

A plan for continuity of Town governance within the JIC Commission

Jupiter Inlet County was incorporated in 1959. Since that time, we have had a few changes in how we govern ourselves, often to stay current with the requirements of being a self-contained Town in the State of Florida.

We are in a transition period now, with a recently installed mayor and new commissioner. The mayor and one commissioner have announced their intention to resign prior to December 29, 2023. The filing period for the March 2024 election is November 14-28. We are also creating a new charter to be presented to voters on March 19, 2024.

Why is it important for all residents to understand this process? *The topline is this: By the March 2024 election, four of the five Commission seats will be up for election in addition to a referendum on the proposed Charter.*

This paper proposes a process to make the transition as smooth as possible.

First, this Fall, the Commission will select new commissioners to fill the positions of Block and Busto. Those appointed will serve until the March 2024 election and may run for re-election.

Second, all potential candidates must be educated on the new financial disclosure law which is effective January 1, 2024 and agree to its terms. It would be a problem if a candidate were selected by the Commission to fill a seat and then that candidate discovers after filing that he or she does not want to serve.

Third, it would be helpful to continuity of governance to stagger the resignation dates of Block and Busto, filling the seats sequentially.

Ideally Block and Busto would announce their resignation dates prior to the filing period so that candidates are aware when each of those seats will be filled. The Commission should choose among candidates who have filed for the March election.

It would make sense for Busto to resign first because Block's resignation is more complicated.

The procedure to fill Busto's seat is the normal one as dictated by the Charter. The Commission votes a replacement.

Per the Town's Charter, to replace Block as mayor, any commissioner wishing to run for mayor would resign his or her seat to then be nominated for Seat 1. Then a replacement for the vacated seat would be appointed among the candidates who have filed for March.

Since we will have three newly appointed commissioners, each of those seats would be up for election as will Commissioner Rosner's seat. *So, on the ballot for March 19, 2024, will be four of the five Commission seats, in addition to the Charter referendum.*

I've given this much thought and it is the only procedure I can think of to have an orderly transition to a new Commission under the current Charter. **We should keep in mind that the new charter, if approved, will make provision for the terms of the newly elected commissioners.**