

FINANCIAL INFORMATION STATEMENT

FLORIDA GROWTH MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE GIVING CITIZENS THE RIGHT TO DECIDE LOCAL GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN CHANGES, #07-07

Florida law requires each local government to adopt a comprehensive plan. Comprehensive plans may be amended twice per year, or more often, as provided by law. Under current law and practice, local governments typically “package” a number of individual amendments in each biannual update. The proposed constitutional amendment requires that local governments establish a new process to enable citizens to petition for referenda on growth management plans and amendments.

Based on information provided through public workshops and collected through staff research, the Financial Impact Estimating Conference principals determined that local governments cumulatively will incur significant costs related to the new Florida Growth Management Initiative petition process. Nevertheless, the fiscal impact is indeterminate. The proposed amendment is expected to have the following impacts:

- Each county supervisor of elections, city clerk, or similar election authority for the local government will incur additional costs to establish and administer the new process regardless of whether it is used. This includes, at a minimum, establishing procedures, forms, and notification requirements.
- To the extent the petition process is used, there will be additional costs to the local government associated with the filing and noticing of the petition, acceptance of signatures, and other interaction with the public in the signature collection process. Costs will also be associated with making sure signatures are complete and within the time frame allowed. In this regard, there may be multiple petitions occurring simultaneously.
- The proposed constitutional amendment requires that costs associated with the verification of signatures will be borne by the person or persons initiating the petition.
- Initiatives resulting in a referendum will include additional election costs regardless of the method by which local governments choose to conduct the vote - special or general election, whether by mail ballot or at the polls. At a minimum, such costs will include noticing and advertising the ballot information and printing ballots.
- The impact on state government expenditures will be insignificant. While implementation of this amendment will not require statutory changes, some changes may be desirable. In addition, the Department of Community Affairs will likely need to amend its rule relating to the submission and receipt of local government comprehensive plans and amendments thereto.
- No state or local revenue sources will be increased or decreased directly as a result of this amendment.