



A charter is the governing document for municipalities adopted by the people and amended by the people through referendum. Every municipality in Florida has a charter. A city is governed by its charter, which is a city's constitution, written to form the municipality, much like articles of incorporation. The charter sets forth the boundaries of the municipality, its form of government, the size of the council and certain governmental processes.

The Florida Constitution states in Article VIII, Section 2(b) for municipalities: *"Municipalities shall have governmental, corporate and proprietary powers to enable them to conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions and render municipal services, and may exercise power for municipal purposes except as otherwise provided by law. Each municipal legislative body shall be elective."*

Although elected municipal officials have the power to adopt legislation and amend the City's Code of Ordinances (City Laws), elected officials may only propose amendments to a city's charter (with very limited exceptions). Those proposed charter amendments must be placed on the ballot in the form of a referendum and approved by the electors.

When voters visit the polls on November 5, 2024, they will have the opportunity to consider a Charter Amendment proposed via Ordinance 2022-06 by the Dunnellon City Council on July 11, 2022, regarding the purchase of goods.

Currently, the City's Charter requires that the City obtain sealed bids for the purchase of goods with an estimated value of over \$5,000, except in cases where the health and welfare of the community will be jeopardized. The proposed Charter Amendment would increase the threshold to be consistent with the City's purchasing policy threshold for contractual services, pursuant to Florida Statutes 287.017(2) and 287.057.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:

**CHARTER BALLOT QUESTION
CITY OF DUNNELLON, FLORIDA
REFERENDUM ELECTION
PURCHASE REQUIREMENTS FOR GOODS**

Shall the Charter of the City of Dunnellon be amended to require that purchases of major items (goods) in an amount over \$5,000.00 but less than \$35,000.00 shall not be awarded without first obtaining a minimum of two written bids or proposals, and that purchases of major items (goods) in an amount of \$35,000.00 or greater shall not be awarded until after the City advertises to receive sealed bids proposals?

Questions regarding the proposed amendment may be directed to the City Clerk at 352-465-8500.