

## Voters to consider county redistricting question in November

BY BILL VARIAN  
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TAMPA — Hillsborough County voters will have another ballot question to consider in November, thanks to a vote Thursday from the Charter Review Board.

□ If it is approved by voters, county commissioners no longer would be permitted to modify the boundaries of their political districts after a public hearing. They

would have to hold another advertised public hearing before the changes could be made.

Commissioners modify the district boundaries for the four of seven board seats that represent specific regions every 10 years, following the release of census figures. The other three commissioners are elected countywide.

The charter currently gives commissioners 120 days after cen-

sus figures are released to approve one of multiple redistricting options prepared by the county staff. Following the 2000 census, commissioners could not agree on one of the final two maps with the deadline looming.

So then, Commissioner Pat Frank offered her own solution, which won approval. It dramatically differed from proposals that had previously been advertised

to the public. This change would enable commissioners to extend the deadline for final approval in order to hold another public hearing if substantial changes are made to proposals that had previously been advertised.

"It's a major reform, and it will bring credibility to the reappointment process," said Charter Review Board member Jan Platt, a former county commissioner.

Submitted by Gerald White  
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