



2020 ORANGE COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION (CRC)

Committee Summary Report

Citizen-Initiated Charter and Ordinance Amendment Process Committee

February 19, 2020
Comptroller's 4th Floor Conference Room
4:00 p.m.

Committee Members:

Soraya Smith, Chair
Angela Melvin
Jeffrey A. Miller
Dotti Wynn
Patrick Brackins, CRC General Counsel
Lakela Louis, Senior Minutes Coordinator

Absent Member:

Jack Douglas

Invited Guest:

BCC District 5 Commissioner Emily Bonilla

The Citizen-Initiated Charter and Ordinance Amendment Process Committee met to discuss the 180-day timeline limitation and proposed ballot title, summary and amendment language.

Invited Guest

Commissioner Emily Bonilla shared her experience regarding the citizen initiative petition process and spoke in favor of amending the Charter to remove perceived barriers. Discussion ensued.

Public Comment

No members of the public addressed the committee during public comment.

Members Open Discussion

The committee members discussed the petition timeline as provided in Supervisor of Elections Cowles' Orange County Initiative Petition History memorandum and attachments dated December 2, 2019. Discussion ensued. General Counsel Brackins contributed to the discussion.

The committee requested General Counsel provide a memorandum clarifying what decision, if any, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) makes when the sponsor meets the 1% threshold and the Supervisor of Elections notifies the BCC of same. This request arose from the timeline provided by the Supervisor of Elections, which provides: "Upon reaching the 1% threshold, the

SOE shall notify the board. The board shall render its decision within twenty days after notification.” Discussion ensued.

General Counsel Present Proposed Language

General Counsel Brackins presented the proposed ballot title, summary and amendment language. Discussion ensued. Member Melvin requested that the proposed language utilizing the term “toll,” “tolled,” or “tolling” be amended by adding synonymous terms that are more easily understood by the general public. No other changes were requested as the committee’s discussion focused on whether to consider expanding or including additional areas of concern related to the citizen initiative process.

Committee Vote

Motion/Second: Chair Smith / Member Wynn

AYE (voice vote): Chair Smith; Members Melvin and Wynn

NAY (voice vote): Member Miller

Absent: Member Douglas

Action: The committee moved to rescind the committee’s prior vote taken on January 8, 2020 to recommend no action be taken on what has been presented to the committee regarding the percentages necessary to place a citizen-initiative Charter amendment on the ballot.

Future Action Plan

Member Miller questioned whether the committee should examine potential issues with the citizen initiative process beyond the 180-day time period. Discussion ensued regarding all aspects of the citizen initiative process provided in the Charter. The committee questioned the BCC’s role in the citizen initiative process.

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