

**Citizen Charter Review Committee
December 4, 2025
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Leon County Main Library
Programming Room**

The Leon County 2025-2026 Citizen Charter Review Committee (CCRC) met on December 4, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. in the Leon County Main Library with Committee members Mary Ann Lindley, Chauncy Haynes, Darryl Jones, Linda Bond Edwards, Henry Lewis, III, Bruce Strouble, Jr., Howard Kessler, Ryan Ray, Liz Ellis, Joey Davis, Anita Favors, Barry Wilcox, Katrina Tuggerson, Max Herrle, Shamarial Roberson, Heidi Otway, William Smith, Temple Robinson and Jarrett Terry in attendance. Also present were County Administrator Vincent Long, Assistant County Administrator Ken Morris, County Attorney Chasity O'Steen, Assistant to the County Administrator for Legislative and Strategic Initiatives Nicki Hatch, Management Analyst Cameron Williams, and Clerks to the Board, Beryl Wood and Daniel J. Antonaccio.

Absent Members: Slaton Murray and Sean Pittman.

Call to Order and Opening Mary Ann Lindley, Chair

Chair Lindley called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. She provided a brief overview of the agenda.

Consent:

Ryan Ray moved, seconded by Bruce Strouble, Jr., to approve the consent agenda as presented.

The motion carried 17 – 0 with Committee Members Slaton Murray, Joey Davis, Heidi Otway and Sean Pittman not present.

*Approval of November 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Receipt & File of Written Public Comments*

Public Comment:

- Melody Williams, 3349 Argonaut Drive, addressed the CCRC to express her support for a charter amendment related to food security, emphasizing the importance of ensuring access to nutritious food as a core component of a healthy Leon County. She also spoke in favor of a charter amendment related to restoration of historically harmed communities.
- *Joey Davis and Heidi Otway arrived at this juncture of the meeting.*

General Business:

Committee Discussion on Proposed Charter Amendments

Nicki Hatch provided a recap of the two-step process to introduce charter amendment proposals. Members first presented broad concepts to be added to the list of proposals. Once listed, proposing members had the opportunity to briefly explain their proposal and answer any questions before the committee vote on whether to have staff bring back additional analysis on the proposal.

Chair Lindley welcomed members to offer additional charter amendment proposals to be added to the list for consideration by the Committee.

The list of proposals previously raised during the CCRC's 2025 meetings include:

1. Establishment of an Office of Inspector General, Proposed by Howard Kessler.
 - a. *Advanced for analysis at the November 20, 2025 meeting.*
2. Voting Threshold to Select or Terminate the County Administrator, Proposed by Max Herrle.
 - a. *Not advanced for analysis at the November 20, 2025 meeting.*
3. County Commission Compensation, Proposed by Max Herrle.
 - a. *Not advanced for analysis at the December 4, 2025 meeting (as detailed below).*
4. Funding Mechanism for Affordable Housing, Proposed by Max Herrle.
 - a. *Advanced for analysis at the December 4, 2025 meeting (as detailed below).*
5. Funding Mechanism for Fire Services, Proposed by Max Herrle.
 - a. *Not advanced for analysis at the December 4, 2025 meeting (as detailed below).*
6. Leon County Bill of Rights, Proposed by Max Herrle.
 - a. *Advanced for analysis at the December 4, 2025 meeting (as detailed below).*
7. Prioritization of Food Security, Proposed by Bruce Strouble, Jr.
 - a. *Advanced for analysis at the December 4, 2025 meeting (as detailed below).*

The following proposals were added to the list for CCRC consideration during the meeting:

8. Community Restoration for Historic Harm, Proposed by Bruce Strouble, Jr.
 - a. *Advanced for analysis at the December 4, 2025 meeting (as detailed below).*
9. County/City Consolidation, Proposed by Henry Lewis, III.
 - a. *Advanced for analysis at the December 4, 2025 meeting (as detailed below).*
10. Funding Mechanism to Expand Primary Healthcare Access to Low-Income Residents, Proposed by Temple Robinson.
 - a. *Advanced for analysis at the December 4, 2025 meeting (as detailed below).*

The following proposals were explained for CCRC consideration:

3.) County Commission Compensation

Max Herrle asked to have information brought back on the rationale behind the current charter provisions related to county commission compensation.

Vice Chairman Chauncy Haynes provided that county and city commissioner salaries are set annually by the Florida Office of Economic and Demographic Research.

Max Herrle moved for an agenda item to be brought back on information related to county commission compensation.

The motion failed for lack of a second.

Max Herrle moved, seconded by Anita Favors, to table Max Herrle's other proposals and move to the prioritization of food security proposal.

The motion carried 19 – 0 with Committee Members Slaton Murray and Sean Pittman not present.

7.) Prioritization of Food Security

Bruce Strouble, Jr., proposed establishing food access as a county responsibility through a potential charter amendment and provided a handout to the Committee of his proposal in more detail.

County Administrator Vincent Long stated that any item brought back, as requested by the Committee, would include all information requested along with structural options related to the topic.

Bruce Strouble moved, seconded by Darryl Jones, to request an item to be brought back with information on inclusion of food security in the Leon County Charter.

The motion carried 19 – 0 with Committee Members Slaton Murray and Sean Pittman not present.

9.) County/City Consolidation

Henry Lewis, III, introduced a proposed charter amendment for consolidation of local governance. He stated that this would be an opportune time to identify if it is financially and administratively feasible to consolidate the two local governments in the County. He recognized that staff is currently working on providing information regarding consolidation to the Board of County Commissioners.

Henry Lewis, III, moved, seconded by Temple Robinson, to have the report on consolidation prepared for the Board of County Commissioners to be presented to the Committee for review.

The motion carried 17 – 2 with Committee Members Max Herrle and Ryan Ray in opposition. Committee Members Slaton Murray and Sean Pittman were not present.

6.) Leon County Bill of Rights

Max Herrle proposed establishing a Leon County Bill of Rights similar to Miami-Dade County's charter provisions. He noted that he would like to see what other counties have a bill of rights in their charter and what they might include.

Darryl Jones stated the concept would codify community values regarding government transparency, public participation, and citizen protections.

County Attorney O'Steen provided an explanation of the legal process and implications associated with adopting such a provision.

Joey Davis noted that these sorts of provisions are generally meant to fill gaps in existing regulations.

Max Herrle moved, seconded by Darryl Jones, for information to be brought back on bill of rights established in other county charters in Florida.

The motion carried 12 – 7 with Committee Members Linda Bond Edwards, Liz Ellis, Henry Lewis, III, Ryan Ray, Shamarial Roberson, William Smith, and Chair Mary Ann Lindley in opposition. Committee Members Slaton Murray and Sean Pittman were not present.

8.) Community Restoration for Historic Harm

Bruce Strouble, Jr., introduced a proposed charter amendment aimed at addressing historic inequities in housing, environmental exposure, and neighborhood investment. The initiative would build on the Board of County Commissioners' February 2024 apology for harmful policies made in the past and would establish structural authority for programs to mitigate documented historic harms. He also provided a handout to be electronically distributed to the CCRC regarding the topic.

Heidi Otway asked for specific examples of historic harms that the proposal seeks to address.

Bruce Strouble, Jr., referenced urban renewal efforts, including the displacement of residents from Smokey Hollow. He noted that the intent is to identify what harm has been done, what the causes of those harms were, and what can be done to mitigate the issues.

Katina Tuggerson asked whether the proposal could also be adapted to address harms experienced by displaced businesses.

Bruce Strouble moved, seconded by Temple Robinson, for analysis on a proposed charter amendment to build on the Board of County Commissioners' February 2024 apology for harmful policies and establish structural authority for programs to mitigate documented historic harms.

The motion carried 19 – 0 with Committee Members Slaton Murray and Sean Pittman not present.

4.) Funding Mechanism for Affordable Housing

Max Herrle requested analysis on funding options for affordable housing, exploring various tools available to the County.

Temple Robinson asked if this would be a topic that should be handled by the CCRC or by the Board of County Commissioners.

County Administrator Vincent Long clarified that the analysis would include information on what the County currently provides and if there are additional avenues that can be pursued through the Charter to do more.

Max Herrle moved, seconded by Darryl Jones, for an item to be brought back providing information on funding mechanisms for affordable housing.

The motion carried to 19 – 0 with Committee Members Slaton Murray and Sean Pittman not present.

12.) Funding Mechanism to Expand Primary Healthcare Access to Low-Income Residents

Temple Robinson introduced expanding access to primary care services for low-income residents.

Shamarial Roberson explained that the State is awaiting a decision by December 30 on more than \$50 million in rural health funding to support workforce development and expanded access to care, with funds expected to arrive in the spring.

Temple Robinson moved, seconded by Henry Lewis, III, for an item exploring funding mechanisms to expand access to primary healthcare services for low-income residents.

The motion carried 19 – 0 with Committee Members Slaton Murray and Sean Pittman not present.

5.) Funding Mechanism for Fire Services

Max Herrle proposed examining alternative funding mechanisms for fire services amid current city-county disagreements over fire services assessments.

County Administrator Long provided an overview on fire services and noted that this is actively being examined by staff.

Henry Lewis, III, recalled challenges in the 1980s when the City and County were unable to reach agreement on fire services and highlighted how a resolution was ultimately achieved.

Joey Davis recommended tailoring the proposal to focus on a specific area of need.

Max Herrle confirmed that the intent is to examine a fire services district.

County Administrator Long added that establishing such a district may require legislative approval.

Howard Kessler asked for clarification on what the CCRC could include as a charter amendment, listing an example of potentially setting millage rates through the Charter.

County Administrator Long clarified certain budgetary limitations that exist, but noted that it is very context specific and would be addressed further in items brought back.

Max Herrle moved, seconded by Joey Davis, to table the proposal for a charter amendment related to funding mechanism for fire services.

The motion carried 19 – 0 with Committee Members Slaton Murray and Sean Pittman not present.

Agenda Item #1: Status Report on Annexation Procedures and Processes

County Attorney O'Steen introduced this item which provides information and analysis on annexation processes and procedures, as requested by the Committee at the November 20, 2025, meeting.

Max Herrle asked for an explanation on the difference between voluntary and involuntary annexation.

County Attorney O'Steen explain that a voluntary annexation occurs when property owners petition a municipality to be annexed, triggering county review and an opportunity to object, while an involuntary annexation is initiated by the municipality without a request from the affected property owners.

Ryan Ray moved, seconded by Henry Lewis, III, for Option #1: Accept status report and take no further action.

The motion carried 19 – 0 with Committee Members Slaton Murray and Sean Pittman not present.

Agenda Item #2: Additional Information Regarding Separate Jurisdictional Standards for Street Renaming

County Administrator Long introduced this item. He stated as requested at its November 20, 2025 meeting, this item provides additional information to unify the street renaming process outside of a charter amendment.

Ryan Ray moved, seconded by William Smith, for Option #1: Accept report and table this issue.

The motion carried 18 – 1 with Vice Chairman Chauncy Haynes in opposition. Committee Members Slaton Murray and Sean Pittman were not present.

Anita Favors recommended that the City and County Commissions work collaboratively to establish greater uniformity in street renaming practices, with input from law enforcement, fire, and emergency services.

Anita Favors moved, seconded by Ryan Ray, to provide a policy recommendation to the County and City Commissions encouraging the two entities to consider alignment of street renaming policies to prevent public safety and emergency services-related issues due to lack of uniformity among street names.

The motion carried 19 – 0 with Committee Members Slaton Murray and Sean Pittman not present.

A draft policy recommendation will be brought back to the Committee for consideration in February.

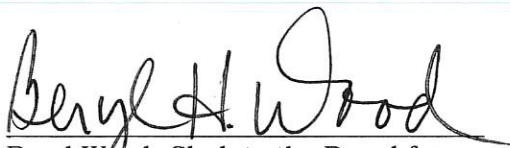
Motion to adjourn:

Ryan Ray moved, seconded by Joey Davis, to adjourn the meeting.

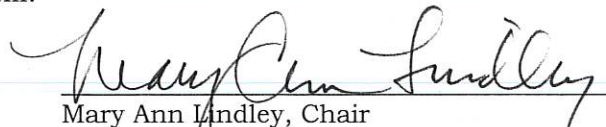
The motion carried 19 – 0 with Committee Members Slaton Murray and Sean Pittman not present.

Chair Lindley adjourned the meeting at 1:18 p.m.

ATTEST:



Beryl Wood, Clerk to the Board for
Gwen Marshall Knight, Clerk of Court



Mary Ann Lindley, Chair
Leon County Citizen Charter Review
Committee