

Clermont Charter Changes

This survey seeks your opinion on some possible changes to the City of Clermont's Charter. The Charter is the governing document for the city that describes how city government is composed. It is being reviewed for the first time since the 1970's. There are five main areas under consideration, and this is your opportunity to share your views.

* Required

1. Are you a resident of the City of Clermont, FL (within the city limits)? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

Term Limits

Currently, there is no limit on the number of 2 year terms that a City Councilor can serve. We could add term limits and at the same time keep the same 2 year term or change it to a 4 year term.

2. Should the Charter add term limits for City Councilors? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

3. What should be the maximum number of terms that a Councilor could serve

Mark only one oval.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

4. How long should terms be? *

Mark only one oval.

- 2 years
- 4 years

5. Should a councilor who has maxed out on term limits be allowed to run again after some absence from the Council?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

Residency Requirements

Currently, the Charter requires that a person be a resident of the City during "qualifying week" when he or she files his/her candidate's papers, about 5 months before the General Election. The Charter could be amended to require residents to live in the City for a longer time prior to filing papers.

6. Should the Charter be amended to require a longer residency for prospective Councilors? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

7. How long should the residency requirement be?

Mark only one oval.

- 6 months
- 1 year
- 18 months
- 2 years
- Other: _____

Creation of Districting ("Districting")

Currently all 5 City Councilors are elected "at-large", which means all voters in the City vote for all positions, and Councilors do not represent a particular part of the City. The Charter could be amended to create "single-member districts", where candidates for a Council seat must live in the district they wish to represent. We could have all the positions on the Council elected by district, or there could be a mix of at-large and district seats. The Mayor's seat presents a separate set of questions.

Advantages of districting include: all areas of the City have someone specifically representing their neighborhoods; your representative must live in your district and therefore may be more familiar with issues in your area; certain areas of the City cannot overwhelm the voting through sheer numbers and reduce the impact of other area's votes; getting elected to a district seat is simpler and less expensive than running at-large and may encourage new candidates to try for office, among other things. Disadvantages include: no candidate might step forward for certain districts, creating the problem of how to fill the seat; if you are not happy with the Councilor in your district you may feel you have no one to represent you; districts will have to be drawn and re-drawn as the City grows, among other things.

8. Should the Charter be amended to add districts? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes. All Council seats should represent a specific district with no at-large seats.
- Yes, but there should be a mix of district and at-large seats.
- No, we should continue with all at-large seats.

9. How many at-large seats do you feel there should be on a 5-member council?

Mark only one oval.

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| <input type="radio"/> |

10. How should the Mayor's seat be handled? *

Mark only one oval.

- The Mayor should be elected at-large.
- The Mayor should be selected by his/her fellow Councilors after each election.
- The Mayorship should rotate between Councilors on a predetermined schedule.

Vacancies

Currently the Charter says that if a Council leaves office more than six months before the end of his or her term, a special election will be held to replace him or her. If there is less than six months remaining in the term, the Council will appoint a person to fill the seat until the next election.

11. Should the Council change the handling of vacancies? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No

12. If it should be changed, how would you change it?

Board of Adjustment

At any given meeting, a fair amount of the City Council's time is spent hearing and voting on Zoning Variances. Some cities have a special Board of Adjustment that hears requests for Zoning Variances so that Council can focus on other matters. Members of the Board of Adjustment are usually appointed, not elected.

13. Should the Charter be changed to create a Board of Adjustment? *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes, we should have a Board of Adjustment.
- No, City Council should continue to handle these matters.

Final Thoughts

14. Please share any other thoughts that you would like to have directed to the Charter Review Committee.

Optional Identification

If you wish, you can let us know who you are.

15. Your Name
