

# **Orange County Government**

**District 5 - Winter Park Community Center**



## **Charter Review Commission Agenda**

**Wednesday, May 1, 2019**

**6:00 PM**

### **2020 Charter Review Commission**

***CRC Members:***

***Camille Evans, Chair***

***Carmen Torres, Vice Chair***

***James R. Auffant–Jack Douglas–Russell Drake–John E. Fauth–Matthew Klein–***

***Jeffrey A. Miller–Nikki Mims–Samuel Vilchez Santiago–Soraya Smith–***

***Lee Steinhauer–Eugene Stoccardo–Anthony (Tony) Suarez–Dotti Wynn***

**Call to Order****Pledge of Allegiance****Invited Speaker: Commissioner Emily Bonilla****I. Public Comment****II. Consent Item**

- A. CRC-20-028 Approval and execution of the minutes of the April 11, 2019 meeting of the Charter Review Commission (CRC)

**III. Informational Items**

**These items are for informational purposes only. No action is requested of the CRC at this time.**

- A. CRC-20-029 Sunshine Meeting Report - April 18, 2019 Meeting with Chair Evans and Vice Chair Torres
- B. CRC-20-030 Update on Appointment of Administrative Assistant

**IV. Discussion Items**

- A. CRC-20-031 General Counsel Update
- B. CRC-20-032 Memorandum - Historical Information Collected by the CRC on the Evaluation of the Number of Commission Districts

**V. New Business**

# **Orange County Government**

*Orange County Administration Center  
201 S Rosalind Ave.  
Orlando, FL 32802-1393*



## **Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, April 11, 2019**

**4:00 PM**

**County Commission Chambers**

## **2020 Charter Review Commission**

*CRC Members:*

*Camille Evans, Chair*

*Carmen Torres, Vice Chair*

*James R. Auffant–Jack Douglas–Russell Drake–John E. Fauth–Matthew Klein–  
Jeffrey A. Miller–Nikki Mims–Samuel Vilchez Santiago–Soraya Smith–  
Lee Steinhauer–Eugene Stoccardo–Anthony (Tony) Suarez–Dotti Wynn*

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Present:** 15 - Member Camille Evans, Member Lee Steinhauer, Member John E. Fauth, Member Jack Douglas, Member Eugene Stoccardo, Member Matthew Klein, Member Russell Drake, Member Samuel Vilchez Santiago, Member Jeffrey A. Miller, Member Carmen Torres, Member Dotti Wynn, Member Soraya Smith, Member James R. Auffant, Member Anthony (Tony) Suarez, and Member Nikki Mims

Others present:

Assistant County Attorney Kate Latorre  
Deputy Clerk Katie Smith  
Senior Minutes Coordinator Craig Stopyra  
Senior Minutes Coordinator Noelia Perez

**Pledge of Allegiance****I. Public Comment - Elected Official**

Town of Eatonville Mayor Eddie Cole addressed the CRC requesting a study on the growth within Orange County to examine potential areas of focus and need for change.

**II. Chair Comments**

Chair Evans addressed the CRC regarding the following items:

- CRC Members desiring to speak during the meeting are asked to select the "queue" button on the panel box that sits in front of them. Chair Evans has requested that CRC Members familiarize themselves with the queue button/panel box. The panel box will not be used to record votes.

- Chair Evans has included a new Agenda section entitled "New Business". CRC members are encouraged to submit ideas, comments, and changes to CRC staff for inclusion in future Agendas.

- Chair Evans and Vice Chair Torres will be conducting Sunshine Meetings to discuss CRC issues and developments for the upcoming CRC meetings. Chair Evans mentioned CRC members are subject to the Florida Sunshine Law and cannot discuss the charter review outside of publicly noticed meetings. These Sunshine Meetings between Chair Evans and Vice Chair Torres will be held throughout the duration of the CRC and will be properly noticed, recorded and made available to CRC members and the public. All meetings shall be open to the public and Chair Evans encouraged CRC members to attend.

**III. Consent Item**

[CRC-20-017](#) Approval and execution of the minutes of the February 25, 2019 and March

14, 2019 meetings of the Charter Review Commission (CRC).

Deputy Clerk Katie Smith addressed the CRC regarding approval of the minutes of February 25, 2019. Ms. Smith indicated that, per the CRC's request, the minutes be amended to indicate a CRC member voting "present" when a motion was made for approval of the minutes. Ms. Smith reminded CRC members when voting on a motion, any member stating "present" is abstaining. Per Florida Statute, members present at the CRC meetings must vote either yes or no, unless there is a conflict of interest.

A motion was made by Member Wynn, seconded by Member Santiago to approve the minutes of February 25, 2019 meeting of the Charter Review Commission with the original language. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye: 13** - Member Evans, Member Torres, Member Wynn, Member Stoccardo, Member Douglas, Member Auffant, Member Miller, Member Fauth, Member Steinhauer, Member Klein, Member Santiago, Member Smith, and Member Mims

**Absent: 2** - Member Drake, Member Suarez

A motion was made by Member Torres, seconded by Member Douglas, to approve the minutes of March 14, 2019. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 13 - Member Evans, Member Steinhauer, Member Fauth, Member Douglas, Member Stoccardo, Member Klein, Member Santiago, Member Miller, Member Torres, Member Wynn, Member Smith, Member Auffant, and Member Mims

**Absent:** 2 - Member Drake, and Member Suarez

#### **IV. Informational Items**

**These items are for informational purposes only. No action is requested of the CRC at this time.**

[CRC-20-018](#) Sunshine Meeting Report - March 22, 2019 Meeting with Chair Evans and Vice Chair Torres

Chair Evans opened discussion with regards to the Report of the March 22, 2019 Sunshine Meeting between Chair Evans and Vice Chair Torres. Ms. Smith contributed to discussion and informed the CRC that staff is providing public notice of the Sunshine Meetings via the following:

- County's Bulletin Board
- Comptroller's Website
- District Commissioners' Offices
- Orange TV

Ms. Smith reiterated the Sunshine Meeting Notices are being published on the County's Community Board located on the First Floor as well as on the Comptroller's website, on the Charter Review Commission's page.

[CRC-20-019](#) Memorandum - April 2, 2019 CRC Community Outreach

Chair Evans opened discussion in reference to the April 2, 2019 Memorandum regarding CRC Community Outreach. Ms. Smith detailed the community outreach efforts conducted by members of the CRC and staff. The Memorandum outlined the methods being utilized for community outreach as follows:

- Comptroller and County Websites
- District Commissioner Newsletters
- Press Releases through Orange TV
- CRC Followers List
- Invitation to Mayor, BCC Commissioners, Constitutional Officers, Municipal Officers
- CRC Voter Outreach
- Local organizations and agencies

Discussion ensued. Ms. Smith contributed to discussion and informed CRC members of the extensive process of attaining district public hearing meeting spaces.

[CRC-20-020](#) Press Release - May 1, 2019 District 5 Public Hearing

Chair Evans opened discussion with regards to the Press Release for the District 5 Public Hearing, to be held at the Winter Park Community Center located at 721 West New England Avenue on May 1, 2019, at 6 p.m. Discussion ensued regarding press release distribution. Community outreach efforts would be applied to every meeting being conducted by two or more CRC members as outlined in the Community Outreach Memorandum.

**V. Discussion Items**[CRC-20-021](#) Future Meeting Schedule and Notice of Public Hearing Publications

Chair Evans opened discussion regarding the CRC future meeting schedule and notice of public hearings. Ms. Smith contributed to the discussion and provided the following upcoming meeting schedule as follows:

- District 5 Public Hearing, at the Winter Park Community Center on May 1, 2019, at 6 p.m.
- CRC Regular Business Meeting at the County Commission Chambers on June 5, 2019, at 5:30 p.m.
- District 6 Public Hearing at Holden Heights Community Center on July 10, 2019, at 6 p.m.

Ms. Smith mentioned Chair Evans' suggestion regarding advertising public hearing notices in the Orlando Sentinel for each of the District Public Hearings. Staff would run the notice once, ten days prior to the public hearing, and the public hearing notices would appear in the Sunday public record section of the Orlando Sentinel.

[CRC-20-022](#) Selection of Shepard, Smith, Kohlmyer & Hand, P.A. to provide legal services to the Charter Review Commission

Chair Evans presented a brief overview regarding the review, selection and scoring process of General Counsel for the CRC. Chair Evans, Member Klein and Member Wynn, along with two staff members of the County's Procurement Division were, on the Procurement Committee for selection of General Counsel. Two proposals were submitted and received by the Procurement Committee. On March 27, 2019, a publically noticed procurement meeting was conducted to review the scoring of each Procurement Committee member for the two proposals received. Based upon the review of the Procurement Committee, Shepard, Smith, Kohlmyer & Hand, P.A. was recommended to provide legal services to the CRC. Discussion ensued.

The following person addressed the CRC: Clifford B. Shepard.

A motion was made by Member Wynn, seconded by Member Klein, to select Shepard, Smith, Kohlmyer & Hand, P.A. as General Counsel to the Charter Review Commission. The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 14 - Member Evans, Member Steinhauer, Member Fauth, Member Douglas, Member Stoccardo, Member Klein, Member Santiago, Member Miller, Member Torres, Member Wynn, Member Smith, Member Auffant, Member Suarez, and Member Mims

**Absent:** 1 - Member Drake

#### [CRC-20-023](#) Future Presentation Regarding Status of Constitutional Officers

Chair Evans opened discussion with regards to the status of Constitutional Officers. Ms. Smith contributed to discussion. Chair Evans requested General Counsel prepare a presentation regarding the Status of Constitutional Officers.

#### **I. Public Comment (Continued)**

The following person addressed the CRC for public comment: Marjorie Holt.

#### **VI. New Business**

Chair Evans informed the CRC that the next Sunshine Meeting between herself and Vice Chair Torres would be taking place shortly. The Sunshine Meeting would be properly noticed and would include the date and time. Chair Evans encouraged members of the CRC and the public to attend.

Chair Evans thanked the CRC members who submitted their ideas for consideration for the May 1, 2019 CRC Meeting. Chair Evans encouraged the CRC members to continue submitting their ideas for consideration to CRC staff.

Member Auffant, Member Steinhauer, and Member Stoccardo voiced their desire to serve on the subcommittee regarding the environment and development of Orange County. Chair Evans thanked those members wishing to serve and indicated the formation of subcommittees within the CRC would be considered at a later date.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the CRC adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

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Camille Evans, Chair  
2020 Charter Review Commission





## 2020 ORANGE COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION (CRC)

### **Sunshine Meeting Summary Report**

Sunshine Meeting  
April 18, 2019  
Comptroller's 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
11:02 a.m.

#### Attendees

Camille Evans, CRC Chair  
Carmen Torres, CRC Vice Chair  
Katie Smith, Deputy Clerk serving as CRC Staff  
Julie Alvin, CRC Staff Assistant

CRC Chair Evans and Vice Chair Torres met to discuss CRC issues and procedures.

#### Topics Discussed

Attendees discussed submitted input and public comments which may inform the basis for committees.

Chair and Vice Chair identified topics which have been raised by multiple members or citizen comments. The Chair and Vice Chair expect more topics to be put forward by members and citizens at the May 1, 2019 Public Hearing and agreed that areas under consideration for commissions should be specifically appropriate to the Charter.

Ms. Smith provided an update on the contract process for CRC Special Council. Chair Evans advised of her intentions to work with staff on the Agenda for the District 5 Public Hearing and in reaching out to Council.

#### Public Comment

There were no members of the public present.

#### Action Plan

Chair requested that Staff compile results of previous research into the evaluation of the number of commission districts.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.



## 2020 ORANGE COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION (CRC)

### MEMORANDUM

TO: 2020 CRC Members

DATE: April 24, 2019

SUBJECT: Historical Information Collected by the CRC on the Evaluation of the Number of Commission Districts

As requested by Chair Evans, please find a selection of information on the number of Orange County Commission Districts, attached.

This topic came under consideration in 2012; the CRC voted against the committee recommendation to place a question on the ballot to change the number of county commissioners.

This topic also came under consideration in 2016; the CRC voted against both a work group recommendation to place the question on the ballot, and voted against an individual request with an alternate proposal of a similar question.

Additional information may be found in the Charter Review History Notebook, accessible publicly on the Orange County Comptroller's website, <https://www.occompt.com/clerk-of-the-bcc/charter-2020/history/>.

**NO ACTION IS REQUESTED AT THIS TIME.**

Attachments: 2012 CRC Final Report, pages 6-7  
2016 CRC Final Report, pages 7-8  
2016 Expansion of County Commission Work Group Revised Recommendation

CRC Members:

Camille Evans, Chair - Carmen Torres, Vice Chair

James R. Auffant – Jack Douglas – Russell Drake – John E. Fauth – Matthew Klein – Jeffrey A. Miller – Nikki Mims – Samuel Vilchez Santiago – Soraya Smith – Lee Steinhauer – Eugene Stoccardo – Anthony (Tony) Suarez – Dotti Wynn

## **SECTION III**

### **PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT CONCEPTS**

The 2012 CRC heard from a number of 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 2012 CRC.

#### **A. Articles II & III Proposals**

##### **1. Local Officials Replacement Committee**

***Proposal Summary:*** CRC members discussed a different process to select a replacement for a County Commissioner or Mayor who leaves office before end of term. Currently, such replacements are made by the governor, but a number of the CRC members felt the replacement decision should be made locally. CRC's legal counsel advised the CRC that an amendment to the Florida Constitution would be required to permit a charter county to change the existing replacement process. The committee decided to draft provisional charter language that would take effect if the Florida constitution is amended to change the replacement procedure.

##### ***Final Action – Approved***

The CRC voted to put on the ballot language to have the Mayor elected by special election within 120 days after the vacancy. Although a special election is more costly than waiting until the next county election, the majority of the CRC believed that the Mayor's role is too important to wait more than 120 days. Regarding County Commission vacancies, the CRC voted to have such vacancies filled by appointment until the next general election. Finally, the CRC voted that a suspended office be filled by appointment by a majority plus one vote of the Board of County Commissioners for the period of suspension.

##### **2. Increase the Number of County Commissioners**

***Proposal Summary:*** One of the first proposals reviewed by the 2012 CRC was to increase the number of County Commissioners from six to eight to accommodate increases in Orange County's population. The committee agreed to research the issue and reviewed multiple alternatives. The committee's recommendation was to increase the number of commissioners from six to eight, with the seats to be implemented for the 2016 election, and implementing language was offered amending Sections 202, 203 and 204 of the Charter.

***Final Action – Rejected***

The CRC voted against the committee recommendation to place a question on the ballot to change the number of county commissioners.

**3. Voluntary Salary Reduction of County Commissioner Salaries**

***Proposal Summary:*** The committee researched options for voluntary salary reduction by Orange County Commissioners and proposed implementing language changes. The committee recommended that the CRC approve placing the voluntary salary-reduction proposal on the ballot.

***Final Action – Rejected***

The CRC voted against the committee recommendation to place a question on the ballot to change the language of Sections 205 and 302 of the Charter to allow voluntary salary reductions.

**4. Commissioners Full-Time**

***Proposal Summary:*** A member of the public proposed that the Charter be changed to require County Commissioners to serve “full-time” rather than: “shall only devote such time as is necessary to perform the legislative responsibilities of their office.” No definition of “full-time” or other details were offered.

***Final Action – None Taken***

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

**B. Article IV Proposals**

**5. Change Method of Appointing CRC and RAC Committee Members**

***Proposal Summary:*** The proposal sought to ensure a more open and accessible process for appointments to future CRCs and RACs.

***Final Action – None Taken***

The CRC agreed that CRC and RAC appointments are covered by Orange County Code Sections 2-201 through 2-212. Any change in that process should be made by revising the Orange County Code rather than by revising the Charter. Thus, no changes to this section of the Charter were drafted or considered.

**6. Establish Requirement for Review of all BCC Advisory Boards and the Appointment of Members**

## **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.



**REVISED DRAFT Work Group Recommendation  
Expansion of County Commission Work Group**

Work Group Members:

Jose Fernandez, Chair  
Maribel Gomez Cordero  
Edward DeAguilera  
Pat DiVecchio  
Eddie Fernandez

**Summary of Recommendation**

Over the past 5 months, the Expansion of County Commission Workgroup held six public meetings to hear public input and consider proposals relating to expanding the membership of the Orange County Commission. The workgroup reviewed the work of a similarly-tasked committee of the 2012 CRC, historical population information, and anticipated costs of implementing proposals for expansion. The workgroup further heard from members of the public expressing concerns related to the issues below of current County Commission districts.

After consideration of the information presented, the workgroup voted 4-1 to recommend to the full CRC an amendment to the Orange County Charter expanding the Orange County Commission from 7 members to 9 members, with 8 Commissioners (increased from 6) elected in single-member districts, plus a Mayor elected countywide.

The specifics of the proposal provide that the 2 additional single member districts be drawn a by the 2021 Redistricting Advisory Committee, ~~would be appointed in January 2017, and that they would finalize and deliver their recommendations for drawing the eight districts to the County Commission by September 1, 2017.~~ The County Commission would then approve a redistricting plan for all 8 single member districts by December 31, 2021 ~~November 1, 2017~~. The new commissioners would be elected in County's 2022 ~~2018~~ election cycle, with one of the two commissioners elected to an initial two year term to stagger the new commission seat elections.

**Reasons for Recommendation**

**Doubling of Orange County Population Since 1988**

First and foremost, Orange County has doubled in population (from roughly 621,000 to 1,253,000) since 1988, when a prior CRC successfully proposed a charter amendment expanding the County Commission from 5 at-large members to 6 commissioners elected in single-member districts plus a countywide Chairman. As a result, the representativeness and responsiveness adopted by the voters in their prior expansion of the County Commission has been eroded by this explosive population growth. When the current structure of the County

Commission was approved by the voters in 1988, the average population of each district was roughly 104,000. That average population has grown to roughly double in size at 209,000 per district.

Expanding the number of commissioners and county commission districts from six to eight would reduce the average per district population to roughly 157,000.

A majority of the workgroup found that the proposed decrease of population per district would enable members of the County Commission to be more responsive and representative of their districts.

### **“Infrastructure” for Future Population Growth**

In a related vein, the workgroup also noted that the population of Orange County is not likely to stop growing any time soon, and that as the Florida economy improves, its rate of growth is likely to increase. As a result, an expansion of the County Commission not only addresses the population growth that has occurred to date, but anticipates the needs of the county with regard to future growth.

### **Potential Expansion of Opportunity for Minority Representation**

In its discussions, the workgroup recognized that a number of representatives of Orange County's Hispanic community have advocated expansion of the County Commission since the County's 2011 redistricting process. Those representatives have argued that with two additional districts, and the attendant reduction in per-district population, it will become more likely that one or more of the districts will become a “minority-majority” district, thus, the representatives have argued, increasing the likelihood of election of an individual from that ethnic group.

Consideration of race and ethnicity in redistricting efforts is legally complex, and the workgroup's recommendation provides no requirement or guarantee in its text that a redistricting process will result in one or more Hispanic minority-majority districts. However, a majority of the workgroup found the arguments advanced by these community representatives to be consistent with the workgroup's more general finding that a decrease in population per district would enable County Commission members to be more representative of their districts.

### **Relatively Small Costs are Justified to Enhance Representation**

The workgroup asked the Orange County Comptroller's Office to assemble information relating to the one-time and annual costs associated with adding two additional commissioners to the County Commission. While the costs are not trivial, they are exceedingly small in the context of a county budget of over \$3.6 billion annually. Moreover, the relatively small costs are outweighed by the enhancement of representation in the County.



The Comptroller's Office estimated the one-time cost of a redistricting process in 2017 at \$508,829, with an additional one-time cost of \$359,980 to the Supervisor of Elections to implement the new districts. In addition, the Comptroller estimated a one-time capital cost of \$750,000 to accommodate the two additional commissioners. This amounts to a cumulative one-time cost of \$1,618,809, or roughly 0.044% of the FY 2016 Orange County budget of \$3.6 billion. The Comptroller also estimated the annual recurring cost of personal services and operating expenses for two additional commissioners at \$646,000, or 0.018% of the FY 2016 budget.

As the workgroup and members of the public discussed frequently, representative government costs money. Presumably money could be saved by eliminating most of the elected county commission seats and districts, but at an unacceptably heavy cost to the representativeness and responsiveness of the County Commission. Accordingly, a majority of the workgroup believed that achieving enhanced representativeness and responsiveness was worth the relatively small incremental cost.

### **As Mayor Jacobs Suggested, Topic of Community Discussion Worthy of Presenting to the Voters**

At the September 10, 2015 meeting of the full CRC, Mayor Jacobs provided her thoughts on the proposal to add two county commission districts. She recognized that the expansion of the County Commission has been a topic of community discussion for a number of years. Particularly, it was the subject of specific community initiatives before at least the 2011 Redistricting Advisory Committee, the 2012 Charter Review Commission, and before the County Commission in 2012, as well as the subject of a proposed ordinance before the County Commission in 2014. While she was clear that she did not know how she would personally vote on such a proposal, she expressed her opinion that it was a topic worthy of placing on the ballot to allow the voters to decide on the matter. A majority of the workgroup concurs in the Mayor's assessment.

### **Arguments Against Expansion Proposal**

#### **Dilution of Power of Individual Commissioners/Districts**

Concerns were raised that with the addition of two additional county commission districts and commissioners, the voting power of each member of the County Commission would be diluted.

#### **Increased Parochialism**

Concerns were also raised that in moving from 6 to 8 districts, encompassing smaller populations and geographic areas, that individual commissioners would be increasingly incentivized to focus only on the particular needs and interests of their districts, rather than the needs and interests of the County as a whole. Notably, this same argument was advanced in

1988 against moving from countywide elections to single-member districts for county commissioners.

### **Upfront and Recurring Cost**

Concerns were raised regarding the costs referenced above, namely that while they are not large compared to the County budget, they are still substantial if expansion is not justified.

### **Expansion Does Not Guarantee Hispanic Commissioners**

As noted above, the proposed expansion does not expressly require or guarantee the creation of minority-majority districts, and so concerns were raised that a reason advanced by community representatives for the proposed expansion may not be adequately resolved by the proposal.

### **Another Redistricting Process Scheduled for 2021**

Per Section 202 of the County Charter, the county commission districts are scheduled for redistricting again in 2021, resulting in the dedication of resources to two county redistricting processes within a 4 year period if this proposal is implemented.

### **Concerns Raised by Commissioner DiVecchio**

Commissioner DiVecchio raised a number of concerns relating to whether the proposal is necessary, some of which are embodied above. At his request, his complete list of concerns is attached.

**From:** [Pat DiVecchio](#)  
**To:** [Charter](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Schedule  
**Date:** Friday, September 18, 2015 8:15:12 AM

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Katie,

Per our discussion, I will not be able to attend the meeting on Sept 24th. Following are my comments on the Expansion of County Commission Districts from 6 to 8. Please forward to the other Members for inclusion in the final report.

- We shouldn't be doing this just to do it. A valid reason has yet to be established.
- The main reason that I have heard for the expansion, is to get Hispanic representation. Expansion cannot guarantee Hispanic representation and I question whether this reason is even legal.
- We have had Hispanic representation in the past, in the existing 6 Districts, one of which was Mayor Martinez.
- Commission Boyd gave an excellent description of the current workload for sitting Commissioners. As one of the busiest areas, he is not overwhelmed. So again, what is the problem?
- We haven't heard of ANY citizens who haven't been able to contact their Commissioners. What is the problem?
- It has been said, that the cost will be minimal, but why spend any money on something we don't need when we can spend it on something we do need.

Thank you,

Pat DiVecchio

On Wed, Aug 26, 2015 at 10:46 AM, Charter <[charter2016@occompt.com](mailto:charter2016@occompt.com)> wrote:

Thanks for your call this morning, Pat. This email confirms that you will not be in attendance during the Expansion of County Commission Districts work group meeting scheduled for 9/24. I will look for your email pertaining to those reasons you did not support the intended recommendation. Listing your opposition in bullet points will be sufficient for the presentation.

*Katie Smith*



Katie A. Smith

Deputy Clerk

Manager - Comptroller Clerk's Office

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For more information please visit our website at [www.occompt.com](http://www.occompt.com).

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

**From:** Pat DiVecchio [mailto:[2015crc@gmail.com](mailto:2015crc@gmail.com)]

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 26, 2015 10:39 AM

**To:** Charter

**Subject:** Schedule

FYI:

I will out of town and not available for meetings on the following dates.

Sept 18th thru 26th

Oct 16th thru the 19th.