2024 Charter Review Commission Discussion

August 13, 2024



2024 Charter Review Commission

- Chair: Homer Hartage
- Vice Chair: Lee Chira
- Members: Mark Arias, Rishi Bagga, Dick Batchelor, Tom Callan, Eric R. Grimmer, Erica Jackson, Chuck O'Neal, Angel de la Portilla, Alisia Adamson Profit, Cornita A. Riley, Eugene Stoccardo, Beverly Winesburgh and Dotti Wynn
- CRC General Counsel: Wade Vose



2024 Charter Review Commission

- 77 meetings held (full CRC, Committee and Sunshine Meetings) between February 20, 2023 – May 30, 2024
- Established 5 Committees to study topics introduced by both residents and CRC members
- Voted to place 8 amendments on the November 2024 General Election ballot
- Accepted the 2024 CRC Final Report on May 30, 2024

Committee Topics Not Moving Forward to the Ballot



Creation of a Public Bank Committee Chair Adamson Profit No Changes to Charter

- Studied establishing a public bank as a way for Orange County to finance the County's public infrastructure needs and other priorities
- The CRC accepted the committee's recommendation to make no changes to the Charter relating to the creation of a public bank



Governmental Structure Committee Chair de La Portilla No Changes to Charter

- CRC accepted committee's recommendation to make no changes to the Charter related to:
 - Current 4 year frequency of the CRC
 - Term limits applicable to Mayor and Commissioners
 - Mayor serving in both Executive and Legislative branches
 - Role of the County Administrator



Sustainable Growth & Charter Clean-Up Chair Grimmer No Changes to Charter

- Charter Clean Up
 - CRC accepted committee's recommendation that a Charter Clean Up amendment not be placed on the ballot
- County Wetland Protection
 - CRC accepted committee's recommendation to not add wetland protections on the ballot



Sustainable Growth & Charter Clean-Up CRC Recommendation to BCC

Rural Boundary

- Establishing a Rural Area where County Comp Plan amendments increasing the density or intensity / ordinances removing lands would require a majority plus one BCC vote
- Topic received significant interest and subject of many meetings but concluded the CRC was preempted from placing rural boundary amendment on ballot due to Legislative preemptions
- Ultimately, CRC voted to recommend that the BCC vote to place a Rural Boundary amendment on the November 2024 general election ballot

Committee Topics Moving Forward to the Ballot



Governmental Structure Committee Amendments Placed on Ballot

- Expansion of County Commission
 - Expansion from 6 single member districts to 8 single member districts
- Establish Office of County Attorney
 - County Attorney appointed by Mayor, confirmed by majority of BCC
 - Can be removed by Mayor or majority of BCC
- Effect of Write-In Candidates
 - Would not count toward the number candidates to trigger an election at the August primary



Initiative Petitions Committee Chair Wynn Amendment Placed on Ballot

- Initiative Petitions Highlighted Changes
 - Lowers charter initiative petition requirement from 10% of registered voters in each commission district to 5%
 - Lowers ordinance initiative petition process by lowering from 7% in each district to 3%
 - Removes signature withdrawal procedures and requirement for BCC public hearing
 - Revises financial impact statement, legal review process, and petition affidavit requirements
 - Requires a referendum be held on Charter or Ordinance amendment at the earlier of the next primary or general election



Transportation Committee Chair Callan Amendment Placed on Ballot

Transportation Policy

- Create a citizen-led Transportation Mobility Advisory Commission "TransMAC" appointed by the BCC
- Would publicly review all transportation funding and make recommendations to the BCC prior to inclusion in the County's proposed annual budget
- Would provide a forum to review, vet and recommend emerging transportation technologies to the BCC and County staff



Sustainable Growth & Charter Clean-Up Amendments Placed on Ballot

- County Protected Lands
 - Defines County Protected Lands acquired for environmental, ecological or recreational purposes and requires majority plus one vote of BCC to authorize disposition or to change use
- Fiscal Sustainability Analysis
 - No later than October 2025, County shall adopt a fiscal sustainability analysis methodology and process to evaluate impacts of proposed Urban Service Area expansions and proposed development in Rural Settlements and Rural Service Area



Sustainable Growth & Charter Clean-Up Amendments Placed on Ballot

- Requiring Continued Existence of Affordable Housing Trust Fund
 - Specifies purposes for the Trust Fund
 - Indicates that Trust Fund shall be funded as directed by BCC
 - Requires an amendment to Code by July 1, 2025





Amendments on Ballot

- 1. Initiative Petitions
- 2. Affordable Housing Trust Fund
- 3. Effect of Write-In Candidates
- 4. Fiscal Sustainability Analysis
- 5. County Attorney
- 6. Expansion of County Commission
- 7. Transportation Mobility Advisory Commission
- **8. County Protected Lands**



Final Report

2024 CRC Final Report is available for review on the Orange County Comptroller's Charter Webpage:

https://www.occompt.com/165/Orang e-County-Charter

