

# Views

## THE TAMPA TRIBUNE and The Tampa Times

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### Your Views

#### Insulting choice

I read with great dismay and disappointment that the Hillsborough County Commission appointed a permanent county administrator who lacks the proper educational credentials specified in the county charter — “full-time officer who holds a master’s degree in public administration, management or related field”

The original intent of this charter provision was to ensure that a professionally trained administrator, not a political crony, would be at the administrative helm. The commission either did not think this through or simply wanted to expedite the decision and perhaps save money by not conducting a national search.

The message sent by the commission, however, is a dire one for the future. Men and women who aspire to the top management in Hillsborough County can claim a master’s degree in any field of their choosing, including religious studies. How shortsighted and insulting to the county charter and citizens.

**DON MENZEL**  
TAMPA

The writer is the former director of the University of South Florida MPA Program and past president of the American Society for Public Administration.

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# TAMPA BAY



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## Group: Let voters know financial impact of ballot issues

Residents lobby the county Charter Review Board for the requirement.

BY BILL VARIAN  
*Times Staff Writer*

TAMPA — Residents who fought a proposed transit tax in Hillsborough County are pressing for financial impact statements on future local ballot issues.

The residents, many of them attached to the Tampa 9/12 Project spawned by radio and television host Glenn Beck, spent two weeks lobbying the county Charter Review Board for the requirement.

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similar for amendments to the Florida Constitution. The Charter Review Board agreed on Monday evening to hold a hearing on the proposal in January.

Its members asked the county attorney's office to draft possible ballot language, though they haven't discussed who would calculate such projections. The Charter Review Board has the power to place such questions on the ballot to let Hillsborough voters decide whether they support the idea.

Board members declined to pursue another proposal from the same group of residents that would have asked voters whether they support raising the threshold for passing charter amendments to 60 percent, from a simple majority.

The state has a similar requirement for constitutional amendments.



**January**



**FRANK  
REDDICK**



**JOE  
ROBINSON**



**JAMES  
TOKLEY**



**GERALD  
WHITE**

Four African Americans, **Frank Reddick, Joe Robinson, James Tokley, and Gerald White**, were named to the Hillsborough County Charter Review Board.