

5-A-4

PALM BEACH COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

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Meeting Date: June 19, 2007 [ ] Consent [X] Regular  
 [ ] Ordinance [ ] Public Hearing

Department:

Submitted By: Administration  
 Submitted For:

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I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

**Motion and Title: Staff requests Board Direction:** regarding a recent request by the Let Us Vote Committee to place a proposed amendment to the Palm Beach County Charter on the January, 2008 ballot.

**Summary:** A political action committee, Let Us Vote, is gathering signatures to propose an amendment to Section 6.3 Home Rule of the Palm Beach County Charter, which would require both county and municipal voter approval for County Charter amendments that affect municipal powers or functions. Amendments to the Home Rule Charter may be initiated by citizen's petition, or proposed by the Board of County Commissioners by an affirmative vote of at least four (4) members, subject to approval by the voters of Palm Beach County in a referendum. Countywide (LB)

**Background and Policy Issues:** Let Us Vote Political Committee requested the BCC to consider placing the County Charter Amendment on the ballot for the presidential primary election on January 29, 2008. The Let Us Vote Political Committee is gathering signatures to vote on amending the Palm Beach County Charter. The Amendment to Article 6, Section 3 of the Charter would require that a majority of voters of Palm Beach County and a majority of voters in each municipality voting in a referendum must approve any amendment to the Charter which transfers or limits a function, service, power or authority of any municipality in the County. At least twenty-seven Palm Beach County cities have passed resolutions endorsing this change. Amendments to the Home Rule Charter may be proposed by the Board of County Commissioners by an affirmative vote of at least four (4) members, subject to approval by the voters of Palm Beach County in a referendum. The Home Rule Charter amendment may also be initiated by seven (7) percent of the number of voters qualified to vote in the last general election.

**Attachments:**  
1. Let Us Vote Political Committee request

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**Recommended By:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Department Director** **Date**

**Approved By:** Paul Williams 6/16/07  
**Assistant County Administrator** **Date**

**II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS**

**A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

Fiscal Years	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Capital Expenditures	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Costs	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Operating Revenues	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Is Item Included In Current Budget?			Yes _____	No _____	
Budget Account No.:	Fund _____	Agency _____	Org. _____	Object _____	

**B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

**III. REVIEW COMMENTS :**

**A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Administration Comments:**

John D. ... 6-7-07  
OFMB  
6-7-07  
6/6/07

John J. ... 6/6/07  
Contract Administration

**B. Legal Sufficiency:**

Leona B. ...  
Assistant County Attorney

**C. Other Department Review:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Department Director

RECEIVED MAY 29 2007

# Let Us Vote

*Copy:  
Valencia  
B...*

May 25, 2007

Commission Chairperson Addie Greene  
Palm Beach County Commission  
301 N. Olive Ave.  
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Commission Chairperson Greene:

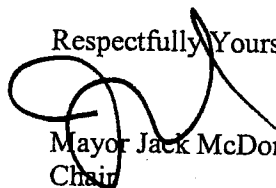
I am writing to you as Chair of the Let Us Vote Committee, a political action committee committed to the extension of municipal voting rights. We believe the people of Palm Beach County should have the opportunity to vote on expanded Home Rule. We believe our proposed change to be good for the municipalities, good for the county and good for the people of Palm Beach County.

We are gathering signatures to place a Palm Beach County Charter change on a ballot in 2008. I know you are aware the citizen initiative process is a long and difficult one, requiring the signatures of over 53,000 registered voters. We have begun the process and are finding a remarkable level of support for the issue among the public.

Attached is information regarding our proposed Charter Amendment, including recent press clippings. Frequently asked questions and more information can be found at our website [www.letusvote.info](http://www.letusvote.info).

We are committed to completing the petition process; however, we acknowledge that a simple majority vote of the Palm Beach County Commission could place this issue before the voters. At least twenty-seven Palm Beach County cities have passed resolutions endorsing this change and more have the issue on an upcoming agenda. Please consider this a request to place the attached County Charter Amendment on the ballot for the presidential primary election on January 29, 2008. Please let me know by return mail if you agree with my request and are willing to agenda this item for consideration before the County Commission.

Respectfully Yours,



Mayor Jack McDonald  
Chair

Attachments

cc: Robert Weisman, County Administrator  
James Titcomb, Executive Director, Palm Beach County League of Cities