



POLK AMENDMENTS 2018 BALLOT

1. **Charter Amendment 1 - POLK COUNTY EFFICIENCY COMMISSION:**

At its final meeting in January 2016, the Efficiency Commission voted to recommend that the Charter be changed to eliminate the Commission. This amendment terminates the current Charter requirement to appoint the Polk County Efficiency Commission every eight years and amends Charter provisions related to appointment standards, qualifications, duties of members and other officers, commission reports and required responses.

LWV POSITION: Although the Efficiency Commission has an unsettled history, it is the League's position to improve the Commission rather than do away with it in its entirety. We endorse efficient government.

2. **Charter Amendment 2 - TERM LIMITS:**

Currently, Commissioners are term-limited after two, four year terms. This will amend the County Charter to allow an incumbent to appear on the ballot for re-election to the office of County Commissioner for 12 consecutive years. Service as a Commissioner before November 20, 2018 shall be counted against the term limitation.

LWV POSITION: The League is generally in opposition to term limits, but we support expanding term limits in this case as the next best option.

3. **Charter Amendment 3 - CHARTER REVIEW REFORM:**

This will amend the County Charter to increase the time between appointments of the mandatory Polk County Charter Review Commission to 12 years. Adds explanatory language to the County Charter Reforming the County Commission's authority to propose charter amendments and to create a special advisory charter review board at any time. (Currently, it is every 8 years to expand- it saves \$200k for review to expand to 12 yrs.)

LWV POSITION: The League feels that in order to have efficient government it needs to have monitoring. So to extend monitoring time frames allows for more time for errors / inefficiencies to occur.

4. **County Referendum – CONTINUATION OF SCHOOL ½ CENT SALES TAX:**

In 2003, the voters of Polk County approved a half-cent sales tax to address critical building and capacity needs of the Polk County Public Schools. These ongoing improvements include additional schools and classrooms to accommodate population growth, modernization of older schools, the replacement of portables with permanent structures, maintenance of all facilities, repairs and enhancements to the buildings and systems, upgrades in technology, and increased student safety. This year the funds will go to do the same.

LWV POSITION: The League supports the funding and support of public schools.