

Charter Amendment Ballot Issue

On election day, the Seminole County Board of County Commissioners is asking voters to decide whether or not to amend the Seminole County Charter to establish and define the Rural Area.

URBAN

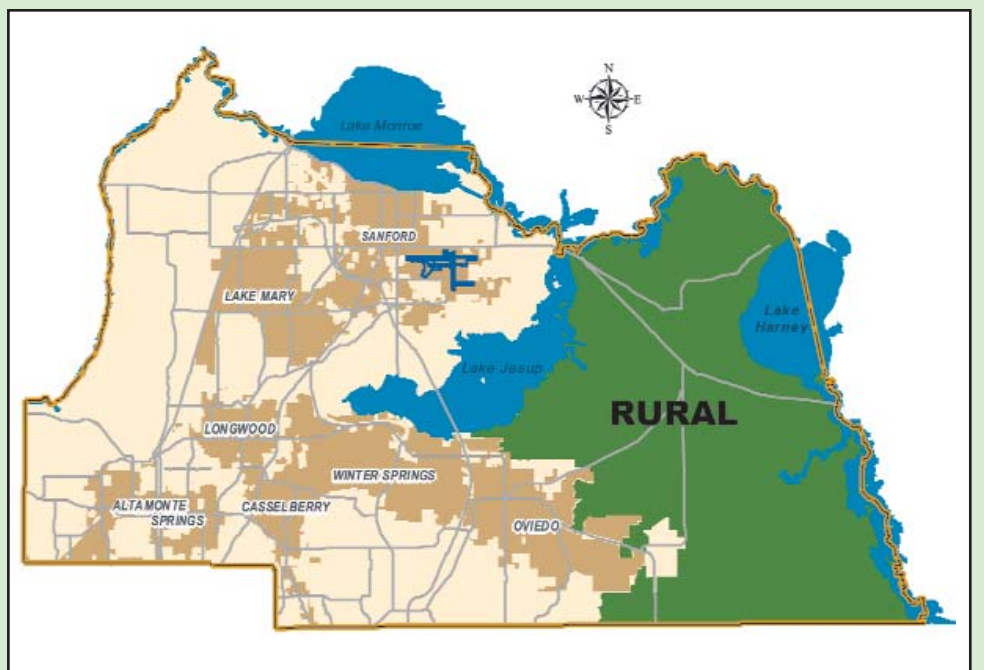


RURAL



What is the Rural Area?

In 1991, the Board of County Commissioners adopted a Rural Boundary that established a Rural Area in the Comprehensive Plan. The Rural Area is the eastern portion of Seminole County. This area provides for a natural, relaxed lifestyle with large residential lots, light traffic, limited commercial/industrial development and minimal impacts on schools and environmental resources. In recent years, this area has been experiencing increasing development pressures. The Board is now asking voters to decide if the Rural Boundary and Rural Area should also be added to the Seminole County Charter, thereby reinforcing the Rural Area's protection.



Why is the Rural Area Important?

Seminole County is the 3rd most densely populated County in the State of Florida. This means we have increased impacts on public services like police and fire protection, roads and schools. Development trends in the Rural Area produce minimal impacts on our school system, roads and public services. Maintaining the Rural Area is also vital to preserving existing natural and recreational lands and environmentally significant resources such as: the Aquifer, Geneva Bubble, the Econlockhatchee River, the St. Johns River (an American Heritage River), scenic corridors and agricultural uses.

Actual Ballot Language

COUNTY REFERENDUM

**CHARTER AMENDMENT
ESTABLISHING RURAL AREA
AND PREEMPTING MUNICIPAL
COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE
AUTHORITY WITHIN RURAL
AREA.**

Shall the Home Rule Charter be amended to establish a Rural Boundary and create a "Rural Area" of the County, authorize future changes reducing the size of the "Rural Area" by County ordinance; provide that the Future Land Use Designations established in the Seminole County Comprehensive Plan shall apply to all lands, incorporated or unincorporated, within said "Rural Area", authorize implementing ordinances, and provide that the Charter and implementing ordinances supersede conflicting municipal ordinances.

- YES
- NO

If the majority of voters say "yes", what will the Charter amendment do?

- ◆ **Will** formally establish the Rural Boundary and Rural Area in the Home Rule Charter, providing additional strength to current land development regulations.
- ◆ **Will** control the density and intensity of development on Rural Lands by using established land use designations regardless of whether some of the Rural Area is located within a city in the future.
- ◆ **Will** provide a system of "checks and balances" on growth management decisions by maintaining the process for amending the Rural Boundary - a majority vote of your Board of County Commissioners at a public hearing, where **you** may voice your concerns.
- ◆ **Will** provide an additional level of review for development of incorporated (in a city) lands in the Rural Area.
- ◆ **Will** provide an opportunity for Seminole County, the seven cities and the Seminole County School Board to work together to manage growth in this vital area of Seminole County.
- ◆ **Will not** take away rights from property owners in the County or seven cities.
- ◆ **Will not** limit the rights of any property owner to annex into any city.

