



Financial Impact Review

Estimated Financial Impact of Proposed Charter Amendment on the November 2, 2010 General Election Ballot to Create a Charter Office of Inspector General

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Office of County Auditor
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Executive Summary

This report presents the estimated financial impact of the proposed Broward County Charter amendment to create a Charter Office of Inspector General set forth for voter consideration at the November 2, 2010 General Election as adopted by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners on August 17, 2010.

The estimated financial impact for the proposed amendment is an increase in Broward County costs by an amount that cannot be determined.

Purpose and Scope

The Charter of Broward County (Article XI, Section 11.09) requires the County Auditor to prepare financial impact statements estimating the increase or decrease in revenues or costs to the County resulting from the approval of any proposed Charter amendment.

The financial impact analysis and statement contained in this report contemplate only the required and determinable activities of the proposed Charter amendment. As is typical when preparing financial estimates, we developed assumptions and used comparative data, where possible, to determine financial impacts. The use of assumptions is necessary because most proposed Charter amendments only provide a general mandate to the County and do not dictate the method(s) of amendment implementation to be used by the County. For example, proposed Charter amendments generally do not define the number and type of staff that may support a proposed activity. Thus, we consult with appropriate County staff to develop assumptions pertaining to the County's implementation of proposed Charter amendments.

Additionally, our estimates are limited to the financial impacts the proposed Charter amendments will have on the Board of County Commissioners, the County's departments, agencies, offices and the County's budgetary obligations to constitutional officers.

Methodology

To estimate the financial impacts of the proposed Charter amendment, we:

- Reviewed the proposed Charter amendment.
- Consulted with the Office of County Attorney for legal opinions of amendment requirements, and for assistance in developing financial impact ballot language.
- Developed assumptions, in consultation with the Office of County Attorney relative to the proposed Charter amendment.

County Charter Question: Create Charter Office of Inspector General

BALLOT QUESTION

"Shall Article XII of the Broward County Charter be created to establish a Charter Office of Inspector General; to preempt any and all Inspector General offices existing or created by County or Municipal ordinance; and to provide for the powers and functions of the Charter Office of Inspector General including the investigation of misconduct and gross mismanagement by County and Municipal officials and employees and in County and Municipal contracting?" (Vote "Yes" for approval; vote "No" for rejection).

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Broward County costs would increase by an amount that cannot be determined. The amendment would expand the scope of the Inspector General's authority to include investigations of County officials and employees, officials and employees of Broward's thirty-one municipalities, and County and municipal contracting. The expanded authority of the Inspector General would increase potential investigations and costs of the Inspector General's Office.

AMENDMENT SUMMARY

The Office of Inspector General, which was created by County Ordinance on August 10, 2010, will become a Charter office and will have expanded authority over all employees of Broward County and all elected and appointed officials and employees of all thirty-one municipalities within Broward County.

FINANCIAL IMPACT SUMMARY

The estimated financial impact associated with the approval of this amendment is based on the amendment requirements and assumptions provided below.

Office of Inspector General

The Office of Inspector General was created by County Ordinance on August 10, 2010. The authority of the current Inspector General extends over the Board of County Commissioners. The County is responsible for funding the Office of Inspector General. A budget for the Office of Inspector General has not been established and an Inspector General has not been appointed.

Amendment Requirements

This amendment creates a Charter Office of Inspector General and provides for the powers and functions including the investigation of misconduct and gross mismanagement by County and Municipal officials and employees and in County and

Municipal contracting The County is responsible for funding the Office of Inspector General.

Assumptions

The following assumptions were used to estimate the financial impact of amendment approval:

- The inclusion of employees of Broward County will increase the costs of the Office of Inspector General.
- The inclusion of elected and appointed officials and employees of the thirty-one municipalities will increase the costs of the Office of the Inspector General.
- The number and extent of future investigations by the Office of Inspector General related to elected and appointed officials and employees of all the municipalities and the county is indeterminable.
- The Board of County Commissioners will fund the Office of Inspector General to the extent required to fulfill the Inspector General's Charter responsibilities.

Revenue/Cost Estimates

Broward County costs would increase by an amount that cannot be determined.