

CHAPTER 2021-253

Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1495

An act relating to the Coral Springs Improvement District, Broward County; amending ch. 2004-469, Laws of Florida; providing an exception to general law; revising the number of board members; requiring members of the Board of Supervisors of the Coral Springs Improvement District to be elected by qualified electors of the district; providing for staggered terms of office for the board; providing requirements for elections of board members and for candidates seeking election; providing duties of the Supervisor of Elections of Broward County; providing a definition; providing for a referendum; providing effective dates.

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

Section 1. Subsections (1) and (3) of section 5 of section 3 of chapter 2004-469, Laws of Florida, are amended to read:

Section 5. Board of supervisors; election; organization; terms of office; quorum; report and minutes.—

(1) ~~The board of supervisors of the district shall be the governing body of the district and shall exercise the powers granted to the district under this act and under chapter 298, Florida Statutes. The board shall consist of five ~~three~~ members, and except as otherwise provided herein, each member shall hold office for a term of 4 years and until his or her successor shall be chosen and shall qualify. A majority of the members of the board shall be residents of Broward County, and all members shall be residents of Florida. All members of the board shall be landowners within the district.~~

(3)(a) As of November 5, 2024, the board of supervisors shall consist of five members.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, members of the board of supervisors shall be elected by the qualified electors of the district. Board members shall be elected solely by the qualified electors of the district.

(c) The board shall call an election at which the members of the board of supervisors will be elected. Such election shall be held in conjunction with the next general election held in November 2024. Candidates may qualify for the offices of board of supervisors which shall be designated as seats 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, each elected at large within the district. A candidate qualifying for election must be an elector and resident of the district. Each board member shall be elected by the qualified electors of the district for a term of 4 years, except that, at the first such election, the three members elected to seats 1, 2, and 3 shall be elected for terms of 4 years each, and the members elected to seats 4 and 5 shall be elected for terms of 2 years each. Thereafter, there shall be an election held every 2 years for expiring terms and all members

shall be elected for terms of 4 years each. The candidate receiving the most votes for each seat shall be elected. All elected board members must be qualified electors of the district. Members of the board of supervisors as of October 1, 2023, shall serve until the certification of the November 2024 general election results.

(d) Elections of board members by qualified electors held pursuant to this subsection shall be nonpartisan and shall be conducted in the manner prescribed by law for holding general elections. Board members shall assume the office on the second Tuesday following their election.

(e) Candidates seeking election to office by qualified electors under this subsection shall conduct their campaigns in accordance with the provisions of chapter 106, Florida Statutes, and shall file qualifying papers and qualify for individual seats in accordance with s. 99.061, Florida Statutes. Candidates shall pay a qualifying fee, which shall consist of a filing fee and an election assessment or, as an alternative, shall file a petition signed by not less than 1 percent of the qualified electors of the district, and take the oath required in s. 99.021, Florida Statutes, with the Supervisor of Elections of Broward County. The amount of the filing fee is 3 percent of the annual salary of the office. The amount of the election assessment is 1 percent of the annual salary of the office. The filing fee and election assessment shall be distributed as provided in s. 105.031(3), Florida Statutes.

(f) The Supervisor of Elections of Broward County shall appoint the inspectors and clerks of elections, prepare and furnish the ballots, designate polling places, and canvass the returns of the election of board members by qualified electors. The county canvassing board shall declare and certify the results of the election.

(g) Subsections (4)-(8) shall apply to a board of supervisors elected pursuant to this subsection.

(h) The terms “qualified elector” and “elector” mean any person at least 18 years of age who is a citizen of the United States, a permanent resident of this state, and a resident of the district who registers with the supervisor of elections of the county within which the district lands are located when the registration books are open. In the month of June of each fourth year commencing June of 1971, there shall be held a meeting of the landowners of the district at the office of the district in Broward County for the purpose of electing three supervisors for said district. Notice of said landowners’ meeting shall be published once a week for 2 consecutive weeks in a newspaper in Broward County that is in general circulation in the district, the last of said publication to be not less than 14 days nor more than 28 days before the date of the election. The landowners, when assembled at such meeting, shall organize by electing a chair who shall conduct the meeting. At such meeting, each landowner shall be entitled to cast one vote per acre of land owned by him or her and located within the district for each person to be elected. A landowner may vote in person or by proxy in writing. Fractions of an acre shall be treated as one acre, entitling the landowner to one vote with

respect thereto. The three persons receiving the highest number of votes for the office of supervisor shall be declared elected.

Section 2. Referendum election.—

(1) The referendum election called for by this act shall be held on November 8, 2022, the 2022 General Election.

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

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

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

Shall Chapter 2021-....., Laws of Florida, amending the Coral Springs Improvement District Charter, adding two members to the District Board of Supervisors and providing that the members of the District Board of Supervisors shall be elected by majority vote of all qualified electors of the district instead of just landowners for four year terms, with staggered elections every two years beginning in November 2024, become effective?

(.....) YES.

(.....) NO.

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

Section 3. This act shall take effect upon its approval by a majority vote of the qualified electors of the Coral Springs Improvement District voting in a referendum conducted in accordance with the provisions of law relating to elections currently in force, except this section and section 2 shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor June 29, 2021.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 29, 2021.