

**SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF CITY COUNCIL**

***Background/Facts:***

- In order to agree to consolidation, the county and the city combined the elected positions for a total of 19 City Council members.
- Former and current council members have testified to the Commission that the size of council is too large.
- Former Council President Rickard Clark has said that, “Council members just don’t have the same sense of attachment to how policy issues impact constituents and neighborhoods if they don’t represent individual districts.”
- The 5 at-large districts do not represent a particular area, but instead represent the entire city.
- Most citizens contact their district council person and at-large members will generally direct citizens to their district council person.
- The Task Force discussed this issue but decided to not make a recommendation to reduce the size of council.

***Other Counties:***

Rank	County	Population	# of County Commissioners
1	Miami-Dade County	2,761,581	13
2	Broward County	1,951,260	9
3	Palm Beach County	1,485,941	7
4	Hillsborough County	1,436,888	7
5	Orange County	1,380,645	7
6	Pinellas County	975,280	7
7	Duval County	950,181	19
8	Lee County	754,610	5
9	Polk County	708,009	5
10	Brevard County	596,849	5
11	Volusia County	547,583	7
12	Pasco County	539,630	5
13	Seminole County	467,832	5

***Options:***

1. Keep the status quo.
2. Reduce size of City Council to 13
  - This can be achieved by removing the at-large council districts and one council district, thus increasing the population per district.

Charter Revision Commission  
Subcommittee, Government Structure/  
Preserving Institutional Knowledge  
(Jessica Baker)

3. Create 19 City Council districts
  - Instead of 13 council districts, 19 council districts would be created thereby reducing the population per district. Currently, there are about 65,000 people in each council district. At consolidation, there were about 25,000. This would reduce the population to around 50,000 per district.
4. Keep the at-large districts, but give clear responsibility.
  - At-large members could be delegated specific issues to focus on and work on that impact the entire city.
5. Reduce the at-large districts to 3 and increase the number of districts from 14 to 16.