

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to the Sunshine Drainage District,  
 3           Broward County; amending ch. 63-609, Laws of Florida;  
 4           revising the number of members of the board of  
 5           supervisors; providing an exception to general law;  
 6           providing for members of the board of supervisors to  
 7           be elected by qualified electors of the district;  
 8           providing for staggered terms; requiring nonpartisan  
 9           elections; providing requirements for candidates;  
 10          providing election duties of the supervisor of  
 11          elections; providing a definition; providing  
 12          requirements for a referendum; providing effective  
 13          dates.

14  
 15   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 17           Section 1.   Section 16 of chapter 63-609, Laws of Florida,  
 18   is created to read:

19           Section 16. (1) As of November 5, 2024, the board of  
 20   supervisors shall consist of five members.

21           (2) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,  
 22   members of the board of supervisors shall be elected by the  
 23   qualified electors of the district. Election of board members by  
 24   the qualified electors shall be the exclusive method for the  
 25   election of the members of the board of supervisors.

26       (3) The board shall call an election at which the members  
27 of the board of supervisors will be elected. Such election shall  
28 be held in conjunction with the general election in November  
29 2024. Candidates may qualify for the offices of board of  
30 supervisors, which shall be designated as seat 1, seat 2, seat  
31 3, seat 4, and seat 5, each elected at large within the  
32 district. A candidate qualifying for election must be an elector  
33 and resident of the district. Each board member shall be elected  
34 by the qualified electors of the district for a term of 4 years,  
35 except that, at the first such election, the three members  
36 elected to seat 1, seat 2, and seat 3 shall be elected for terms  
37 of 4 years each, and the two members elected to seat 4 and seat  
38 5 shall be elected for terms of 2 years each. Thereafter, there  
39 shall be an election held every election held every 2 years for  
40 expiring terms and all members shall be elected for terms of 4  
41 years each. The candidate receiving the most votes for each seat  
42 shall be elected. All elected board members must be qualified  
43 electors of the district. Members of the board of supervisors as  
44 of October 1, 2023, shall serve until the certification of the  
45 November 2024 general election results.

46       (4) Elections of board members by qualified electors held  
47 pursuant to this section shall be nonpartisan and shall be  
48 conducted in a manner prescribed by law for holding general  
49 elections. Board members shall assume the office on the second  
50 Tuesday following their election.

51 (5) Candidates seeking election to office by qualified  
52 electors under this subsection shall conduct their campaigns in  
53 accordance with the provisions of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes,  
54 and shall file qualifying papers and qualify for individual  
55 seats in accordance with Section 99.061, Florida Statutes.  
56 Candidates shall pay a qualifying fee, which shall consist of a  
57 filing fee and election assessment or, as an alternative, shall  
58 file a petition signed by not less than 1 percent of the  
59 qualified electors of the district, and take the oath required  
60 in Section 99.021, Florida Statutes, with the Supervisor of  
61 Elections of Broward County. The amount of the filing fee is 3  
62 percent of the annual salary of the office. The amount of the  
63 election assessment is 1 percent of the annual salary of the  
64 office. The filing fee and election assessment shall be  
65 distributed as provided in Section 105.031(3), Florida Statutes.

66 (6) The Supervisor of Elections of Broward County shall  
67 appoint the inspector and clerks of elections, prepare and  
68 furnish the ballots, designate polling places, and canvass the  
69 returns of the election of board members by qualified electors.  
70 The county canvassing board shall declare and certify the  
71 results of the election.

72 (7) The terms "qualified elector" and "elector" mean any  
73 person at least 18 years of age who is a citizen of the United  
74 States, a permanent resident of the state, and a resident of the  
75 county within which the district lands are location when the

76 | registration books are open.

77 | Section 2. Referendum election.—

78 | (1) The referendum election called for by this act shall  
 79 | be held on November 8, 2022, the 2022 general election.

80 | (2) The ballot title for the referendum question shall be  
 81 | in substantially the following form:

82 | AMENDING DISTRICT CHARTER PROVIDING FOR ELECTION OF  
 83 | DISTRICT SUPERVISORS BY MAJORITY OF ALL QUALIFIED ELECTORS

84 | (3) The referendum question shall be placed on the ballot  
 85 | in substantially the following form:

86 | Shall Chapter 2021- , Laws of Florida, amending the  
 87 | Sunshine Drainage District Charter, adding two members to  
 88 | the District Board of Supervisors and providing that the  
 89 | members of the District Board of Supervisors shall be  
 90 | elected by majority vote of all qualified electors of the  
 91 | district instead of just landowners for four year terms,  
 92 | with staggered elections every two years beginning in  
 93 | November 2024, become effective?

94 | ( ) YES.

95 | ( ) NO.

96 | (4) In the event this question is answered affirmatively  
 97 | by a majority of the qualified voters voting in the referendum,  
 98 | the charter amendment will take effect. The referendum election  
 99 | shall be conducted by the Supervisor of Elections of Broward  
 100 | County in accordance with the Florida Election Code.

101           Section 3. This act shall take effect upon its approval by  
102 a majority vote of the qualified electors of the Sunshine  
103 Drainage District voting in a referendum conducted in accordance  
104 with the provisions of law relating to elections currently in  
105 force, except this section and section 2 shall take effect upon  
106 becoming a law.