

Legislative #

130059

RESOLUTION NO. 130059

PASSED _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA,
SUPPORTING THE FLORIDA WATER AND LAND CONSERVATION
AMENDMENT TO THE STATE CONSTITUTION; ENCOURAGING
SUPPORT OF THE AMENDMENT BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS;
PROVIDING DIRECTIONS TO THE CLERK OF THE COMMISSION;
AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 7 of the Florida Constitution states, "[i]t shall be the policy of the state to conserve and protect its natural resources and scenic beauty"; and

WHEREAS, protection of the quality and quantity of Florida's drinking water sources is a primary responsibility of our state; and

WHEREAS, Florida is known for beautiful rivers, lakes, streams, spring sheds, wetlands, forests, wildlife habitat and beaches and shores, and these natural assets are central to our quality of life and economic vitality; and

WHEREAS, outdoor recreation in Florida represents a significant annual industry, employing citizens and drawing many people annually to hunt, fish, or view wildlife in our state; and

WHEREAS, Florida has a longstanding commitment to protection of outdoor recreation lands, including recreational trails, parks, and urban open space; rural landscapes; working farms and ranches; historic and geologic sites; and

WHEREAS, with support from Florida's Governors and Legislatures from 1990 through 2008, two state programs, Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever, received approximately \$300 million in state funding each year; and

WHEREAS, Florida cities, including the City of Gainesville, have benefited directly from state land conservation, management, and restoration programs by receiving grants, including the Florida Communities Trust, Florida Recreation Development Assistance Grants (FRDAP), the Florida Historic Preservation grants, and the Florida Greenways and Trails program; and

WHEREAS, since 2009, state funding of Florida Forever has been significantly reduced; and

WHEREAS, acquisition, management, restoration of natural systems, and the enhancement of public access or recreational enjoyment of conservation lands requires a sustainable, dedicated source of state funding; and

WHEREAS, documentary stamp tax revenues have historically been used to provide state funding for conservation and recreation in Florida; and

WHEREAS, Florida's Water and Land Legacy, Inc. is a Florida non-profit corporation, registered as a political committee with the Florida Division of Elections, and is leading a coalition of individual volunteers and conservation and civic organizations from across the state working to put the "Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment" on the November 2014 ballot; and

WHEREAS, the "Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment" ballot title and summary read as follows:

TITLE: *Water and Land Conservation - Dedicates funds to acquire and restore Florida conservation and recreation lands*

SUMMARY: *Funds the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to acquire, restore, improve, and manage conservation lands including wetlands and forests; fish and wildlife habitat; lands protecting water resources and drinking water sources, including the Everglades, and the water quality of rivers, lakes, and streams; beaches and shores; outdoor recreational lands; working farms and ranches; and historic or geologic sites, by dedicating 33 percent of net revenues from the existing excise tax on documents for 20 years.*

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA:

Section 1. The City of Gainesville supports the Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment.

Section 2. The City of Gainesville encourages support of the Amendment by the Florida League of Cities, Florida Association of Counties, and other organizations that seek to enhance the quality of life throughout the State of Florida by preserving and protecting conservation lands, recreational lands, working farms and ranches, historic or geologic sites, water resources and drinking water sources; and the water quality of rivers, lakes, streams, beaches and shores.

Section 3. The Clerk of the Commission is directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to Florida's Water and Land Legacy, Inc.

Section 4. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2013.

EDWARD B. BRADDY, MAYOR

ATTEST:

KURT LANNON,
CLERK OF THE COMMISSION

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

NICOLLE M. SHALLEY, CITY ATTORNEY