



Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson
Way
Viera, FL 32940

New Business - County Attorney

I.4.

2/20/2024

Subject:

Proposed Amendment to the Brevard County Home Rule Charter adding term limits to the offices of Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector, Clerk of the Circuit Court, and Supervisor of Elections

Fiscal Impact:

Cost of advertisement and referendum election.

Dept/Office:

District 1 Commissioner

Requested Action:

It is requested that the Board of County Commissioners (1) approve legislative intent to adopt the attached resolution amending the Brevard County Home Rule Charter to add term limits to the offices of the Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector, Clerk of the Circuit Court, and Supervisor of Elections; and (2) authorize staff to submit the proposed amendment and ballot language to the three attorney panel which reviews proposed Charter amendments for compliance with the Florida Constitution, Florida law, the Brevard County Charter, and whether the proposed amendment embraces only one subject.

Summary Explanation and Background:

This proposed amendment to the Brevard County Home Rule Charter would limit persons elected to the office of Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector, Clerk of the Circuit Court, and Supervisor of Elections to three (3) consecutive full terms. No terms commencing prior to the November 5, 2024 election shall be considered for purposes of calculating the term limit.

Clerk to the Board Instructions:

Please return a memo of the Board's action to the County Manager and County Attorney.



Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board, 400 South Street • P.O. Box 999, Titusville, Florida 32781-0999

Telephone: (321) 637-2001
Fax: (321) 264-6972
Kimberly.Powell@brevardclerk.us

February 21, 2024

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Rita Pritchett, District 1 County Commissioner

RE: Item I.4., Proposed Amendment to the Brevard County Home Rule Charter adding Term Limits to the Offices of Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector, Clerk of the Circuit Court, and Supervisor of Elections

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on February 20, 2024, denied the proposed amendment to the Brevard County Home Rule Charter to add term limits to the offices of Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector, Clerk of the Circuit Court, and Supervisor of Elections.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK

Kimberly Powell
Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board

/sm

cc: County Manager
County Attorney
Clerk of the Circuit Court
Sheriff
Property Appraiser
Tax Collector
Supervisor of Elections

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-_____

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA CALLING A SPECIAL REFERENDUM TO BE HELD CONCURRENT WITH THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024 GENERAL ELECTION, ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER BREVARD COUNTY SHOULD AMEND THE BREVARD COUNTY HOME RULE CHARTER TO PROVIDE FOR TERM LIMITS OF THREE CONSECUTIVE FULL TERMS FOR THE OFFICES OF SHERIFF, PROPERTY APPRAISER, TAX COLLECTOR, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT, AND SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS, WHICH AMENDMENT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION, GENERAL LAW, AND THE CHARTER; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY FOR RESOLUTION. This resolution is adopted pursuant to the authority of the Board under Chapter 125, Florida Statutes, the Brevard County Home Rule Charter, Article VII, Section 7.3.1, and Article VIII, Section 1(c) of the Florida Constitution, and any other applicable provision of law.

SECTION 2. FINDINGS. It is hereby found and determined as follows:

- A. A charter has been adopted for Brevard County entitled "Brevard County Home Rule Charter."
- B. The Brevard County Commission, by a vote of at least four commissioners, has proposed an amendment to the Brevard County Charter.
- C. The Three Person Panel (also known as the "Attorney Review Panel") review of the amendment found the proposal to be consistent with the Florida Constitution, general law, and the Brevard County Charter and to contain a single subject.
- D. The general election to be held on November 5, 2024, is an appropriate and desirable date to conduct a concurrent special election on the proposed amendment.
- E. All things required to be done prior to the calling of a special election within the County on the question of amending the Brevard County Charter have been done.

SECTION 3. SPECIAL ELECTION. A special election is hereby called and ordered to be held concurrently with the general election to be held on November 5, 2024, to determine

whether to amend the Brevard County Home Rule Charter Article 4, Section 4.1 in the manner set forth below.

SECTION 4. NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION. This resolution shall be published once a week for four (4) consecutive weeks in full as part of the Notice of Special Election, together with a notice in substantially the form attached hereto as "Exhibit A", in Florida Today, a newspaper of general circulation in the County, the first such publication being not more than forty-five (45) days prior to the date set for the election.

SECTION 5. PLACES OF VOTING, INSPECTORS, CLERKS. The polls will be open at the voting places on the date of such special election during the hour prescribed by law. All qualified electors shall be entitled and permitted to vote at such special election on the proposition provided below. The places of voting and inspections and clerk for the special election shall be those designated by the Supervisor of Elections of Brevard County.

SECTION 6. OFFICIAL BALLOT. The ballots to be used in the special election shall contain a statement of the description of the proposed amendment to the County Charter, and shall be in substantially the following form:

BALLOT
Brevard County, Florida

BREVARD COUNTY CHARTER AMENDMENT, ARTICLE 4, TERMS OF OFFICE

Shall the Brevard County Charter be amended to add term limits for the offices of Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector, Clerk of the Circuit Court, and Supervisor of Elections of three (3) consecutive full terms, with no term beginning before November 5, 2024, counted towards the term limit?

_____ YES FOR APPROVAL

_____ NO FOR REJECTION

SECTION 7. CHARTER AMENDMENT. The full text of the amendment reads as follows:

- A. Article 4. – Administrative Departments of the Brevard County Home Rule Charter is hereby amended to provide for a new section 4.1.3, which shall read as set forth below. In interpreting the proposed amendment, new language is underlined. The proposed amendment states as follows:

4.1.3 Terms of office.

No person elected for three consecutive full terms to the office of Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector, Clerk of the Circuit Court, or Supervisor of Elections shall

be eligible for election to that same office in the next succeeding term. No terms commencing prior to November 5, 2024, shall be considered terms for purposes of determining consecutive full terms under this section.

- B. The above amendment to Article 4, Section 4.1 shall become effective immediately upon approval of the electors of Brevard County.

SECTION 8. PAYMENT OF SPECIAL ELECTION EXPENSES. The County Manager is hereby authorized and directed to approve the payment of lawful expenses associated with conducting the special election and the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners is hereby authorized and directed to disburse funds necessary to pay such expenses.

SECTION 9. VOTER REGISTRATION BOOKS. The Supervisor of Elections for Brevard County is hereby authorized and requested to furnish to the inspectors and clerks at each place where the votes are to be cast in such special election, applicable portions of the registration books or certified copies thereof showing the names of the qualified electors.

SECTION 10. ELECTION ADMINISTRATION. The special election shall be held and conducted in the manner prescribed by law and as soon as practicable, shall be returned and canvassed in the manner prescribed by law. The result shall show the number of qualified electors who voted at such special election and the number of votes cast respectively for and against approval of the amendment. Upon certification in the manner prescribed by law, the results shall be recorded in the minutes of the Board of County Commissioners.

SECTION 11. ELECTION RESULTS. If at least sixty percent of the votes cast at such a special election shall be "Yes For Approval," the amendment shall pass.

SECTION 12. SEVERABILITY. In the event that any word, phrase, clause, sentence, or paragraph hereof shall be held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect any other word, clause, sentence or paragraph hereof.

SECTION 13. REPEALING CLAUSE. All resolutions or other actions of the County which are in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency.

SECTION 14. EFFECTIVE DATE. This resolution shall take effect upon adoption by the Board of County Commissioners.

DONE AND ADOPTED in Regular Session of the Board of County Commissioners of
Brevard County, Florida this ____ day of _____, 2024.

ATTEST:

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Rachel M. Sadoff, Clerk
(SEAL)

By: _____
Jason Steele, Chair

As approved by the Board on _____

Reviewed for form and legal sufficiency:

County Attorney

EXHIBIT A

**NOTICE OF REFERENDUM ELECTION ON AMENDMENTS TO BREVARD COUNTY HOME RULE
CHARTER, ARTICLE 4, SECTION 4.1**

Notice is hereby given that a referendum election shall be held to consider a certain amendment to the Brevard County Home Rule Charter, Article 4. – Administrative Departments, Section 4.1. – Elected county officers. The referendum election shall be held on November 5, 2024, at which the question described in the following resolution number 24-____ adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County, Florida on the ____ day of _____, 2024 shall be submitted to the electors:

[RECITE RESOLUTION]

FORM 8B MEMORANDUM OF VOTING CONFLICT FOR COUNTY, MUNICIPAL, AND OTHER LOCAL PUBLIC OFFICERS

LAST NAME—FIRST NAME—MIDDLE NAME TOBIA, JOHN	NAME OF BOARD, COUNCIL, COMMISSION, AUTHORITY, OR COMMITTEE BREVARD COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MAILING ADDRESS 2539 PALM BAY RD. N.E., SUITE 4	THE BOARD, COUNCIL, COMMISSION, AUTHORITY OR COMMITTEE ON WHICH I SERVE IS A UNIT OF:
CITY PALM BAY	<input type="checkbox"/> CITY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER LOCAL AGENCY
COUNTY BREVARD	NAME OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISION: BREVARD COUNTY
DATE ON WHICH VOTE OCCURRED FEBRUARY 20, 2024	MY POSITION IS: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ELECTIVE <input type="checkbox"/> APPOINTIVE

WHO MUST FILE FORM 8B

This form is for use by any person serving at the county, city, or other local level of government on an appointed or elected board, council, commission, authority, or committee. It applies to members of advisory and non-advisory bodies who are presented with a voting conflict of interest under Section 112.3143, Florida Statutes.

Your responsibilities under the law when faced with voting on a measure in which you have a conflict of interest will vary greatly depending on whether you hold an elective or appointive position. For this reason, please pay close attention to the instructions on this form before completing and filing the form.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 112.3143, FLORIDA STATUTES

A person holding elective or appointive county, municipal, or other local public office **MUST ABSTAIN** from voting on a measure which would inure to his or her special private gain or loss. Each elected or appointed local officer also **MUST ABSTAIN** from knowingly voting on a measure which would inure to the special gain or loss of a principal (other than a government agency) by whom he or she is retained (including the parent, subsidiary, or sibling organization of a principal by which he or she is retained); to the special private gain or loss of a relative; or to the special private gain or loss of a business associate. Commissioners of community redevelopment agencies (CRAs) under Sec. 163.356 or 163.357, F.S., and officers of independent special tax districts elected on a one-acre, one-vote basis are not prohibited from voting in that capacity.

For purposes of this law, a "relative" includes only the officer's father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law. A "business associate" means any person or entity engaged in or carrying on a business enterprise with the officer as a partner, joint venturer, coowner of property, or corporate shareholder (where the shares of the corporation are not listed on any national or regional stock exchange).

* * * * *

ELECTED OFFICERS:

In addition to abstaining from voting in the situations described above, you must disclose the conflict:

PRIOR TO THE VOTE BEING TAKEN by publicly stating to the assembly the nature of your interest in the measure on which you are abstaining from voting; *and*

WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER THE VOTE OCCURS by completing and filing this form with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who should incorporate the form in the minutes.

* * * * *

APPOINTED OFFICERS:

Although you must abstain from voting in the situations described above, you are not prohibited by Section 112.3143 from otherwise participating in these matters. However, you must disclose the nature of the conflict before making any attempt to influence the decision, whether orally or in writing and whether made by you or at your direction.

IF YOU INTEND TO MAKE ANY ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE DECISION PRIOR TO THE MEETING AT WHICH THE VOTE WILL BE TAKEN:

- You must complete and file this form (before making any attempt to influence the decision) with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who will incorporate the form in the minutes. (Continued on page 2)

APPOINTED OFFICERS (continued)

- A copy of the form must be provided immediately to the other members of the agency.
- The form must be read publicly at the next meeting after the form is filed.

IF YOU MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE DECISION EXCEPT BY DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING:

- You must disclose orally the nature of your conflict in the measure before participating.
- You must complete the form and file it within 15 days after the vote occurs with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who must incorporate the form in the minutes. A copy of the form must be provided immediately to the other members of the agency, and the form must be read publicly at the next meeting after the form is filed.

DISCLOSURE OF LOCAL OFFICER'S INTEREST

I, JOHN TOBIA, hereby disclose that on FEBRUARY 20, 20 24 :

(a) A measure came or will come before my agency which (check one or more)

- ☒ inured to my special private gain or loss;
- ☐ inured to the special gain or loss of my business associate, _____;
- ☐ inured to the special gain or loss of my relative, _____;
- ☐ inured to the special gain or loss of _____, by whom I am retained; or
- ☐ inured to the special gain or loss of _____, which is the parent subsidiary, or sibling organization or subsidiary of a principal which has retained me.

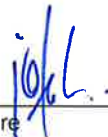
(b) The measure before my agency and the nature of my conflicting interest in the measure is as follows:

The Brevard County Board of County Commissioners will consider a measure regarding the imposition of term limits on county constitutional officers, including the Supervisor of Elections. I am a candidate for the office of Supervisor of Elections in the current election year. Under the proposal, if I am elected to the office of Supervisor of Elections in the current election, my first term would count toward the proposed term limits. There is, or appears to be, a possible conflict of interest because the term limits proposal could inure to my special private loss if it is ultimately enacted. Conversely, defeat of the term limit proposal could inure to my special private gain.

Pursuant to Sections 112.3143 and 286.012, Florida Statutes, I am declaring a voting conflict and will not vote on the above-described measure, which is Item I.4. on the Board of County Commissioners' agenda for the February 20, 2024 meeting.

If disclosure of specific information would violate confidentiality or privilege pursuant to law or rules governing attorneys, a public officer, who is also an attorney, may comply with the disclosure requirements of this section by disclosing the nature of the interest in such a way as to provide the public with notice of the conflict.

2/20/24
Date Filed


Signature

NOTICE: UNDER PROVISIONS OF FLORIDA STATUTES §112.317, A FAILURE TO MAKE ANY REQUIRED DISCLOSURE CONSTITUTES GROUNDS FOR AND MAY BE PUNISHED BY ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING: IMPEACHMENT, REMOVAL OR SUSPENSION FROM OFFICE OR EMPLOYMENT, DEMOTION, REDUCTION IN SALARY, REPRIMAND, OR A CIVIL PENALTY NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000.

Verbatim

Item I.4. Proposed Amendment to the Brevard County Home Rule Charter Adding Term Limits to the Offices of Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector, Clerk of the Circuit Court, and Supervisor of Elections.

Date: February 20, 2024

Steele – Alright, we are now on County Attorney, proposed amendment to the Brevard County Home Rule Charter, adding term limits to the officers of Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector, Clerk of Circuit Court, and Supervisor of Elections.

Richardson – Thank you Mr. Chair. This was a request by the District 1 Commissioner for Board discussion and direction regarding a proposed amendment to the Brevard County Home Rule Charter that would add term limits to those constitutional elected County offices of Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector, Clerk of the Circuit Court, and Supervisor of Elections. As proposed, the term limits would be three consecutive full terms or four year terms. No terms commencing prior to the November 5, 2024, election would be considered for the purposes of calculating the term limit. And the request today is to approve legislative intent, it is not to adopt this resolution itself to put the item on the ballot, which will ultimately require four members voting in favor to do that. Today is just to approve the legislative intent to move forward with a, with a resolution giving any direction regarding that resolution, and then authorize staff to submit the proposed amendment and ballot language to the three attorney panel required by the Charter which reviews proposed amendments for compliance of the Florida Constitution, Florida Law, and the Brevard County Charter.

Steele – Okay, um, I think I'm going to go to the cards on new business first.

Pritchett – Can I make discussions first?

Steele – You want to talk first?

Pritchett – (shakes her head)

Steele – Okay go ahead.

Pritchett – Thank you.

Steele – Cause obviously this is yours, so I apologize.

Pritchett – No, no worries. Last year uh I had mentioned I was going to bring this forward sometime this year. When we did the um, the discussion with changing the Charter, there was a lot of information that came in about people wanting term limits. I'm a proponent of three term limits, but I think what's been discussed is two term limits, many times. So when I brought this forward, my thought was not to affect anybody that is currently in office. This is no reflection of them. But after this, maybe correcting something that could potentially be a problem down the road. Once you get somebody in an office as an incumbent it is really hard to beat them so I thought this would help that situation. And there is such a strong support of community nationwide of wanting term limits on elected officials. So again, we're not voting to put

term limits on 'em, this was just to, perhaps, put it on the ballot and let the people decide what they would like to do.

Steele – Do you want to make a motion and then see if you get it seconded, and then go to discussion, or would you rather go to the cards?

Pritchett – Go to the cards.

Steele – Okay, Chuck, you're up.

Sheridan – Living here in Brevard County my whole life, when I got my general contractor's license in 1970s, eight, I used to have to go to the County Commissioner's office and get my culvert pipes and, you know, he'd been there for years and years and years. If we'd have had changes in term limits, now that's not one of these offices, but the Property Appraisers stay there for years and Sheriff as well, but if we'd have had changes then, we now have had better drainage systems. Uh, you know, if you're an elected official you're doing it, you're a public servant. You're, you're there to serve the public. It's not a career choice, it's you know, it's to serve the community, and once you've served a couple terms, new people bring new ideas and new thoughts, and you know, it shouldn't be a career choice. And you know, an incumbent is hard to beat, and some people get into it to be, have a career choice, you know. So that's my view on it. I, I would be very much in favor of term limits. Thank you.

Steele – Thank you, Chuck. Eileen Sepp. Good Morning.

Sepp - Good morning. Eileen Sepp from Palm Bay, Florida. I've lived here for 33 years and I'm here in opposition to this. And not that I'm opposed to term limits, but I think term limits apply when you're talking about policy making positions. The administrative positions that they're proposing, I think would be a great disservice to this County. We have outstanding people in these positions who have been there. They've worked their way from the bottom up in many cases, and I'm seeing that, right now, we have a highest, the highest level of integrity among that administrative staff, than I've seen in all the years I've been here. And I, I, like I said, I do believe in term limits, but policy is different. When someone comes into a position making promises to make the changes that we need, that's one thing, but in an administrative position, and I've been in those positions, I've been in c-suite positions, when you take somebody who's really effective, um, there's no replacing them, and, and there's a significant drop in productivity as a result of that. We need people with experience in these administrative positions. They're not making decisions, they're following the guidance that is given to them by this commission and by the laws of the State. Um, so I would prefer not to see this on a ballot, mostly because sometimes people don't really read between the lines and they don't really know the people who have earned those positions. They should be able to stay there as long as they are able to do their job. We do elect them every four years and I think that's sufficient. Thank you.

Steele – Thank you, Eileen. Katie Delaney.

Delaney – Hello again. Um, I am against this. Uh, to have gone to every single one of those meetings three years ago, and the only time that term limits were brought up, um, was when your appointee, Robin Fisher, tried to extend the term limits from eight years to 12 years for County Commissioners in Brevard County. The people were adamant against that, but none of that had to do with Constitutional Officers, it had to do with, like the last speaker spoke about, policy makers. Um so, I'm, I'm very against this. I'm...Our Constitutional Officers most of the time run unopposed because they're doing a great job. And um, so,

this is just very disheartening to, to see this, um, and I, and I want to say that I appreciate Mr. Tobia for putting in his form 8B, um because of his conflict of interest with running for that office. Um, I would appreciate Ms. Pritchett doing the same thing since you're now running for one of those offices. This needs a, a four person vote, we don't have that. This is a, this is a moot, moot point. Um, so, in my opinion this should just be a, a, a dead proposal. Thank you.

Steele – Okay then, Rick, wait a second we got Richard coming up. Did you fill out a card Sandra? Okay, great. Richard, come on up. You've been so quiet today, I've missed you.

Heffelfinger – That's over now.

Laughter.

Steele – Alright the meetings adjourned. (more laughter)

Heffelfinger – Rick Heffelfinger, 2000 juniper Drive, Cocoa, Florida, beautiful District 1. Um, I guess are we asking for three terms on this? And if three terms, why not two terms? Uh, I guess my questions is, conflict of interest was interesting, I had not uh, even thought about that. But I, I guess this would not of, if this would go on the ballot in November and it was approved, we don't boot anybody out that is currently in the office, right? Was that, okay? So you're not booting anybody out, but is it three terms or two? Eight years or ...

Steele – 12.

Heffelfinger - 12. I don't know why it would be any different for, I don't know why it'd be eight, 12 is an awfully long time. You can do a lot of damage in 12. You can do a lot of good in 12 too, but, I just uh, I don't know why it's not consistent with County Commission. So uh, yea, that conflict of interest is interesting isn't it? I don't think you can get a vote right? That's all I had. Thanks.

Steele – Wow, Richard, you had two minutes left, too. This is like a first. Alright, well I'll know. No, no. Alright let's go on. Thank you, Richard, for your comments. Kristin Lorie, where are you? Okay, so you're not going to yell at me today, you got your three minutes, and the newspapers are back, the television's back on, and we're friends again, right?

Lortie – Chairman Steele, thank you.

Steele – You're welcome.

Lortie – We're friends again.

Steele – Good.

Lortie – Kristin Lortie, Cocoa resident and the founder of Brevard Cares Citizens Coalition on Facebook where we are commenting about this. We're having some rigorous debate on this current proposal. I uh, stand against it. I'm opposed to it. I want to um agree with the two female commenters who articulately spoke on why the Constitutional Officers are so much different, um than the uh Commission officers, because I'm totally supportive of the Commission officer term limits. But the public is not always aware of this. I became aware through the Citizens Academy last year when I heard two excellent presentations from our current Tax Collector, who is now challenged by Commissioner Pritchett. And I heard an excellent presentation from our current Chief, Clerk of Courts, who took the time to give us a tour of the whole

County Courthouse and give us a presentation to citizens who are interested enough to find out more. So um, I am passionate about some of these positions and I am in total disagreement that these chairs need to be upset every 12 years for every reason. Case in point, if we went forward uh 12 years, to, if we were sitting here 12 years from now, then what would happen is, is all the Commissioners would have an easy chance to get into these chairs, as Ms. Pritchett just said, Commissioner Pritchett said, makes it really hard to beat them, and we would be literally dumping people out of their seats who might be doing a fantastic job, as has already been ascribed. I also appreciate the comment that in the Charter Review Commission, the individual who actually went to all the meetings, and who reported on, on social media, never saw Commissioner Pritchett there, but she pointed out that at those meetings there was no contest about the, the um Charter positions. But Ms. Pritchett in the paper said, "We got information during those meetings that the voters wanted this. There was an overwhelming consensus from all the voters that they want term limits on all the elected officials." And I just believe there's a conflation happening here between the two types of positions. You all are making policy, these folks are implementing policy. I sleep better at night having good people in these seats. I will now be petitioning for at least two of these candidates because I know they're doing a rock solid job. And I can attest to the rest of them may be as well. And even my comment to you, because I've already written to all of you saying, with some questions about the Sheriff's position, I've thought through that further and realized that I don't even support term limits for that. That will not solve our problem. So, I'm opposed to this in both the premise that Commissioner Pritchett stated for this and the content, and I appreciate that the conflict of interest was called out by Commissioner Tobia, Commissioner Pritchett should not even be voting on this matter. So I attended this meeting, you've inspired me to come to this meeting, you've inspired me to found a Facebook group, in order to be able to talk about these prior to our elections. And I will have a strong opinion come election, come the referendum, and the Tax Collector election. Thank you.

Steele – Alright, thank you so much. Nathan Slusher where are you? Good morning, Nathan.

Slusher – Good morning, Commissioners. For the record, my name is Nathan Slusher up in Allendale Street in Titusville. I found it wise to come speak today on this topic. It's a topic that I pushed on for years. I am a huge proponent of term limits for every elected politician in the United States of America, from President to Congress, to State House to County to City-wide elections. I don't believe there should be a single politician that does not have term limits. None of them. So, I want to come and share my support today, but I don't want to do it on a basis of not knowing what the public wants. So, on Sunday afternoon I released a poll to the people in North Brevard just to kind of get a quick idea of whether or not they support it. Two polls on two different platforms. One of them received 58 votes, with a 95 percent approval rating. I did verify three of those voters are not Brevard County residents, so out of those 58 votes, I'll take three away, and it's still pretty high. Uh, the other one was 100 percent Brevard County voters and they had a 94 percent voting rate. The citizens want term limits, but the citizens can't put term limits on the ballot, but you can. You have the option to give them a voice. No one up here is deciding to put limits on the people that are in office. Do I agree that the people in office are doing a great job, yes some of them are. However, should they do a job for 12, 16, 20 years? No, I don't think so, that creates a lot of problems. None of these positions have a requirement for any knowledge or a resume, they can be won by anybody in the field. There's a reason that we hire experts to help in these departments. I fully support this motion and I hope, uh however, I would ask for an amendment to it, if somebody would please make it eight years, instead of 12, 12 is too long. I would fully support an amendment to make this eight years. Please and thank you. I know the time is not going, so I lost track.

Steele – Thanks Okay. Thank you so very much. You're up Sandra.

Sullivan – Good morning, Sandra Sullivan. You know, first of all, I just find the coincidence of announcing you're running for the Tax Collector at the same time you put out this Item, is just being like, a great way to get publicity, which probably is what the result is.

Steele – Sandra, please.

Sullivan – I am...

Steele – Please don't get into that...

Sullivan – Um, while I am a proponent of term limits, I am not for, for the Constitutional Offices, and I'll say I was at most of Char, Charter Review meetings, um, and the, the discussion about term limits, and those term limits were about Constitution...about, not about the Constitution Officers, they were about the Commissioners and they were prompted uh, by District 1's appointee, twice. One at the beginning of Charter and one at the end, proposing extending term limits which would benefit uh, District 3 and District 1, potentially. And so um, I just think the timing of this is, is, is off. Uh, this should of come forward, if this, and have discussion in the way the Charter Review works, at the time of the Charter Review. And I do agree that it, it is for the voters to decide, but the time to have done this would have been during the Charter Review. And I think the timing is off, and, and is just very political.

Steele – Thank you. Alright, I got it, I was just, good, we got Rachel too so you wanna come up? Lisa come on up and then we'll have Rachel. You alright? Alright. Come on up Lisa and, and uh, you go ahead to the podium, if you would.

Cullen – Thank you, Chair Steele.

Steele – You're welcome.

Cullen – Congratulations on the park, by the way.

Steele – Thank you very much.

Cullen – what a beautiful...

Steele – Very meaningful.

Cullen - ...what a beautiful way to memorialize your...

Steele – Thank you.

Cullen - ...brother's hard work...

Steele – Thank you.

Cullen - ...in this County. Um, I'm here to advocate for the Charter Review process, which I do think is uh, very effective. I would urge each of you to allow this to go through Charter Review where the citizens have multiple chances to come speak on the subject. I, I've been through several of those Charter Review Commissions and I believe the public does get engaged. We live in a wonderful County where Brevard County citizens, they get it. Um, those primary voters, a lot of them do their homework. I think you can

look at your officers that serve this County and see that. So, my ask of you today is to let the Charter Review Commission handle this, and if it goes through that, then let's let the public vote on it. Thank you.

Steele – Thank you very much, Lisa. Alright Rachel. How are you?

Sadoff – Good, how are you?

Steele – I'm goody, goody, to shoes, sometimes.

Sadoff – I might have to take my glasses off cause I've gotten to that age.

Steele – I get it.

Sadoff – So I apologize. Maybe I can do it. First I want to thank everyone for allowing me and the others to have a few minutes to discuss our feelings on this topic. I try to be accessible to the citizens of Brevard County at all times. This did not start when I became the Clerk of Court, this started when I took the oath to be a deputy clerk in 1997. As I've moved throughout my career in different positions, and then today as your elected Clerk and Comptroller, I have learned a lot and continue to learn. It is a career I've dedicated myself to, just like everyone in this room. Everybody that stands here as a County and State employee have dedicated their years of service and we did not expect a date to tell us when to leave. So for those of us that have stepped up as leaders, did so to do the right thing by this County. I can tell you that many leaders of this County would be discouraged to run for office with term limits for an office that is not a policy-making office, but a management office. We would see a decline in the services. We would see a decline in the forward thinking of these offices. I am not trying to dispute some of the ideas that you have about this, and I am not trying to discourage this to not be brought to others to discuss. But I ask you kindly not to vote on this for today. I did not have any idea what the Tax Collector was going to say, but I echo what she said about bringing back the Charter Review. That was a good point that I had not thought of. So, I leave you today, just asking for you to consider not doing this, and I 100 percent respect however you vote today. That is it, so thank you.

Steele – Thank you very much, Rachel. You do an excellent job.

Sadoff – Thank you.

Steele – Alright, uh we have anybody else here? Oh, we have our Property Appraiser. Good morning, Dana. Thank you so much.

Blickley – Good morning, Commissioner Goodson. Dana Blickley, 3425 Heron Lane, Titusville, Florida 32780. I have to disagree that you cannot take out a Constitutional Officer that's doing a bad job. I did a pretty good job of that. But I'm coming with a different spirit, not just necessarily the institutional knowledge to do the constitutional duties that we're prescribed to do, but once in a while, its having enough institutional knowledge, skillset to be able to read the law, wherewithal to know that you have to follow the legislative process when they're making changes that affect what you do, or maybe what you guys do, and to be able to catch those mistakes, so our property owners and our constituents don't pay a price for that. That's the spirit of cooperation that I think Commissioner Pritchett was hoping that we would continue after the budget series last year, and one that I know Frank and Morris depend on. Thank you for your time today.

Steele – Alright, Commissioner Pritchett do you have anything else or Commissioner Goodson, you want...

Goodson – I have a question.

Steele – Yes sir.

Goodson - Um, is it my understanding today, she wouldn't need, um Commissioner Pritchett, three votes for this to move on, not four, is that correct?

Pritchett – Yes sir.

Goodson – That's correct. Three votes today. Now uh, Commissioner Pritchett why do you think Tobia doesn't, Commissioner Tobia doesn't want to vote, but you want to vote. What is, is there anything, any reasoning there?

Pritchett – I um, I think Commissioner Tobia's reasoning is because he felt it was a conflict of interest with 'em. Um, I talked to the County Attorney um, a little bit and I have no plans on being in office more than two times, if, if, if this opportunity did happen. But the, the real thing with this, and again I thought this was worthy of a conversation, and I don't necessarily think it's a bad idea for the Charter Review either, but I had mentioned we were going to bring this up, and there is a strong consensus with people nationwide wanting term limits, so I just thought we'd just put it before the voters and see what they want to do. Again, I made it so that it was exempt for the people that were in office currently on this round, so I can't imagine the Sheriff wanting to be Sheriff into his 80's. So um there's, they're kind of almost exempt with this. But again, and I loved what Ms. Blickley said and she is a great Property Appraiser. She had to unseat someone who had been doing the job for 20, 24 years, which wasn't a great Property Appraiser, so it, it was a tough battle. So, I think this might help with um, opportunities for somebody who's not doing a good job and in an administrative position because nobody can really do anything with it. The employees can't do anything with it. You, you can't come against your boss, you lose your jobs, and this is nothing on the ones that are already in position, but, I, I think it's something. I agree with Mr. Slusher. I think every elected official should have limits on their terms.

Steele – Uh...

Goodson – Chairman?

Steele – Yes, Commissioner Goodson.

Goodson – Uh, I find it a little bit, not knowing the questions the gentleman asked people in North Brevard, but if you think about it, we hear about term limits all the time. Term limits are bad, terms limits are bad. Now if you know anything about Tallahassee, what that has done, is you started electing 20 year olds to make decisions for you that haven't had a family, haven't lost a job, doesn't have a mortgage, but they just left moms and now they are a State Rep. Now then, if you want to talk term limits, what amazes me, would this be term limits, Uh, I think he's a representative now, Altman. House. Senate. House. Senate. House. Senate. I mean is that term limits? I guess it is because he's been doing it for 20-something years, okay. Now the other issue I find funny about term limits on some of these people, would be that if you want to run for an office, and you pick those, then be prepared, if they're of a quality that we have, be prepared for a fight because they're good, they're, they've done a wonderful job. And I'm all for term limits, I bitch about 'em all the time. But you know, it seems to be American wants term limits in Washington. That ain't gonna happen cause they're a member of the best county club in the world, so why would you want to give up that. Now, if we want term limits, there's where we need term limits. And

I'm happy with eight, I'm only going to serve four. I'll give you another example of term limits, Representative Posey said, "I'm gonna do this one time." He's been there 18 years. So uh, Commissioner Pritchett, I want that signed in blood, okay, that you're only going to do it for two terms.

Pritchett – You have it.

Goodson – That's all.

Pritchett – You have it, sir. Thank you for your comments and I absolutely respect what you're saying.

Goodson – Well, you know, I'm a little different than everybody else.

Pritchett – I know. I know.

Goodson – Thank you.

Pritchett – Um, but again, we're not voting today to put term limits on 'em. We're just voting to put on the ballot for them to choose. But again, it's a good discussion, um, so have to see where you guys want to go with it and uh, how we're moving forward.

Steele – I have a legal question for Morris. Morris, uh, with the tentacles of this going to potentially a uh, referendum, how many votes are we going to need today to pass this?

Richardson – So ultimately, you'll need four to put it on the ballot, but today to move it forward to direct staff to draft final language or accept the language proposed and move it to the three-attorney panel, you could give that direction with three and then we can bring it back to you with the decision from the panel and you can decide at that point whether or not to adopt the resolution and place it on the ballot.

Steele – Okay, thank you so much. Anybody else have any questions or any comments. Motion on the floor. It's been seconded. No more discussion...

Pritchett – We don't have a second yet.

Steele – We don't have a second yet. Motion dies for lack of a second.

Applause.

Clerk Sadoff's portion of the Verbatim

Item I.4. Proposed Amendment to the Brevard County Home Rule Charter Adding Term Limits to the Offices of Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Tax Collector, Clerk of the Circuit Court, and Supervisor of Elections.

Date: February 20, 2024

Steele – Thank you very much, Lisa. Alright Rachel. How are you?

Sadoff – Good, how are you?

Steele – I'm goody, goody, to shoes, sometimes.

Sadoff – I might have to take my glasses off cause I've gotten to that age.

Steele – I get it.

Sadoff – So I apologize. Maybe I can do it. First I want to thank everyone for allowing me and the others to have a few minutes to discuss our feelings on this topic. I try to be accessible to the citizens of Brevard County at all times. This did not start when I became the Clerk of Court, this started when I took the oath to be a deputy clerk in 1997. As I've moved throughout my career in different positions, and then today as your elected Clerk and Comptroller, I have learned a lot and continue to learn. It is a career I've dedicated myself to, just like everyone in this room. Everybody that stands here as a County and State employee have dedicated their years of service and we did not expect a date to tell us when to leave. So for those of us that have stepped up as leaders, did so to do the right thing by this County. I can tell you that many leaders of this County would be discouraged to run for office with term limits for an office that is not a policy-making office, but a management office. We would see a decline in the services. We would see a decline in the forward thinking of these offices. I am not trying to dispute some of the ideas that you have about this, and I am not trying to discourage this to not be brought to others to discuss. But I ask you kindly not to vote on this for today. I did not have any idea what the Tax Collector was going to say, but I echo what she said about bringing back the Charter Review. That was a good point that I had not thought of. So, I leave you today, just asking for you to consider not doing this, and I 100 percent respect however you vote today. That is it, so thank you.

Steele – Thank you very much, Rachel. You do an excellent job.

Sadoff – Thank you.