

# TEQUESTA ELECTION MARCH 14, 2023

## Just the Facts!

### CHARTER REVISIONS

#### Question

##### QUESTION 1

"CHARTER AMENDMENT PROVIDING FOR COUNCILMEMBER THREE YEAR TERMS, TERM LIMITS, RE-ELIGIBILITY, AND REVISED COUNCIL REORGANIZATION"

"SHALL THE VILLAGE OF TEQUESTA CHARTER BE AMENDED TO INCREASE COUNCILMEMBER TERMS FROM TWO YEARS TO THREE YEARS, AND TO ADD NEW TERM LIMITS OF THREE CONSECUTIVE TERMS, THEREAFTER REQUIRING A ONE TERM WAITING PERIOD BEFORE RUNNING FOR OFFICE AGAIN, AND TO REVISE VILLAGE COUNCIL RE-ORGANIZATION PROCEDURES TO CONFORM WITH THE NEW THREE-YEAR TERMS?"

##### QUESTION 2

"CHARTER AMENDMENT PROVIDING A CONTINUOUS ONE YEAR RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT PRIOR TO SERVING AS A COUNCILMEMBER"

"SHALL THE VILLAGE OF TEQUESTA CHARTER BE AMENDED TO REQUIRE ANY PERSON RUNNING FOR THE OFFICE OF VILLAGE OF TEQUESTA COUNCILMEMBER TO HAVE RESIDED IN THE VILLAGE OF TEQUESTA FOR A MINIMUM OF ONE CONTINUOUS YEAR PRIOR TO BEING ELIGIBLE TO QUALIFY AND RUN FOR THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER?"

##### QUESTION 3

"CHARTER AMENDMENT PROVIDING FOR DRAWING OF LOTS TO RESOLVE A TIE VOTE BETWEEN COUNCILMEMBER CANDIDATES"

"SHALL THE VILLAGE OF TEQUESTA CHARTER BE AMENDED TO ELIMINATE THE REQUIREMENT FOR RUNOFF ELECTIONS TO RESOLVE TIE VOTES AMONG CANDIDATES FOR COUNCILMEMBER OFFICE, AND TO INSTEAD PROVIDE FOR THE DRAWING OF LOTS?"

##### QUESTION 4

"CHARTER AMENDMENT PROVIDING TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS FOR COUNCILMEMBER VACANCIES"

"SHALL THE VILLAGE OF TEQUESTA CHARTER BE AMENDED TO ELIMINATE THE REQUIREMENT FOR A SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL A COUNCILMEMBER VACANCY CAUSED BY DEATH, RESIGNATION, AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE, OR FAILURE TO QUALIFY, AND TO INSTEAD ALLOW A TEMPORARY VILLAGE COUNCIL APPOINTMENT UNTIL THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION?"

##### QUESTION 5

"CHARTER AMENDMENT PROVIDING FOR REFERENDUM VOTER APPROVAL PRIOR TO DISSOLVING THE POLICE OR FIRE DEPARTMENTS"

"SHALL THE VILLAGE OF TEQUESTA CHARTER BE AMENDED TO REQUIRE A REFERENDUM AND VOTER APPROVAL PRIOR TO ANY FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL FOR DISSOLVING, ABOLISHING, OR OUTSOURCING THE VILLAGE OF TEQUESTA POLICE DEPARTMENT OR FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT?"

##### QUESTION 6

"CHARTER AMENDMENT PROVIDING FOR NON-SUBSTANTIVE TEXT EDITS, INTERNAL CONSISTENCY, AND GENERAL CLARIFICATION AND ORGANIZATION"

"SHALL THE VILLAGE OF TEQUESTA CHARTER BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE NON-SUBSTANTIVE TEXT EDITS, INTERNAL CONSISTENCY, GENERAL LANGUAGE CLARIFICATION, AND ORGANIZATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ORDINANCE 12-22, PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL ON JULY 14, 2022?"

#### Current Charter

- Currently, Council Members serve two-year terms.
- There are no term limits required in the current Charter.

- Currently our charter only states you have to be a resident. There is no time requirement; meaning you could move here on 11/1 and run for council on 11/2.
- This charter change would require the candidate to have been a Tequesta resident for one year prior to running for council.

- Tie votes require a run-off election
- This can cost in excess of \$35,000

- In the event of a vacancy ... and the period of vacancy is to be more than six (6) months, the Village Council shall provide for a special election to fill the vacancy until the expiration of the term.
- If the period of vacancy is to be for a period of less than six (6) months but more than three (3) months, then the Village Council may appoint a substitute to fill the vacancy until the expiration of the term.
- If the period of vacancy is to be for a period of less than three (3) months, no appointment shall be made and the position shall remain open until the expiration of the term.
- A special election can cost in excess of \$35,000

- There is nothing in the current charter regarding the dissolution of the police or fire departments.
- Council would decide.

This amendment is a housekeeping item to clean up grammatical text inconsistencies throughout the Charter, and to make non-substantive and other grammatical edits, such as adding a map to depict the Village's legal description, adding footnote citations to relevant state law, referencing 21st century technology like electronic documents (versus paper documents), relocating existing text within the Charter to remove the current "miscellaneous" section, acknowledging the existence and applicability of state and county ethics laws, and other miscellaneous clarifying language that does not alter the substance of the Charter.

### BOND REFERENDUM

#### Question

##### Village of Tequesta General Obligation Bonds for Land Acquisition Program

Shall Tequesta issue bonds in phases from time to time, not exceeding a total of \$10,000,000, maturing within 20 years of their issuance dates, with interest not exceeding the maximum legal rate, payable from ad valorem property taxes levied in amounts sufficient to pay debt service on such Bonds, to finance acquisition of environmentally sensitive, waterfront, or recreation lands, or lands for open spaces, archeological or historic preservation, or traffic mitigation, and recreational capital improvements.



View the attachments below for comprehensive and factual information:

- [Live Stream of the 2/22/23 Town Hall Meeting Explaining the Proposals:](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aggsJhzDseM&t=1405s)
- [Charter Revisions Presentation:](https://tequesta.org/DocumentCenter/View/12214/Charter-Review-Board-Council-Presentation)
- [Bond Presentation:](https://tequesta.org/DocumentCenter/View/12213/BOND_2-22-23)

#### Proposal

##### Two facets:

- Acquisition of Land
- Capital Improvements

##### Potential Uses:

- Environmentally sensitive
- Waterfront

##### Land which may be used for:

- Recreation
- Open spaces
- Archeological or historic preservation
- Traffic mitigation

Money from the passage of the bond issue could be used for development, enhancement, improvement projects in existing **but not for maintenance.**

- Constitution Park 3.94 acres (Village owns)
- Village Green Park 1.50 acres (Village hall site)
- Remembrance Park (Currently a vacant site) 1.76 acres (Village owns)
- Linear Park 7.12 acres (FEC owns)
- Point Drive Open Space/Recreation Area (Banyan Tree) 0.46 acres
- Tequesta Park 45 acres (State owns; Tequesta leases; in Martin County)

##### Who decides where the money goes?

Through feedback from the citizens, the Village Council will decide where to best utilize the funds.

##### How the Bond Works:

- Mature not later than twenty (20) years from their various dates of issuance
- Shall be issued in an aggregate total principal amount of not exceeding \$ 10,000,000
- Shall bear interest at a rate not in excess of the maximum lawful rate, and
- Shall be secured by and payable from the Ad Valorem Taxes

#### Find my Polling Location:

<https://www.votepalmbeach.gov/Voters/Precinct-Finder>

Visit our Election Website for additional information:

<https://www.tequesta.org/1141/Elections>