



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

City Manager

City Council Regular Meeting Date: August 18, 2026

To: City Council
From: Dana A. Souza, City Manager
Date: August 4, 2026

SUBJECT: Advisory Referendum – Periwinkle Way/Causeway Boulevard/Lindgren Boulevard Roundabout

CURRENT STATUS:

At its July 21, 2026, meeting, the City Council received the results of the completed topographic survey and conceptual roundabout overlay for the Periwinkle Way/Causeway Boulevard/Lindgren Boulevard intersection. The survey confirmed that the conceptual roundabout can be accommodated within the existing public right-of-way without requiring acquisition of land from Pond Apple Park. Following its discussion, the City Council directed staff to proceed with preparation of an advisory referendum for the March 2, 2027, General City Election regarding whether the City should construct a roundabout at the intersection. The July 21, 2026, agenda memorandum, which provides the full background regarding the intersection study and referendum, is included in the agenda packet for this item.

The City Council is asked to review and select the preferred referendum language for the Advisory Referendum. The draft resolution calls an advisory referendum asking Sanibel voters whether the City should construct a roundabout at the intersection of Periwinkle Way, Causeway Boulevard, and Lindgren Boulevard. The referendum is advisory only and, if approved by Sanibel's electors, would not authorize construction, appropriate funds, or otherwise bind the City Council to future budgetary action.

The ballot language is limited to 75 words. Four alternatives are included in the draft resolution for City Council consideration:

Option 1 – Explains that the City Council is considering replacing the existing four-way stop-controlled intersection with a roundabout, states that the Council is seeking voter input before deciding whether to proceed, and explains that a YES vote supports constructing a roundabout while a NO vote opposes construction. The question asks whether the City should proceed with constructing a roundabout at the intersection.

Option 2 – Presents the choice more directly as whether to replace the existing four-way stop-controlled intersection with a roundabout. It explains that a YES vote supports replacing the existing intersection with a roundabout and a NO vote supports retaining the existing four-way stop-controlled intersection.

Sanibel is and shall remain a barrier island sanctuary

Option 3 – Incorporates the results of the completed topographic survey by advising voters that the City has studied replacing the intersection with a roundabout and that a roundabout can be constructed within the existing public right-of-way. The question then asks whether the City Council should replace the existing four-way stop-controlled intersection with a roundabout.

Option 4 – Begins by describing the existing condition of the intersection as a four-way stop and explains that the City is considering replacing it with a roundabout. It further states that a YES vote advises the City Council of support for constructing a roundabout and a NO vote advises the City Council of opposition to constructing a roundabout. The question asks whether the City should proceed with constructing a roundabout at the intersection.

The primary distinction among the four options is the way the advisory question is framed and the amount of contextual information provided to voters. Options 1 and 4 ask whether the City should proceed with construction of a roundabout, with Option 4 placing greater emphasis on the advisory nature of the vote. Option 2 presents the issue as a direct choice between replacing the existing four-way stop with a roundabout or retaining the existing intersection. Option 3 provides additional project context by noting the completed study and the determination that a roundabout can be constructed within the existing public right-of-way

The draft resolution provides that the advisory referendum will be held in conjunction with the March 2, 2027, General City Election. To place the referendum on that ballot, the approved resolution and required referendum materials must be submitted to the Lee County Supervisor of Elections no later than November 2, 2026.

FUNDING SOURCE: The cost to hold the Advisory Referendum in conjunction with the March 3, 2027, General City Election, is \$400. Funding for the 2027 General City Election is available in the City Clerk's proposed budget for FY27.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Review the referendum language alternatives and select the preferred ballot language for inclusion in the advisory referendum. Following City Council direction, staff will finalize the resolution for consideration at the September 14, 2026, City Council meeting and, if adopted, submit the required materials to the Lee County Supervisor of Elections by the November 11, 2026, deadline.