

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