



2020 ORANGE COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION (CRC)

Committee Summary Report

Citizen-Initiated Charter and Ordinance Amendment Process Committee

December 10, 2019
Comptroller's 4th Floor Conference Room
4:00 p.m.

Committee Members:

Soraya Smith, Chair
Jack Douglas
Angela Melvin
Jeffrey A. Miller
Dotti Wynn (via telephone)
Clifford Shepard, CRC General Counsel
Noelia Perez, Senior Minutes Coordinator

Invited Guests:

Dr. Gloria Pickar, League of Women Voters of
Orange County Co-President
Samuel Vilchez Santiago, CRC Member

The Citizen-Initiated Charter and Ordinance Amendment Process Committee meeting was held to further identify related issues and to address any member questions.

Invited Guests

Dr. Pickar presented an introduction to Orange County's League of Women Voters. Dr. Pickar advised the Orange County League has not studied this particular issue in depth but stated that the current process is too restrictive. Dr. Pickar pointed out areas where the Orange County League supports the current process and areas where they feel revisions are needed. The committee members asked various questions regarding Dr. Pickar's remarks. Discussion ensued.

CRC Member Vilchez Santiago addressed several questions raised by various members at the last committee meeting regarding his proposal. Discussion ensued amongst Member Vilchez Santiago and the committee members. General Counsel Shepard contributed to the discussion.

Public Comment

The following persons addressed the committee:

- Carmen Torres
- Eugene Stoccardo

Committee Chair Comments

Chair Smith provided an update regarding her meeting with Supervisor of Elections Cowles related to his Orange County Initiative Petition History memorandum and attachments provided on December 2, 2019. Discussion ensued. General Counsel Shepard contributed to the discussion.

General Counsel Continued Discussion from November 20, 2019

General Counsel Shepard provided the committee with a mathematical comparison of the number of citizen initiative petition attempts made prior to and after 2016. General Counsel Shepard advised that only one of the six petitions attempted prior to 2016 made it to the ballot. General Counsel Shepard referenced an article that was previously distributed to the committee members related to a current proposed Florida Constitutional amendment. Discussion ensued.

Members Open Discussion

Member Miller questioned whether the committee can determine why prior citizen initiative attempts were unsuccessful based upon the information they've been presented thus far. Discussion ensued. Members Miller and Douglas agreed that the committee needs to bring the topic back to the full CRC if the committee would like to consider topics other than petition thresholds.

Future Action Plan

Chair Smith asked the members to think about what the committee was initially charged with and whether the committee should get more specific and bring the topic back to the full CRC. The committee will discuss this and take up a motion at the next committee meeting in January.

The next scheduled committee meeting will be held on January 8, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. 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/>.