

Mark Berman

From: Kervin Alfred
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2025 1:52 PM
To: Mark Berman
Cc: Alexandre Colo
Subject: Charter Amendment Advisory Board Request - Sample Questions
Attachments: Motion of January 14, 2025 meeting.pdf

Importance: High

Good afternoon, Mark:

The Charter Amendment Advisory Board met last Thursday to review the proposal to extend the commissioners' terms from two years to four years and to establish term limits. During the discussion, one of the members requested that you provide a sample of the questions that will be presented to the voters on this topic. They believed that providing these questions would be invaluable in helping the Board gauge the likely responses from the electorate and better anticipate the public sentiment surrounding the proposal.

Attached is the minutes documenting the Commission's motion for your review.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing back from you.



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opportunity to gather feedback from their districts. She concluded that, for now, she cannot support the motion.

The motion failed by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Sigerson-Eaton
Hardin

No: Fesik
Perkins
Smith
Fournier

Mayor Hardin proposed a charter change to introduce four-year staggered terms for commissioners, as well as term limits for both the mayor and commissioners. The idea is to have some continuity of governance, similar to how the mayor currently serves a four-year term, by ensuring not all positions are up for election at the same time. The Mayor suggested involving the charter review committee to consider this proposal and provide recommendations.

A motion was made by Mayor Hardin, seconded by Vice Mayor Fournier, to direct the Charter Amendment Advisory Board to review a City Charter amendment that would establish four-year staggered terms for commissioners and twelve-year term limit for the Mayor and Commissioner positions.

Vice Mayor Fournier expressed support for introducing term limits, suggesting three terms as a reasonable duration. She requested benchmarking data from other cities in the County to inform the discussion and emphasized that any proposal for longer terms should be accompanied by term limits.

Comr. Smith agreed that longer terms could benefit the city by maintaining experienced leadership on the dais, noting that it made sense to ensure continuity and retain institutional knowledge.

Comr. Sigerson-Eaton recommended considering bringing elections back to March.

Comr. Perkins expressed her support for term limits and a four-year voting election cycle. She noted that a similar measure was on the ballot five or six years ago but did not pass due to the absence of term limits. Comr. Perkins personally favors a term limit of two or three terms, with three being preferable, but supports a four-year term with term limits as a fair approach.

Mayor Hardin discussed his perspective on electoral terms, noting that while he personally opposes term limits, he views the proposal for longer terms for the City Commission as a reasonable compromise. He emphasized the disruptive nature of frequent elections and the burden they place on officials and the community. The Mayor believes voters should have the ultimate authority over term limits, as enforced limits restrict their choices. He supports staggered four-year terms due to benefits like increased voter participation and cost savings compared to more frequent elections.

Comr. Perkins noted that commissioners have limited time to serve, as they only have one year before needing to run for re-election.

Vice Mayor Fournier discussed the idea of term limits for local elected officials in Pompano Beach, citing that it can be costly to run for office and that the current term is just one year. In a recent newsletter, she conducted a poll on the topic, with results showing that 83% supported instituting term limits, 11% opposed it, and 6% were indifferent. She emphasized that this shows a pathway to potentially extending term lengths.

Mayor Hardin commented on the interpretation of poll results, noting that while general questions about lower taxes and term limits often elicit positive responses, more specific questions can yield different answers. He emphasized the importance of how questions are framed in polling. He acknowledged the poll presented but also mentioned that there are scientifically valid methods for conducting polls.

The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Yes: Fesik

Perkins

Sigerson-Eaton

Smith

Fournier

Hardin

Mayor Hardin reminded everyone of the upcoming MLK parade and activities, as well as other events like Jazz Fest and the Nautical Flea Market. He expressed appreciation for the community's active event schedule, noting there's always something happening in Pompano Beach.

G. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 PM.

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Kervin Alfred

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Kervin Alfred, City Clerk

Signed by:



Signed by:

Rex Hardin

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Rex Hardin, Mayor