

# **CHARTER REVIEW BOARD**

## **Issues Received from Public during Public Comment**

### **Charter Issues from Citizen Testimony**

1. Consider making Hillsborough County a super county like Miami-Dade and Jacksonville-Duval.
2. County Commissioners should be considered full-time employees.
3. Consider the possibility of Hillsborough County (School Board, Sheriff, etc.) consolidating health care programs offered to all employees.
4. Consider consolidation of government to eliminate duplication of functions (Example - Police protection).
5. Commissioners should be considered employees and fired if convicted of a crime either civil or criminal and they must pay full fines and court costs.
6. County bus service should be consolidated with the Public Transportation Commission and PSTA and other neighboring counties.
7. Community should be given opportunity to have a Camelot Community Charter. This would empower community to zone, develop, and grow according to their own plan.
8. Commissioners should not be able to run for a County Commission seat while they are a Commissioner in another District. Need real term limits.
9. Section 4.06 Reapportionment, when discussing publicizing the change the wording should include electronic media, which includes Public Service Announcements.
10. County Internal Performance Auditor
11. Review unnecessary demands placed on candidates trying to get on ballot by petitioning. If you don't reach required number you have to pay entire filing fee no matter how many petitions you have completed.
12. Ensure that every item brought before BOCC is legal.

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13. Ensure that checks and balances and separation of powers are maintained between the legislative and executive branches of county government.
14. Recommend that we conduct a comprehensive study of Elected County Mayor issue.
15. Consider nonpartisan elections for County Commissioners.
16. County Attorney's reporting structure.
17. Governor should not be able to select replacement Commissioner when a Commissioner resigns with less than 24 months remaining in term.
18. Property owners' delinquent on property taxes should not be able to receive special zoning privileges.
19. Expansion of County Commission to nine members
20. Raise surety bond amount required on County Commissioners.
21. County Administrator should also be required to have a surety bond.
22. Place in Charter that Commissioners have the ability to lower their salaries.
23. Commissioners should be required to complete evaluations of employees who directly report to them.
24. Look at representation for those in unincorporated Hillsborough County
25. Require forming a Hillsborough County Efficiency Board and have the Internal Performance Auditor report to this board.
26. Remove veto language
27. Term limits for BOCC
28. Better direction to the BOCC on the IPA
29. Term limits – real term limits. We are seeing and suffering from the pitfalls of 18 year commissioners. Most who I have spoken with 8 years and out. No more doing 8 years as a district specific Commissioner then another 8

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years as a County-wide or vice versa. No jumping from one seat to another on the BOCC before your current obligations/term has been fully met and completed.

30. Commission seats should be non-partisan. I will be providing input on this issue in August.
31. Establish and Create a Code of Ethics that each commissioner must sign at the swearing in. This is different than the oath of office and would clearly provide notice to those entering office that these are the expectations.
32. Make EPC and Planning Commission truly independent. As long as the funding and budget are controlled by BOCC and/or the County Administrator, they cannot be totally independent. It may be possible to separate out these agencies to be funded via ad valorem taxes such as Children's Board. It would not be an additional tax but rather a lowering of the millage rate in for the County's portion of ad valorem taxes and placing the millage under the respective agency. It would be a break even initially in order to make the shift.
33. Require, by way of the Charter, that BOCC MUST provide written annual performance evaluations on each of their direct reports in addition to their meetings with the individual being evaluated. Today Commissioners can "opt-out" of their duty to provide a written evaluation. Not doing so is an abrogation of their duties.
34. Remove the County Attorney from directly reporting to BOCC. Here again, we can use the example of the City of Tampa. City Attorney reports to Mayor but the City Attorney assigns attorney to the City Council to provide counsel as necessary.
35. IPA. We support the office of the IPA provided it is properly set up. Mr. Tarr presented some ways this could be done and we should be cautious about throwing out the baby with the bathwater. Careful, deliberate and thorough discussions should occur before rushing into a decision.
36. Increase the number of Commissioners. The newly created seats should be district specific vs. county-wide. However, we are not supportive of creating districts so that a certain a group will be guaranteed a position on the dais – except where required by law. We believe this is backward thinking and the unintended consequences could be great to the taxpayers/voters of this County.

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37. Single member districts vs. at-large seats. I have received a lot of comments regarding single member districts. There is strong interest in seeing all seats being single member districts. There should certainly be some healthy discussion relating to this topic.
38. As you can see, some of our thoughts have already been discussed – others have not however, the dialogue is healthy and important for viewers watching from the Board room and/or from home. There is no doubt we are a county needing some changes in our structure. More importantly, no one should restrict or marginalize individuals and/or groups that wish to be heard solely based on a personal assumption of their position. Being perceived as radical, moderate or otherwise should not be an issue - provide everyone speaks and directs the comments and issues in a respectful manner we cannot lose and may actually learn something. How would we otherwise fully educate ourselves on the issues of concern from the people?
39. We have a great opportunity for change versus status quo and I look forward to coming before you in the near future. Thank you for your service to the citizens of Hillsborough County.
40. No single member districts or expansion of the number of seats on the BOCC.
41. Maintain the IPA

### **Issues Received from Charter Review Board Members**

Platt: Delete Veto language; delete Internal Performance Auditor; term limits; Orange County type Mayor except non-partisan.

Tokley: Amend Sec. 9.11, Discrimination Prohibited, adding “sexual orientation” after sex and change the term, “physical handicap” to “physical challenges”.