

This document serves as a request to create the Escambia County Charter Study Commission (ECCSC) with the purpose of conducting a review of best practices in county governments within Florida and, if appropriate, develop a proposed charter for Escambia County. This document also provides for the membership of the commission; provides for special advisory committees and membership; provides for meetings; specifies sources of funding; provides for private contributions; provides for clerical, technical and legal assistance; requires a referendum for approval of the charter; provides for dissolution of the commission and reversion of the commission property to the county; and provides an effective date.

Section 1. Creation

Create an Escambia County Charter Study Commission to study and, if appropriate, develop a proposed charter for Escambia County. The intent of this commission would be to submit the proposed charter to the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) for action by (date). If approved, the charter would be submitted to the local legislative delegation by (date) for introduction in the next regular session of the Legislature. A legislatively approved plan shall be submitted to the qualified electors of Escambia County for referendum to approve or reject the formation of a charter government in Escambia County.

Section 2. Membership

The membership of the ECCSC may not exceed 25 persons. The members of the commission shall be appointed by (date), as follows:

- 1) The BOCC shall appoint five members. Each commissioner shall appoint one member who shall reside, work, or own property in the appointing commissioner's district.
- 2) The Mayor and the Town Council of the Town of Century shall appoint one member who shall be a resident of the Town of Century.
- 3) The Mayor and City Council of the City of Pensacola shall appoint one member who shall be a resident of the City of Pensacola.
- 4) The following organizations may each appoint one member to the commission:
 - The Escambia County branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).
 - Justice United Seeking Transformation in Pensacola

- Escambia County Taxpayer's Association
- The League of Women Voters of Pensacola Bay Area
- The Pensacola Young Professionals
- The Escambia County Farm Bureau
- The Home Builders Association of West Florida
- The President of the University of West Florida shall appoint one member who shall have expertise in local government matters.
- Escambia County Sheriff
- Escambia County Tax Collector
- Escambia County Property Appraiser
- Escambia County Clerk of the Court
- Escambia County Supervisor of Elections
- The Chief Judge of the First Judicial Circuit shall appoint two members who shall be members of the Florida Bar and have legal expertise in local government matters
- The Escambia County School Board may appoint one member by a majority vote of the board
- The Emerald Coast Utilities Authority shall appoint one member
- The President of Pensacola State College shall appoint one member.
- The Commanding Officer of NAS Pensacola shall appoint one member
- United Way of Escambia County shall appoint one member

There shall be created the Special Advisory Committee on Public Safety to provide advice and counsel to the commission on the appropriate structure and funding of public safety service in Escambia County. The committee shall elect a chairperson and report to the chairperson of the ECCSC. Each of the following may serve as a member of the committee or appoint a representative.

- The Sheriff of Escambia County
- The Chief of Police of Pensacola
- The Escambia County Community Corrections Bureau
- The Escambia County Public Safety Bureau Chief
- The Fire Chief of the City of Pensacola
- The Fire Chief of Escambia County
- The Escambia County Medical Director
- Chairperson of the Escambia County Fire Services Advisory Board
- The Police Benevolent Association of the City of Pensacola
- The Police Benevolent Association of Escambia County

- The Chapter of the International Association of Firefighters of the City of Pensacola
- Representative of EMS????

There shall be created the Special Advisory Committee on Economic Development to provide advice and counsel to the ECCSC. The committee shall elect a chairperson and report to the chairperson of the ECCSC. Each of the following may appoint a member to the committee:

- Pensacola State College
- University of West Florida
- Pensacola Bay Area Chamber of Commerce
- Perdido Key Chamber of Commerce
- Gulf Coast African American Chamber of Commerce
- Florida's Great Northwest
- The Town of Century Chamber of Commerce
- Pensacola Beach Chamber of Commerce

There shall be created the Special Advisory Committee on Health Care to provide advice and counsel to the ECCSC. Each of the following may appoint a member to the committee:

- Baptist Health Care
- Sacred Heart Health System
- West Florida Hospital
- Escambia County Health Department
- Escambia Medical Society

Cultural History and Tourism Advisory Committee??

Members shall serve without compensation. The failure of any person or organization to appoint a member or the failure of a member to serve shall not affect the validity of the recommendations of the ECCSC or any special advisory committee. The appointing person or entity may replace any member who resigns or fails to serve. Failure to attend any two meetings without good cause constitutes failure to serve. A member may not be an elected state, county or municipal official or constitutional

officer. A majority of the duly appointed members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. Meetings, records, and reports

All meetings and records of the commission shall be public, and meetings shall be held throughout Escambia County. The ECCSC may visit local governments outside Escambia County to observe their operations. The ECCSC shall elect a chairperson and vice chairperson at the first meeting and shall use Robert's Rules of Order as its rules of procedure. The ECCSC shall meet at the call of the chairperson or upon the call of any three members at least once a month from (date) through (date). The commission shall compile and present by (date), a status report on its progress and tentative findings. Such status report shall be presented to the BOCC. The ECCSC shall submit a proposed charter document to the BOCC no later than (date).

Section 4. Funding and Expenses

Neither the state nor any governmental entity of the state has an obligation to fund the ECCSC. However, the ECCSC may solicit and receive private contributions limited to \$3,000 from any individual or for-profit entity and may solicit and receive other public contributions in support of its study, with accounting in the same manner as public funds. The BOCC or other governmental entities may furnish the ECCSC with such services, office space, and supplies as may be requested by the ECCSC and approved by the board or other governmental entities.

Section 5. Clerical, technical, and legal assistance

The BOCC shall provide reasonable technical, legal, and clerical assistance to the ECCSC

Section 6. Referendum

The Escambia County Charter shall become effective only by approval of a majority vote of those electors of Escambia County voting in a referendum. The referendum shall be held, after approval of the charter by BOCC and the state legislature, at the next general election, in accordance with the provisions of the law relating to elections.

Section 7 Disposition of Property

The ECCSC shall dissolve by (date) and all property of the ECCSC shall thereupon become the property of the county.

