

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA
Workshop
Hometown Democracy
Constitutional Amendment**

The Board of County Commissioners met for a Workshop on the proposed Hometown Democracy Constitutional Amendment on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 with Chairman Desloge presiding. The Workshop was called to order at 12:05 p.m.

Present were Commissioners Sauls, Thael, Rackleff, Proctor and Dailey (Commissioner Akinyemi absent). Also present were County Administrator Parwez Alam, County Attorney Herb Thiele and Board Secretary Rebecca Vause.

Facilitators: Vince Long, Deputy District Administrator
Wayne Tedder, Planning Department Director
Fred Goodrow, Chief of Comprehensive Planning

Mr. Long explained that the Workshop is being held to provide the Board with information and to receive direction on whether to initiate any actions to prepare for the potential adoption of the Hometown Democracy Constitutional Amendment (Amendment 4). The initiative will appear on the November 2010 ballot and proposes to require voter approval for all changes to the local comprehensive plan. He advised that a new State law passed in 2009 prohibits local governments from advocating a position on any measure that is subject to vote by the electorate.

Mr. Goodrow provided a power point presentation which summarized 1) the proposed amendment, 2) possible consequences, 3) referendum costs, and 4) strategies.

Commissioner Thael stated that he supported a program to educate the public of its new role, should the amendment be adopted. He opined that the information presented was a bit "one sided" and that there was no provisions for the benefits of the amendment. Commissioner Thael indicated that he did not favor the Board taking any action until the decision is voted on by the voters. He added that Leon County has done a good with its Comprehensive Plan and that efforts have been made to approve and allow for sustainable development.

Commissioner Thael moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Rackleff, to approve Option 3: Direct staff to take no further action until Amendment 4 is decided.

Chairman Desloge stated that he thought it prudent as a County and a government to have these conversations now. He announced that the Workshop was designed to dialogue with staff and that no public input would be taken at this time.

Commissioner Rackleff indicated his support for the motion. He noted that the current Comprehensive Plan provides for huge growth in the County and this amendment would require governments and developers to be more disciplined.

Commissioner Sauls requested a copy of the power point presentation and asked that Supervisor of Elections Ion Sancho be asked to address the Board.

Mr. Sancho provided information to the Board on potential costs associated with hold referendums. He indicated that a stand-alone election in Leon County would cost approximately \$441,250 (mail ballot) or \$528,650 (precinct-based) and noted that these costs would apply per election.

There continued to be Board discussion.

Commissioner Proctor inquired about the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) position and action on this matter. Mr. Long indicated that the issue would be addressed at the FAC Legislative Conference in December.

The motion to accept Option 3 carried 6-0 (Commissioner Akinyemi absent).

The Workshop was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

ATTEST:

BY: _____
Bob Rackleff, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

BY: _____
Bob Inzer, Clerk of the Court
Leon County, Florida