

To:
Charter Review Commission

My comments here hope to address, as I see it, a major problem with a government that is not responsive to the Laws of the people and one that is financially out of control.

My comments here is to propose changes to the County Charter that will strengthen the power of the people to be represented by those they elect.

First Suggestion: Elected officials with a super majority should be able to fire any public employee. To believe that those hired by the bureaucracy do not have agendas that they bring to the job or adopt once hired, that work against the wishes of those elected, would be naive.

Second Suggestion: Board appointees cannot serve on more than one board at a time. No more than two boards in three years. Repetitive placement of people on boards only serves to illustrate that unseen and unelected hands are influencing policies and elections. With almost 500,000 residents in the county redundancy of appointments is not warranted.

Third Suggestion: A copy of the United States Federal Constitution and Bill of Rights should be displayed in every public building. We should all be proud of our country and heritage as well as a reminder of what is the Supreme Law of the land.

Fourth Suggestion: No land can be purchased for water recharge of the Aquifer unless the recharge is over 7-9 inches per year. With limited funds to buy land it should not be wasted on land that only has limited recharge ability.

Fifth Suggestion: Land acquisitions for conservation should be voted on by the public. The county has not been responsible in doing the due diligence necessary to ascertain a fair price or necessity to purchase land in the past. Case in point the recent purchase of a 21 acre parcel of land for the Doris Leeper Spruce Creek Preserve. There was a push to buy this land, after a developer bought it. The county could have bought it or the Spruce Creek Preserve could have bought it for one half the costs. It was for sale for 1.1 million for almost a year previously, instead of the over 2.3million eventually paid. Follow the money on that one.

Sixth Suggestion: Conservation Ordinances must be based upon facts not opinions or agendas. Volusia County is not running out of available water. An unelected appointed board, Saint Johns Water Management District, is mandated by the state to be sure that manatees can swim up to the springs, so they limit the amount of water, (CUP's-Consumptive Use Permits) that can be taken out of the ground. Deepening spring access would be a cheaper way to go. Conservation with out numbers is what? Feel good tripe?

Seventh Suggestion: Every six year all programs of government expenditures will be put on the ballot for the public to vote on their continued existence. There are too many duplication of services, oversights and programs that exist in the government. Let the public evaluate the success of their invested tax money buy voter review. I would suggest something like this. If any item had a majority plus one negative vote, of the registered voters at the time, then that program would be removed from public tax support.

Eighth Suggestion: Drop Smart Growth. Smart Growth is communism at its best. Having looked over the draft proposed by the Growth Committee I am aghast that these people have ever read the Bill of Rights and our Constitution. The Founding Fathers were against concentrated political power in the government and strove to protect individual rights. Smart Growth is a leftist scam

to control our every aspect of American life. No more 'life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness' unless you get a permit to do so. Smart Growth is a brain child of the UN and environmentalists.

Ninth Suggestion: An amendment to the Florida Constitution made it necessary to evaluate the cost of changes to the constitution so the public could address and weigh the advantages versus the cost. I would hope that the Charter Review Committee would do the same. I feel you have an obligation to do so.

Tenth Suggestion: All pay raises have to be tied into the CPI. It is unconscionable that the elected officials would have automatic pay raises, that bureaucrats bring budgets before those elected officials with raises that are many times double digit two or three year contracts and our elected officials rubber stamp those raises as well. Raises that are on the backs of Volusia County citizen's average salary of about 27,000 a year and with the average CPI for the last 10-12 years being only about 2 percent a year. Feudalism is alive and well and the distinction between citizen and serf is vanishing rapidly in Volusia County.

My closing remark is that my definition of a quality of life should be my own. I believe in less taxes, certainly more jurisdiction over those taxes, and a much less intrusive government, certainly my vote to elect someone who believes the same about government should not be negated by a bureaucracy that is supposed to work for those elected official, thus the public thus my self. Do the people of Volusia County a service....reign in the cost of government and restore our individual rights.

Submitted by

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