

April 2, 2014

Dear West Orange Political Alliance (W.O.P.A.) Members,

The W.O.P.A. Board of Directors has carefully reviewed amendments to the Orange County Charter that were submitted the Orange County Board of Commissioners on March 25, 2014.

The County Commission will consider, on April 8, whether or not to place the proposed changes to our County Charter on the ballot. W.O.P.A. believes that it is essential that the County Commission act now to give our citizens the opportunity to vote in the upcoming Primary election on the following questions:

- A. Increase the number of signatures necessary to initiate changes to our charter to 15% of the voters in each of the County Commission districts. This will help stop us from becoming a morass of detailed rules and laws like California. For example, a current petition has been submitted to change our County Charter (our local Constitution) to trump all County and City laws to allow chickens at people's homes. The current Charter provision allows 4% to 6% of the voters to put changes to our Charter on the ballot. Now that out of town, special interest groups know they can spend their out of town money to fund changes to our Charter, our Charter is at risk of being hijacked by those that do not have our best interest at stake. Additionally, not allowing changes to our Charter that conflict with State law or financial obligations already provided for in our Charter. Without this protection, the financial integrity of our County is at stake, again benefiting those outside of our County that do not have our best interest at stake.
- B. Make all County Charter Officers nonpartisan. We do not need party politics and cronyism in our government, and we should not disenfranchise the very large percentage of our voters that have chosen to register to vote with no party affiliation. Making our entire County Charter Officers nonpartisan will allow all of our registered voters to have a full voice in our local elections.
- C. Add two County Commission Districts so that we can have better representation of our citizens. 28 years ago there was one Commissioner for every 100,000 people in our County. Now, there is one Commissioner for every 200,000 people, and with greater diversity. Allowing our citizens to elect two new commissioners will allow our government to be far more responsive to us.
- D. Merge the Tax Collector into Orange County Administration subject to the control of our County Commissioners and Mayor. A separate Tax Collector is unnecessary and expensive.

W.O.P.A. strongly believes that we need to protect our Charter for the public's best interest. Please consider contacting our Mayor and County Commissioners to voice your support to place these important items on the ballot.

Mayor Teresa Jacobs	Mayor@ocfl.net
Commissioner Scott Boyd	District1@ocfl.net
Commissioner Fred Brummer	District2@ocfl.net
Commissioner Pete Clarke	District3@ocfl.net
Commissioner Jennifer Thompson	District4@ocfl.net
Commissioner Ted Edwards	District5@ocfl.net
Commissioner Tiffany Moore Russell	District6@ocfl.net

Sincerely,



Randy June
Chairman
West Orange Political Alliance