

CITY OF FORT PIERCE

CITIZEN-INITIATED CHARTER AMENDMENT PETITION

Petition Number _____	Date Received _____
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BALLOT TITLE

Voter Approval Required for Major Changes Affecting City-Owned Waterfront Lands

BALLOT SUMMARY

Shall the City of Fort Pierce Charter require voter approval before the City may sell, exchange, enter into a long-term lease, approve a redevelopment agreement for, or authorize a material land-use change involving publicly owned waterfront lands, subject to limited exceptions established in the Charter amendment?

SPONSOR

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VOTER INFORMATION AND ATTESTATION

Name – Last _____ First _____ Middle _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ County _____

Registration No. _____ OR Date of Birth ____/____/____

Florida Driver License No. _____ OR Last 4 SSN _____

I am a registered voter of the City of Fort Pierce, Florida, and I am petitioning for placement of the proposed City of Fort Pierce Charter Amendment on the ballot.

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

CIRCULATOR ATTESTATION

I certify that I personally witnessed each signature on this page and believe each signer to be a registered voter residing within the City of Fort Pierce.

Circulator Name: _____

Circulator Signature: _____

Date: _____

PROPOSED CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT

PURPOSE

Require a citywide vote before the City of Fort Pierce can sell, exchange, or lease city-owned property, subject to narrow, defined exceptions.

BALLOT TITLE & SUMMARY

Title: Voter Approval Required to Sell or Lease City-Owned Public Property

Summary: Shall the City of Fort Pierce Charter require voter approval before the City sells, exchanges, or leases city-owned property, with limited exceptions for utility easements, temporary licenses, intergovernmental public-use transfers, boundary corrections, and equal-value land swaps approved at a public hearing? This measure preserves public control over publicly owned lands and requires transparent valuation and notice before dispositioning.

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT TEXT

Protection of City-Owned Properties. The City shall not sell, exchange, or lease any City-owned property, including submerged lands, without approval by a majority of City electors voting in a citywide referendum.

Exceptions:

- (a) utility or access easements;
- (b) temporary licenses not exceeding one (1) year;
- (c) intergovernmental transfers retaining perpetual public use;
- (d) boundary corrections;
- (e) land swaps of equal or greater public value approved by all four (4) Commissioners AND the Mayor after a public hearing with independent appraisal.

The Commission shall enact procedures for notice, appraisal, and referendum scheduling consistent with Florida law.

Special Election Option. The City Commission shall approve and schedule special elections to accomplish the timely process of obtaining a resulting public vote as deemed necessary by a majority “yea” vote amongst the 4 acting commissioners and the mayor.

The intent is not to create a system where every routine transaction involving City property is automatically delayed or sent to a vote. The focus is on major decisions involving publicly owned waterfront lands — specifically sales, long-term leases, redevelopment agreements, or material land-use changes that could permanently alter public use of those properties. The hearing process will still take place first. The City Commission would retain its ability to review proposals, hold hearings, receive public comment, and decide whether it wishes to move a proposal forward. After that normal process, if the City still wishes to proceed with a major change involving publicly owned waterfront lands, the matter shall then be submitted to the voters before becoming effective.

Utilizing special elections as one tool for keeping the process moving forward when appropriate, rather than requiring everything to wait until a distant election cycle. In that sense, a special election would not be intended to obstruct the process, but to provide a timely and orderly way for the electorate to make the final decision on matters of major public importance.

This rule is intended to preserve public trust by ensuring that significant decisions affecting publicly owned waterfront lands are not final unless the public has had both the opportunity to be heard through the normal hearing process and the opportunity to vote before the action becomes effective.