

The Honorable Yvette Benarroch,  
Florida House of Representatives

Dear Representative Benarroch,

On behalf of the Marco Island City Council, we write to express our united opposition to the recently proposed bill that would transfer authority from our elected council to the Governor of Florida in the event of a vacancy that the Council does not fill within the timeframe allowed in our City Charter. While we understand and respect the intent to ensure continuity in governance, this legislation represents a significant erosion of Marco Island's home rule authority and removes an important decision from the hands of our community.

At our most recent council meeting, all members in attendance were in complete agreement in rejecting this proposal. Marco Island residents have also voiced strong concerns about any measure that would cede local decision-making power to the state in matters so central to the character and governance of our city. The Marco Island City Council is fully capable of developing a responsible and transparent solution to address the issue of potential Council deadlock in filling vacancies. We are committed to bringing forward a charter amendment proposal for consideration for Marco Island voters in the next election. This amendment would establish a clear, locally determined sequence of steps to resolve such situations—ensuring vacancies can be filled without intervention from any outside authority and preserving the integrity of our home rule.

We value the partnership between local and state government, and we appreciate your service and dedication to the people of Florida. However, we believe strongly that decisions regarding how Marco Island fills Council vacancies should remain with our citizens and their elected Council representatives - not with officials in Tallahassee.

We respectfully and unanimously urge you to withdraw or rescind this bill and allow Marco Island the opportunity to address this matter through our charter and our democratic local processes. The Council will send you our charter amendment once we have the process codified.

Thank you for your consideration and understanding.

Sincerely,

The Members of the Marco Island City Council  
(here all would sign)