



## 2020 ORANGE COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION (CRC)

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### Committee Summary Report

### Number and Composition of County Commission Districts Committee

August 14, 2019  
Comptroller's 4th Floor Conference Room  
2:15 p.m.

#### Committee Members:

Carmen Torres, Chair  
Russell Drake  
Matthew Klein  
Anthony (Tony) Suarez  
Dotti Wynn  
Clifford Shepard, CRC Attorney  
Katie Smith, Assisting CRC as Staff  
Anissa Mercado, Assisting CRC as Staff

#### Invited Guest and Speakers:

Commissioner Emily Bonilla  
Commissioner Christine Moore  
Commissioner Mayra Uribe  
Supervisor of Elections Bill Cowles  
Orange County Chief of Staff Roseann Harrington  
Office of Management and Budget Manager Kurt N. Petersen  
Jose Fernandez

The Number and Composition of County Commission Districts Committee meeting was held to further identify related issues and to address any member questions.

Chair Torres thanked the invited guest and speakers for attending. Chair Torres addressed the concerns regarding the survey she created through Survey Monkey and advised she will reach out to Kate Latorre, Assistant County Attorney to discuss the survey further.

#### Invited Guest

Mr. Fernandez presented historical information related to the 2016 CRC proposal to expand the county commission districts. Mr. Fernandez informed the committee members that the 2016 work group reviewed compatibles in Florida with similar sized counties and the cost associated with increasing the commission districts. Mr. Fernandez mentioned that the 2016 work group recommended expanding the districts by two seats, which did not pass. Mr. Fernandez further disclosed that one concern the 2016 CRC had with the work group's recommendation was the cost of redistricting. Due to this concern, the work group modified their recommendation to expand the county commission districts after redistricting which eliminated some of the cost. The 2016 CRC's final action related to the expansion of the county commission single member districts was to reject the recommendation of the work group. Discussion ensued.

### Invited Speakers

Commissioner Bonilla presented on the pros and cons of representation of single member districts vs countywide. Commissioner Bonilla recommended balancing the representation power by making the two additional commission seats countywide elected instead of single member. When Commissioner Bonilla was questioned if she had any issue with responding to constituents, her response was that she did not. However, Commissioner Bonilla advocated for more aides to assist in responding to her constituents instead of adding additional commission districts. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Moore addressed the committee and presented information on her district and the workload of unincorporated areas verses incorporated areas. Commissioner Moore mentioned that some of the concerns pertaining to the balance of workload can be addressed during redistricting. Commissioner Moore further indicated that the workload is different based on the community and does not see the need for additional aides. Commissioner Moore asked the committee members to also consider the businesses having to reach out to more individuals if two additional commission districts are added. When asked if she felt the need for additional Commissioners, Commissioner Moore responded that she did not.

Commissioner Uribe presented information on her district and the procedures her office follows in regards to customer service. Commissioner Uribe welcomed the idea of additional funding for more aides however, she did not see the need for more Commissioners. When Commissioner Uribe was questioned if she had any issue with responding to constituents, she replied that her office is actually thanked for their response time. Discussion ensued.

Chair Torres presented her findings when conducting research regarding the population growth in Florida.

### Public Comment

The following persons addressed the committee:

- David Siegel
- John Fauth
- David Washington
- Eugene Stoccardo

Ms. Smith advised the committee members that Commissioner VanderLey and Commissioner Gomez Cordero submitted their remarks concerning the Number and Composition of County Commission Districts which will be published on the Charter webpage.

### Members Open Discussion

Member Drake addressed the correspondence submitted to committee members from Commissioner VanderLey, County Administrator Byron W. Brooks, and Supervisor of Elections Bill Cowles and stated that the timing and the facts presented point out the need for additional Commissioners. Discussion ensued.

Chair Torres acknowledged the receipt of responses from the committee members regarding changing the meeting time. Discussion ensued.

Motion/Second: Chair Torres/Member Wynn

AYE (voice vote): Members Drake, Suarez, Torres, and Wynn

NO (voice vote): Member Klein

Action: The Number and Composition of County Commission Districts Committee agreed the committee meeting time would remain at 2:15 p.m. on Wednesdays.

#### Future Action Plan

After the discussion, it was suggested that the committee would discuss Commissioner full time status versus part time status during the next meeting.

The next scheduled committee meeting will be determined at a later date. Supporting materials, including the meeting notice, agenda, audio and summary report, may be found by visiting <https://www.occompt.com/clerk-of-the-bcc/charter-2020/meetings/>.