

Ballot Title, Summary and Proposed Amendment – Citizen Initiatives

A. Introduction.

This Charter amendment would suspend the one hundred and eighty (180) day time period for the gathering of petition signatures during the completion of the reviews and procedures required by Sec. 602.E. of the Charter and set a ten (10) day deadline for the Supervisor of Elections to provide the 1% notification to the County Commission, the Comptroller and Legal Review Panel under Sec. 602.E.(1) of the Charter. The intent is to give petitioners a full one hundred and eighty (180) days to gather the necessary signatures.

B. Ballot Proposal: The ballot title and question for Question #__ are as follows:

SUSPENDING TIME FOR GATHERING
PETITION SIGNATURES DURING
MANDATORY REVIEWS AND SETTING
DEADLINE FOR 1% NOTIFICATION

Shall the charter be amended by suspending the one hundred eighty (180) day time period for gathering signatures during mandatory reviews and procedures specified under Sec. 602.E. of the Charter and setting a ten (10) day deadline for the Supervisor of Elections to provide the 1% notification to the County Commission, the Comptroller and Legal Review Panel under Sec. 602.E.(1) of the Charter?

Comptroller estimated financial impact: _____.

_____ Yes

_____ No

C. Text Revisions: Article VI, Sec. 602.A. and Sec. 602.E.(1) of the Orange County Charter are amended as follows:

(Underline text is added to the charter).

Sec. 602. - Procedure for initiative and referendum.

A. *Initiation and overview of process.* The sponsor of an initiative petition shall register as a political committee as required by general law, and shall, prior to obtaining any signatures, submit the text of the proposed petition to the supervisor of elections, with the form on which signatures will be affixed, and shall obtain the approval of the supervisor of elections of such form. The style and requirements of such form may be specified by ordinance. Concurrent with this submission, the sponsor of an initiative petition shall

prepare and submit translations of the ballot title and ballot summary into those languages required by law for placement on the ballot. Within fifteen (15) days after the aforementioned submittals, the supervisor of elections shall render a determination on the form on which signatures will be affixed. Each initiative petition shall embrace but one (1) subject and matter directly connected therewith. The beginning date of any petition drive shall commence upon the date of approval by the supervisor of elections of the form on which signatures will be affixed, and said drive shall terminate one hundred eighty (180) days after that date. The one hundred eighty day (180) period shall be suspended and shall not recommence until the completion of all reviews and procedures required by Sec. 602.E. (legal review, financial impact statement, revised petition, sufficiency determination by supervisor of elections and public hearing). In the event sufficient signatures are not submitted during that one-hundred-eighty-day period (as extended by any suspension of same during the reviews and procedures required by Sec. 602.E.), the petition drive shall be rendered null and void and none of the signatures may be carried over onto another petition. If sufficient signatures are obtained submitted during that one-hundred-eighty-day period, the supervisor of elections shall within thirty (30) days thereafter verify the signatures thereon and submit a written report to the board.

E. Legal review, financial impact; public hearing.

1. *One (1) percent threshold.* Upon verification by the supervisor of elections that a petition has been signed by at least one (1) percent of the county electors in each commission district, the supervisor of elections shall have ten (10) days to so notify the board, the comptroller and the legal review panel.

D. Effective Date. This amendment shall become effective upon passage, which is the date certified by the Supervisor of Elections and shall not require further enabling legislation by the Orange County Board of County Commissioners.

Financial Analysis and Impact:

Based on information provided by the Comptroller's Office, the cost of the proposed amendment is approximately _____, which represents _____.