

Summary of Referendum Questions
as proposed by the Board of Commissioners of the City of Tarpon Springs
at the Municipal General/Referendum Election, March 14, 2023

Tarpon Springs voters will have an opportunity to cast a ballot on three (3) referendum questions. The Board of Commissioners offers this factual overview of each question, so voters will be better prepared to vote with all appropriate facts at the election.

Referendum Item #1:

Article 1, Section 3 of the Charter of the City of Tarpon Springs requires that the purchase of a property be approved by a majority of the electorate voting at a referendum.

- The City proposes to purchase a vacant parcel that is 3.49 acres of property near South Florida Avenue from Henry Ross for \$ 728,000.00 for the purpose of stormwater management and land preservation.
- The appraised value of the Property is \$ 491,312.
- The original listing price was \$1,000,800.00 (per sellers' appraisal).
- This purchase would include a donation of an approximately 0.25 acre perpetual drainage easement with an appraised value of \$ 28,517 to be used for stormwater management.
- This purchase would ensure that the City can properly maintain the stormwater drainage easement for its respective service area.
- The property is proposed to be purchased using a combination of American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) Federal grant funds (\$400,000), City Land Preservation funds (\$180,000) and City Stormwater Utility funds (\$148,000).

Referendum Item #2:

Section 8 of the Charter of the City of Tarpon Springs presently lists the composition and powers of the Board of Commissioners.

The City proposes amending Section 8 to require a public hearing with resident and business participation no later than June 30th of each budget cycle for establishing funding priorities for the new fiscal year. This meeting would be in addition to the Commission budget work sessions and the First and Second Public hearings as required by law.

Referendum Item #3:

Section 8 of the Charter of the City of Tarpon Springs presently lists the composition and powers of the Board of Commissioners.

The City proposes amending Section 8 to provide for the implementation and utilization of a city-wide Strategic Plan for creating city policy, budgeting, and capital project planning, consistent with its mission statement, core values, and vision statement and that the Strategic Plan be updated every three years.