

BILL

ORIGINAL

YEAR

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to Lee County; amending the Lee County
3 Home Rule Charter to require additional members for
4 the board of county commissioners under certain
5 circumstances; require the chair and vice-chair to be
6 from a specific category of board member; providing
7 standards for redistricting; providing an effective
8 date.

9
10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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12 Section 1. Section 2.2A.(1) of Article II of the Lee
13 County Home Rule Charter is amended to read:

14 Section 2.2: Legislative Branch

15 A. The County Commission Composition, Election and Terms
16 of Members

17 (1) Composition and Election

18 (a) The governing body of the County shall be a Board of
19 County Commissioners composed of five (5) members serving
20 staggered terms of four (4) years. There shall be one
21 Commissioner for each of the five (5) County Commission
22 districts established pursuant to general law and they shall be
23 elected in a partisan election on a county-wide basis by the
24 electors of the County. Each County Commissioner during the term
25 of office shall reside in the district from which such County

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Commissioner ran for office, provided that any County Commissioner who is removed from a district by redistricting may continue to serve during the balance of the term of office.

(b) Beginning with the 2026 general election, the Board of County Commissioners shall be composed of a minimum of five (5) members elected in a single-member district and two (2) members elected on a county-wide basis, each category of members serving staggered terms of four (4) years.

(c) Upon the county exceeding a population of 1 million in a decennial census, the Board of County Commissioners shall have an additional member elected in a single-member district such that no district shall be composed of fewer than 100,000 persons and greater than 200,000 persons. Upon the creation of nine (9) single-member districts, and every multiple of three beyond nine (9), there shall be the addition of one (1) member elected on a county-wide basis.

(d) The chair of the Board of County Commissioners must be a Commissioner elected on a county-wide basis. The vice chair of the Board of County Commissioners must be a Commissioner elected on a single-member basis.

(2) Terms of County Commissioners

No Commissioner shall serve more than three (3) consecutive terms on the Board. No previous term in office which is in progress as of November 2014 shall be considered a term of service for purposes of the limitations contained herein.

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B. Redistricting

(1) County Commission district boundaries shall be changed only after the completion of a decennial census, notice, and a public hearing as provided by general law.

(2) No redistricting plan or district shall be drawn with the intent to either favor or disfavor a political party or an incumbent; districts shall not be drawn with the intent to diminish the ability of the people to elect representatives of their choice; and, where feasible, districts shall consist of contiguous territory, nearly equal in population as is practicable, compact, and utilize existing political and geographical boundaries.

Section 2. Referendum election.—

(1) A referendum on the adoption of Section 1 of this act shall be held on November 5, 2024, the 2024 General Election.

(2) The ballot title for the referendum question shall be in substantially the following form:

REFERENDUM PROVIDING FOR THE STRUCTURE OF THE COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

(3) The referendum question shall be placed on the ballot in substantially the following form:

Shall Chapter 2024- , Laws of Florida, which amends the Lee County Home Rule Charter to provide that the Board of County Commissioners shall be composed of a minimum of

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76 five members elected by single-member districts, of which
77 category the vice-chair shall be, and two members elected
78 countywide, of which category the chair shall be,
79 beginning with the 2026 general election, and providing
80 for standards of redistricting, become effective?

81 () Yes.

82 () No.

83 (4) The referendum election shall be conducted by the
84 Supervisor of Elections of Lee County in accordance with
85 the Florida Election Code.

86 Section 3. This section and Section 2 shall take effect upon
87 becoming law. Section 1 shall take effect upon the approval of
88 a majority vote of the qualified electors of Lee County in the
89 referendum.