

**From:** [Trish Shinkle](#)  
**To:** [Isaac Brownman](#)  
**Cc:** [Howard Tipton](#); [Charlie Mopps](#); [Stephanie Garcia](#)  
**Subject:** Bayfront Referendum Question  
**Date:** Monday, May 19, 2025 11:26:00 AM

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Have found only 1 from 1999 – 2004:

### **March 2004**

Commission Seats – 4: 1 contested race, 3 sole candidates

### **Town of Longboat Key, Florida, Bond Referendum Community Center General Obligation Bonds**

Shall the Town of Longboat Key finance a community center to serve the Town by issuing not exceeding \$6,410,000.00 in bonds pledging the Town's full faith, credit and unlimited taxing power, maturing in 30 or less annual installments, bearing interest not exceeding the maximum legal rate when sold, all pursuant to Resolution 03-14 of the Town?

Total Votes Cast: 3031

In Favor: 982

Against: 2049

Here's what I found:

### **Community Center Chronology**

**November 1976** — Ralph Hunter appeared before the Longboat Key Town Commission to ask for the appointment of a committee to determine the need for a community center, a request that was forwarded to the Planning & Zoning Board for possible inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan but ultimately died.

**1982** — A transfer of density created what is now known as Joan M. Durante Park, which spurred discussion about the possibility of a community center on the property. Environmentalists and a political action committee opposed the idea, and the park's use became passive recreation.

**1994** — The town took over operations of Bayfront Park Recreation Center.

**1996** — The Longboat Key Town Commission refused to vote on a detailed plan for a cultural **community center at the Longboat Key Center for the Arts**, asking for a referendum instead.

**Early 2003** — Citizens began circulating a petition in support of a proposed community center.

**March 2003** — The Longboat Key Town Commission voted to create a citizens committee to explore the idea of a community center at Bayfront Park.

**November 2003** — The Community Center Advisory Committee recommended a \$5.9 million concept plan for Bayfront Park with a new, 19,500-square-foot building.

**March 2004** — Longboat Key voters rejected the issuance of a \$6.4 million bond for a community center via referendum vote.

**March 2007** — Sarasota County finalized the purchase of the 3.88-acre Albritton property located adjacent to Bayfront Park Recreation Center.

**May 2009** — The town and Sarasota County created a new park concept with input from residents.

**May 2011** — The commission voted to hire a design professional to combine the 2003 facility design with the 2009 park plan into a single prospectus plan.