

Conference Agenda:

A Discussion of the Supermajority Vote of Approval



Purpose of the Supermajority Vote

A supermajority is a requirement for a proposal to gain a specified level of support which is greater than the threshold of more than one-half used for **majority**.

Parliamentary procedure requires that any action of a deliberative assembly that may alter the rights of a minority have a **supermajority requirement**.

A Local Comparison

	SUPERMAJORITY (4/5) VOTE REQUIRED	TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS THAT TRIGGER A SUPERMAJORITY VOTE	MINIMUM PUBLIC OBJECTION PERCENTAGE THAT TRIGGERS A SUPERMAJORITY VOTE
FORT PIERCE	yes	Conditional Use, Rezoning, Text Amendment, & PZ disapprovals	20%
JUPITER	yes	Only for Future Land Use changes in the Bioscience Protection Overlay	n/a
PALM BAY	no	n/a	n/a
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY	no	n/a	n/a
PORT SAINT LUCIE	yes	Only if CC opposes a decision of P&Z Board	none
ST. LUCIE COUNTY	yes	Conditional Uses	50%
VERO BEACH	no	n/a	n/a
ST. CLOUD	no	n/a	n/a
STUART	no	n/a	n/a
SEBASTIAN	yes	P&Z appeals, land purchases, Text Amendments (if P&Z oppose)	none

Pros and Cons of the Supermajority Vote

PROS:

- Supermajorities are intended to prevent a "tyranny of the majority," and encourage deliberation and compromise as proponents attempt to gather enough votes to reach a supermajority.
- In the legislature, supermajorities are required for constitutional amendments because of the belief that constitutions should not be amended without careful deliberation.

CONS:

- Supermajorities can make it more difficult to reach a decision.
- Supermajorities can make it harder to achieve well intended positive change.