

**AMENDMENTS APPROVED BY THE
2008 CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
TO HAVE BALLOT LANGUAGE PREPARED IN DRAFT FORM**

QUESTION #4

A. Introduction: This section of the Final Report regarding Question #4 pertains to the Charter Review Commission's decision to place a question on the ballot providing citizens with the right to appear before the board on certain matters and providing at least fifteen minutes of the first Board of County Commission regular meeting each month will be set aside for citizens to speak to the board on any matter of public interest under the board's authority and jurisdiction regardless of whether the public issue is on the board's agenda.

B. Ballot Proposal: The ballot title and question for Question #4 are as follows:

**AMENDMENT PROVIDING CITIZENS WITH THE RIGHT TO PUBLIC INPUT
AND THE RIGHT TO BE HEARD
(15 words)**

Shall the Orange County Charter be amended by providing citizens the right to appear before the Board of County Commissioners for presentations on issues within the county's authority, requiring the Board to set aside at least fifteen minutes each month for citizens to speak on any matter regardless of whether the item is on the board's agenda and allowing the board to adopt rules for the orderly conduct of public meetings? (71 words)

_____ Yes

_____ No

C. Text Revisions: Sections 106 and 209 of the Orange County Charter are amended to read as follows:

Sec. 106. Security of the citizens.

The Charter form of government protects and serves the citizens of the county. In order to secure to the citizens of the county protection against abuses and encroachments, the county shall use its powers to secure for all citizens by ordinance or by civil or criminal action, whenever appropriate, the following:

- A. Just and equitable taxation.
- B. Proper use of public property.
- C. Full disclosure of public records and proceedings.
- D. Prevention of abuse of the environment.

E. The right to be heard and provide public input.

Sec. 209. Meetings.

A. Meetings of the Board. The board shall meet regularly, at such times and places as the board may prescribe by rule. The board shall determine its own rules and order of business, including establishing rules to enable the board or a committee to conduct orderly and efficient meetings while preserving the opportunity for citizen input.

B. The Right to be Heard. Any citizen has the right to appear before the board and any committee appointed by the board for the presentation, adjustment or determination of an issue, matter or request within the county's authority and jurisdiction, so far as the orderly conduct of public business permits. Matters shall be reasonably scheduled for the convenience of the general public, and specific portions of each agenda shall provide for designated times so that the public may know when a matter has been scheduled.

C. The Right to Public Input. To encourage and ensure citizens participation in county government and to afford citizens an opportunity to speak to the board, the board shall set aside at least 15 minutes prior to the first regular meeting of the board each month, and may set aside a portion of other regular meetings of the board during that month, for any citizen to speak to the board on any matter of public interest under the board's authority and jurisdiction regardless of whether the public issue is on the board's agenda except as prohibited, limited or restricted by statute, law, ordinance, or regulation. For example, to the extent that the public input involves a pending matter or application in which the board is required by law to provide a quasi-judicial hearing, citizens will be allowed to speak only during the scheduled quasi-judicial hearing.

D. Special Meetings. Special meetings may be held on the call of the county mayor or of three or more board members, upon no less than twelve hours' effective notice to each board member, except in the event of an emergency. Effective notice is notice served personally, or left at the usual place of residence or place of business of the particular board member sought to be notified.

E. Reservation of Citizen Rights. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or restrict a citizen's rights created by local or state statute, law, ordinance, or regulation.