



Florida House of Representatives

Representative Richard Corcoran

District 37

March 2, 2015

Ted Schrader, Chairman
Pasco County Commissioners
8731 Citizens Dr.
New Port Richey, FL 34654

RE: Home Rule for Pasco's Citizens

Dear Chairman Schrader,

We hope this letter finds you well. We were pleased to read that you agree that Pasco should allow its citizens the right to explore Home Rule. As you know, 75% of Florida's citizens live in Home Rule communities, and no county has ever reverted from a charter county back to the one-size-fits-all form of government set up by Tallahassee.

There has been some debate in the press about some of the different possibilities associated with Home Rule. We all at different points have stressed different potential aspects of Home Rule from single member districts to an elected County Mayor to a strong recall provision to term limits. We think these types of discussions are important and healthy. Public debate is the cornerstone of our democratic system, and, as elected officials, we should never think we have a monopoly on good ideas. By empowering a concerned group of citizens, who are willing to devote their time and energy to holding workshops, studying options, weighing pros and cons, and reporting back their findings, we ensure full and fair consideration of all possible options. That of course is the procedure laid out in statute. We appreciate the tremendous sacrifice this kind of commitment takes, and we know that any Pasco citizen asked to serve in such a role will approach it with seriousness of purpose. Consequently, as a delegation, we strongly urge you to make the commission's report binding. To allow politicians, out of self-interest, to disregard their hard work would be a breach of trust and a disservice to all the people of Pasco.

We were also encouraged by your comments in the paper that the committee would be independent. You were absolutely correct when you said that the County Commission "need[s] to distance ourselves as much as we can . . . Once we form this committee, we should let them go off and do their business. We need to take an arms-length approach." We applaud your pledge to not micro-manage the commission, to not manipulate the process by imposing rules different than those the County Commission operates under, and, to not deny the people of Pasco County the right to vote up or down on the commission's work – should they recommend Home Rule.

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Committees
Appropriations Committee (Chair)
Joint Legislative Budget Commission (Chair)

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The citizens of Pasco are best equipped to decide how they should be governed. With this in mind, the Pasco County Legislative Delegation appreciates the BOCCs offer to recommend five of the fifteen spots on the advisory committee. Our recommendations are as follows:

1. Mike Ryan (727) 243-4464
2. Randy Maggard (352) 999-0650
3. John Kinsman (352) 424-1841
4. Robert Eckard (727) 643-5190
5. Michael Cox (727) 389-3010

The Pasco County Legislative Delegation looks forward to working with the Board of County Commissioners and the people of Pasco County in this effort to improve our governance structure. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us if we can be of any service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Corcoran". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Richard Corcoran
Chairman, Pasco County Legislative Delegation