

**Citizen Charter Review Committee  
November 20, 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 November 20, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. in the Leon County Main Library with Committee members Mary Ann Lindley, Chauncy Haynes, Darryl Jones, Sean Pittman, Linda Bond Edwards, Henry Lewis, III, Bruce Strouble, Jr., Howard Kessler, Ryan Ray, Liz Ellis, Joey Davis, Anita Favors, Barry Wilcox, Katrina Tuggerson, Slaton Murray, Max Herrle, Shamarial Roberson, Heidi Otway, William Smith and Jarrett Terry in attendance. Also present were County Administrator Vince 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 Clerk to the Board, Daniel J. Antonaccio.

Absent Member: Temple Robinson.

**Call to Order and Opening Mary Ann Lindley, Chair**

Chair Lindley called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. She reminded the Committee that the meeting would adjourn promptly at 1:30 p.m.

**Consent:**

*Joey Davis moved, seconded by Vice Chairman Chauncy Haynes, to approve the consent Agenda as presented.*

*The motion passed 19 – 0 with Committee Members Sean Pittman and Temple Robinson not present.*

*2. Approval of November 6, 2025 Meeting Minutes*

*3. Receipt & File of Written Public Comments*

**Public Comment:**

- David West appeared before the CCRC to express support for improving local government through consolidation. He suggested that a potential starting point could be merging the Leon County Sheriff's Office and the Tallahassee Police Department, noting that such consolidation could streamline operations and improve overall efficiency.

**General Business:**

**Board Issue for Committee Consideration - Ken Morris**

*Agenda Item A: Additional Analysis on Leon County Ordinances in Relation to Municipal Ordinances*

Assistant County Administrator Ken Morris introduced the item with a summary of the additional information and analysis requested by the Committee, including examples of existing or potential regulatory conflicts from differing County and City ordinances.

- *Sean Pittman arrived at this juncture of the meeting.*

Chair Lindley outlined the four options presented to the Committee.

Ryan Ray addressed the topic of consolidation, observing that there is significant disagreement among committee members on the issue. He urged the group to proceed cautiously and avoid taking actions that could further erode home rule, which he remarked has already been under threat in recent years.

Ryan Ray moved for approval of Option #1, but it died for lack of second.

County Attorney O'Steen commented that, at their most recent meeting, the Board of County Commissioners directed county staff to prepare an analysis outlining the pros and cons of consolidation. She also noted that any consolidation effort would require action by the Florida Legislature, meaning it is not an issue this committee needs to consider for the 2026 ballot.

Slaton Murray requested clarification on the timeline for implementing an amendment.

Assistant County Administrator Ken Morris responded that the process begins with this committee reviewing the draft charter amendment, making any changes or recommendations, and then reporting it back to the Board of County Commissioners. After that, there will be public hearings in the summer prior to the final language being submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration. Upon Board approval, the proposed charter amendment would be submitted to the Supervisor of Elections for placement on the ballot.

Anita Favors inquired about addressing issues without using a charter amendment.

County Attorney O'Steen responded that both the City and County can address issues without a charter amendment if they so choose.

Sean Pittman mentioned the issue of annexation, and whether the county should have some say in how that works.

County Attorney O'Steen stated that annexation is heavily dictated by state law, but there are some areas of flexibility.

*Sean Pittman moved, seconded by Howard Kessler, to request additional information regarding annexation, including any applicable state preemption, and to examine the statutory processes related to annexation and the flexibility the County has in addressing annexation.*

The motion carried 20 – 0 with Committee Member Temple Robinson not present.

Max Herrle moved, seconded by Joey Davis, to accept the report and have information brought back on solutions outside of the Charter to address the street renaming/addressing issue.

Bruce Strouble, Jr. offered a friendly amendment to invite the City for insight.

Anita Favors questioned how amendments will be presented on the ballot.

County Administrator Long responded that any proposed amendments, as approved by the Board of County Commissioners, will appear individually on the ballot.

*Max Herrle moved, seconded by Joey Davis, for Option #4: Committee Direction to accept the report and have staff bring back information to resolve street renaming/addressing outside of the Charter with a friendly amendment, as introduced by Bruce Strouble, Jr., to invite City to provide insight.*

The motion carried 20 – 0 with Committee Member Temple Robinson not present.



Max Herrle introduced the concept of consolidated law enforcement in the County.

*Max Herrle moved, seconded by Slaton Murray, to have the Leon County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) present information about the potential consolidation of LCSO and the Tallahassee Police Department.*

*The motion failed 14 – 6 with Joey Davis, Liz Ellis, Max Herrle, Bruce Strouble Jr., Barry Wilcox, and Vice Chairman Chauncy Haynes in favor of the motion. Committee Member Temple Robinson was not present.*

#### Committee Discussion on Proposed Charter Amendments

Nicki Hatch provided a brief outline of the two-step process for Committee's proposal and consideration of charter amendment proposals. First, members will have the opportunity to propose a broad concept to be added to the list of proposals on screen. Once all proposals are listed, the proposing member will have the opportunity to briefly explain their proposal and answer any questions. Following discussion, the Committee will take a vote on whether to have staff bring back additional analysis on the proposed concept.

Nicki Hatch explained that the on-screen list has been prepopulated with proposals raised by members at the previous CCRC meeting (November 6<sup>th</sup>) to be introduced and considered as part of the two-step process. The pre-populated list of proposals raised during the November 6, 2025, CCRC meeting include:

1. Establishment of an Office of Inspector General, Proposed by Howard Kessler
2. Voting Threshold to Select or Terminate the County Administrator, Proposed by Max Herrle
3. County Commission Compensation, Proposed by Max Herrle
4. Funding Mechanism for Affordable Housing, Proposed by Max Herrle
5. Funding Mechanism for Fire Services, Proposed by Max Herrle
6. Leon County Bill of Rights, Proposed by Max Herrle

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

The following proposal was added to the list for CCRC consideration:

7. Prioritization of Food Security, Proposed by Bruce Strouble, Jr.

The following proposals were explained for CCRC consideration:

#### **1.) Establishment of an Office of Inspector General**

Howard Kessler explained that his proposed charter amendment would create an independent Office of Inspector General to strengthen oversight, avoid conflicts of interest, and align Leon County's practices with national Inspector General standards. His proposal would shift ethics and compliance functions away from the County Administrator, provide separate legal counsel, require a supermajority for removal of the Inspector General, and extend oversight authority to Blueprint-related entities.

Ryan Ray inquired about how the proposed Office of Inspector General would interact with the City's existing oversight structures.

William Smith inquired about the current set up.

County Attorney O'Steen explained the County Attorney's role in enforcing the Code of Ethics, noting that general enforcement is carried out through the Human Resources Director in coordination with the County Attorney's Office.

*Darryl Jones moved, seconded by Sean Pittman, for an agenda item to bring back an analysis for establishing an Office of Inspector General.*

*The motion carried 20 – 0 with Committee Member Temple Robinson not present.*

## **2.) Voting Threshold to Select or Terminate the County Administrator**

Max Herrle explained that his proposal would revise the Charter's current two-step process for selecting or removing the County Administrator by lowering the vote threshold from a majority-plus-one Commissioners to a simple majority. He noted that the proposal would retain the requirement of a second vote at a subsequent meeting, and that his intent was to align the process more closely with practices used in other charter counties.

Darryl Jones discussed how school boards across the state function and how having a higher threshold makes the process less arbitrary.

Vice Chairman Haynes requested historical context on the matter and commented that if such requirements were revised for the County Administrator, it should likewise apply to the County Attorney.

*Vice Chairman Haynes moved, seconded by Joey Davis, to extend the meeting to 2:00 p.m.*

*The motion failed 18 – 2 with Vice Chairman Haynes and Joey Davis in favor of the motion. Committee Member Temple Robinson was not present.*

County Attorney O'Steen clarified that the voting threshold to select or terminate the County Attorney is not in the Charter, but in County Ordinance.

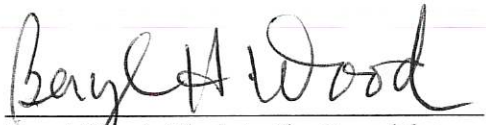
*Max Herrle moved, seconded by Joey Davis, for an agenda item to brought back on a charter amendment lowering the threshold to select or terminate the County Administrator.*

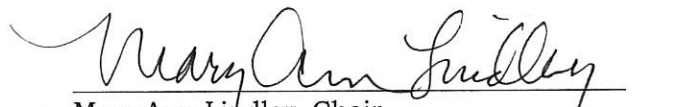
*The motion failed 17-3 with Joey Davis, Max Herrle, and Jarrett Terry in favor of the motion. Committee Member Temple Robinson was not present.*

## **Adjournment:**

Chair Lindley adjourned the meeting at 1:32 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