



Dear Members of the 2020 Charter Review Commission,

It is my understanding that this committee will be deliberating the idea of adding two more Commissioners to the Orange County Board of County Commissioners during your August 14th meeting. I will not be able to attend, so I wanted to share some information and input for your consideration.

A quick check of county population ratio to elected representation in Miami –Dade County, Hillsborough County, Broward County, and Palm Beach County (counties of similar or larger size) shows an average of one elected County representative to each 200,000 residents. Orange County’s ratio is currently very similar to that at approximately one per 225,000 residents. Further, Orange County has 13 municipalities contained in her borders that all have their own elected governments and provide primary services to their residents. Those municipalities serve approximately a half a million residents. In addition to reviewing the ratio of County Commissioner to citizens, I would also ask you to review the cost per commission office to the taxpayers of Orange County. Using the 2019 budget numbers, the impact of each commission office, not including office space and furnishings is an average of an annual \$350,000 in operational costs per additional district office. In addition to that ongoing operational budget, there would likely be a capital cost of providing new office space for each new commissioner. Since the current space is completely utilized, it stands to reason that there would be a significant cost there as well. I am concerned that in a cost/benefit analyses there is little to gain in increased responsiveness that one might hope to achieve in adding more elected representatives with a significant cost. I would urge you to strongly consider these facts when deliberating on this topic.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betsy VanderLey". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Betsy VanderLey

COMMISSIONER BETSY VANDERLEY, DISTRICT 1

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