

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BILL ANALYSIS

This bill analysis was prepared by nonpartisan committee staff and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

BILL #: [HB 4083](#)

TITLE: City of Winter Springs, Seminole County

SPONSOR(S): Plakon

COMPANION BILL: None

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: None

Committee References

[Intergovernmental Affairs](#)

10 Y, 3 N

[Government Operations](#)

[State Affairs](#)

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill amends the charter of the City of Winter Springs to reduce the current number of city commission members from five to four and to add the mayor as a voting member of the commission. The mayor will become a voting member of the commission following the 2026 general election. The bill requires the city to adopt new city commission district boundaries by January 1, 2028 to provide for transition to a reduced number of commissioners starting with the 2028 general election.

The charter amendment proposed by the bill is subject to approval by the qualified electors of the City of Winter Springs voting in a referendum to be held at the 2026 general election.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

None

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

If approved by a majority vote in a referendum, the bill [amends the charter](#) of the [City of Winter Springs](#) (City) to reduce the current number of city commission members from five to four and provides that the mayor shall serve as a voting member of the commission rather than only voting in the event of a tie. The bill provides that the mayor, who previously had no administrative authority, now has the administrative authority over city employees as provided by City charter or ordinance. (Section [1](#))

The bill makes conforming revisions to the city charter to reflect the change in the city commission structure, including providing for an additional mayoral appointment on the city's districting commission and revising thresholds for actions taken by the city commission. The bill also provides provisions for the transition of the mayor to a full member of the commission. Transitional provisions include:

- The transition does not affect the term of any elected City official serving at the time of the bill's passage;
- The mayor will become a voting member of the city commission beginning with the general election held in November 2026;¹
- The city commission must adopt new district boundaries by January 1, 2028 to provide for four commissioner districts;
- When adopting new district boundaries, no district may include more than one commissioner elected in November 2026; and
- At the general election held in November 2028, elections will be conducted for two of the four newly drawn commissioner districts which do not contain a commissioner elected in November 2026. (Section [1](#))

¹ At that time, the city commission will consist of the mayor and five commissioners.

STORAGE NAME: h4083a.IAS

DATE: 1/28/2026

The bill provides that the charter amendment is subject to approval by electors of the City voting in a referendum to be held on November 3, 2026. The bill provides ballot language for the referendum and requires the referendum to be held in accordance with the Florida Election Code. (Section [2](#))

The bill provides an effective date of upon becoming a law, except that the changes to the charter only take effect upon its approval by a majority vote of the qualified electors of the City voting in the referendum to be held at the 2026 general election. (Section [3](#))

FISCAL OR ECONOMIC IMPACT:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

The Economic Impact Statement submitted for the bill states there will be no fiscal impact of the bill's passage as the ballot question will be added to the regularly scheduled 2026 general election.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

Charter Amendments

The Florida Constitution provides that municipalities may be established or abolished and their charters amended pursuant to general or special law.² General law authorizes the governing body of a municipality to adopt an ordinance to submit a proposed charter amendment for approval by the electors at a referendum.³ Alternatively, the electors of a municipality may submit a proposed charter amendment through a petition signed by 10 percent of the registered electors. The referendum to adopt a charter amendment may be held at the next general election within the municipality or at a special election, as stated in the ordinance or petition.

If the charter amendment is approved by a majority of electors voting in the referendum, the governing body of the municipality incorporates the amendment into its charter and files a revised charter with the Secretary of State.⁴ Amendments to the charter become effective on the date specified in the amendment or as otherwise provided in the charter.

City of Winter Springs

The City of Winter Springs (City) was incorporated in 1972.⁵ The City, located in Seminole County, was originally established as the City of North Orlando in 1959.⁶ The City's estimated population in 2024 was 39,822.⁷ The City's current charter was adopted in 2001.⁸ The City is governed by a mayor and a five-member city commission.⁹ The mayor and five city commissioners are elected at-large and serve four-year terms.¹⁰ The City is divided into five districts, with one commissioner residing in each district. An advisory council is appointed after each decennial census to redraw commission districts.¹¹ The advisory council suggests a proposed map to the city commission, who is responsible for approving or rejecting the map via ordinance.

² [Art. VIII, s. 2\(a\), Fla. Const.](#) But see Art. VIII, s. 11(1)(g), Fla. Const. (1885), incorporated by reference in [art. VIII, s. 6\(e\), Fla. Const.](#) (Miami-Dade County Charter provides the exclusive method for amending or repealing the charter of any municipality in Miami-Dade County).

³ [S. 166.031\(1\), F.S.](#)

⁴ [S. 166.031\(2\), F.S.](#)

⁵ Ch. 72-718, Laws of Fla.

⁶ City of Winter Springs, [About Us](#) (last visited Jan. 21, 2026).

⁷ United States Census Bureau, [Winter Springs, FL](#) (last visited Jan. 21, 2026).

⁸ City of Winter Springs Ordinance No. 2001-44, as approved by referendum of the City's electors on Sept. 4, 2001.

⁹ City of Winter Springs, [Mayor & Commission](#) (last visited Jan. 21, 2026).

¹⁰ [City of Winter Springs Charter, Art. IV, s. 4.01](#).

¹¹ [City of Winter Springs Charter, Art. IV, s. 4.02](#).

The mayor of the City presides at meetings of the city commission, but may only cast a vote in event of a tie.¹² The mayor is recognized as the head of the city government for all ceremonial purposes and by the Governor for purposes of military law, but does not have administrative duties.

Local Bill Forms

The Florida Constitution prohibits the passage of any special act unless a notice of intention to seek enactment of the bill has been published as provided by general law or the act is conditioned to take effect only upon approval by referendum vote of the electors in the area affected.¹³ A legal advertisement of the proposed bill must be placed in a newspaper of general circulation or published on a publicly accessible website¹⁴ at least 30 days prior to the introduction of the local bill in the House or Senate.¹⁵ The bill will take effect only upon its approval by the electors of the City of Winter Springs voting in a referendum held November 3, 2026.

The House local bill policy requires a completed and signed Local Bill Certification Form and Economic Impact Statement be filed with the Clerk of the House at the time the local bill is filed or as soon thereafter as possible.¹⁶ Under the policy, a committee or subcommittee may not consider a local bill unless these forms have been filed. The following forms have been submitted for the bill:

- [Local Bill Certification Form](#)
- [Economic Impact Statement](#)

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee	10 Y, 3 N	1/28/2026	Darden	Hilliard
Government Operations Subcommittee				
State Affairs Committee				

¹² [City of Winter Springs Charter, Art. IV, s. 4.05.](#)

¹³ [Art. III, s. 10, Fla. Const.](#)

¹⁴ [S. 50.0311\(2\), F.S.](#)

¹⁵ [S. 11.02, F.S.](#) If there is no newspaper circulated throughout or published in the county and no publicly accessible website has been designated, notice must be posted for at least 30 days in at least three public places in the county, one of which must be at the courthouse.

¹⁶ Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee, [Local Bill Policies and Procedures Manual](#), p. 11 (last visited Jan. 21, 2026).