

**Charter Review Commission
Ormond Location
August 31, 2005**

Presented by Mike Del Ninno

We've reached a crossroad concerning key issues such as growth, water, economic development, social services, transportation and environment.

Decentralizing or centralizing in terms of government will guide policy decisions over the next 10 years. What role will both the county and municipalities play?

I favor decentralization (a government closer to the people), with possible consolidation of certain services, but whichever direction we head, I believe the current form of government (shared authority) will do a disservice to the regions future, and our potential to get it right.

Currently I sense citizen frustration concerning local government. This stems from lack of authority, unresponsiveness and accountability from public officials. However, that's the system in place. Citizens want governments that work and effective leaders that are clearly accountable. Now is the time for a change.

In general terms, I believe county government has a few basic responsibilities. Property tax assessment (elected), Law enforcement/jails (elected), Elections (elected), road maintenance, mass transit, social services, environment, consumer protection, land administration and to some degree industrial development.

Beyond those basic functions, I believe a true regional council of governments (COG) should be the transition point for key issues such as growth management and land use planning. In essence a shift from county government to this newly defined decision making body that incorporates all the stake holders that have a vested interest in our local communities and county (environmentalists, developers, school boards, water districts, municipalities, county, MPO, private concerns, planning commissions, special interest groups, economic development and concerned citizens). And, with this long-term vision comes the shifting of resources, personnel and budgets away from county government and towards supporting the COG. With that kind of vision and change, it's essential to have a strong leader with authority and clear accountability.

Therefore, I'd like to request you consider a County Council-Elected Executive Form of government, one that will outline real authority to the chairman and provide for a clearer separation between legislative and executive powers – in essence a two branch system of government; one that still incorporates the proper checks and balances to control abuse and corruption while promoting

fairness and reason. Also, along those lines I'd like to suggest you consider increasing the compensation to attract professional individuals that can provide the necessary skills and leadership to accomplish the demanding task of governing Volusia county during the next 10 years.

And in closing, I feel this change will also encourage the voters of Volusia County to better prepare for elections by seeking clearer platforms from politicians, making sure they do their homework and more importantly, understanding that true accountability to the voters will be the ultimate result of this charter amendment.

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