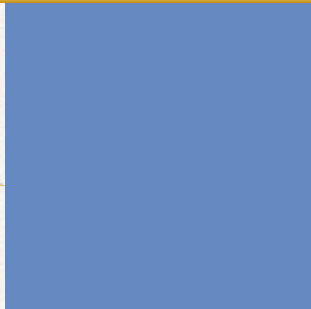




# Volusia County

2026 Charter Review Commission

# Final Report





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# 2026 Volusia County Charter Review Commission

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# 2026 Charter Review Commission Executive Summary

The 2026 Volusia County Charter Review Commission (CRC) is pleased to present this Final Report of its review and recommendations regarding Volusia County’s Home Rule Charter on this 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2026.

The Charter requires the Volusia County Council to convene the CRC at least once every 10 years. The Charter tasks the CRC to examine the Charter, ordinances, and workings of Volusia County’s government and, if needed, recommend Charter amendments to be placed on the general election ballot. Members examined the process for the review of the Charter at its organizational meeting. The CRC encouraged public participation from the beginning, ensuring that every effort would be made to include residents in the process through listening sessions, social media, the County of Volusia’s website, and email communications and announcements.

The CRC adopted rules and procedures for the conduct of its business and emphasized the public nature of all meetings. Members provided all interested citizens the opportunity to comment on matters before the CRC in person or by utilizing the CRC website or a designated email address. The CRC conducted listening sessions throughout the county, which took place on five dates in September 2025. The CRC also employed social media to reach out to citizens.

Listening sessions, emails from citizens, recommendations from County staff, and suggestions from CRC members provided the CRC with a number of ideas and suggestions for potential Charter amendments. Ideas and recommendations raised and discussed included the following: repeal of obsolete or superseded charter provisions, potential alterations to the land acquisition program known as Volusia Forever, reimbursements of work-related expenses to County Council members, changing the elected County Chair to a Chair that is selected annually by members of the County Council, and imposing additional term limit restrictions, and changes to the Volusia Growth Management Commission (VGMC).

At the CRC’s organizational meeting, members discussed the idea of developing subcommittees for the remaining proposed Charter amendments. Once the CRC began its work in earnest, the Chair created two subcommittees:

- Government Structure and Housekeeping Subcommittee
- Environmental and Conservation Subcommittee



The Subcommittees considered and brought forth five amendments to the Charter.

1. An amendment returning the County to having seven Council Members, with the Council Members selecting a Chair annually from among themselves and imposing additional term–limit restrictions.
2. An amendment removing Charter restrictions on Council Member reimbursement for work–related expenses.
3. An amendment correcting portions of the Charter overridden or superseded by the 2018 Florida Constitutional Amendment 10.
4. An amendment simplifying the portion of the Charter pertaining to personnel administration.
5. An amendment creating a conservation lands protection registry for which a majority plus one vote of the entire Council is required to add or remove lands from the registry.

CRC formed a third Subcommittee, the Report and Recommendations Subcommittee, for the purpose of refining and approving the recommendations to be provided to the County Council. This Subcommittee's recommendations are included in the Letter of Recommendation provided to the County Council and in this report.

## Five Proposed Charter Amendments

### **1. County Chair Appointed by Elected County Council Members and more Restrictive County Council Term Limits**

Prior to the adoption of a Charter amendment in 2002, the County had seven elected Council Members (i.e., 5 district members and 2 at–large members) to serve on the County Council, each with the same powers and duties. At the beginning of each year, the Council itself would vote to appoint one of its members as the Chair for a term of one year to preside over County meetings. The CRC opted to examine going back to this system as it allowed the Council to select a Chair on an annual basis and allowed the Council Members to occupy uniform status while providing opportunities for different Council Members to serve as Chair each year.

The CRC referred the matter to the Government Structure and Housekeeping Subcommittee, which reviewed the proposal and determined that in addition to having the Chair elected by the Council, there should be further term limit restrictions placed upon Council Members. Historically, term limit restrictions applied only to a particular Council seat. Therefore, a district Council Member could, after reaching a limit of two terms in that position, run for one of the at–large seats and potentially serve two additional four–year terms. The Subcommittee ultimately decided upon a restriction that would prohibit a Council Member from qualifying for office if, at the end of their current term, such member will have served (or, but for resignation, would have served) on the County Council for eight consecutive years. The Subcommittee approved the proposal as such and returned it to the CRC, which approved the measure for inclusion as a proposal on the 2026 ballot.



## **2. Removal of Charter Limitations Regarding Reimbursement of Work-Related Expenses Incurred by County Council Members**

The CRC discussed County Council Member compensation, noting that prior CRCs had attempted to either raise Council Member salaries or allow reimbursement of both in-county and out-of-county expenses. Currently, the County's Charter provides for Council Members to be paid 50% of what is prescribed by state law, with the Chair being allowed 60% of the prescribed amount. While the Charter requires that out-of-county expenses of Council Members be reimbursed or otherwise paid as provided for by law, the Charter outright prohibits Council Members from being reimbursed for in-county expenses.

The CRC reviewed concerns that the combined effect of limited compensation and prohibition against reimbursement for in-county expenses caused Council Members to frequently incur unreimbursed costs to attend meetings and community events, which limited or otherwise discouraged Council Members from participating in such matters.

The CRC referred the issue to the Government Structure and Housekeeping Subcommittee, which conducted further discussion. Ultimately, the Subcommittee approved a proposed Charter amendment that would remove both the Charter's (i) prohibition against the reimbursement of in-county expenses and (ii) express authorization of reimbursement of out-of-county expenses. Removal of the last sentence of § 304 of the Charter would leave the subject of expense reimbursement to be addressed by County ordinance and any applicable County travel and expense policies.

## **3. Amend Charter to Reflect Changes Made to Florida Constitution as to County Constitutional Officers**

In 2018, voters approved an amendment to the Florida Constitution (Amendment 10) that required all 67 counties in Florida to maintain separate constitutional offices of the Sheriff, Tax Collector, Elections Supervisor, and Clerk of Courts. Prior to the adoption of Amendment 10, Volusia County had, by Charter, uniquely consolidated the offices of the Sheriff, Property Appraiser, and Elections Supervisor under the umbrella of county government as elected county department heads and abolished the office of the Tax Collector.



Following the effective date of Amendment 10 (i.e. 2021), provisions in the Charter pertaining to or referencing the Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections, and Tax Collector were either superseded or made obsolete by Amendment 10's requirements. Since 2021, the County has interpreted its Charter in a manner consistent with general law while disregarding those provisions deemed no longer valid or applicable as a result of Amendment 10; however, the CRC determined that an amendment updating the County's Charter was desirable.

The CRC referred the matter to the Government Structure and Housekeeping Subcommittee, which concurred and approved a draft amendment and ballot language repealing the obsolete language in the Charter, which the CRC approved as a proposed Charter amendment to be included on the 2026 general election ballot.

#### **4. Remove Personnel Administration Provisions from the Charter and Require such be Established by Ordinance**

The CRC reviewed whether it was necessary to include a detailed section in the Charter pertaining to the qualifications and duties of the human resources director as well as mandatory personnel policies pertaining to the appointment of personnel boards and referred the matter to its Government Structure and Housekeeping Subcommittee. The Subcommittee also questioned whether it was necessary to have such detailed personnel provisions in the Charter and approved an amendment that would simplify Article X of the Charter by removing provisions governing the personnel board's and human resource director's appointment, qualifications, and powers and duties. The proposed amendment would remove requirements regarding the adoption of and amendments to the County's merit system as well as Charter designated distinctions between classified and unclassified service, ultimately requiring only that the County establish a merit system for County employees and adopt one or more ordinances to implement the system. The CRC approved the Subcommittee's recommended language, thus moving the proposal forward to the ballot.



## **5. Conservation lands registry**

The CRC discussed methods to better protect conservation lands acquired or otherwise maintained by the County through its Volusia Forever program. Members referred the matter to an Environmental & Conservation Subcommittee for further consideration. Both the CRC and Subcommittee received presentations from County staff on the current protections for such lands under the County's Volusia Forever program.

Ultimately, the Subcommittee approved a proposal, later approved by the CRC, that would create a registry of conservation lands to which the County Council could add or remove lands by resolution approved by a majority plus one vote of the entire County Council (i.e., 5 of 7 members voting to approve or disapprove either the addition or subtraction of such lands from the registry). Once on the registry, such county conservation lands could not be sold or otherwise transferred from the ownership of the County unless approved by at least five affirmative votes.

The proposed amendment included exceptions allowing such lands to be used for public purposes by the County itself or allowing for land taken by entities having the power of eminent domain where the County would not have a legal defense to such takings.

Upon the Subcommittee's presentation of the amendment to the CRC for final approval, the CRC voted to further amend the proposal so that removal of a property from the conservation land registry would, in addition to the majority plus one vote, also require notice of the sale posted on the County's website 30 days prior to delisting together with a statement as to why the land was no longer needed for conservation purposes.

If adopted, this Charter amendment would further protect conservation lands from being transferred outside County ownership and control.



The 2026 Volusia County Charter Review Commission hereby submits the following five proposed Home Rule Charter amendments to appear on the November 2026 ballot for the electorate's consideration:

## AMENDMENT 1

### County Chair appointed by Council; additional term limits

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENT BALLOT TITLE AND SUMMARY

#### COUNTY CHAIR APPOINTED BY ELECTED COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MORE RESTRICTIVE COUNTY COUNCIL TERM LIMITS

Shall the Volusia County Charter be amended so County Council appoints one of its members as County Chair each year, not to exceed two consecutive, one-year terms as Chair; return the County Council to a seven-member body of five district members and two at-large members; and establish that no County Council Member may appear on the ballot if they would have served eight consecutive years at the end of their current term?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

#### Amendment Text:

The proposed amendment, in full, shall read as follows:

The Volusia County Home Rule Charter, Chapter 70-966, Laws of Florida (Sp. Acts), as previously amended, shall be further amended in pertinent part as follows:

(Except as provided herein or as otherwise provided by separate amendment, charter provisions not shown are not amended.)

(Words ~~struck~~ are deletions; words underscored are additions.)

#### ARTICLE III. – LEGISLATIVE BRANCH—COUNTY COUNCIL

##### Sec. 301. – Composition.

The council shall be composed of ~~six~~ seven members ~~and the county chair~~. There shall be five council districts. Each district shall elect one council member. ~~One~~ Two council members shall be elected at large. ~~The county chair shall be elected at large.~~

...



### **Sec. 302. – Qualifications.**

~~The county chair and m~~Members of the county council shall be qualified electors of the county, and shall have been residents of the county for two years immediately preceding the date on which they qualify to run for office. The five members elected from districts shall have resided within the district from which they are elected for at least six months prior to the date on which they qualify to run for office. Any such council member who shall move residency from the district from which elected shall thereupon become disqualified to represent said district as council member and the office of the council member shall be deemed vacant.

...

### **Sec. 303.2. – At large members.**

~~The Council~~ members elected at large shall be elected for a term of four years. One council member at large shall be elected in the those years, the numbers of which are not multiples of four. Commencing on January 1, 2029, the council seat formerly occupied by the elected chair shall be held by a council member at large, first elected in 2028 and thereafter elected in those years, the numbers of which are multiples of four.

### **Sec. 303.3. – County chair / Vice chair.**

~~The county chair shall be elected for a term of four years in which the numbers are multiples of four. Commencing at its first meeting in January, and continuing every year thereafter, the county council shall elect a council member to serve at its pleasure for a one-year term to act as the county chair, but in no event may a council member serve as county chair for more than two consecutive terms. The county council shall further elect at such meeting a council member to serve at its pleasure for a one-year term as vice chair of the county council to preside in the temporary absence, disqualification, or disability of the county chair at county council meetings and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the council.~~

### **Sec. 303.4. – Terms.**

~~The term of the county chair or a council member shall begin the first day of January after election. The county chair or a~~Each council member shall continue in office after the end of the term until a successor is duly elected and qualified.

### **Sec. 303.5. – Limitation of tenure.**

No person may appear on the ballot for ~~re~~-election as a district council member, or at large council member ~~or county chair~~ if by the end of ~~the~~their current term of office, the person will have served (or, but for resignation, would have served) in that office on county council for eight consecutive years.

...



### **Sec. 305. – Vacancies and suspensions.**

Vacancies in the county chair's, any council member's or other elected office under this charter government shall be filled in accordance with the Constitution and laws of Florida. Suspensions from office for cause shall be in accordance with the Constitution of Florida.

### **Sec. 306. – Meetings and organization.**

The organizational meeting of the council shall be held on the first Thursday after the first Monday of January. The council shall provide for the manner, time and place for holding all regular council meetings. The county manager shall prepare and the county chair may supplement an agenda prior to each meeting. Upon the commencement of the meeting, the agenda is subject to action of the council.

...

### **~~Sec. 307.1. – The county chair.~~**

~~The office of the county chair shall have all jurisdiction and powers which are now and which hereafter may be granted to it by the Constitution and laws of Florida provided that such powers shall be exercised in a manner consistent with this charter. The county chair, in addition to the powers and duties provided by this charter, shall have the specific powers and duties to:~~

- ~~1. Serve as the official and ceremonial representative of the government.~~
- ~~2. Issue proclamations on behalf of the government, which shall be reported to the county council upon issuance.~~
- ~~3. Preside as chair of and in all other respects participate in the meetings of the county council and have an equal vote on all questions coming before it.~~
- ~~4. Execute ordinances, resolutions and other authorized documents of the government.~~
- ~~5. Serve ex-officio as the county government's representative, and appoint others to serve in the county chair's stead, on other bodies external to county government.~~
- ~~6. Serve as the county council representative, and appoint county council members to serve in the county chair's stead, on other bodies internal to county government.~~

~~The county council shall elect at its first meeting in January a council member to serve at its pleasure for a one-year term as vice chair of the county council to preside in the temporary absence, disqualification or disability of the county chair at county council meetings and perform other duties assigned by the county chair.~~

### **~~Sec. 307.2. – Annual report.~~**

~~The county chair shall report annually to the county council and residents the activities of county government for the previous year and the status of accomplishment of existing goals and objectives. The report shall set forth new and revised goals and objectives for future action. Subsequently, the county council shall meet to consider adoption of a plan of action for implementation of the goals and objectives.~~



## AMENDMENT 2

### Reimbursement of expenses incurred by County Council Members

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENT BALLOT TITLE AND SUMMARY

#### REMOVAL OF CHARTER LIMITATIONS REGARDING REIMBURSEMENT OF WORK-RELATED EXPENSES INCURRED BY COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Shall the Volusia County Charter be amended to remove charter limitations regarding reimbursement of work-related expenses incurred by County Council members?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

#### **Amendment Text:**

The proposed amendment, in full, shall read as follows:

The Volusia County Home Rule Charter, Chapter 70-966, Laws of Florida (Sp. Acts), as previously amended, shall be further amended in pertinent part as follows:

(Except as provided herein or as otherwise provided by separate amendment, charter provisions not shown are not amended.)

(Words ~~struck~~ are deletions; words underscored are additions.)

#### **ARTICLE III. – LEGISLATIVE BRANCH—COUNTY COUNCIL**

...

#### **Sec. 304. – Compensation.**

The salary of a council member shall be 50% percent of that prescribed by law for the office of county commissioner. The salary for the county chair shall be 60% percent of that prescribed by law for the office of county commissioner. ~~The salaries shall constitute full compensation for all services and in-county expenses, except that out-of-county expenses, as permitted by law, shall be authorized.~~



## AMENDMENT 3

### Florida Constitutional Amendment 10 conforming revisions

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENT BALLOT TITLE AND SUMMARY

#### AMEND CHARTER TO REFLECT CHANGES MADE TO FLORIDA CONSTITUTION AS TO COUNTY CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Shall the Volusia County Home Rule Charter be amended to repeal provisions which were superseded in 2018 by the voter approved amendment to section 1 of article VIII of the Florida Constitution as to county constitutional officers and replace superseded or obsolete provisions?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

#### Amendment Text:

The proposed amendment, in full, shall read as follows:

The Volusia County Home Rule Charter, Chapter 70–966, Laws of Florida (Sp. Acts), as previously amended, shall be further amended in pertinent part as follows:

(Except as provided herein or as otherwise provided by separate amendment, charter provisions not shown are not amended.)

(Words ~~struck~~ are deletions; words underscored are additions.)

#### ARTICLE III. – LEGISLATIVE BRANCH—COUNTY COUNCIL

...

#### Sec. 305. Vacancies and Suspensions

Vacancies in ~~the county chair's, any council member's or other elected~~ office under this charter government shall be filled in accordance with the Constitution and laws of Florida. Suspensions from office for cause shall be in accordance with the Constitution of Florida.

...



## ARTICLE VI. ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT

### Sec. 601. Initial Departments

The following initial departments are hereby established for the charter government:

- (1) Department of ~~central~~ business services
- (2) Department of finance
- (3) Department of public ~~safety~~ protection
- (4) Department of public works
- (5) Department of ~~public~~ emergency services
- (6) Department of ~~social~~ community services
- (7) Department of ~~planning and development~~ growth and resource management
- (8) Department of ~~property appraisal~~ aviation and economic resources
- (9) Department of elections
- ~~(10)~~ Department of legal services

### Sec. 601.1 Functions and duties of departments receiving powers of former constitutional officers.

(1) *Department of finance*: The department of finance shall be responsible for the administration of all financial affairs of the charter government and such other duties provided by this charter.

~~(a) The office of tax collector is hereby abolished and all functions and duties of that office now prescribed by the Constitution and the laws of Florida are hereby transferred to the department of finance.~~

~~(b) All fiscal functions and duties now prescribed by the Constitution and laws of Florida for the office of the clerk of the circuit court which relate to the clerk's duties as ex officio to the board of county commissioners and auditor and custodian of all county funds are hereby transferred to the department of finance.~~

(2) *Department of public safety protection*: The department of public safety protection shall be responsible for the control, operation and administration of the duties of ~~law enforcement~~ and such other duties provided by this charter. ~~All functions and duties now prescribed by the Constitution and laws of Florida for the office of sheriff are hereby transferred to the department of public safety, and the constitutional office shall thereupon be terminated, further providing that beach safety, animal services, and all functions relating to corrections and rehabilitation, the county prison farm, the Volusia County jail and all other similar facilities shall be transferred to the department of corrections.~~



(3) Department of property appraisal: The department of property appraisal shall be responsible for carrying out all functions, duties and requirements prescribed by the Constitution and laws of Florida for the office of property appraiser (tax assessor) and all such functions and duties are hereby transferred to this department and the constitutional office shall thereupon be terminated. In addition, the department of property appraisal shall perform a continuing review of the assessment and exemption of all real and personal property within the county sufficient to permit the annual presentation of a tax equalization study and report for the board of tax adjustment (board of equalization). Further, the department of property appraisal shall perform such other functions as may be prescribed by this charter or the council.

(4) Department of elections: The department of elections shall be responsible for carrying out all functions, duties and requirements prescribed by the Constitution and laws of Florida for the office of supervisor of elections and all such functions and duties are hereby transferred to this department and the constitutional office shall thereupon be terminated.

(5)(3) *Department of central business services*: The department of central business services shall be responsible for control and operation of personnel, motor pool, clerical and records, purchasing, data processing and building maintenance divisions and such other duties as provided by this charter or the council. All functions and duties now prescribed by the Constitution and laws of Florida for the office of the clerk of the circuit court which related to the duties as ex-officio clerk to the board of county commissioners and keeper of the official minutes to the board of county commissioners, are hereby transferred to the department of central business services. All functions and services of the department of central business services shall be provided to all departments and operations of the charter government, and all departments and operations of the charter government shall be required to utilize the services provided by the department of central business services unless exceptions are specifically approved in each case by the county manager.

(6)(4) *Department of corrections*: There shall be a department of corrections which shall be responsible for the exercise of administrative supervision and control and have all functions, duties and responsibilities over matters relating to corrections and rehabilitation, the county prison farm, and the Volusia County jail. The department of corrections also shall be responsible for and shall exercise administrative supervision and control over all facilities, programs and services consistent with the laws of the State of Florida; and that the various department divisions shall be provided by county ordinance.



## **Sec. 601.2. – Department of legal services**

The county attorney shall be the director of the department of legal services and may hire licensed attorney assistants to perform the duties of the department. All such attorneys shall devote their entire practice to the representation of the county charter government. They shall represent the county charter government, the county council, the county manager and the ~~elected and~~ appointed department heads as county officers, all other departments and divisions of county government and all adjustment, regulatory and advisory boards in all legal matters affecting the county government. Special attorneys and experts shall be employed only when required in specific matters upon the recommendation of the county attorney and approved as a budgetary expenditure in the best interests of the county.

...

## **Sec. 602.1. – ~~Election of directors.~~ Constitutional Offices**

The directors of the following departments shall be ~~elected every four (4) years at the general election:~~

- ~~(1)The sheriff, who shall serve as the director of the department of public safety.~~
- ~~(2)The supervisor of elections, who shall serve as the director of the department of elections.~~
- ~~(3)The property appraiser, who shall serve as the director of the department of property appraisal.~~

The constitutional offices of the sheriff, supervisor of elections, property appraiser and tax collector of the county shall be established as provided by the Florida Constitution and all laws applicable thereto. Said constitutional offices shall qualify, be nominated, elected and serve as is provided by the Constitution and laws of Florida.

## **Sec. 603. – Changes in departments**

~~Changes shall be made in departments headed by elected directors only by amendment of this charter. In all other cases, t~~The county council may by ordinance make changes in any or all department organizations including combinations, deletions and creation of departments or divisions or transfer of responsibility between departments and divisions.

## **ARTICLE VIII. – SCHOOL SYSTEM**

### **Sec. 801. – Relation to the charter government**

All those functions now performed by the board of county commissioners; ~~the tax assessor and tax collector~~ for the district school board after the effective date of this charter, shall be performed by the appropriate department or division of the charter government.



## ARTICLE X. – PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

### Sec. 1005. – Unclassified and classified service

The merit system shall provide for the employment of qualified personnel and shall include all necessary provisions to ensure protection to both employees and employer. Said system shall have two (2) basic divisions, those being:

(1) The unclassified service shall comprise the following offices and positions:

~~(a) Elected officials and persons appointed to fill vacancies in elected offices.~~

~~(b)~~ (a) The county manager.

~~(c)~~ (b) Aides to the county manager, in the operation of his immediate office.

~~(d)~~ (c) The director of administrative departments appointed by the county manager.

~~(e)~~ (d) One aide, appointed by the director, for each of the administrative departments.

~~(f)~~ (e) Members of advisory boards, commissions and committees appointed by the council or county manager.

~~(g)~~ (f) Persons employed in casual employment for brief periods, but not in excess of ninety (90) days because of temporary increase in volume of work or emergency conditions. The authority to extend a temporary period of employment shall be approved by the personnel board in increments of ninety (90) days.

~~(h)~~ (g) Persons under contract to conduct special studies or perform special surveys or services.

~~(i)~~ (h) Attorneys, physicians and dentists.

~~(j)~~ (i) And such other managerial positions as shall be determined by the personnel board.

## ARTICLE XIII. – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

### Sec. 1306. – Legal actions involving the county

In any legal action by or against the county, its departments, or officers or employees of their office or employment for the county, the county as a corporate body shall be the party named and shall appear and participate in the cause on behalf of the department, officer or employee in such cause. Wherever the ~~tax collector, tax assessor, supervisor of elections, board of county commissioners or sheriff~~ may or shall be parties to any legal action, the county shall be substituted as such defendant.

### Sec. 1307. – Political activities

County officers and employees (except ~~elected officers and~~ members of the adjustment, advisory and regulatory boards) may participate in political campaigns only during off-duty hours and to the extent provided by general law. No leave of absence shall be granted to any person for the purpose of participating in any political campaign. All such persons shall retain the right to vote as they choose and to express their opinions on all political subjects and candidates.



## AMENDMENT 4

### Simplification of personnel administration section

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENT BALLOT TITLE AND SUMMARY

#### REMOVE PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION PROVISIONS FROM CHARTER AND REQUIRE SUCH BE ESTABLISHED BY ORDINANCE

Shall the Volusia County Charter be amended to remove provisions related to personnel administration from the Charter and require provisions related to personnel administration to be enacted as an ordinance by the County Council?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

#### **Text of Amendment:**

The proposed amendment, in full, shall read as follows:

The Volusia County Home Rule Charter, Chapter 70–966, Laws of Florida (Sp. Acts), as previously amended, shall be further amended in pertinent part as follows:

(Except as provided herein or as otherwise provided by separate amendment, charter provisions not shown are not amended.)

(Words ~~struck~~ are deletions; words underscored are additions.)

#### **ARTICLE X. – ~~PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION~~ MERIT SYSTEM**

##### **Sec. 1001. – Merit system**

There shall be a merit system for the employees of the charter government. The council shall enact such ordinances as may be necessary to fully implement the merit system.

##### **~~Sec. 1002. – Employment policy.~~**

~~The merit system shall provide for the qualifications and shall through the personnel department, under the direction of the personnel director, certify personnel for employment, promotion, demotion, transferal, dismissal and compensation, solely on the basis of merit and qualification without regard to religion, political affiliations, race, color, sex, national origin or any other circumstances other than merit and qualification.~~



### **~~Sec. 1003. – Personnel board.~~**

#### **~~Sec. 1003.1. – Appointment—Removal.~~**

~~There shall be a personnel board consisting of five (5) members who shall be appointed by the council. The personnel board shall designate its own chair and vice chair at least every two (2) years from the date of its first appointment. Members of the personnel board shall serve for a term of six (6) years, except that of the members first appointed, one (1) shall be appointed to serve for six (6) years and two (2) for four (4) years and two (2) for two (2) years. Vacancies in an unexpired term shall be filled by the council by appointment for the remainder of the term. A member of the personnel board may be removed by the council by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote, only for cause and after being given a written statement of the charges against the member and in a public hearing thereof, if the member so requests.~~

#### **~~Sec. 1003.2. – Qualifications.~~**

~~Each member of the personnel board shall be a qualified elector of the county, shall be known to be in sympathy with the merit principle as applied to the merit system, shall neither hold nor be a candidate for any public office or employment and shall not be a member of any local, state or national committee of a political party or an officer in any partisan political club or organization.~~

#### **~~Sec. 1003.3. – Powers and duties.~~**

~~The personnel board shall have all of the powers and duties as described in the merit system rules and regulations as adopted by the council.~~

### **~~Sec. 1004. – Human resources director.~~**

#### **~~Sec. 1004.1. – Qualifications.~~**

~~The human resources director shall be chosen on the basis of professional training and experience in personnel administration.~~

#### **~~Sec. 1004.2. – Powers and duties.~~**

~~The human resources director shall have all of the powers and duties as described in the merit system rules and regulations as adopted by the council.~~

### **~~Sec. 1005. – Unclassified and classified service.~~**

~~The merit system shall provide for the employment of qualified personnel and shall include all necessary provisions to insure protection to both employees and employer. Said system shall have two (2) basic divisions, those being:~~

~~(1) The unclassified service shall comprise the following offices and positions:~~

~~(a) Elected officials and persons appointed to fill vacancies in elected offices.~~



- (b) The county manager.
  - (c) Aides to the county manager, in the operation of his immediate office.
  - (d) The director of administrative departments appointed by the county manager.
  - (e) One aide, appointed by the director, for each of the administrative departments.
  - (f) Members of advisory boards, commissions and committees appointed by the council or county manager.
  - (g) Persons employed in casual employment for brief periods, but not in excess of ninety (90) days because of temporary increase in volume of work or emergency conditions. The authority to extend a temporary period of employment shall be approved by the personnel board in increments of ninety (90) days.
  - (h) Persons under contract to conduct special studies or perform special surveys or services.
  - (i) Attorneys, physicians and dentists.
  - (j) And such other managerial positions as shall be determined by the personnel board.
- (2) The classified service shall comprise all positions not specifically included by this section.
- (3) The determination of the personnel board shall be final as to whether offices and positions are under classified service.

### **~~Sec. 1006. — Personnel review.~~**

Any person covered by the merit system shall be entitled to request a review by the personnel board of any action taken by the administration of the charter government pertaining to such person's employment or employment rights established under the rules and regulations of the merit system.

### **~~Sec. 1007. — Oaths.~~**

For the purpose of the administration of the personnel provisions of this charter, any member of the personnel board shall have the power to administer oaths.

### **~~Sec. 1008. — Amendment to rules and regulations.~~**

A two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the full council shall be required to amend the rules and regulations of the merit system.

### **~~Sec. 1009. — Adoption of merit system.~~**

The county manager shall be responsible for the preparation and presentation to the council of the proposed merit system complete with classification, pay plan or amendments thereto. The initial proposal shall be presented prior to the adoption of the first budget by the charter government.



## AMENDMENT 5

### Conservation lands registry

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENT BALLOT TITLE AND SUMMARY

#### ESTABLISH REGISTRY INCREASING COUNTY COUNCIL VOTING REQUIREMENT FOR TRANSFER OF CONSERVATION LAND

Shall the Volusia County Charter be amended to establish a conservation land registry to which land may be added or removed by a majority plus one vote of the entire County Council, with heightened notice requirements for removal, which registry will prohibit property from being conveyed unless the County Council determines the land is no longer needed for conservation purposes; and providing exceptions for public purpose and takings by eminent domain.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

#### Amendment Text:

The proposed amendment, in full, shall read as follows:

The Volusia County Home Rule Charter, Chapter 70–966, Laws of Florida (Sp. Acts), as previously amended, shall be further amended in pertinent part as follows:

(Except as provided herein or as otherwise provided by separate amendment, charter provisions not shown are not amended.)

(Words ~~struck~~ are deletions; words underscored are additions.)

#### **SEC. 1314. REGISTRY AND PROTECTION OF CONSERVATION LANDS**

(1) A registry is created to consist of conservation lands owned by the County of Volusia. The registry will be known as the "Volusia County Registry of Conservation Lands," and any properties listed thereon will not be subject to sale, divestiture, or transfer by the County. Properties may be added to or removed from the registry by resolution approved by a majority plus one vote of the entire County Council.



- (2) Prior to removal of a property from the registry and sale of a property once listed on the registry, the County must, at least 30 days prior to any such delisting, publish the following information conspicuously on the County's website:
- (a) The legal description of the property being delisted; and
  - (b) A statement explaining why the property is no longer necessary for conservation purposes.
- (3) This section shall not apply when the property is being used for a public purpose by the County or taken by a state, federal, or other entity having lawful authority to exercise the power of eminent domain over county-owned lands.



## Section 2: Letter of Recommendation to Volusia County Council



Jeff Brower, Chair  
Jake Johansson, At-Large  
Don Dempsey, District 1  
Matt Reinhart, District 2  
Danny Robins, District 3  
Troy Kent, District 4  
David Santiago, District 5

May 2026

Dear Volusia County Council:

The 2026 Charter Review Commission (CRC) was established by Resolution No. 2025-116 to convene, review the charter and ordinances of the County of Volusia, and present to the Council any recommendations for amendment of the charter. After months of deliberations, the CRC has developed and approved five proposed charter amendments to be placed on the 2026 ballot for the voters of Volusia County to consider.

Over the course of its meetings, the CRC reviewed and discussed several issues and proposals, which the CRC determined did not necessitate placement on the ballot as proposed charter amendments, but which the CRC believed should be reviewed and considered by the Volusia County Council. This letter addresses those issues, and the CRC respectfully submits the following to you for your consideration.

### **County Council Meetings on East Side**

Based on public input received at its listening sessions, the CRC considered whether the Charter should mandate that at least two County Council meetings occur on the east side of the county each year. At its November 10, 2025, meeting, the CRC determined that the proposal was better included as a recommendation to the County Council rather than proposed as a charter amendment. The Charter requires Council meetings to meet in the County Seat but may "from time to time" meet outside the County seat.

*The Charter Review Commission recognizes that a substantial portion of Volusia County residents live on the east side of the County, and that members of the public requested Council meetings be occasionally held on the eastern side of the County.*

Mark Watts, Chair • Patricia Northey, Vice Chair • Jennifer Bright • James Clayton • Nathaniel Ingram  
Ben Johnson • Kelly Kwiatek • Dwight Lewis • Amy Munizzi • Kenneth Parker  
Nicholas Sakhnovsky • Suzanne Scheiber • Christopher Tolland • Billie Wheeler • Stephanie Wohlford

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*While the Commission determined that scheduling of County Council meetings is a matter better left to the discretion of the County Council, the Commission recommends the County Council consider conducting a minimum of two east side meetings each year.*

**Dedicated Funding Source for Public Transportation**

Another topic frequently referenced in the CRC's listening sessions was the need for additional dedicated funding sources to fund public transportation improvements and services. Upon review of the matter, the CRC determined that the Council was the more appropriate body to review and consider additional dedicated funding sources for transportation, and that such funding sources should not be mandated by the Charter.

*Based upon input received from the public, the Charter Review Commission recommends that the County research, identify, and implement one or more dedicated funding sources for public transportation in light of the County's investment in SunRail and other public transportation services to the degree available.*

**Alternative Enforcement Mechanisms for Environmental Standards**

The CRC also received public input regarding the County's application and enforcement of its countywide minimum standards for environmental protection, which are required by the County's Charter and established by ordinance. The CRC discussed whether there should or could be alternative methods for enforcing the standards and makes the following recommendation:

*Based upon resident input and concerns regarding whether the countywide minimum environmental standards established by ordinance are being fully enforced within all municipalities throughout the County, the Commission recommends that the County consider the establishment of a reporting system whereby municipalities may report compliance on an annual basis.*

Mark Watts, Chair • Patricia Northey, Vice Chair • Jennifer Bright • James Clayton • Nathaniel Ingram  
Ben Johnson • Kelly Kwiatek • Dwight Lewis • Amy Munizzi • Kenneth Parker  
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### **Cultural Funding**

Numerous members of the public spoke to the CRC about funding for the arts and other cultural programs. The CRC acknowledged that Volusia County should provide support and funding for arts and culture; however, it also recognized that the County is constrained by the annual budgeting process set forth in the Florida Statutes, which requires budgets to be developed and approved annually. Ultimately, the CRC determined that the topic was not appropriate for the Charter but voted to recommend that the County Council support cultural activities.

*The Commission recommends that the County provide continued funding for arts and culture and include, as part of its mission statement, that the County will support the arts and cultural activities within Volusia County for the betterment of the community in support of the existing commitment to cultural programs in the County's comprehensive plan.*

### **Interlocal Committee for Infrastructure Coordination**

Given past storm and flood events, the CRC considered whether to propose an amendment creating an interlocal committee composed of representatives of the County and municipalities that would coordinate oversight over stormwater infrastructure within Volusia County. Though the CRC opted not to propose this as a Charter amendment, it recommends the following:

*Recognizing the need for coordination of public infrastructure in the county, the Charter Review Commission recommends the County establish both of the following:*

*(1) An advisory committee with representation from the County and municipalities to aide in the coordination of information sharing, planning, permitting, construction, finance, and maintenance of countywide or interconnected public infrastructure, particularly stormwater systems.*

*(2) A central repository for all stormwater studies and watershed analysis, whether generated by the County or its municipalities, that will be used to assist in identifying and prioritizing future investment in stormwater infrastructure. This repository shall be updated on an annual basis and be accessible to the public via the County's website. The County Manager, or their designee, shall provide the council, the advisory committee, and the public, by July 1 a summary of the studies added to the repository in the previous year.*

Mark Watts, Chair • Patricia Northey, Vice Chair • Jennifer Bright • James Clayton • Nathaniel Ingram  
Ben Johnson • Kelly Kwiatek • Dwight Lewis • Amy Munizzi • Kenneth Parker  
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**Volusia Forever Land Acquisition Proceeds**

The CRC reviewed how funds received from the sale of Volusia Forever properties are handled and whether a charter amendment should be proposed that would require such funds to be allocated back into the Volusia Forever program. The CRC received information from County staff that any such funds belong to the general fund, and that pursuant to Chapter 129, Florida Statutes, the County must retain full budgetary flexibility when preparing its budget each year. As a matter of policy, the County has reappropriated such funds back to the Volusia Forever program when lands have been taken by eminent domain. The CRC is not aware of any sale of Volusia Forever property by the County. Based on that information, the CRC makes the following recommendation.

*While it has been County policy to place any funds realized from the sale of Volusia Forever properties back into the Volusia Forever fund, the Charter Review Commission recommends that such policy and practice continue to occur in the future whenever such funds are received.*

The members of the CRC respectfully submit this letter for your review and urge you to consider our recommendations.

Mark Watts, Chair	<u>Mark Watts</u>	Patricia Northey, Vice Chair	<u>Patricia Northey</u>
Jennifer Bright	<u>Jennifer Bright</u>	Amy Munizzi	<u>Amy Munizzi</u>
James Clayton	<u>James Clayton</u>	Kenneth Parker	<u>Kenneth Parker</u>
Nathaniel Ingram	<u>Nathaniel Ingram</u>	Nicholas Sakhnovsky	<u>Nicholas Sakhnovsky</u>
Ben Johnson	<u>Ben Johnson</u>	Suzanne Scheiber	<u>Suzanne Scheiber</u>
Kelly Kwiatek	<u>Kelly Kwiatek</u>	Christopher Tolland	<u>Christopher Tolland</u>
Dwight Lewis	<u>Dwight D. Lewis</u>	Billie Wheeler	<u>Billie Wheeler</u>
		Stephanie Wohlford	<u>Stephanie Wohlford</u>

Mark Watts, Chair • Patricia Northey, Vice Chair • Jennifer Bright • James Clayton • Nathaniel Ingram  
Ben Johnson • Kelly Kwiatek • Dwight Lewis • Amy Munizzi • Kenneth Parker  
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## **Appendix A: History of Volusia County's Home Rule Charter**

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A committee of 21 member citizens created the Volusia County Home Rule Charter after engaging in intensive study of governmental systems and developing the framework for local government in Volusia County. Volusia County voters approved the Home Rule Charter in a special countywide referendum on June 30, 1970.

The passage of the Home Rule Charter set a precedent, as Volusia was the first county in Florida to adopt home rule powers pursuant to the 1968 Florida Constitution. Today, most of Florida's urban counties have followed Volusia's leadership and approved their own Home Rule Charters.

The Volusia County Home Rule Charter, which took effect January 1, 1971, provides the framework for Volusia County's self-government within the parameters of Florida law. It is the foundation for Volusia County's Council and County Manager form of government.

The County Council is the legislative arm of Volusia County and sets policy for the government.

The County Manager, who serves at the pleasure of the County Council, executes the policies established by the County Council and oversees the daily operations of the government. County employees work under the direction of the County Manager within the structure of the system of merit rules and regulations.



## Appendix B: The Charter Review Process

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The Volusia County Charter calls for citizens to be appointed to a Charter Review Commission (CRC), which is assembled at least every 10 years to review the Charter and County ordinances. The CRC must present its recommendations and any proposed amendments to the Volusia County Council within one year of the commencement of its work. If Charter amendments are recommended, they go directly to the voters in the next general election.

The Charter's previous reviews occurred in 1975, 1985, 1995, 2005, and 2015. The most recent review commenced in August of 2025.

After receiving the CRC's recommendations, the County Council will conduct a series of not less than three public hearings on the recommended Charter amendments. The amendments will be placed on the ballot for citizen referendum in the 2026 general election.

The Home Rule Charter establishes the duties of the CRC as follows:

- Review the Volusia County Charter and ordinances of the County
- Present any recommendations for amendments



## Appendix C: Resolution 2025–116 Establishing the 2026 Charter Review Commission

On August 5, 2025, the Volusia County Council approved Resolution No. 2025–116, which created the 2026 Volusia County Charter Review Commission.

### RESOLUTION NO. 2025-116

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA ESTABLISHING A CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION: PROVIDING FOR APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS THERETO; PROVIDING FOR THE TERM; PROVIDING WHEN THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE DUE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, section 1303 of the Volusia County Home Rule Charter provides that there will be a Charter Review Commission appointed at least every ten years to review the charter and ordinances of the county; and

WHEREAS, the last Charter Review Commission was appointed in 2015; and

WHEREAS, it has been ten (10) years since the last appointment of a Charter Review Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN OPEN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED IN THE THOMAS C. KELLY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, DELAND, FLORIDA, THIS 5TH DAY OF AUGUST, A.D., 2025, AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION I:** There is hereby appointed a Charter Review Commission consisting of fifteen members whose names are listed on **Exhibit A** attached hereto. Any appointment which may become necessary to fill a vacancy may be made by motion without further resolution. The Charter Review Commission shall review the county charter and ordinances and recommend such charter amendments it would find to be desirable.

**SECTION II:** The Charter Review Commission shall make its final recommendation to the County Council no later than the County Council's second monthly meeting in May 2026. The Commission may adopt its own rules as to meeting dates, times, and procedures.

**SECTION III:** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DONE AND ORDERED IN OPEN MEETING.

ATTEST:

By:   
George Recktenwald  
County Manager

COUNTY COUNCIL  
VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By:   
Jeffrey S. Brower  
County Chair





The 2026 Charter Review Commission (CRC) consisted of 15 members. The County received 32 applications from residents of Volusia County and presented them to the County Council at its meeting on August 3, 2025. Each County Council Member appointed two CRC members, and the entire County Council selected the 15<sup>th</sup> member.



## Mark Watts, Chair

Mark Watts is a seasoned attorney with over two decades of legal experience serving clients throughout Florida. He began his legal career at the Pinellas County Attorney's Office from May 1997 to April 1999, before joining Cobb Cole in April 1999 where he continued to practice and build his expertise over 25 years. Community and professional involvement have always been fundamental to Mr. Watts' commitment to serving his community, and he has demonstrated leadership in the following organizations:

- DeLand Breakfast Rotary, Past President
  - VCARD (Volusia Community Advancement for Responsible Development), Past President
  - DeLand Chamber of Commerce, Past President
- Mr. Watts' leadership roles in these prominent community organizations reflect his dedication to promoting business development, responsible growth, and civic engagement throughout Volusia County.

His experience leading these diverse organizations has given him valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities facing the region.

During his free time, Mr. Watts enjoys spending time with his family, boating, hiking, cycling, motorcycling, gardening, traveling, and staying actively involved in community initiatives.

## Patricia Northey, Vice Chair

Patricia Northey is a dedicated public servant and community leader who has spent decades contributing to Volusia County through both her professional career and extensive volunteer work. Her career began in the medical field, where she worked in administration from 1970 to 1993 at prestigious healthcare institutions including ORMC, Lucerne, Orlando General Hospital, and Florida Hospital. Ms. Northey's commitment to public service led her to serve as a Volusia County Council Member from 1993 to 2004 and again from 2007 to 2014. She also served as President of the West Volusia Chamber of Commerce from 2005 to 2006 and has worked as a part-time consultant with Ghyabi Consulting and Management from 2015 to 2018 and 2020 to 2024. Community and professional involvement have always been fundamental to Ms. Northey's dedication to West Volusia, and she currently serves in the following roles:



- ECHO (Environmental, Cultural, Historical, and Outdoor Recreation) Board member
- Former Chair of the ECHO Forever Reauthorization Committee
- Deltona Planning and Zoning Board member
- Rotary Club of DeBary, Deltona, Orange City member
- Advent Fish Memorial Board of Trustees member
- League of Women Voters of West Volusia member
- Former Habitat for Humanity volunteer

During her free time, Ms. Northey enjoys gardening, photography, and staying engaged with local government affairs.



## Jennifer Bright

Jennifer Bright brings a diverse background in financial analysis and business operations to her professional endeavors. Her career has spanned multiple industries, where she has served as a Financial and Data Analyst at AT&T, a Business Analyst at Wells Fargo through Ettain, and a Financial Analyst in Marketing and Sales at Mission Foods. Through these roles, Ms. Bright has developed expertise in data analysis, financial planning, and business process optimization across telecommunications, banking, and food manufacturing sectors. Community and professional involvement have always been important to Ms. Bright, and she continues to seek opportunities to contribute her analytical skills and business acumen to serve others.

During her free time, Ms. Bright enjoys researching genealogy, traveling to new destinations, and tending to her garden.

## James Clayton

James Clayton is a lifelong resident of Volusia County who has dedicated his career to public service through the legal system. He began his professional journey as an Assistant State Attorney in the 7th Judicial Circuit, stationed primarily in Volusia County from 1978 to 1982. Following his prosecutorial service, Mr. Clayton transitioned to private practice as an attorney in Volusia County from 1983 to 2002, before ascending to the bench as a Circuit Judge in the 7th Judicial Circuit, where he served with distinction for over two decades from 2003 to 2024. Currently semi-retired from his legal practice, Mr. Clayton continues to contribute his expertise to the legal community.

Community and professional involvement have always been a cornerstone of Mr. Clayton's commitment to Volusia County, and he has served in the following roles:

- Former President of the Volusia County Bar Association
- Former Board of Directors member of the Domestic Abuse Council
- Former Board of Directors member of West Volusia Habitat for Humanity
- Former member of the 7th Circuit Grievance Committee
- Former member of the 5th DCA nominating commission
- Current member of Journey Church

During his free time, Mr. Clayton enjoys boating, fishing, motorcycle riding, working on his property, and spending quality time with his wife and dogs.





## Nathaniel Ingram

Nathaniel Ingram is a dedicated public servant and entrepreneur who has built his career around serving the Volusia County community. His professional journey includes 27 years as a Certified Law Enforcement Officer in Florida, where he gained extensive experience in public safety and community protection. Following his law enforcement career, Mr. Ingram transitioned into real estate as a broker with Compass Real Estate while also establishing himself as a small business owner in Volusia County.

Community and professional involvement have always been a driving force for Mr. Ingram, and he has made significant contributions through the following initiatives:

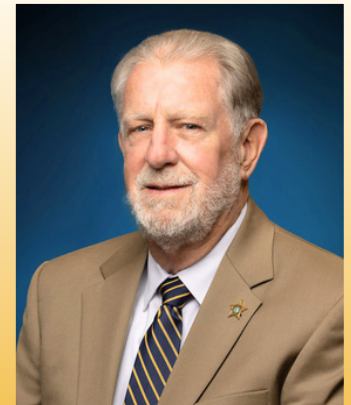
- Co-owner of a mental health group practice that provides care based on a sliding fee schedule to community members
- Advocate for specialized PTSD and trauma therapy services for public safety personnel
- Champion of accessible mental health care, providing low or no-cost services to those who cannot otherwise obtain treatment

Mr. Ingram's commitment to giving back to his community extends beyond his professional work as he believes in ensuring that essential mental health services are available to all members of the community, regardless of their ability to pay.

During his free time, Mr. Ingram enjoys fishing, diving, motocross, stock car racing, and spending precious moments with his granddaughter.

## Ben Johnson

Ben Johnson is a lifelong resident of Volusia County attaining degrees from Daytona Beach Community College and Rollins College, where he earned a bachelor's degree with honors in Criminal Justice. In addition, he is a graduate of the 156<sup>th</sup> session of the FBI National Academy, Quantico, Virginia. Mr. Johnson's career with the Volusia County Sheriff's Office spanned almost 43 years, including a stint as a First District Commander in Deltona and 16 years as elected Sheriff of Volusia County, a position he held until his retirement in 2016. During his tenure as Sheriff, he was elected president of the Florida Sheriff's Association in 2011. After retirement, Mr. Johnson was elected as the at-large member of the Volusia County Council between 2019 and January 2023. Community and professional involvement have always been a commitment for Mr. Johnson, and he has served in the following roles:



- American Heart Association Volusia/Flagler Heart Walk Co-Chairman
- Emergency Medical Foundation Board of Directors
- Florida Coalition for Safe Highways Community Leader
- DeLand Rotary Club
- West Volusia Police Athletic League
- Volusia Masonic Lodge
- One Voice for Volusia, Board of Directors
- Habitat for Humanity, Board of Directors
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Volusia/Flagler Counties, Board of Directors
- Florida and the National Sheriff's Association
- Volusia County Relay for Life
- American Heart Association, 1998 Heart Walk Vice Chair
- Boy Scouts of America, Chairman of Golden Eagle Dinner
- American Cancer Society, 2001 Honorary Chair

During his free time, Mr. Johnson enjoys hunting, fishing, boating, and playing golf.



## Kelly Kwiatek

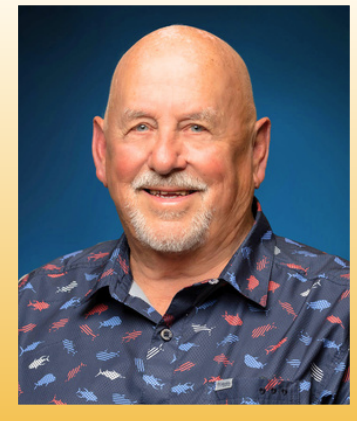
Kelly Kwiatek is a distinguished legal professional who has dedicated her career to private practice and healthcare leadership in Volusia County. Beginning in 2001, she established herself as a skilled Commercial Litigator at Cobb Cole, progressing from Associate (2001–2006) to Shareholder (2007–2018). In 2019, Ms. Kwiatek transitioned to her current role as Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Officer at Halifax Health, where she oversees multiple critical departments including legal, compliance, risk management, self-insurance/insurance, government affairs, and the foundation. Community and professional involvement have always been central to Ms. Kwiatek's commitment to serving Volusia County, and she currently serves in the following roles:

- Board of Trustees for Daytona State College
- Judicial Nominating Commission for the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida
- Board of Directors for the Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Endowment Committee for St. James Episcopal Church
- Member of the Halifax Area Civic League
- Member of the Checkered Flag Committee
- Member of the Volusia County Bar Association
- Member of the Litigation Counsel of America

During her free time, Ms. Kwiatek enjoys spending quality time with family and friends, reading historical fiction, boating on the water, and playing piano and singing with fellow musicians.

## Dwight Lewis

Dwight Lewis is a lifelong resident of Volusia County who has dedicated his career to education, business, and public service. He began his professional journey as a teacher from 1966 to 1969 before transitioning to the private sector as a Sales Representative for Texaco Oil Company from 1969 to 1979. In 1979, Mr. Lewis became an entrepreneur, owning and operating Driver Oil Company in DeLand until 1999. His commitment to public service led him to the Volusia County Council, where he served from 1998 to 2006, being elected Chair twice and serving on numerous County Council Boards, chairing most of them throughout his tenure. Community and professional involvement have always been a cornerstone of Mr. Lewis' dedication to Volusia County, and he has served in the following leadership roles:



- President of South Daytona Little League
- Daytona State College Board of Trustees
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Volusia/Flagler Counties Board, Chair
- Council on Aging Board
- Volusia Council of Governments (VCOG), Chair
- Rotarian

Mr. Lewis' extensive experience in the private and public sectors has given him a unique perspective on community needs and effective governance, making him a trusted leader throughout Volusia County. During his free time, Mr. Lewis enjoys spending time with his family, following all sports, hunting and fishing, and helping with local community concerns.



## Amy Munizzi

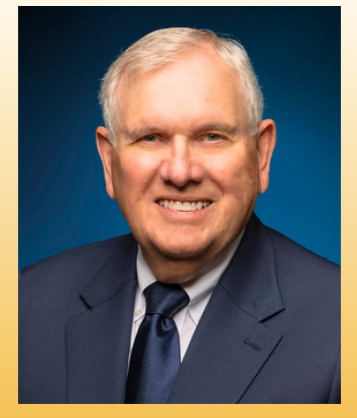
Amy Munizzi is a dedicated community advocate and long-term resident who has made significant contributions to the DeLeon Springs area since purchasing property there in 2006. Her professional background includes work in interior design before becoming a full-time homemaker, during which time she volunteered extensively in public schools and student ministry as a curriculum writer and student missions leader. Ms. Munizzi's passion for community involvement led her to volunteer with a local citizen group and co-found the DeLeon Springs Community Association, Inc., where she continues to serve as a driving force for positive change. Community and professional involvement have always been central to Ms. Munizzi's commitment to serving DeLeon Springs and the broader region, and she currently serves in the following leadership roles:

- President of the DeLeon Springs Community Association, Inc. (DSCA)
- Vice Chair of the River of Lakes Heritage Corridor Board
- Chair of the Autumn in the Oaks Festival
- Chair of the "Ride into Reading" program
- Chair of the DSCA, Inc., Scholarship Board
- Former Guardian ad Litem in the 7th Judicial Circuit
- Active advocate and volunteer in various church roles

Ms. Munizzi's advocacy efforts have resulted in significant environmental and infrastructure improvements for her community, including her successful campaign for the environmental remediation of DeLeon Springs' extensive underground fuel plume and her work to extend water and sewer lines to McInnis Elementary School and DeLeon Springs' commercial corridor.

During her free time, Ms. Munizzi enjoys spending time with her family, appreciating the beauty of nature through boating and water sports, and cycling throughout the scenic areas of her beloved community.

## Kenneth Parker



Kenneth Parker is a distinguished public administration professional with an extensive career spanning over four decades in municipal government leadership. His career began in 1970 with various administrative positions in the City of Dallas, Texas, before advancing through progressively responsible roles including City Manager of Malvern, Arkansas (1973–1977), Chief Deputy Secretary of State for Arkansas (1977–1978), Assistant City Manager and later City Manager of Texarkana, Arkansas (1978–1984), and culminating in his role as City Manager of Port Orange from 1984 to 2013. Following his retirement, Mr. Parker continues to contribute his expertise as the ICMA/FCCMA Senior Advisor Coordinator for Florida, a volunteer position where he provides services to municipalities at no cost. Community and professional involvement have always been central to Mr. Parker's commitment to public service, and he currently serves in the following roles:

- Board of Directors for the Port Orange Community Trust, Vice President
- Former Chair of the Scholarship Committee for Port Orange Community Trust
- Bible study teacher at First Baptist Daytona Beach
- Deacon at First Baptist Daytona Beach
- Co-founder and coordinator of homebound meal ministry at First Baptist Daytona Beach
- ICMA/FCCMA Senior Advisor Coordinator for Florida (volunteer position)

Mr. Parker's dedication to serving others extends beyond his professional expertise as he and his wife prepare and deliver approximately 50 meals weekly through their homebound meal ministry, demonstrating their ongoing commitment to caring for community members in need.

During his free time, Mr. Parker enjoys traveling, working with his grandchildren who attend virtual school, and participating in various volunteer activities throughout the community.



## Nicholas Sakhnovsky

Nicholas Sakhnovsky is a Florida native who has maintained a deep connection to Volusia County since beginning regular visits for Bike Week in the mid-1990s, eventually maintaining a timeshare in New Smyrna Beach. Six years ago, Mr. Sakhnovsky retired from a distinguished public service career in Broward County government to make his permanent home in Daytona Beach's Margaritaville with his wife, Alice. Mr. Sakhnovsky's educational foundation includes a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College in Government and Urban & Regional Studies, complemented by graduate degrees from the University of Florida (law), Florida Atlantic University (educational leadership), and Florida State University (information studies). His diverse expertise spans transportation planning, law, education, and library services. Community and professional involvement have been hallmarks of Nick's commitment to public service throughout his career, and he has served in the following roles across multiple Florida communities:

- Environmental Law Society legislative liaison at UF Law School
- Member of the Sierra Club's Gainesville Group
- Certified Legal Intern with the Miami-Dade Office of Public Defender
- Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee member, Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Elementary school association president in Broward County
- Middle school advisory council chair in Broward County
- Education director at South Bay Correctional Facility in Palm Beach County
- Volusia County Housing Finance Authority member (current, past two years)

Mr. Sakhnovsky's extensive experience in government, education, and community advocacy across multiple counties has provided him with a comprehensive understanding of Florida's diverse regional needs and challenges.

## Suzanne Scheiber

Suzanne Scheiber is a dedicated environmental advocate and former marketing executive who has channeled her professional expertise into protecting Volusia County's natural resources. Her career included over two decades as Director of Marketing at MacAcademy/Windows Academy d/b/a Florida Marketing International from 1991 to 2013, where she managed a team of 20 people overseeing marketing staff and customer service operations. In this role, she traveled extensively for business meetings with Apple Computer, trade shows, and seminars, while coordinating marketing materials with advertising and video production departments. Following her marketing career, Ms. Scheiber has immersed herself in environmental education and advocacy, completing certification courses through the University of Florida/IFAS for Environmental Advocacy. She has also earned certificates from Save the Lagoon Academy, Save the Springs Academy, and the Citizens Academy. Community and environmental involvement have become Ms. Scheiber's primary focus. She currently serves in the following leadership roles:

- Founder and Director of Dream Green Volusia (environmental nonprofit organization)
- Vice Chair of Volusia Forever
- Member of the Indian River Lagoon Citizens Advisory Committee

Through Dream Green Volusia, Ms. Scheiber has achieved significant environmental improvements including securing a Watergoat for Holly Hill to prevent trash from reaching waterways, providing storm drain labeling stencils to 12 cities and the County, creating two educational environmental murals in New Smyrna Beach, and successfully conserving 36 acres of land on the Ormond Scenic Loop. During her free time, Ms. Scheiber enjoys hiking, kayaking, and biking at Central Park, traveling to national parks, and continuously educating herself on local environmental issues through courses, experiences, and community meetings.





## Christopher Tolland

Christopher Tolland is an accomplished insurance industry executive who has built his career in risk management and commercial insurance services. He served as Producer and Vice President at Brown and Brown from 2007 to 2018, before advancing to his current role as Executive Vice President at Foundation Risk Partners in 2019, where he continues to provide strategic leadership and expertise in the insurance sector. Community and professional involvement have always been central to Mr. Tolland's commitment to serving Volusia County and the broader region, and he actively participates in the following organizations:

- Council on Aging of Volusia
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Volusia and Flagler Counties
- Crime Stoppers of Northeast Florida
- Conklin Davis Center for the Blind
- Rotary Club of Ormond Beach
- Florida Chamber of Commerce
- Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Civic League of the Halifax Area

Mr. Tolland's extensive community involvement demonstrates his dedication to supporting various causes including youth development, senior services, public safety, and assistance for individuals with visual impairments, reflecting his broad commitment to improving the quality of life throughout the communities he serves. During his free time, Mr. Tolland enjoys playing tennis, reading, traveling, and socializing with family and friends.

## Billie Wheeler



Billie Wheeler is a lifelong advocate for Volusia County, where she built her career in accounting and financial planning. She owned and operated an accounting and financial planning firm, developing extensive business and community connections throughout Central Florida. In 2012, she was elected to the Daytona Beach Shores City Council, where she also served on the Planning and Zoning Board and Parks and Recreation Board. Ms. Wheeler's government experience includes serving as Volusia County Council Member for District 2 from 2016 to 2022, representing beachside communities of Ponce Inlet, Daytona Beach Shores, and portions of Daytona Beach. Her leadership experience extends to serving as President of the Volusia League of Cities and serving on the Florida League of Cities Executive Board. During her tenure in government, she has been appointed to numerous state and national leadership positions:

- Board of Directors, Florida Association of Counties
- The National Association of Counties Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee
- Chairman, River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization
- East Central Florida Regional Planning Commission Executive Board

Community involvement has always been a commitment for Ms. Wheeler, and she has served in the following roles:

- Co-Chairman of Census 2020 Campaign
- Executive Board member of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Volusia/Flagler Counties
- Daytona State College Center for Women and Men Advisory Board
- Board member of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Statuary Hall Campaign Inc.
- Halifax Health Associate member
- Volusia Community Health Needs Assessment Leadership Team
- Victim Advocate for Port Orange
- MOAS Guild
- Daytona Symphony Guild
- Halifax Historic Society Board Member
- VFW 3282 Auxiliary
- Member of Daytona Regional and Port Orange/South Daytona Chambers
- First Baptist Daytona member

In her free time, Ms. Wheeler enjoys time with her combined family of 8 children, 26 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren and dancing, reading, traveling, and swimming.



## Stephanie Wohlford

Stephanie Wohlford is a dedicated public affairs professional and longtime Volusia County resident of 24 years who has built her career around government relations and community service. She currently serves as Director of Government Affairs at Halifax Health, bringing valuable experience from her previous role working in the Florida House of Representatives for Representative, now Senator, Tom Leek, where she also managed his election campaigns. Prior to entering government work, Ms. Wohlford demonstrated her entrepreneurial spirit by owning and operating several local businesses in the area. Ms. Wohlford's extensive network of community involvement reflects her deep commitment to supporting children's services, healthcare initiatives, and civic engagement throughout the region. Community and professional involvement have always been central to Ms. Wohlford's commitment to Volusia County, and she actively serves in the following roles:

- Halifax Health Auxiliary Board member
- Co-Community Service Chair for Daytona Beach West Rotary Club
- Cabinet member for Children's Home Society Community Partnership Schools
- Homes Bring Hope Prosperity Initiative member
- Easterseals Florida Advisory Board member
- Former board member for Easterseals of Northeast Central Florida
- Take Stock in Children mentor
- Member of the Daytona Regional Chamber (2022 Leadership Daytona graduate)
- Member of the Volusia Tiger Bay Club
- Member of the Volusia League of Cities
- Member of the Volusia County Republican Executive Committee
- Member of the Republican Club of NE Volusia County

During her free time, Ms. Wohlford enjoys spending time with her family, especially her 17-year-old daughter and her 10- and 7-year-old nieces. She also enjoys staying engaged in politics, gardening, bird watching, wine tasting, beach walking, reading true crime, and reading.



## Appendix E: Organizational Structure and Timeline

In accordance with Section 1303 of the Volusia County Charter, the Charter Review Commission (CRC) assembled on September 3, 2025, for its organizational meeting. The CRC had one year from the date of the meeting to present its final report to Volusia County Council. During the organizational meeting, the commission appointed Mark Watts Chair and Patricia Northey Vice Chair, adopted its Rules of Procedure, and set its schedule of meetings.

### Charter Review Commission Timeline

- Volusia County Council made its appointments to the CRC on August 5, 2025
- An organizational meeting was held on September 3, 2025
- Five Public Listening Sessions were held in September 2025
- The main CRC met once a month between September 2025 and May 2026
- The CRC created two subcommittees in December 2025 to further develop potential charter amendments and created an additional subcommittee to develop the CRC's final recommendations in February 2026
- The Environmental and Conservation Subcommittee met twice in January 2026
- The Government Structure and Housekeeping Subcommittee met twice in January and once in February 2026
- The Report and Recommendation Subcommittee met once in February and once in March 2026
- The final report was presented to the County Council in June 2026
- Resolutions calling for a referendum and advertisement of such are scheduled to be adopted in August 2026
- Voters will consider the five Charter amendments during the November 2026 General Election

### Proposed Meeting Dates

The CRC met in the Dennis R. McGee Room of the Daytona Beach International Airport, 700 Catalina Dr., Daytona Beach on the following dates:

- September 3, 2025
- October 13, 2025
- November 10, 2025
- December 8, 2025
- January 12, 2026
- February 9, 2026
- March 9, 2026
- April 13, 2026
- May 4, 2026



## Appendix F: Rules of Procedure

### **RULE 1. Public Meetings**

All meetings of the Commission, including all meetings of its committees, shall be open to the public and reasonable notice provided of the date, time and place of said meetings. Votes by the Commission or committees shall be decided by majority vote of the members present.

### **RULE 2. Proposals for Charter Review**

Proposals for Charter review being made by anyone other than Commissioners should be submitted to the Charter Review Commission using the comment link available on the Charter Review Commission page or by email to the designated email address and should include:

1. Name, address, and telephone number of the proposer and the name of the Organization being represented, if any;
2. The current wording of the article of the Charter that the proposer desires to change;
3. An explanation of the weaknesses of or perceived issues with the article as currently written, and the reason for the changes and what would be improved or otherwise changed; and
4. The exact language which the proposer would like the Charter article rewritten or otherwise amended.

To ensure the Commissioners and the public will have time to review any proposed topics, proposals should be submitted ten (10) days prior to any scheduled CRC meeting. The Commission may establish a schedule for submitting proposals and publishing agendas.

### **RULE 3. Citizen Participation at Meetings**

Members of the public shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a proposition before the Commission as provided by state law prior to official action. Members of the public wishing to comment should, in the general case, give written notice of their desire to make such comment at or prior to the meeting. The remarks of any citizen should be germane to the agenda or topics then under consideration. Each agenda will include and prescribe a certain portion of the meeting at which "Remarks of Interested Citizens" may be made. Public participation will be limited to three minutes and may be decreased by a majority vote of the Commission in order to accommodate other members of the public in attendance at the meeting.



#### **RULE 4. Frequency of Meetings**

There shall be at least one (1) meeting of the full Commission each month.

#### **RULE 5. Place of Meetings**

The meetings of the Commission or committees should be conducted within a venue large enough to accommodate the Commission and public. Unless otherwise specified, Commission meetings will be held at the Daytona Beach International Airport, second floor Volusia Room, 700 Catalina Drive, Daytona Beach and subcommittee meetings will be held at the Emergency Operations and Sheriff's Communication Center, 3825 Tiger Bay Road, Daytona Beach. These locations are subject to change.

#### **RULE 6. Call and Notice of Meetings**

The date, time, and location of each regular meeting of the Commission will be announced at the preceding regular or special meeting of the Commission or by the Chair if not previously decided by the Commission. Special meetings may be called by the Chairman of the Commission. The agenda of each regular meeting will be posted online by County staff 5–7 days in advance of each meeting. Agendas will be sent to each Commission or committee member electronically to the email address provided by each member. A written notice of special meetings of the entire Commission shall be given in the same manner as written notices of regular meetings, except that the written notice of a special meeting shall include the purpose for the call of such special meeting. County staff will be available to handle meeting notices and preparation of agendas.

#### **RULE 7. Agenda for Regular Meetings**

Unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, the agenda for regular meetings of the Commission shall be as follows:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)
- IV. Public Participation (Limit 3 minutes each)
- V. Presentation of Issue
- VI. Reports of Subcommittees
- VII. Discussion by Commission of Matters Not on the Agenda
- VIII. Adjournment with Day Fixed for Next Meeting

#### **RULE 8. Recording of Minutes**

Minutes of each meeting will be prepared in accordance with state law with the goal of those minutes being presented to the Commission or committee by its next meeting.



## **RULE 9. Quorum**

A majority of the members of the Commission physically present constitutes a quorum at all meetings of the Commission or committee.

## **RULE 10. Proxy Voting**

No member of the Commission or any of its study committees or committees has the power to vote by proxy. Only those members physically present are entitled to vote on matters before the Commission or committee.

## **RULE 11. Official Rules of Order**

Except as otherwise provided in these rules of procedure, Robert's Rules of Order Revised (the most recent edition) is hereby adopted as the official rules of order of the Commission and committees.

## **RULE 12. Duties of the Chairman**

The Chairman shall:

- a) Preside at all regular and special meetings of the Commission;
- b) Represent the Commission at all functions and activities;
- c) Serve as ex-officio (non-voting) member of all committees and study committees;
- d) Be responsible for making all committee assignments and appointment of all chairmen of committees;
- e) Call special meetings when necessary;
- f) Work with County staff in the preparation of the next agenda consistent with direction of the Commission.

## **RULE 13. Duties of the Vice Chairman**

The Vice Chairman performs the duties of the Chairman if the Chairman is unavailable. The secretary shall temporarily serve as Chairman in the event the Chairman or Vice Chairman is unavailable. If none of these individuals are available, the membership shall vote on who will serve as temporary chair for that meeting.

## **RULE 14. Vacancies**

A vacancy on the Commission will exist upon the death, removal, resignation, or disqualification of any member. The vacancy will be filled by the appointment of a replacement member by the Volusia County Council.

## **RULE 15. Amendment**

These rules and procedures shall be the bylaws of the Commission unless amended by majority vote of the members present.



## Appendix G: Public Listening Sessions

The Charter Review Commission (CRC) believed that the residents of Volusia County should have the opportunity to voice their concerns regarding the Home Rule Charter and conducted several public listening sessions to hear concerns raised by citizens. The CRC deliberately scheduled the Public Listening Sessions to take place at the beginning of the CRC's timeline to provide Volusia citizens with an opportunity to voice their ideas and concerns prior to the CRC conducting its own discussions.

To accomplish the goal of effective public participation, the CRC scheduled the five Public Listening Sessions throughout Volusia County to allow residents convenient venues to attend and address the CRC regarding specific issues citizens felt needed to be addressed during the review process.

As a result, the Public Listening Sessions took place during September in five locations across Volusia County:

- September 9, 2025 – Deltona Regional Library, 2150 Eustace Ave., Deltona
- September 11, 2025 – New Smyrna Beach Regional Library, 1001 S. Dixie Freeway, New Smyrna Beach
- September 15, 2025 – Ormond Beach Regional Library, 30 South Beach Street, Ormond Beach
- September 17, 2025 – Daytona Beach Regional Library, Jackie Robinson Parkway, Daytona Beach
- September 22, 2025 – Courtroom, Historic Courthouse, 112 W. Indiana Ave., DeLand

The purpose of having several meetings in different geographical areas of the County was to ensure that the public could have a time and place for their input to be heard, regardless of where any members of the public may reside within the County. The CRC publicized the listening sessions through press releases, the County of Volusia's website, and social media.

The CRC also encouraged the public to follow the CRC's progress by posting the agendas and minutes of all the CRC's meetings on the County's website, conducting publicly noticed meetings to discuss potential charter amendments and related ideas, using a designated [VCCharterReview@volusia.org](mailto:VCCharterReview@volusia.org) email address to which ideas and feedback could be submitted, and holding the five Public Listening Sessions.



## Charter Review Commission Public Listening Session Topics:

### **Deltona Regional Library – September 9, 2025**

Public Attendance: 1 member of the public

Topic: Empowering Volusia County to investigate police misconduct and implementation of police oversight mechanisms

### **New Smyrna Beach Regional Library – September 11, 2025**

Public Attendance: 1 member of the public

Topic: Requesting more varied representation on the CRC

### **Ormond Beach Regional Library – September 15, 2025**

Public Attendance: 4 members of the public

Topics:

- Implementation of native Florida–friendly landscaping
- Setting county property tax millage
- Eliminating government control over zoning and land use changes
- Making all county elections nonpartisan
- Removing all county prohibitions on beach driving
- Empowering Volusia County to investigate police misconduct
- Implementation of police oversight mechanisms
- Strengthening citizens' property rights and environmental protection
- Enhancing public awareness of legislative procedures
- Questioning rationale for nonpartisan elections
- Clarification of Amendment 10



## **Daytona Beach Regional Library – September 17, 2025**

Public Attendance: 3 members of the public

Topics:

- Empowering Volusia County to investigate police misconduct
- Implementation of police oversight mechanisms
- Code Enforcement officers to obtain inspection warrants and receive better training. Establishment of an administrative board to address concerns
- Ensuring court hearings should continue regardless of whether witnesses have been subpoenaed
- Increasing conservation percentage for Volusia Forever
- Removing County's power for direct county expenditures
- Requiring cameras for code enforcement
- Banning fill and build construction for subdivisions to prevent flooding
- Prohibiting lowering millage rate for Volusia Forever
- Requiring everything presented to the PLRDC to go before the County Council

## **DeLand Historic Courthouse – September 22, 2025**

Public Attendance: 5 members of the public

Topics:

- Empowering Volusia County to investigate police misconduct
- Implementation of police oversight mechanisms
- Requiring a publicly accessible pedestrian safety data portal
- Code Enforcement officers to obtain inspection warrants and receive better training. Establishment of an administrative board to address concerns
- Ensuring court hearings should continue regardless of whether witnesses have been subpoenaed
- Cap fines or require judicial review for liens exceeding property value
- Prohibiting title changes without notice
- Improving notification about charter review hearings
- Codify a permanent funding source for alternative transportation modes
- Ensuring minimum standards for environmental protection are enforced by Volusia County to the cities
- Address resiliency from sea level rise and climate change
- Ensure safe and clean drinking water
- Prohibit privatization of water sourcing
- Prevent bans on any possible water source
- Prioritize clean water sources for personal use and implement irrigation bans when supplies are strained
- Allow reuse of gray water for non-potable purposes
- Require swift action to clean up known contaminants

Volusia County staff provided subject knowledge, legal advice, and administrative support during the Listening Sessions and uploaded copies of the minutes and audio recordings to the CRC's publicly accessible webpage on Volusia County's website. Reports of the Listening Sessions were made to the main CRC meeting in October, and a number of the topics formed the basis of ballot proposals or were included in the recommendation letter to the County Council.



## Appendix H: Subcommittees

As a result of the Public Listening Sessions, the Charter Review Commissioners' own debates, and input from Volusia County staff, and to efficiently complete the tasks assigned to the Charter Review Commission (CRC), the CRC formed three subcommittees from among the membership of the main CRC. The Chair of the CRC appointed a chair for each of the subcommittees.

### **Environmental and Conservation Subcommittee**

*(appointed at the CRC meeting on December 8, 2025)*

Patricia Northey, Chair  
Nathaniel Ingram  
Dwight Lewis  
Suzanne Scheiber  
Christopher Tolland  
Stephanie Wohlford

### **Government Structure and Housekeeping Subcommittee**

*(appointed at the CRC meeting on December 8, 2025)*

Kenneth Parker, Chair  
Jennifer Bright  
James Clayton  
Ben Johnson  
Kelly Kwiatek  
Nicholas Sakhnovsky  
Billie Wheeler

### **Report and Recommendations Subcommittee**

*(appointed at the CRC Meeting on February 9, 2025)*

Nicholas Sakhnovsky, Chair  
Kenneth Parker  
Patricia Northey  
Mark Watts  
Suzanne Scheiber  
Amy Munizzi  
Jennifer Bright

The subcommittees invited subject matter experts to present at their meetings as appropriate. Volusia County staff provided subject matter knowledge, legal advice, and administrative support on an as needed basis.



## Subcommittee Meeting Schedule

Subcommittee chairs reported back to the CRC following each meeting, and County staff uploaded copies of the minutes and audio recordings to the CRC's publicly accessible webpage on the Volusia County website.

### Environmental and Conservation Subcommittee

- January 9, 2026 – Thomas C. Kelly Training Room 1, 123 W. Indiana Ave., DeLand
- January 28, 2026 – Thomas C. Kelly Training Room 1, 123 W. Indiana Ave., DeLand

### Government Structure and Housekeeping Subcommittee

- January 12, 2026 – Dennis McGee Room, Daytona Beach International Airport, Daytona Beach
- January 28, 2026 – TCK Training Room 1, 123 W. Indiana Ave., DeLand
- February 9, 2026 – Dennis McGee Room, Daytona Beach International Airport, Daytona Beach

### Report and Recommendation Subcommittee

- February 18, 2026 – Dennis McGee Room, Daytona Beach International Airport, Daytona Beach
- March 2, 2026 – Dennis McGee Room, Daytona Beach International Airport, Daytona Beach
- March 16, 2026 – Airline Room, Daytona Beach International Airport, Daytona Beach

### Environmental and Conservation Subcommittee

Following considerable discussion, members of the Subcommittee agreed to submit an amendment to form a conservation land registry to which land may be added or removed by a majority plus one vote of the entire County Council, with heightened notice requirements for removal. This registry will prohibit property from being conveyed unless the County Council determines the land is no longer needed for conservation purposes.

### Government Structure and Housekeeping Subcommittee

Following considerable discussion, the members of the Subcommittee agreed to submit five ballot proposals to amend the charter to account for those changes imposed by Florida Constitution Amendment 10 with regard to Constitutional officers (Florida Constitutional Amendment 10 conforming revisions), for the County Chair to be appointed by the Council from among its elected members and impose additional term limits (County chair appointed by council; additional term limits), removal of detailed personnel administration provisions from the charter (Simplification of personnel administration section) and removal of charter limitations regarding reimbursement of work-related expenses incurred by County Council members (Reimbursement of expenses incurred by County Council Members) to the CRC.



## **Report and Recommendations Subcommittee**

The Report and Recommendations Subcommittee met to consider the letter of recommendations the CRC had reserved to send to the Volusia County Council. This letter includes recommendations to:

- Occasionally hold Council meetings on the east side of Volusia County.
- Mandate a funding source for public transportation
- Enforce minimum environmental standards within the incorporated areas
- Support cultural arts funding
- Form an Interlocal Infrastructure Coordination Group to address flooding concerns
- Continue the current practice of returning funds raised from the sale of Volusia Forever lands to the Volusia Forever accounting line of the general fund

The Subcommittee also considered the format and content of the final report providing a full representation of the work completed by the 2026 CRC.



## Appendix I: Meeting Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
September 3, 2025	Daytona Beach International Airport	Organizational Meeting
September 9, 2025	Deltona Regional Library	Listening Session
September 11, 2025	New Smyrna Beach Regional Library	Listening Session
September 15, 2025	Ormond Beach Regional Library	Listening Session
September 17, 2025	Daytona Beach Regional Library	Listening Session
September 22, 2025	Historic Courthouse, DeLand	Listening Session
October 13, 2025	Daytona Beach International Airport	Main Commission Meeting
November 10, 2025	Daytona Beach International Airport	Main Commission Meeting
December 8, 2025	Daytona Beach International Airport	Main Commission Meeting
January 9, 2026	Thomas C. Kelly Administration Center	Environmental and Conservation Subcommittee
January 12, 2026	Daytona Beach International Airport	Main Commission Meeting
January 13, 2026	Daytona Beach International Airport	Govt. Structure and Housekeeping Subcommittee
January 28, 2026	Thomas C. Kelly Administration Center	Environmental and Conservation Subcommittee
January 28, 2026	Thomas C. Kelly Administration Center	Govt. Structure and Housekeeping Subcommittee
February 9, 2026	Daytona Beach International Airport	Govt. Structure and Housekeeping Subcommittee
February 9, 2026	Daytona Beach International Airport	Main Commission Meeting
February 18, 2026	Daytona Beach International Airport	Report and Recommendations Subcommittee
March 2, 2026	Daytona Beach International Airport	Report and Recommendations Subcommittee
March 9, 2026	Daytona Beach International Airport	Main Commission Meeting
March 16, 2026	Daytona Beach International Airport	Report and Recommendations Subcommittee
April 13, 2026	Daytona Beach International Airport	Main Commission Meeting
May 19, 2026	Council Chambers, TCK	County Council Public Hearing
June 2, 2026	Council Chambers, TCK	County Council Public Hearing
June 16, 2026	Council Chambers, TCK	County Council Public Hearing

# Appendix J

## AMENDMENT 1

### (County Chair Appointed by Council; additional term limits)

The amendment ballot title and ballot summary (question) are as follows:

#### COUNTY CHAIR APPOINTED BY ELECTED COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MORE RESTRICTIVE COUNTY COUNCIL TERM LIMITS

Shall the Volusia County Charter be amended so County Council appoints one of its members as county chair each year, not to exceed two consecutive, one-year terms as chair; return the County Council to a seven-member body of five district members and two at-large members; and establish that no County Council member may appear on the ballot if they would have served eight consecutive years at the end of their current term?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

The proposed amendment, in full, shall read as follows:

The Volusia County Home Rule Charter, Chapter 70-966, Laws of Florida (Sp. Acts), as previously amended, shall be further amended in pertinent part as follows:

(Except as provided herein or as otherwise provided by separate amendment, charter provisions not shown are not amended.)

(Words ~~struck~~ are deletions; words underscored are additions.)

#### ARTICLE III. - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH—COUNTY COUNCIL

##### Sec. 301. - Composition.

The council shall be composed of ~~six~~ seven members ~~and the county chair~~. There shall be five council districts. Each district shall elect one council member. ~~One~~ Two council members shall be elected at large. ~~The county chair shall be elected at large.~~

...

##### Sec. 302. - Qualifications.

~~The county chair and m~~Members of the county council shall be qualified electors of the county, and shall have been residents of the county for two years immediately preceding the date on which they qualify to run for office. The five members elected from districts shall have resided within the district from which they are elected for at least six months prior to the date on which they qualify to run for office. Any such council member who shall move residency from the district from which elected shall thereupon become disqualified to represent said district as council member and the office of the council member shall be deemed vacant.

...

**Sec. 303.2. - At large members.**

~~The Council members~~ elected at large shall be elected for a term of four years. One council member at large shall be elected in the those years, the numbers of which are not multiples of four. Commencing on January 1, 2029, the council seat formerly occupied by the elected chair shall be held by a council member at large, first elected in 2028 and thereafter elected in those years, the numbers of which are multiples of four.

**Sec. 303.3. - County chair / Vice chair.**

~~The county chair shall be elected for a term of four years in which the numbers are multiples of four. Commencing at its first meeting in January, and continuing every year thereafter, the county council shall elect a council member to serve at its pleasure for a one-year term to act as the county chair, but in no event may a council member serve as county chair for more than two consecutive terms. The county council shall further elect at such meeting a council member to serve at its pleasure for a one-year term as vice chair of the county council to preside in the temporary absence, disqualification, or disability of the county chair at county council meetings and perform such other duties as may be assigned by the council.~~

**Sec. 303.4. - Terms.**

~~The term of the county chair or a council member shall begin the first day of January after election. The county chair or a~~Each council member shall continue in office after the end of the term until a successor is duly elected and qualified.

**Sec. 303.5. - Limitation of tenure.**

No person may appear on the ballot for ~~re~~-election as a district council member, or at large council member or county chair if by the end of ~~the~~their current term of office, the person will have served (or, but for resignation, would have served) ~~in that office on~~ county council for eight consecutive years.

...

**Sec. 305. - Vacancies and suspensions.**

Vacancies in ~~the county chair's~~, any council member's or other elected office under this charter government shall be filled in accordance with the Constitution and laws of Florida. Suspensions from office for cause shall be in accordance with the Constitution of Florida.

**Sec. 306. - Meetings and organization.**

The organizational meeting of the council shall be held on the first Thursday after the first Monday of January. The council shall provide for the manner, time and place for holding all regular council meetings. The county manager shall prepare ~~and the county chair may supplement~~ an agenda prior to each meeting. Upon the commencement of the meeting, the agenda is subject to action of the council.

...

**~~Sec. 307.1. - The county chair.~~**

~~The office of the county chair shall have all jurisdiction and powers which are now and which hereafter may be granted to it by the Constitution and laws of Florida provided that such powers shall be exercised in a manner consistent with this charter. The county chair, in addition to the powers and duties provided by this charter, shall have the specific powers and duties to:~~

- ~~1. Serve as the official and ceremonial representative of the government.~~
- ~~2. Issue proclamations on behalf of the government, which shall be reported to the county council upon issuance.~~
- ~~3. Preside as chair of and in all other respects participate in the meetings of the county council and have an equal vote on all questions coming before it.~~
- ~~4. Execute ordinances, resolutions and other authorized documents of the government.~~
- ~~5. Serve ex-officio as the county government's representative, and appoint others to serve in the county chair's stead, on other bodies external to county government.~~
- ~~6. Serve as the county council representative, and appoint county council members to serve in the county chair's stead, on other bodies internal to county government.~~

~~The county council shall elect at its first meeting in January a council member to serve at its pleasure for a one-year term as vice chair of the county council to preside in the temporary absence, disqualification or disability of the county chair at county council meetings and perform other duties assigned by the county chair.~~

**Sec. 307.2. – Annual report.**

~~The county chair shall report annually to the county council and residents the activities of county government for the previous year and the status of accomplishment of existing goals and objectives. The report shall set forth new and revised goals and objectives for future action. Subsequently, the county council shall meet to consider adoption of a plan of action for implementation of the goals and objectives.~~

**AMENDMENT 2**

**(Reimbursement of expenses incurred by County Council Members)**

The amendment ballot title and ballot summary (question) are as follows:

**REMOVAL OF CHARTER LIMITATIONS REGARDING REIMBURSEMENT OF WORK-RELATED EXPENSES INCURRED BY COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Shall the Volusia County Charter be amended to remove charter limitations regarding reimbursement of work-related expenses incurred by County Council members?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

The proposed amendment, in full, shall read as follows:

The Volusia County Home Rule Charter, Chapter 70-966, Laws of Florida (Sp. Acts), as previously amended, shall be further amended in pertinent part as follows:

(Except as provided herein or as otherwise provided by separate amendment, charter provisions not shown are not amended.)

(Words ~~struck~~ are deletions; words underscored are additions.)

**ARTICLE III. - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH—COUNTY COUNCIL**

...

**Sec. 304. - Compensation.**

The salary of a council member shall be 50% percent of that prescribed by law for the office of county commissioner. The salary for the county chair shall be 60% percent of that prescribed by law for the office of county commissioner. ~~The salaries shall constitute full compensation for all services and in-county expenses, except that out-of-county expenses, as permitted by law, shall be authorized.~~

**AMENDMENT 3**

**(Florida Constitutional Amendment 10 conforming revisions)**

The amendment ballot title and ballot summary (question) are as follows:

**AMEND CHARTER TO REFLECT CHANGES MADE TO FLORIDA  
CONSTITUTION AS TO COUNTY CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS**

Shall the Volusia County Home Rule Charter be amended to repeal provisions which were superseded in 2018 by the voter approved amendment to section 1 of article VIII of the Florida Constitution as to county constitutional officers and replace superseded or obsolete provisions?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

The proposed amendment, in full, shall read as follows:

The Volusia County Home Rule Charter, Chapter 70-966, Laws of Florida (Sp. Acts), as previously amended, shall be further amended in pertinent part as follows:

(Except as provided herein or as otherwise provided by separate amendment, charter provisions not shown are not amended.)

(Words ~~struck~~ are deletions; words underscored are additions.)

**ARTICLE III. - LEGISLATIVE BRANCH—COUNTY COUNCIL**

...

**Sec. 305. Vacancies and Suspensions**

Vacancies in ~~the county chair's~~, any council member's ~~or other elected~~ office under this charter government shall be filled in accordance with the Constitution and laws of Florida. Suspensions from office for cause shall be in accordance with the Constitution of Florida.

...

## ARTICLE VI. ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT

### Sec. 601. Initial Departments.

The following ~~initial~~ departments are hereby established for the charter government:

- (1) Department of ~~central~~ business services.
- (2) Department of finance.
- (3) Department of public ~~safety~~ protection.
- (4) Department of public works.
- (5) Department of ~~public~~ emergency services.
- (6) Department of ~~social~~ community services.
- (7) Department of ~~planning and development~~ growth and resource management.
- (8) Department of ~~property appraisal~~ aviation and economic resources.
- (9) ~~Department of elections~~.
- (10) Department of legal services.

### Sec. 601.1 Functions and duties of departments ~~receiving powers of former constitutional officers~~.

(1) *Department of finance*: The department of finance shall be responsible for the administration of all financial affairs of the charter government and such other duties provided by this charter.

~~(a) The office of tax collector is hereby abolished and all functions and duties of that office now prescribed by the Constitution and the laws of Florida are hereby transferred to the department of finance.~~

~~(b) All fiscal functions and duties now prescribed by the Constitution and laws of Florida for the office of the clerk of the circuit court which relate to the clerk's duties as ex officio to the board of county commissioners and auditor and custodian of all county funds are hereby transferred to the department of finance.~~

(2) *Department of public ~~safety~~ protection*: The department of public ~~safety~~ protection shall be responsible for the control, operation and administration of the duties of ~~law enforcement and such other duties provided by this charter. All functions and duties now prescribed by the Constitution and laws of Florida for the office of sheriff are hereby transferred to the department of public safety, and the constitutional office shall thereupon be terminated, further providing that~~ beach safety, animal services, and all functions relating to corrections and rehabilitation, the county prison farm, the Volusia County jail and all other similar facilities shall be transferred to the department of corrections.

~~(3) *Department of property appraisal*: The department of property appraisal shall be responsible for carrying out all functions, duties and requirements prescribed~~

~~by the Constitution and laws of Florida for the office of property appraiser (tax assessor) and all such functions and duties are hereby transferred to this department and the constitutional office shall thereupon be terminated. In addition, the department of property appraisal shall perform a continuing review of the assessment and exemption of all real and personal property within the county sufficient to permit the annual presentation of a tax equalization study and report for the board of tax adjustment (board of equalization). Further, the department of property appraisal shall perform such other functions as may be prescribed by this charter or the council.~~

~~(4) *Department of elections:* The department of elections shall be responsible for carrying out all functions, duties and requirements prescribed by the Constitution and laws of Florida for the office of supervisor of elections and all such functions and duties are hereby transferred to this department and the constitutional office shall thereupon be terminated.~~

~~(5)(3) *Department of central business services:* The department of ~~central~~ business services shall be responsible for control and operation of personnel, motor pool, clerical and records, purchasing, data processing and building maintenance divisions and such other duties as provided by this charter or the council. All functions and duties now prescribed by the Constitution and laws of Florida for the office of the clerk of the circuit court which related to the duties as ex-officio clerk to the board of county commissioners and keeper of the official minutes to the board of county commissioners, are hereby transferred to the department of ~~central~~ business services. All functions and services of the department of ~~central~~ business services shall be provided to all departments and operations of the charter government, and all departments and operations of the charter government shall be required to utilize the services provided by the department of ~~central~~ business services unless exceptions are specifically approved in each case by the county manager.~~

~~(6)(4) *Department of corrections:* There shall be a department of corrections which shall be responsible for the exercise of administrative supervision and control and have all functions, duties and responsibilities over matters relating to corrections and rehabilitation, the county prison farm, and the Volusia County jail. The department of corrections also shall be responsible for and shall exercise administrative supervision and control over all facilities, programs and services consistent with the laws of the State of Florida; and that the various department divisions shall be provided by county ordinance.~~

## **Sec. 601.2. - Department of legal services.**

The county attorney shall be the director of the department of legal services and may hire licensed attorney assistants to perform the duties of the department. All such attorneys shall devote their entire practice to the representation of the county charter government. They shall represent the county charter government, the county council,

the county manager and the ~~elected and~~ appointed department heads as county officers, all other departments and divisions of county government and all adjustment, regulatory and advisory boards in all legal matters affecting the county government. Special attorneys and experts shall be employed only when required in specific matters upon the recommendation of the county attorney and approved as a budgetary expenditure in the best interests of the county.

...

### **Sec. 602.1. - ~~Election of directors.~~ Constitutional Offices.**

The directors of the following departments shall be elected every four (4) years at the general election:

- ~~(1)The sheriff, who shall serve as the director of the department of public safety.~~
- ~~(2)The supervisor of elections, who shall serve as the director of the department of elections.~~
- ~~(3)The property appraiser, who shall serve as the director of the department of property appraisal.~~

The constitutional offices of the sheriff, supervisor of elections, property appraiser and tax collector of the county shall be established as provided by the Florida Constitution and all laws applicable thereto. Said constitutional offices shall qualify, be nominated, elected and serve as is provided by the Constitution and laws of Florida.

### **Sec. 603. - Changes in departments.**

~~Changes shall be made in departments headed by elected directors only by amendment of this charter. In all other cases, t~~The county council may by ordinance make changes in any or all department organizations including combinations, deletions and creation of departments or divisions or transfer of responsibility between departments and divisions.

## **ARTICLE VIII. - SCHOOL SYSTEM**

### **Sec. 801. - Relation to the charter government.**

All those functions now performed by the board of county commissioners, ~~the tax assessor and tax collector~~ for the district school board after the effective date of this charter, shall be performed by the appropriate department or division of the charter government.

## **ARTICLE X. - PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION**

...

**Sec. 1005. - Unclassified and classified service.**

The merit system shall provide for the employment of qualified personnel and shall include all necessary provisions to ensure protection to both employees and employer. Said system shall have two (2) basic divisions, those being:

- (1) The unclassified service shall comprise the following ~~offices and~~ positions:
  - (a) ~~Elected officials and persons appointed to fill vacancies in elected offices.~~
  - (b) The county manager.
  - (c) Aides to the county manager, in the operation of his immediate office.
  - (d) The director of administrative departments appointed by the county manager.
  - (e) One aide, appointed by the director, for each of the administrative departments.
  - (f) Members of advisory boards, commissions and committees appointed by the council or county manager.
  - (g) Persons employed in casual employment for brief periods, but not in excess of ninety (90) days because of temporary increase in volume of work or emergency conditions. The authority to extend a temporary period of employment shall be approved by the personnel board in increments of ninety (90) days.
  - (h) Persons under contract to conduct special studies or perform special surveys or services.
  - (i) Attorneys, physicians and dentists.
  - (j) And such other managerial positions as shall be determined by the personnel board.

...

**ARTICLE XIII. - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

...

**Sec. 1306. - Legal actions involving the county.**

In any legal action by or against the county, its departments, or officers or employees of their office or employment for the county, the county as a corporate body shall be the party named and shall appear and participate in the cause on behalf of the department, officer or employee in such cause. Wherever the ~~tax collector, tax assessor, supervisor of elections,~~ board of county commissioners ~~or sheriff~~ may or shall be parties to any legal action, the county shall be substituted as such defendant.

**Sec. 1307. - Political activities.**

County officers and employees (except ~~elected officers~~ and members of the adjustment, advisory and regulatory boards) may participate in political campaigns only during off-duty hours and to the extent provided by general law. No leave of absence shall be granted to any person for the purpose of participating in any political campaign. All such persons shall retain the right to vote as they choose and to express their opinions on all political subjects and candidates.

...

**AMENDMENT 4**

**(Simplification of personnel administration section)**

The amendment ballot title and ballot summary (question) are as follows:

**REMOVE PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION PROVISIONS FROM CHARTER AND REQUIRE SUCH BE ESTABLISHED BY ORDINANCE**

Shall the Volusia County Charter be amended to remove provisions related to personnel administration from the Charter and require provisions related to personnel administration to be enacted as an ordinance by the County Council?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

The proposed amendment, in full, shall read as follows:

The Volusia County Home Rule Charter, Chapter 70-966, Laws of Florida (Sp. Acts), as previously amended, shall be further amended in pertinent part as follows:

(Except as provided herein or as otherwise provided by separate amendment, charter provisions not shown are not amended.)

(Words ~~struck~~ are deletions; words underscored are additions.)

**ARTICLE X. - ~~PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION~~ MERIT SYSTEM**

**Sec. 1001. - Merit system.**

There shall be a merit system for the employees of the charter government. The council shall enact such ordinances as may be necessary to fully implement the merit system.

**~~Sec. 1002. - Employment policy.~~**

~~The merit system shall provide for the qualifications and shall through the personnel department, under the direction of the personnel director, certify personnel for employment, promotion, demotion, transferral, dismissal and compensation, solely on the basis of merit and qualification without regard to religion, political affiliations, race, color, sex, national origin or any other circumstances other than merit and qualification.~~

**~~Sec. 1003. - Personnel board.~~**

**~~Sec. 1003.1. – Appointment—Removal.~~**

~~There shall be a personnel board consisting of five (5) members who shall be appointed by the council. The personnel board shall designate its own chair and vice chair at least every two (2) years from the date of its first appointment. Members of the personnel board shall serve for a term of six (6) years, except that of the members first appointed, one (1) shall be appointed to serve for six (6) years and two (2) for four (4) years and two (2) for two (2) years. Vacancies in an unexpired term shall be filled by the council by appointment for the remainder of the term. A member of the personnel board may be removed by the council by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, only for cause and after being given a written statement of the charges against the member and in a public hearing thereof, if the member so requests.~~

**~~Sec. 1003.2. – Qualifications.~~**

~~Each member of the personnel board shall be a qualified elector of the county, shall be known to be in sympathy with the merit principle as applied to the merit system, shall neither hold nor be a candidate for any public office or employment and shall not be a member of any local, state or national committee of a political party or an officer in any partisan political club or organization.~~

**~~Sec. 1003.3. – Powers and duties.~~**

~~The personnel board shall have all of the powers and duties as described in the merit system rules and regulations as adopted by the council.~~

**~~Sec. 1004. – Human resources director.~~**

**~~Sec. 1004.1. – Qualifications.~~**

~~The human resources director shall be chosen on the basis of professional training and experience in personnel administration.~~

**~~Sec. 1004.2. – Powers and duties.~~**

~~The human resources director shall have all of the powers and duties as described in the merit system rules and regulations as adopted by the council.~~

**~~Sec. 1005. – Unclassified and classified service.~~**

~~The merit system shall provide for the employment of qualified personnel and shall include all necessary provisions to insure protection to both employees and employer. Said system shall have two (2) basic divisions, those being:~~

~~(1) The unclassified service shall comprise the following offices and positions:~~

- ~~(a) Elected officials and persons appointed to fill vacancies in elected offices.~~
- ~~(b) The county manager.~~
- ~~(c) Aides to the county manager, in the operation of his immediate office.~~
- ~~(d) The director of administrative departments appointed by the county manager.~~
- ~~(e) One aide, appointed by the director, for each of the administrative departments.~~
- ~~(f) Members of advisory boards, commissions and committees appointed by the council or county manager.~~
- ~~(g) Persons employed in casual employment for brief periods, but not in excess of ninety (90) days because of temporary increase in volume of work or emergency conditions. The authority to extend a temporary period of employment shall be approved by the personnel board in increments of ninety (90) days.~~
- ~~(h) Persons under contract to conduct special studies or perform special surveys or services.~~
- ~~(i) Attorneys, physicians and dentists.~~
- ~~(j) And such other managerial positions as shall be determined by the personnel board.~~

~~(2) The classified service shall comprise all positions not specifically included by this section.~~

~~(3) The determination of the personnel board shall be final as to whether offices and positions are under classified service.~~

**~~Sec. 1006. -- Personnel review.~~**

~~Any person covered by the merit system shall be entitled to request a review by the personnel board of any action taken by the administration of the charter government pertaining to such person's employment or employment rights established under the rules and regulations of the merit system.~~

**~~Sec. 1007. -- Oaths.~~**

~~For the purpose of the administration of the personnel provisions of this charter, any member of the personnel board shall have the power to administer oaths.~~

**~~Sec. 1008. -- Amendment to rules and regulations.~~**

~~A two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the full council shall be required to amend the rules and regulations of the merit system.~~

**~~Sec. 1009. -- Adoption of merit system.~~**

~~The county manager shall be responsible for the preparation and presentation to the council of the proposed merit system complete with classification, pay plan or amendments thereto. The initial proposal shall be presented prior to the adoption of the first budget by the charter government.~~

**AMENDMENT 5**

**(Conservation lands registry)**

The amendment ballot title and ballot summary (question) are as follows:

**ESTABLISH REGISTRY INCREASING COUNTY COUNCIL VOTING REQUIREMENT FOR TRANSFER OF CONSERVATION LAND**

Shall the Volusia County Charter be amended to establish a conservation land registry to which land may be added or removed by a majority plus one vote of the entire County Council, with heightened notice requirements for removal, which registry will prohibit property from being conveyed unless the County Council determines the land is no longer needed for conservation purposes; and providing exceptions for public purpose and takings by eminent domain.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

The proposed amendment, in full, shall read as follows:

The Volusia County Home Rule Charter, Chapter 70-966, Laws of Florida (Sp. Acts), as previously amended, shall be further amended in pertinent part as follows:

(Except as provided herein or as otherwise provided by separate amendment, charter provisions not shown are not amended.)

(Words ~~struck~~ are deletions; words underscored are additions.)

**Sec. 1314. Registry and protection of conservation lands.**

- (1) A registry is created to consist of conservation lands owned by the County of Volusia. The registry will be known as the "Volusia County Registry of Conservation Lands," and any properties listed thereon will not be subject to sale, divestiture, or transfer by the County. Properties may be added to or removed from the registry by resolution approved by a majority plus one vote of the entire County Council.
- (2) Prior to removal of a property from the registry and sale of a property once listed on the registry, the County must, at least 30 days prior to any such delisting, publish the following information conspicuously on the County's website:

- (a) The legal description of the property being delisted; and
  - (b) A statement explaining why the property is no longer necessary for conservation purposes.
- (3) This section shall not apply when the property is being used for a public purpose by the County or taken by a state, federal, or other entity having lawful authority to exercise the power of eminent domain over county-owned lands.

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## In Recognition

The members of the Volusia County Charter Review Commission (CRC) acknowledge and extend their sincere appreciation to the Volusia County Council for the opportunity to serve, and to the County Manager and the County Attorney for providing liaison services to the CRC. The following members of the Volusia County staff served to support the efforts of the CRC in a commendable manner:

### **Volusia County Leadership**

- George Recktenwald
- Suzanne Konchan
- Gus Zambrano

### **Volusia County Legal Team**

- Mike Dyer
- Russ Brown
- Giffin Chumley
- Sebrina Slack
- Paolo Soria

### **Charter Review Presenters**

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