemented for the 2018 election.

Final Action – Rejected

The CRC voted against the work group recommendation to place a question on the ballot to increase the number of county commission districts.

2. Sec. 202 – Commission Districts Expansion of County Commission Districts

Proposal Summary: Commissioner J. Fernandez proposed in April and May 2016 to expand the number of County Commissioner Districts from six (6) to eight (8) to accommodate increases in Orange County's population. His recommendation was to increase the Orange County Commission from seven (7) members to nine (9) members, with eight (8) Commissioners (increased from six) elected in single-member districts, plus a Mayor elected countywide. Specifically, he proposed that the two (2) additional single-member districts be drawn by the 2021 Redistricting Advisory Committee. The Orange County Board of County Commissioners would then approve a redistricting plan for all eight (8) single member districts by December 2021. The new commissioners

would be elected in the County's 2022 election cycle with one (1) of the two (2) commissioners elected to an initial two-year term to stagger the new commission seat elections.

Final Action – Not Considered

The CRC voted against Member J. Fernandez's request to rescind the CRC's prior action concerning expansion of county commission districts and consideration of his alternative proposal.

**3. Sec. 207 – Powers and Duties
Protection of the Rural Boundary and Urban Focus Amendment**

Proposal Summary: A member of the public proposed that the Charter be amended to impose stricter Comprehensive Plan approval requirements. Based upon its study, the work group recommended no changes to Sec. 207.

Final Action – Accepted

The CRC voted in favor of the work group recommendation to take no further action on the proposed amendment. The CRC agreed to transmit a recommendation to the Mayor that she explore designating a staff member to serve as a Coordinator for Pine Hills, empowered to directly coordinate with County Department Heads on behalf of Pine Hills.

**4. Sec. 209 – Meetings
Meetings of the Board; the Right to Be Heard and the Right to Public Input; Reservation of Citizen Rights**

Proposal Summary: Two (2) members of the public proposed that the Charter be amended to impose a requirement for a specified number of evening Board of County Commission (BCC) meetings and to protect citizens' rights by amending the Charter to impose a requirement for a County Public Advocate. County Administrator and County staff presented to the CRC Issues Work Group regarding the processes and avenues currently in place for members of the public to provide input to the BCC and receive information regarding BCC actions.

Final Action – None Taken

No CRC member sponsored this issue. Therefore no changes to this section of the Charter were drafted or considered.