



CITY OF TAMPA CHARTER AMENDMENT BY PETITION

Getting Started

Before starting a petition drive, the sponsors involved must become a political committee. Form DS-DE 5, DS-DE 6 and DS-DE 41 are available at the Supervisor of Elections office and on the Division of Elections website. Next, the format and wording of the petition must be established and submitted to the Supervisor of Elections for review and approval of format.

Number of Signatures Required

<p>The Supervisor of Elections may verify a signature only if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The form contains the original signature of the purported elector. ○ The purported elector has accurately recorded on the form the date on which he or she signed the form. ○ The form sets forth the purported elector's name, address, city, county, and voter registration number or date of birth. ○ The purported elector is, at the time he or she signs the form and at the time the form is verified, a duly qualified and registered elector of the City of Tampa. 	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Number of electors as of preceding municipal Election</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Number of Signatures needed</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">211,158</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">21,116</td> </tr> </table>	Number of electors as of preceding municipal Election	Number of Signatures needed	211,158	21,116	<p>According to Section 166.031, Florida Statutes "The governing body of a municipality may, by ordinance, or the electors of a municipality may, by petition signed by 10 percent of the registered electors as of the last preceding municipal general election, submit to the electors of said municipality a proposed amendment to its charter." The cost of petition verification is 10 cents for each signature checked. The charge can be waived by following procedures in section 99.097, Florida Statutes.</p>
Number of electors as of preceding municipal Election	Number of Signatures needed					
211,158	21,116					

Petition Format

The form must contain the provisions of the Florida Election Laws and the State Administrative Code. The petition should be entitled 'Charter Amendment Petition Form' and contain the full text of the amendment. There must be adequate space for signer's name, street address, city, county, date of signature and signature, and include space for the voter identification number or date of birth. Only one signature is allowed per form. Each petition is a paid political advertisement and must be identified as such. Minimum size is 3"x5" and maximum size is 8.5"x11". Petition form must contain the title of the proposal (no more than 15 words) and the wording of the proposal (no more than 75 words).

Certification

The Supervisor of Elections has up to 30 days to determine whether the petition contains the required number of signatures. Amendments become effective upon approval by majority vote in a city wide election. The final date to submit petitions to the Supervisor of Elections office is 30 days prior to the Primary Election to ensure the measure can be included on the General Election ballot.

The information contained in this fact sheet and other literature is not comprehensive in nature. If you are initiating a charter amendment, it is your responsibility to become acquainted with relevant Florida election laws and local charters that might have a bearing on your initiative.
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