



Book	Policy Manual
Section	9000 Community Relations
Title	INDEPENDENT REFERENDUM OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (IROC)
Code	po9142
Status	Active
Adopted	April 16, 2019

9142 - **INDEPENDENT REFERENDUM OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (IROC)**

Voter Approval of Referendum

In the general election of November 6, 2018, voters approved an additional one mill ad valorem tax for School District operating expenses for four (4) years beginning July 1, 2019.

Ballot Question

Shall the Charlotte County School District ad valorem millage increase by one mill, beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2023, to maintain the quality of the public school system, to enhance school security, to recruit and retain highly effective teachers and employees with competitive salaries, to enhance student achievement, to provide workforce development and to increase instructional time with oversight by an independent citizens' committee?

Creation, Membership, and Date of Establishment

The School Board establishes the Independent Referendum Oversight Committee ("IROC") consisting of eleven (11) members, each appointed by one (1) of the following organizations as hereinafter provided.

*Chambers of Commerce (shared representation, annually, with one of the following: Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce, Charlotte County Chamber of Commerce, and Englewood Chamber of Commerce)

*League of Women Voters

*Charlotte DeSoto Building Industry Association (CDBIA)

*Charlotte County Economic Development Partnership (EDP)

*Charlotte FEA for Instructional Employees

*Charlotte County Support Personnel Association (CCSPA)

*High School Advisory Council (SAC) (shared representation, annually, among Charlotte High, Lemon Bay High, and Port Charlotte High)

*Middle School Advisory Council (SAC) (shared representation, annually, among L.A. Ainger Middle, Murdock Middle, Port Charlotte Middle, and Punta Gorda Middle)

*Elementary School Advisory Council (SAC) (shared representation, annually, among Deep Creek, East, Kingsway, Liberty, Meadow Park, Myakka, Neil Armstrong, Peace River, Sallie Jones, and Vineland Elementary Schools)

*Punta Gorda-Port Charlotte-North Port Association of Realtors and the Englewood Area Board of Realtors (shared representation, annually).

*One Citizen-At-Large (shared representation, annually, among five School Board Member Residence Districts) Representative to be selected by Seated Board Member in the year of that District's turn, beginning with District 1 and proceeding in numerical order thereafter.

Term of Membership

All IROC members shall at all times be citizens of Charlotte County. Each appointing authority (above) shall appoint one (1) member for an initial term of four (4) years except in cases where the seat is earmarked for yearly rotation. All subsequent appointments shall be for the same terms as originally established per organization of either four (4) years or a one-year rotational term. The initial appointees shall take office effective February 11, 2019, and their initial terms shall run until November 17, 2020. Thereafter, the term of each IROC member shall run from the date of the School District organizational meeting, pursuant to Florida statutes, held in November of each year until the next ensuing November organizational meeting. In the event that any appointment to fill a vacancy has occurred prior to the expiration of the term, the appointee shall serve until the expiration of that term.

Any member who misses two (2) meetings during a school year shall be contacted by the IROC chairperson regarding non-attendance. If a third meeting is missed, the chairperson may request the Board to remove the member for non-attendance and appoint a replacement member.

Upon the expiration of the voted millage and, provided no ensuing millage has been approved, IROC shall be automatically disbanded.

Each member of IROC shall serve at the pleasure of the School Board. Any member may be removed by the School Board at any time with or without cause.

Open Government Laws

IROC, as a committee created by the Board, is subject to the Government in the Sunshine Law (F.S. 286.011) and Florida's Public Records Act (F.S. Chapter 119). All meetings of IROC shall be open to the public and shall be properly noticed. Minutes are required for each meeting. The minutes of each meeting and any written reports, recommendations, or any other records of IROC shall be open to public inspection.

In accord with the scheduled agenda, IROC shall provide a reasonable opportunity at each of its meetings for members of the public to address IROC. This provision shall not apply to any joint workshop with the Board or to any subcommittee meeting. IROC shall specify on each agenda that IROC does not receive or act on any individual complaints or request and does not review any decision of the District or administration. IROC shall also inform the public that it acts as an oversight committee for the proceeds of the millage referendum.

Meetings

The District's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) shall coordinate the initial organizational meeting of IROC. The meeting shall occur no later than February 1st.

At its organizational meeting, the IROC shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson and determine how future meetings will be scheduled.

Quorum

IROC cannot take any action or carry on a meeting in the absence of a quorum. A quorum at any meeting of IROC shall consist of a simple majority of the membership. The vote of the majority of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present is necessary for the adoption of any matter voted on by IROC.

Meeting Space

The Board will provide an adequate and dignified meeting space for IROC at the administration building (or another place). All meetings for the transaction of business shall occur in Charlotte County.

Responsibilities of IROC

IROC shall function as an advisory board to determine whether the Board is using referendum proceeds of the voter approved one mill ad valorem tax in accordance with the original ballot language.

IROC will submit quarterly reports to the Board containing comments regarding the Board's compliance with the ballot language. The report will be kept on file in the Board office and made available to the public.

Reports and Comments from IROC

All reports and comments from the IROC to the Board shall be in writing. Such reports and comments shall be forwarded to the Board with a copy provided to the Superintendent.

Any member of IROC who disagrees with a written report or comment of IROC may append a signed statement setting forth the basis for such disagreement.

An oral presentation of the report to the Board shall be made annually by IROC at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. In the event IROC deems that an additional presentation to the Board is necessary, the IROC Chairperson shall notify the Superintendent and Board Chairman of that request.

Responsibilities of the Superintendent

The Superintendent (or designee) shall, at least quarterly, file a report and make a presentation to IROC clearly demonstrating how the proceeds of the one mill ad valorem tax are being expended.

The Superintendent (or designee) shall respond as promptly as practicable to all requests for additional information from IROC and shall make appropriate staff available to present information on the expenditure of the proceeds of the additional one mill ad valorem tax. The Superintendent shall provide IROC such clerical and other assistance as may reasonably be required for IROC's timely discharge of its responsibilities.

The Superintendent shall review each report forwarded by IROC and within thirty (30) days of receipt shall make recommendations to the Board for action, if any, based on the report of IROC.

The Superintendent shall provide IROC with a copy of the Superintendent's recommendation for action by the Board and notify IROC of the date of the meeting at which the Board will consider the Superintendent's recommendations.

© CHARLOTTE 2019

Legal	F.S. 1001.4
	F.S. 1001.32(2)
	F.S. 1001.41
	F.S. 1001.42