

**ADDITIONAL MATERIAL
REGULAR MEETING**

JUNE 7, 2022

**SUBMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR**




Office of the County Auditor

115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 520 • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301 • 954-357-7590 • FAX 954-357-7592

Advisory No. 245

Date: June 2, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Board of County Commissioners

From: Robert Melton, County Auditor 

Subject: Estimated Financial Impact of Proposed Charter Amendment on the 2022 General Election Ballot – Office of Broward County Mayor (Geller Proposal)

As required by the Charter of Broward County (Article XI, Section 11.09), we estimated the projected financial impact of the proposed Broward County Charter amendment set forth for voter consideration at the 2022 General Election. Our objective was to prepare a financial impact statement estimating the increase or decrease in revenues or costs to the County resulting from the approval of the proposed Charter amendment. This Advisory Memorandum does not represent an audit or attestation conducted pursuant to government auditing standards.

To estimate the financial impact of the proposed Charter amendment, we consulted with appropriate County staff, the County Attorney's Office, and developed assumptions relative to the amendment requirements.

The financial impact analysis and statement contained in this Advisory Memorandum contemplate only the required and determinable activities of the proposed Charter amendment. For example, the ascertainable costs of creating, staffing, and operating an entity created by a proposed Charter amendment have been considered. However, hypothetical, contingent, and uncertain future financial impacts have not been considered. As is typical when preparing financial estimates, we developed assumptions and used comparative data, where possible, to determine financial impact. The use of assumptions is necessary because most proposed Charter amendments only provide a general mandate to the County and do not dictate the method of implementation to be used by the County. Thus, we consulted with appropriate County staff to develop assumptions pertaining to the County's implementation of the proposed Charter amendment.

Additionally, our estimates are limited to the financial impacts the proposed Charter amendment will have on the Board of County Commissioners, the County's departments, agencies, offices, and the County's budgetary obligations to constitutional officers.

Background

The Charter of Broward County, effective January 1, 1975, is the central document that defines the duties, responsibilities, and general structure of Broward County government. Any proposed change(s) to the Charter must be approved by the voters of Broward County. Charter changes may be proposed to the voters by the Board of County Commissioners, the Charter Review Commission, or through an initiative of the people.

Proposed Charter Amendment: Office of Broward County Mayor

Ballot Question:

“Shall the Broward County Charter be amended to provide that the County Commissioner elected by the County Commission to the position of Broward County Mayor serve in that position for two years instead of for one year and that the Mayor's compensation be 150% of a County Commissioner's compensation, commencing with the County Commission's election of the Mayor in 2024?” *(Vote “Yes” for approval; vote “No” for rejection).*

Financial Impact Statement:

It is estimated that this amendment will have a financial impact to Broward County of an additional cost of approximately \$86,000.

Amendment Requirements:

The Amendment, if approved by County voters, will provide that the Broward County Mayor is elected by the Board every two years instead of annually beginning November 2024 but would not alter the substantive powers of the Broward County Mayor. The County Commission would remain at nine (9) members including the Mayor. The Mayor's compensation will be 150% of a County Commissioner's compensation.

Assumptions/Expectations:

The Mayor will be one of the nine Commissioners and will have an office staff and operating expenses similar to the other eight Commissioners.

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Revenue/Cost Estimates:

We estimated staffing and employee benefits cost based upon the current budgeted rate of positions within each Board of County Commissioner Offices as provided by the Office of Management and Budget.

cc: Monica Cepero, County Administrator
Andrew Meyers, County Attorney




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Advisory No. 247

Date: June 2, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Board of County Commissioners

From: Robert Melton, County Auditor 

Subject: Estimated Financial Impact of Proposed Charter Amendment on the 2022 General Election Ballot – Office of Broward County Mayor (Ryan Proposal) – Revised from Report No. 20-14 issued on June 4, 2020

This Advisory Memorandum is an update to Report No. 20-14 “Estimated Financial Impact of Proposed Charter Amendments on the 2020 General Election Ballot” issued June 4, 2020. This provides the revised financial impact of the above referenced proposal to reflect changes in cost estimates since the prior issuance on June 4, 2020. The changes in cost estimates are primarily the result of budgeted increases in staffing compensation as well as certain benefits costs.

As required by the Charter of Broward County (Article XI, Section 11.09), we estimated the projected financial impact of the proposed Broward County Charter amendment set forth for voter consideration at the 2022 General Election. Our objective was to prepare a financial impact statement estimating the increase or decrease in revenues or costs to the County resulting from the approval of the proposed Charter amendment. This Advisory Memorandum does not represent an audit or attestation conducted pursuant to government auditing standards.

To estimate the financial impact of the proposed Charter amendment, we consulted with appropriate County staff, the County Attorney's Office, and developed assumptions relative to the amendment requirements.

The financial impact analysis and statement contained in this Advisory Memorandum contemplate only the required and determinable activities of the proposed Charter amendment. For example, the ascertainable costs of creating, staffing, and operating an entity created by a proposed Charter amendment have been considered. However, hypothetical, contingent, and uncertain future financial impacts have not been considered. As is typical when preparing financial estimates, we developed assumptions and used comparative data, where possible, to determine financial impact. The use of assumptions is necessary because most proposed Charter

amendments only provide a general mandate to the County and do not dictate the method of implementation to be used by the County. Thus, we consulted with appropriate County staff to develop assumptions pertaining to the County's implementation of the proposed Charter amendment.

Additionally, our estimates are limited to the financial impacts the proposed Charter amendment will have on the Board of County Commissioners, the County's departments, agencies, offices, and the County's budgetary obligations to constitutional officers.

Background

The Charter of Broward County, effective January 1, 1975, is the central document that defines the duties, responsibilities, and general structure of Broward County government. Any proposed change(s) to the Charter must be approved by the voters of Broward County. Charter changes may be proposed to the voters by the Board of County Commissioners, the Charter Review Commission, or through an initiative of the people.

Proposed Charter Amendment: Office of Broward County Mayor

Ballot Question:

“Shall the Broward County Charter be amended to provide a Charter Office of Broward County Mayor, to be elected at large starting with the 2024 General Election, with (1) the Mayor exercising such powers as granted by the Charter, (2) annual compensation of \$220,000, adjusted for inflation, (3) no person eligible to serve as Mayor for more than two consecutive four-year terms, and (4) a prohibition on outside employment while serving as Mayor?” *(Vote “Yes” for approval; vote “No” for rejection).*

Financial Impact Statement:

It is estimated that this amendment will have a financial impact to Broward County of an additional cost of approximately \$858,000.

Amendment Requirements:

The Amendment, if approved by County voters, would change the Office of Mayor from being Commissioner-elected on an annual basis to being elected countywide for a four-year term, but would not alter the substantive powers of the Broward County Mayor. The County Commission would increase to ten (10) members consisting of nine (9) Commissioners elected from single-member districts and one (1) Mayor elected at large. The Mayor’s salary will be \$220,000.

Assumptions/Expectations:

- A. The newly created office will be staffed with four positions, which is one more (33%) than the current number of budgeted positions for each of the current Board of County Commissioner Offices.
- B. The newly created office will have an operating budget that is 33% more than each Board of County Commissioner Offices.
- C. The newly created office will require an additional \$10,000 to the shared County Commission business travel budget which is currently \$90,000 in total for all nine Board of County Commissioner Office.
- D. One-time capital cost of office and equipment is not significant relative to the ongoing annual cost.

Revenue/Cost Estimates:

We estimated staffing and employee benefits cost based upon the current budgeted rate of positions within each Board of County Commissioner Offices as provided by the Office of Management and Budget.

cc: Monica Cepero, County Administrator
Andrew Meyers, County Attorney