



# Leon County Charter FAST FACTS

**50%, plus 1, of those who vote must cast a vote in favor of Charter Government for it to pass and become effective in Leon County on January 1, 2003.**

## LEON COUNTY WITH CHARTER

## LEON COUNTY WITHOUT CHARTER

### LOCAL AUTHORITY

- The charter is a “local constitution.”
- It defines structure, powers and functions of Leon County.
- Focus is on local community issues.
- Special laws of the Legislature affecting Leon County are subject to local approval by referendum.

- The County is only authorized to exercise the powers of self government prescribed in the Florida Constitution and state laws.
- Leon is treated like all other non-charter counties.
- Special laws of the Legislature affecting Leon County are in effect upon becoming state law.

### CITIZEN POWERS

- **Initiative**—citizens can petition to call for a referendum to consider charter revisions or petition to bring an ordinance before the Board of County Commissioners for an official vote.
- **Charter Review**—citizens can review and make periodic recommendations for charter revisions.
- **Recall**—citizens can remove a County Commissioner from office for official misconduct.

- No similar powers exist.

### TAXES

- Revenue sources can be diversified through a public services tax on utilities for the unincorporated areas of Leon County.

- The financial burden of providing services in the outlying areas of the county currently falls on property owners.

### ACCOUNTABILITY

- The Clerk of the Circuit Court serves as auditor for the Board of County Commissioners.
- The proposed charter provides for an Audit Committee that oversees the work of the Clerk to promote and maintain objectivity in the performance of this internal audit function for the county.

- The Clerk of the Circuit Court serves as auditor for the Board of County Commissioners.

### COUNTY GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

- Local community preferences can be reflected in the proposed charter.
- Constitutional Officers\* maintain their elected status as outlined in the Florida Constitution.
- The Supervisor of Elections is non-partisan.

- County government structure is specified in the Florida Constitution and state laws.
- Constitutional Officers\* maintain their elected status as outlined in the Florida Constitution.
- The Supervisor of Elections is partisan.

### CHARTER VS. CONSOLIDATION

- The proposed Leon County Charter in no way affects County-City consolidation.

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\*Constitutional Officers include the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Property Appraiser, Sheriff, Supervisor of Elections and Tax Collector.