

ORANGE COUNTY TAXPAYER PROTECTION AMENDMENT

BALLOT TITLE:

REQUIRE VOTER APPROVAL OF GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES IN EXCESS OF \$50 MILLION EXCEPT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND EDUCATION.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT:

This Amendment to the Orange County Charter requires the voters of Orange County approve any expenditure above \$50 million (including construction and operating costs) that are outside the scope of public safety and education. Items specifically included are sports arenas, venues, mass transit projects and inducements to private companies in the name of economic development.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT:

Section 1. Section 214 of Article II (“Legislative Branch: Board of County Commissioners”) of the Charter of Orange County, Florida is created to read:

Section 214. Voter approval required of government expenditures in excess of \$50 million.

The taxpayers of Orange County deserve the right to determine where their tax dollar are spent and are concerned that special interests unfairly have corrupted the political process;

- (a). To protect the taxpayers of Orange County from wasteful government spending and corruption, the voters may adopt the Orange County Taxpayer Protection Act.
- (b). If a majority of voters affirm this referendum, the Orange County government will be prohibited from expending money on any project with a cumulative cost, including operations and maintenance, of \$50 million unless such project is approved by a majority of voters.
- (c). This prohibition shall exclude all education funding and school construction. This prohibition shall exclude funding for public safety, but the government may not authorize spending on transportation projects under the guise of public safety.
- (d) This Amendment to the Orange County Charter shall be permanent unless repealed by a majority of voters.

Section 2. If any portion of this measure is held invalid for any reason, the remaining portion of this measure, to the fullest extent possible, shall be severed from the invalid portion and given the fullest possible force and effect.