

Citizen Charter Review Committee

July 30, 2026

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Leon County Main Library

Programming Room

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

Call to Order and Opening

Mary Ann Lindley,
Chair

Consent

- Approval of July 16, 2026 Meeting Minutes
- Receipt & File of Written Public Comments

Public Comment

Public Hearing

- Agenda Item #1: Third and Final Public Hearing to Consider the Proposed Charter Amendment Language to Provide for Community Impact Assessments

*The subsequent public hearing of the Board of County Commissioners
will take place on Monday, August 17, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.
upon approval by the Committee.*

**LEON COUNTY CITIZEN CHARTER REVIEW
COMMITTEE**

APPROVAL OF JULY 16, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

**Citizen Charter Review Committee
Public Hearing
July 16, 2026
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Leon County Main Library
Programming Room**

The Leon County 2025-2026 Citizen Charter Review Committee (CCRC) met on July 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., in the Leon County Main Library with Committee Members Mary Ann Lindley, Joey Davis, Anita Favors, Max Herrle, Howard Kessler, Henry Lewis, III, Sean Pittman, Ryan Ray, Bruce Strouble, Jr., Jarrett Terry, and Barry Wilcox in attendance. Also present were 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: Chauncy Haynes, Linda Bond Edwards, Liz Ellis, Darryl Jones, Slaton Murray, Heidi Otway, Shamarial Roberson, Temple Robinson, William Smith, and Katrina Tuggerson.

Call to Order and Opening Mary Ann Lindley, Chair

Chair Lindley called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Consent:

Ryan Ray moved, seconded by Howard Kessler, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

The motion carried 11 – 0 with Vice Chairman Chauncy Haynes, Linda Bond Edwards, Liz Ellis, Darryl Jones, Slaton Murray, Heidi Otway, Shamarial Roberson, Temple Robinson, William Smith, and Katrina Tuggerson not present.

Approval of June 30, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Receipt & File of Written Public Comments

Public Comment:

- Katherine Kurzweil, a Florida State University (FSU) student residing in Tallahassee, expressed support for the proposed amendment related to historic harms. She cited disparities in transportation and infrastructure between FSU and lower-income communities, including Frenchtown. She also discussed the displacement and environmental contamination of the historic Smokey Hollow community, encouraging the County to examine similar harms, prevent their recurrence, and consider remedies for affected families and their descendants.
- Thomas Speirs, 123 Locke Street, discussed the history of the Smokey Hollow community and expressed support for the proposed amendment related to historic harms.

Public Hearing:

Agenda Item #1: Second of Three Public Hearings to Consider the Proposed Charter Amendment Language to Provide for Community Impact Assessments

Nicki Hatch introduced the proposed Charter Amendment addressing adverse community conditions resulting from historic County laws, policies, and practices. She explained that the amendment would require periodic community impact assessments, publicly available findings, and the Board of County Commissioners' public review and consideration of each assessment. The proposed Charter Amendment would also require the adoption of an implementing ordinance

by April 1, 2027, to establish operational procedures, including geographically based assessment criteria, while allowing flexibility to address changing community needs and legal requirements.

Mrs. Hatch clarified that the proposed Charter Amendment language remained subject to revision during the Committee's three public hearings. She noted that County staff proposed minor revisions following legal review to improve clarity and consistency. These revisions included using the term "periodic" consistently throughout the draft and replacing "or" with "and" when referring to County laws, policies, and practices.

She noted that the Committee had previously approved the proposed ballot title and language, clarifying that the Committee will have the opportunity to further refine the proposed Charter Amendment, as well as the ballot title and ballot language, at its third and final public hearing on July 30. Upon approval by the Committee, the proposed amendment would then proceed to the Board for consideration at a public hearing in August 2026.

Jarrett Terry questioned whether the terms "periodic" and "recurring" had different meanings and asked whether "recurring" should also be replaced in the ballot language for consistency.

County Attorney Chasity O'Steen recommended using the term "periodic" consistently throughout both the proposed Charter Amendment and ballot language.

Mrs. Hatch reminded the Committee that they will have the opportunity to further refine the ballot language for such changes at its third and final public hearing on July 30th.

Max Herrle reminded the Committee that July 30th would be the final opportunity to amend the proposed language and that the Board could not make changes during the August 2026 public hearing. He encouraged members to share the full language with their appointing Commissioners before the Committee's final public hearing so any concerns could be addressed.

Mrs. Hatch reminded the Committee that its third and final public hearing was scheduled for July 30th at the same time and location, and that the Board's subsequent public hearing would be held on August 17, 2026.

Henry Lewis, III, moved, seconded by Jarrett Terry, for approval of Option # 1, as amended: Conduct the second of three public hearings to consider a proposed Charter Amendment to provide for Community Impact Assessments (Attachment # 1), and advance the proposed Charter Amendment for consideration at the Committee's third and final public hearing on July 30, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., with the term "recurring" replaced with "periodic" in recommended ballot language.

The motion carried 11 – 0 with Vice Chairman Chauncy Haynes, Linda Bond Edwards, Liz Ellis, Darryl Jones, Slaton Murray, Heidi Otway, Shamarial Roberson, Temple Robinson, William Smith, and Katrina Tuggerson not present.

Adjournment:

Chair Lindley adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

Mary Ann Lindley, Chair
Leon County Citizen Charter Review Committee

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

**LEON COUNTY CITIZEN CHARTER REVIEW
COMMITTEE**

**RECEIPT AND FILE OF WRITTEN PUBLIC
COMMENTS**

(To be electronically distributed Wednesday before the meeting)

LEON COUNTY CITIZEN CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

NOTES FOR AGENDA ITEM #1

Citizen Charter Review Committee

Agenda Item #1

July 30, 2026

To: 2025-2026 Leon County Citizen Charter Review Committee

From: Vincent S. Long, County Administrator 

Title: Third and Final Public Hearing to Consider the Proposed Charter Amendment Language to Provide for Community Impact Assessments

Review and Approval:	Vincent S. Long, County Administrator
Department / Division Review:	Ken Morris, Assistant County Administrator Shington Lamy, Assistant County Administrator
Lead Staff / Project Team:	Nicki Hatch, Assistant to the County Administrator for Legislative and Strategic Initiatives Cameron Williams, Management Analyst

Summary:

This item seeks to conduct the third and final public hearing on the proposed Charter Amendment to add an article to the Leon County Home Rule Charter. The proposed Charter Amendment would provide for the periodic assessments, public reporting, and the Leon County Board of County Commissioners' review of adverse community conditions in historically underserved and vulnerable populations related to the County's historic laws, policies, and practices.

Staff Recommendation:

Option #1: Conduct the third and final public hearing to consider a proposed Charter Amendment to provide for Community Impact Assessments (Attachment #1), and advance the proposed Charter Amendment for recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners for placement on the 2026 General Election ballot.

Report and Discussion

Background:

At the Citizen Charter Review Committee's (Committee) Special Meeting held on May 28, 2026, the Committee voted 14-3 to advance a proposed Charter Amendment addressing adverse community conditions related to historic public policies and governmental practices to the public hearing process. This item seeks to conduct the third and final public hearing on the proposed Charter Amendment to add an article to the Leon County Home Rule Charter (Attachment #1). The proposed Charter Amendment would provide for periodic assessments, public reporting, and the Leon County Board of County Commissioners' (Board) review of adverse community conditions in historically underserved and vulnerable populations related to the County's historic laws, policies, and practices.

Three public hearings have been scheduled for the Committee's consideration of proposed Charter Amendment language on June 30, July 16, and July 30, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., in the Leon County Main Library Program Room. At the Committee's first public hearing on June 30, 2026, proposed Charter Amendment language was presented as a general starting point based on the Committee's prior direction. At that time, the Committee advanced the proposed Charter Amendment for consideration at its second of three public hearings. At its second public hearing on July 16, 2026, the Committee approved revisions to provide additional consistency and clarity based on the County's legal review of the proposed language.

At its third and final public hearing on July 30, 2026, the proposed Charter Amendment language will be presented to the Committee for final approval to be recommended to the Board for placement on the 2026 General Election ballot. At that time, the Committee will also have the opportunity to further amend the proposed ballot language and title based on the revised Charter Amendment language as further detailed in this item.

Analysis:

If the Board adopts an ordinance to place the proposed Charter Amendment on the ballot, and if approved by a majority of electors voting in November, an article would be added to the Leon County Home Rule Charter (Charter). As reflected in Attachment #1, the proposed Charter Amendment would require Leon County to conduct a periodic assessment of adverse community conditions in historically underserved and vulnerable populations related to the County's historic laws, policies, and practices, subject to appropriation and funding availability. The County would be required to publish the findings of such assessments in a publicly accessible format. The Board would also be required to review the findings of each Community Impact Assessment during a public meeting. Accordingly, the Board would be authorized to consider the findings of Community Impact Assessments when exercising its legislative authority provided by the Charter and in compliance with applicable state and federal law.

The proposed Charter Amendment does not mandate specific policy outcomes, funding allocations, or preferential treatment for any individual or group. The proposed Charter Amendment further provides that nothing in the article shall be construed to authorize any program, policy, or action inconsistent with applicable state or federal constitutional provisions or

statutes, rules, or regulations or applicable court order. The Charter Amendment would require the Board to adopt an Ordinance for implementation no later than April 1, 2027. The Ordinance would set forth additional detail – such as providing definitions for key terms (i.e., “historically underserved” and “vulnerable populations”) and neutral, geographically based criteria for selecting areas for assessment – necessary for implementation of the proposed Amendment if approved for inclusion in the Charter. This implementation approach is consistent with all previous Charter Amendments advanced through the Citizen Charter Review Committee process.

Table #1 provides the draft ballot title and ballot language approved by the Committee at the May 28, 2026, Special Meeting, with proposed revisions underlined for the Committee’s consideration. As reflected below, the draft ballot title and ballot language have been revised to reflect the proposed Charter Amendment language advanced to date.

Table #1: Proposed Ballot Title and Ballot Language

Proposed Ballot Title
Affirmation Of County’s Commitment To Historically Underserved And Vulnerable Populations
Proposed Ballot Language
Shall the Home Rule Charter of Leon County, Florida, be amended to provide for a recurring <u>periodic</u> Community Impact Assessment process, public reporting, and Board of County Commissioners’ review and <u>consideration</u> response regarding adverse community conditions related to <u>the County’s historic laws, policies, and practices</u> historie public policies or governmental practices?

The proposed ballot title and ballot language as revised and reflected in Table #1 would meet the statutorily required word count limit. The ballot title is limited to 15 words, and the ballot language is limited to 75 words. The Committee will have the opportunity to consider further amendments to the proposed ballot title and ballot language at its third and final public hearing.

Next Steps

This item provides the Committee with the opportunity to conduct the third and final required public hearing to receive public input and consider the proposed Charter Amendment.

The Committee may consider and approve further revisions to the proposed Charter Amendment (ballot title, ballot language, and amendment language) during the third and final public hearing. A Committee vote is required at each public hearing to continue advancing the proposed Charter Amendment through the public hearing process.

Following the Committee’s three public hearings, any proposed Charter Amendment recommended by the Committee will be presented to the Board for consideration at a public hearing on August 17, 2026. If approved by the Board, the proposed Charter Amendment would be placed on the November 3, 2026, General Election ballot for consideration by the Leon County electorate. If approved by a majority of electors voting on the referendum, the Charter Amendment would become effective January 1, 2027.

Options:

1. Conduct the third and final public hearing to consider a proposed Charter Amendment to provide for Community Impact Assessments (Attachment #1), and advance the proposed Charter Amendment for recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners for placement on the 2026 General Election ballot.
2. Conduct the third and final public hearing to consider a proposed Charter Amendment to provide for Community Impact Assessments, and do not advance the proposed Charter Amendment for recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners.
3. Committee direction.

Recommendation:

Option #1

Attachment:

1. Draft Charter Amendment to be Titled “Community Impact Assessments”

July 30, 2026

ARTICLE #. COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Sec. X.1. Purpose.

Sec. X.2. Periodic Community Impact Assessment Process.

Sec. X.3. Board of County Commissioners Review and Response.

Sec. X.4. Implementation and Legal Compliance.

Sec. X.1. Purpose.

- (1) The purpose of this article is to provide for the periodic assessments, public reporting, and the Leon County Board of County Commissioners' review of adverse community conditions in historically underserved and vulnerable populations related to the County's historic laws, policies, and practices. This article is intended to inform County decision-making in a manner consistent with applicable state and federal laws.
- (2) By April 1, 2027, the Board of County Commissioners shall adopt an ordinance for implementation of this article, consistent with applicable state and federal laws.

Sec. X.2. Periodic Community Impact Assessment Process.

- (1) Leon County shall conduct a periodic community impact assessment of adverse community conditions within geographic areas of the County related to historic County laws, policies and practices, subject to appropriation and funding availability.
- (2) The County shall publish the findings of such assessments in a publicly accessible format.

Sec. X.3. Board of County Commissioners Review and Response.

- (1) The Board of County Commissioners shall review and consider the findings of each Community Impact Assessment during a public meeting.

Sec. X.4. Implementation and Legal Compliance.

- (1) This article establishes a periodic process for assessment, public reporting, and the Board of County Commissioners' review and does not mandate specific policy outcomes, funding allocations, or preferential treatment for any individual or group.
- (2) Nothing in this article shall be construed to authorize any program, policy, or action inconsistent with applicable state or federal constitutional provisions or statutes, rules, or regulations or any applicable court order.