



156 S. Lake Avenue
Groveland, FL 34736
352-429-2141

Dear Residents,

When the City amended its Charter most recently to provide for Primary Elections when more than two candidates qualify for a seat, the language did not take into account timelines in the Charter for Special Elections to fill vacancies. Specifically, the Charter requires that a special election be held to fill a vacancy no less than 30 and no more than 90 days after a vacancy occurs. It is impossible to hold a primary and a general election in that time frame. To de-conflict the language, the City is proposing to remove the requirement to fill a vacancy by a special election, and instead, a vacancy would be filled by the Mayor and Council and fulfill the remainder of the 2 year term until the next election cycle for that seat.

Filling vacant seat prior to expiration of term of office

Q1: Should the Charter be amended to provide that a vacant seat on City Council, except upon natural expiration of a term of office, shall be filled by the remaining councilmembers appointing a successor to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term regardless of the length of time remaining in the term of office, when the vacancy occurs.

Q1 Explanation: Currently, the City of Groveland Charter requires a special election to fill a vacancy in the council if there are more than six months remaining in the unexpired term and no regular election is scheduled within six months, or if there is less than six months before the next regular election, then the council may appoint someone who serves until elected at the next regular election. The Charter requires the special election be held no sooner than 60 days, nor more than 90 days following the occurrence of a vacancy. With the inclusion of a primary election in the Charter adopted in 2018, the current deadlines within which to hold a primary and special election do not provide sufficient time for the Lake County Supervisor of Elections Office to comply with Federal law.

What we are asking: Your consideration to amend the City Charter to eliminate the requirement to hold a special election to fill a vacancy in the Council if there are more than six months remaining in the unexpired term of the office becoming vacant and no regular election is scheduled within six months, to deconflict the requirements of special elections and primaries.



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**Appointment of Interim Council until next Regular
Election and Transition Schedule**

Q2: Should the Charter of Groveland be amended to provide that the terms of office for an interim Council appointed by the governor be until the next regular election, rather than until the vacancies are filled by a special election, and provide for a transition schedule?

Q2 Explanation: Currently the City of Groveland Charter provides that when the Governor appoints an interim Council, because all members have been vacated, the interim Council serves until a special election can be held. This requirement necessitates an election and potential primary, as opposed to having the interim Council remain until the next scheduled election, during which time they could provide stability to the City. The current charter further does not provide for a transition schedule when all members are appointed to meet the requirements of Section 3.03 of the charter.

What we are asking: Your consideration to amend the City Charter to allow an interim Council appointed by the Governor, to serve until the next regular election.

**Removal of language relating to Special Elections to
accommodate revisions to the Charter if appropriate**

Q3: Should the language in Sec. 3.03 of the Charter of Groveland be revised by removing language relating to special elections if the requirement for a special election is eliminated by other charter amendments?

Q3 Explanation: Currently, Sec. 3.03 of the City of Groveland Charter includes references to special elections; however, if the proposed ballot amendments are approved by the voters, then any references to special elections in Sec. 3.03 should be deleted.

What we are asking: Your consideration to amend the City Charter, removing reference to special elections if the requirement for a special election is eliminated by the voters.

Current as of September 2020