

CHARTER AMENDMENT QUESTIONS

1. **Moving the Town Elections to Coincide with County-Wide Elections**

The Town Charter currently provides for Town elections to be held in March rather than November, separate from county-wide elections. It is proposed that the Charter be amended to move the Town elections from March to November to coincide with county-wide elections, and that Town elections be tied to any future date changes to the county-wide elections.

Shall the above-described Charter Amendment be adopted?

Yes

No

2. **Candidate Qualifying and Replacing Candidates**

The Town Charter does not provide for qualifying candidates for a November election rather than January, nor allow qualifying to change when Town elections are changed, nor filling a candidate vacancy. It is proposed that the Charter be amended to tie qualifying to the proposed new election in November and future election dates and provide for filling a candidate vacancy.

Shall the above-described Charter Amendment be adopted?

Yes

No

3. **Charter Update**

It is proposed that the Charter be amended to 1) remove outdated and unnecessary transitional provisions and 2) reflect non-substantive stylistic and technical changes, along with any amendments needed for conformity, implementation and consistency of Charter amendments.

Shall the above-described Charter Amendment be adopted?

Yes

No

4. **Emergency Ordinances**

The Town Charter currently provides for the automatic repeal of emergency ordinances as of the 61st day following its effective date. It is proposed that the Charter be amended to allow for the automatic repeal of emergency ordinances as of the 91st day instead.

Shall the above-described Charter Amendment be adopted?

Yes

No

5. Town Debt Limits and Voter Approval

The Town Charter currently prohibits the Town from exceeding the Charter-mandated debt limit, and the Town may only levy taxes or appropriate funds by ordinance. It is proposed that the Charter be amended to 1) allow the Town to exceed the debt limit with the electorate's majority vote and 2) allow the Council by resolution to place general obligation bond issues on the ballot for voter approval.

Shall the above-described Charter Amendment be adopted?

Yes

No

6. Duty of Elected Officials and Term Limits

The Town Charter currently does not stipulate that Council Members represent the entire Town, and limits terms of the Mayor, Vice-Mayor, and Council Members holding a single office to eight years, and cumulatively in multiple offices to twelve years. It is proposed that the Charter be amended to require all Council Members to represent the entire Town, and extend the term limits to twelve and sixteen years respectively.

Shall the above-described Charter Amendment be adopted?

Yes

No

7. Town Council Member Forfeiture of Office and Filling of Vacancies

The Town Charter allows Council Members to miss six consecutive months of meetings before forfeiting office, a majority of Council Members make final forfeiture determination, and Council vacancies may be filled only at regular

meetings. It is proposed 1) to reduce allowable absences to four, 2) that a minimum of three Council Members make final determination and 3) vacancies may be filled by special meeting within 30 days.

Shall the above-described Charter Amendment be adopted?

Yes

No

8. Compensation of Elected Officials

The Town Charter currently allows for compensation for Council Members/Vice-Mayor of \$500 monthly, and for the Mayor of \$1000 monthly, and these salaries increase with the Consumer Price Index (CPI). It is proposed that 1) salaries per month be increased by \$500 and \$1000 respectively for the Council Members/Vice-Mayor and the Mayor beginning in 2012 and 2) that all compensation for elected officials be tied to the CPI.

Shall the above-described Charter Amendment be adopted?

Yes

No

9. Timeframe for Calculating Required Signatures for Recall Elections

The Town Charter currently utilizes the number of citizens registered to vote in the last election as a means of calculating the number of signatures required to place a recall initiative on the ballot. It is proposed that the signatures required instead be calculated based on the number of electors certified to vote by the County Supervisor of Elections on the date the initial recall affidavit is filed.

Shall the above-described Charter Amendment be adopted?

Yes

No

10. Autonomy of Town Clerk's Office

The Town Charter currently provides for the Town Clerk to report directly to the Town Council. The Charter is silent as to who has responsibility for other personnel in the Clerk's office. It is proposed that the Charter be clarified to give the Clerk responsibility for all personnel within his or her office.

Shall the above-described Charter Amendment be adopted?

Yes

No

11. Restrictions on Town Board Appointments

The Town Charter places no restrictions on Town Council appointments to Town Boards, Agencies, and/or Committees. It is proposed that 1) all prospective appointments by the Council be made from among citizens of the Town at-large, and not specific residential districts except where otherwise required by the Charter and 2) that no citizen may serve on more than two of these entities simultaneously.

Shall the above-described Charter Amendment be adopted?

Yes

No

12. Revision of Requirements for Waiver of Competitive Bidding

The Town Charter currently allows for the Town Council to waive competitive bidding by an affirmative vote of four Council Members. It is proposed that the Council may waive competitive bidding by an affirmative vote of a majority plus one of the Council Members present at the meeting.

Shall the above-described Charter Amendment be adopted?

Yes

No

13. Inclusion of ‘Green’ Technology Requirements

The Town Charter currently requires the Town Council and Town Manager to create an Information Technology (IT) department to make government more effective and efficient. It is proposed that this requirement be expanded to require additional use of technology to make Town government more accessible and transparent, reduce use of paper and the Town’s carbon footprint, and otherwise use technology to save the Town energy and space.

Shall the above-described Charter Amendment be adopted?

Yes

No

14. Permitting a More Stringent Sexual Predator Ordinance

The Town Charter currently requires that the Town Council adopt an ordinance on Sexual Predators consistent with the Miami-Dade County ordinance on Sexual Predators. It is proposed that the Council be permitted to also pass an ordinance on Sexual Predators more stringent than the County ordinance, and in the alternative continue to be governed by the Miami-Dade County ordinance.

Shall the above-described Charter Amendment be adopted?

Yes

No

15. Enhancing Requirements for Ethical Behavior

The Town Charter restricts Council Members from doing business with the Town, and they are barred from holding compensated Town positions for a year after serving. It is proposed that 1) the restrictions on doing business expand to include the Town Manager; Town Attorney; Town Clerk; Department Directors; Town Staff; and procurement selection committee members and 2) bar Council Members from compensated positions for two years after serving.

Shall the above-described Charter Amendment be adopted?

Yes

No

16. Reform of Process for Approval of Town Budget

The Town Charter currently requires the Town budget be approved by ordinance, and the budget must be approved by September 30th. It is proposed that 1) the budget be adopted by resolution as provided by statute and amended by resolution after public hearing and 2) the time for budget approval, public notice of the budget and the budget advertising requirements be the same as required under Florida law.

Shall the above-described Charter Amendment be adopted?

Yes

No

17. Revision of Process for Approval of General Obligation Bond Issues

The Town Charter currently requires that general obligation bond issues be approved by ordinance. It is proposed that a general obligation bond requiring approval of the voters may be placed on the ballot via resolution.

Shall the above-described Charter Amendment be adopted?

Yes

No

18. Time Frames for Run-Offs and Termination of Terms of Office

The Town Charter provides no time frames for run-off elections, and elected officials' terms end on Election Day the year their terms expire. It is proposed that run-off elections be held 1) if possible, with county or state elections, 2) no less than 14 nor more than 35 days following the necessitating election and 3) that terms of elected officials end at the commencement of their successors' terms.

Shall the above-described Charter Amendment be adopted?

Yes

No

19. Composition of Charter Revision Commission

The Town Charter currently allows the Mayor, Vice-Mayor, and Town Council to appoint a person to the Charter Revision Commission, so long as there is at least one person from each of the three Residential Areas among the five Charter Revision Commission members. It is proposed that each Council Member representing a district be required to appoint a person from his or her Council district.

Shall the above-described Charter Amendment be adopted?

Yes

No