

060177

**CHOICE VOTING
Report to the Gainesville City Commission**



June 26, 2006

Prepared by the
2005 Charter Review Committee

Table of Contents

Project Background 1

Summary of Recommendations..... 1

Project Overview 2

Plurality Voting with a Sequential Runoff..... 2

Instant Runoff Voting 3

Proportional Representation 6

Discussion..... 7

Civic Learning and Voter Participation 8

Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations 9

Additional Recommendations..... 10

Additional Resources..... 11

Acknowledgements..... 12

List of Attachments

1. Background, Charter Review Committee.
2. Definitions of Electoral Systems, University of Florida Professor Michael Martinez, e-mail message to CRC - January 19, 2006.
3. Presentation of Professor Michael Martinez, University of Florida.
4. Conversation between Intern Libby Illsley, City Attorney’s Office and staff, Florida Department of State; and various legal memoranda, City Attorney’s Office.
5. Burlington, Vermont March 2006 ballot and results.
6. San Francisco, California election materials and results.
7. *“Schools must shoulder mission to advance democracy”*, O’Connor, Sandra Day and Romer, Roy. Letter in the Washington Post, April 23, 2006.
8. Memorandum from Charlie Hauck, City Attorney’s Office. May 10, 2006

Project Background

On February 14, 2005, the City Commission appointed members to the Charter Review Committee (Committee, or CRC), and directed that the Committee “consider the length of terms of City Commissioners; term limits (number of consecutive terms) of commissioners; and election dates and cycles (i.e., every year; every other year).” [Attachment #1] The Committee presented its final report to the City Commission on October 10th, 2005. The two recommendations were:

- (1) “Recommend to the City Commission as a package: 4 year terms of office, retain 2-consecutive term limits, implementation of Model 1, and a consistent date for standalone fall elections in consecutively odd years”; and
- (2) “The Committee has been introduced to the concept of ‘choice voting’, and would like to have the Commission’s permission to explore it.”

The Commission voted to authorize the CRC to explore “choice” voting, but did not take action on recommendation #1. On November 28th, 2005, when the City Commission reconsidered the matter, the Commission voted to “take no action at this time, but encourage the Charter Review Committee to continue to bring back options to the City Commission.”

This report includes a comprehensive review of opportunities and obstacles associated with voting and election methods, specifically Instant Runoff Voting (IRV).

Summary of Recommendations

- Currently, IRV is not certified for use in Florida. Once it is State-certified, the CRC recommends that the City Commission consider Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) for future use in City elections. Prior to any decision to move forward, the CRC recommends that the City Commission first engage the public in conversation about the current ‘one person, one vote, most votes wins’ system (plurality voting with sequential run-off) and alternatives. Use of mock IRV elections could be included in this community conversation.
- The Committee recommends that the City Commission develop an on-going civic learning initiative that focuses on voter rights and responsibilities, and collaborate with various local government and community organizations as partners in this effort.
- Without more accurate data, any assumptions about voter turnout may well be flawed. The Committee recommends that the City Commission undertake a project (perhaps in partnership with a UF or SFCC political science professor and class) to obtain historical Gainesville election results and ‘norm’ the data.
- The Committee recommends that the City Commission direct the Attorney to provide options to reduce the transition period between election and commencement of office of Commissioners-elect.

- The CRC recommends that the City Commission discuss with the Supervisor of Elections methods and opportunities to accomplish an early voting location on the University of Florida campus, as well as in other Gainesville locations.

Project Overview

The 2005 Charter Review Committee met from January-May, 2006 to explore “choice” voting. In order to gain an understanding of voting and election methods, the CRC heard from Dr. Alan Beck (Santa Fe Community College) and Professor Michael Martinez (University of Florida.) Of many different election and mathematical computation methods (Attachments #2 and #3), the CRC focused on the “choice” or “preference” voting method known as “Instant Runoff Voting”, or IRV.¹

Two different cities (Burlington, Vermont and San Francisco, California) were compared in order to consider costs and other public policy issues associated with a hypothetical Gainesville implementation of the IRV voting method.

Any discussion of voting and election methods necessitates a review of Florida election law. Found in Chapters 97-107, Florida Statutes, Florida law essentially dictates election methods that can be used in Florida.² Among the requirements, the Florida Department of State and Division of Elections are directed to adopt standards for voting systems and to certify all voting hardware (equipment) and software for use in Florida. In addition, the hardware and software used together must be certified as a unit. [Attachment #4] Chapter 101.657, Florida Statutes includes requirements and standards for early voting in municipal and other elections.³

Plurality voting with sequential run-off

At the outset, it is important to state that County-owned AccuVote optical scanning units used in Gainesville elections are State-certified, as are each touch screen unit per polling place (purchased by the County Commission to comply with the Federal *Help America Vote Act* or *HAVA*, which requires unassisted voting for those who are blind or visually impaired.)

Currently, Gainesville holds non-partisan elections using ‘**Plurality voting with a sequential run-off**’.⁴ This system, used in Gainesville elections since approximately 1949, means ‘one person, one vote, the candidate who receives the most votes wins’:

-One candidate is elected from either an at-large or a single member district (as opposed to a multi-member district, in which several members are elected to represent one district;)

¹ “Choice” voting also includes Single-Transferable Vote (STV), in which multiple candidates are elected in multi-member districts or at-large. Candidates who receive the highest numbers of “first votes” over the threshold are elected. If all seats are not filled, surplus “first” votes are transferred, with losing candidates’ votes transferred to remaining candidates until all seats are filled. STV would require elimination of Gainesville’s current single-member districts.

² http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Index&Title_Request=IX#TitleIX

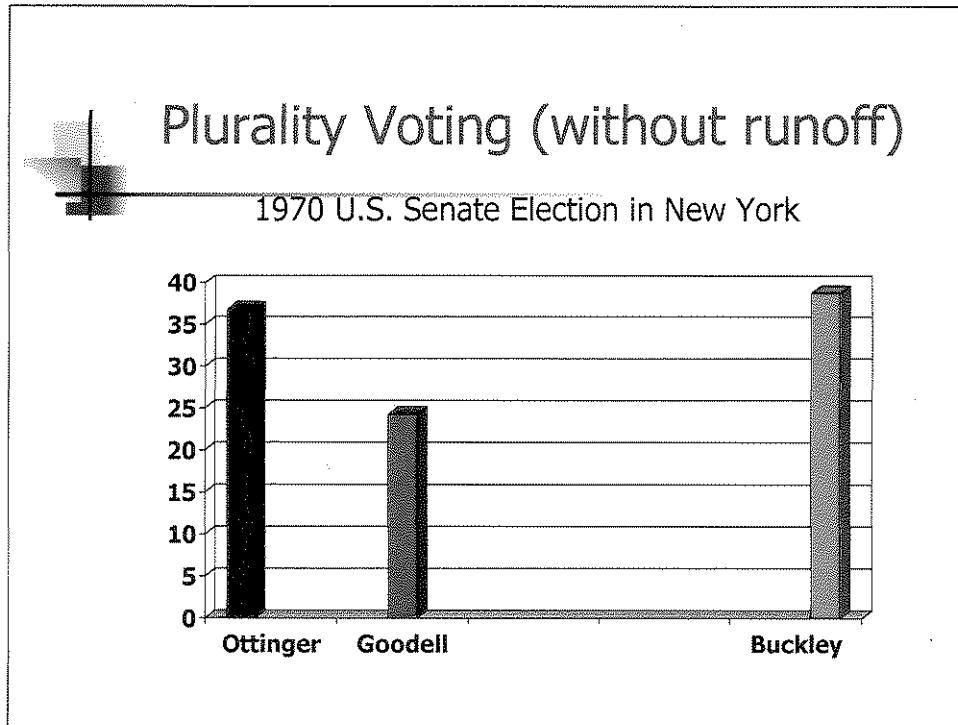
³ Early voting can be held in the Supervisor of Elections’ main or branch office, as long as it is a permanent facility of the supervisor, designated and used as such for at least 1 year prior to the election. The Supervisor may also designate any city hall or permanent public library facility as early voting sites. The University of Florida library is not public.

⁴ Contrast with other methods at the “*Introduction to the Mathematics of Voting*”, University of Alabama Center for Teaching & Learning: <http://www.ctl.ua.edu/math103/Voting/overvw1.htm#What%20do%20we%20mean%20by%20fair?>

- Each voter votes for only one candidate in each round;
- If a candidate receives a majority of votes in the first round, s/he is elected;
- If no candidate receives a majority of votes in the first round, the top two candidates go to a runoff; and
- the “first past the post” is the winner and is elected.

The Supervisor of Elections experiences some uncertainty and financial costs each year in preparing for and (potentially) conducting a runoff election. The uncertainty of a runoff may also affect the amount of money candidates raise and spend in an election campaign. An election method that provides less uncertainty may reduce the cost of elections, both to the public (through funding the Supervisor of Elections) and to candidates and supporters.

Figure 1. Plurality voting results



Instant Runoff Voting

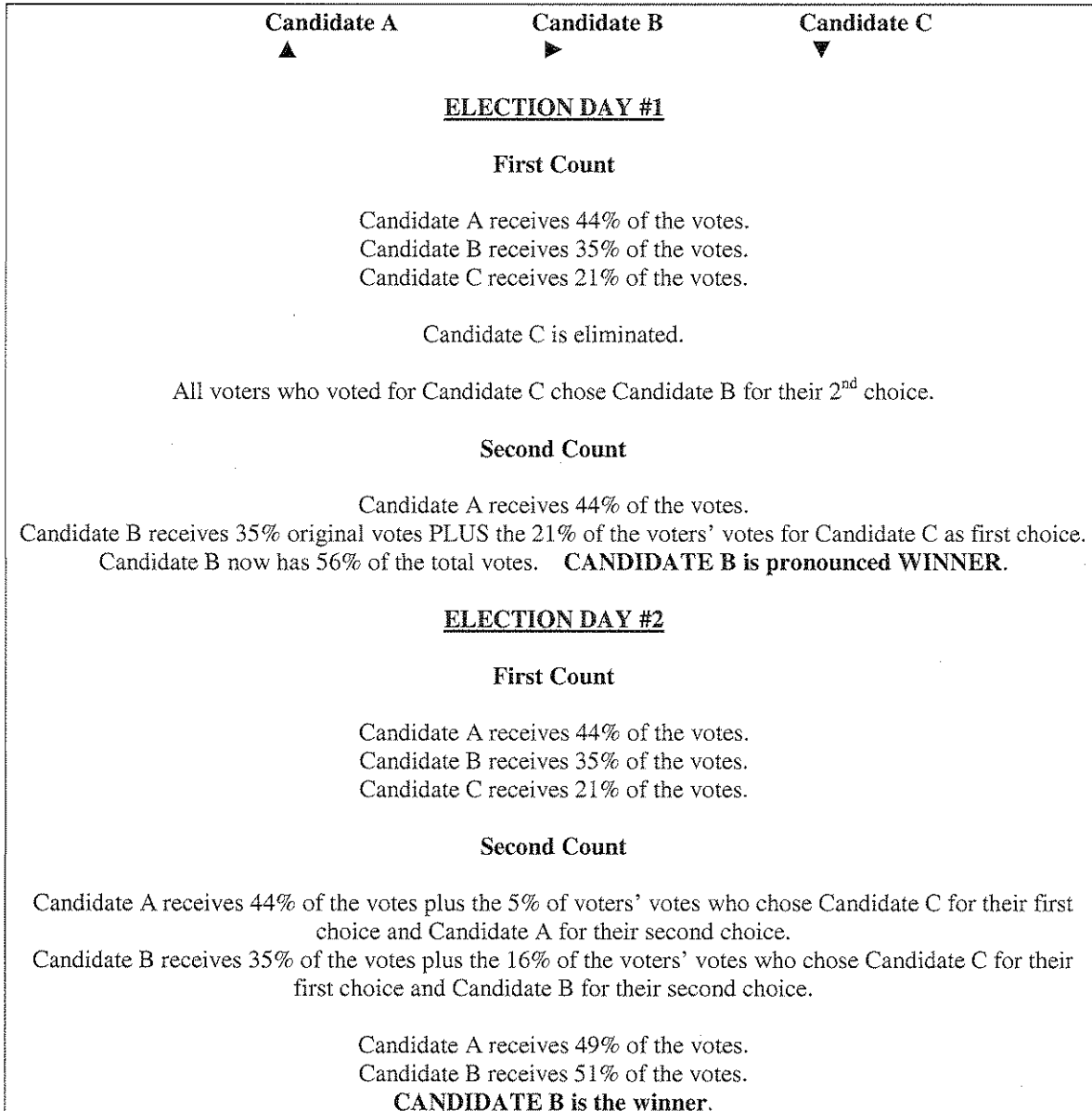
The CRC focused on the “choice” or “preference” voting method known as “**Instant Runoff Voting**”, or **IRV**. IRV (also called “alternative voting”, as in the *ability to vote for alternatives*) is currently used in San Francisco and Berkeley, California; the Republic of Ireland (for president); and in Australia’s lower house of parliament. The City of Burlington, Vermont used IRV for the first time in its March 2006 mayoral election.

On a typical U.S. election ballot, the voter only votes only for her/his first choice. A preference ballot allows a voter to rank all of the candidates from first to last place. In an IRV election:

- One candidate is elected from either an at-large or a single member district (as opposed to a multi-member district, in which several members are elected to represent one district);

- Each voter 'rank orders' her/his preferred candidates (the voter fills in an oval or places a number by each candidate's name in order of preference, i.e. #1, #2, #3, etc.);
- If a candidate receives a majority of "first votes" in a tabulation round or count, s/he is elected;
- If no candidate receives a majority of "first" votes in a tabulation round, the candidate with the lowest vote total is eliminated, and her/his votes are transferred to remaining candidates until a candidate receives a majority of votes in a round.

Figure 2. IRV voting scenarios



Use of Instant Runoff Voting in Gainesville elections presents significant timing, financial, and public policy considerations. While there is no law that prohibits the use of IRV in Florida, there is also no law that specifically authorizes the use of IRV. No IRV system is certified for use in

Florida. The decision to submit an application for State-certification is solely that of a manufacturer. The time necessary for State review and (possible) certification is likewise of undetermined length, but is at least a year and a half.

The manufacturer of County-owned AccuVote machines used in Gainesville elections has stated that it does not have IRV software available, and has no plans to submit an application for State certification.

Burlington, Vermont

Burlington, Vermont uses the same AccuVote optical scanning machines as Gainesville and Alachua County. IRV was used for the first time in March 2006 to elect Burlington's mayor. [Attachment #5] Burlington's IRV software, 'Choice Plus Pro' from Voting Solutions, is a free download.⁵ Burlington borrowed the software at no cost from Cambridge, Massachusetts, and spent several thousand dollars having it modified to adhere to Burlington's rules and regulations. The Burlington City Clerk-Treasurer is the Election Official.⁶

This IRV software is not a part of the AccuVote machines. Instead, the IRV software program resides on a separate, Windows-based laptop into which ballot numbers are fed after tabulation of each AccuVote machine.⁷ A single ballot can be used to list both IRV and plurality races; or separate ballots - one for plurality races and one for IRV races - can be used. If one ballot lists both IRV and plurality races, all ballots must be run through the AccuVote machines twice for separate tabulation of results.

Figure 3. Population and voting statistics

Burlington, Vermont			
	2006	2004	2000
Population	39,824	38,934	38,889
Registered voters†	25,096	29,501	30,110

**2000 population and estimates for 2004: <http://www.census.gov/>*

† 2000 and 2004 registration data are for November elections; 2006 data are for election held 03/07/06 - City of Burlington, Clerk for the Board of Registration for Board of Voters, data as of 6-20-06.

Burlington contracted with Election Solutions at a cost of \$8200 to provide a voter education program. At an additional cost, a mail piece that described IRV was sent to each home. Burlington spent a relatively short period of time in voter education, beginning in December 2005 with a City election staff internal mock election. IRV voter education began in January 2006, and the IRV mayoral election was held in March.

San Francisco, California

Voters in the City of San Francisco also use a preference ballot to elect local officials. Voters select a first-choice candidate in the first column on the ballot, and different second- and third-choice candidates in the second and third columns. There is no need for a separate run-off

⁵ Available at: <http://www.votingsolutions.com/>

⁶ Burlington's website is: <http://www.ci.burlington.vt.us/ct/elections/>

⁷ The CRC notes that such a system is not certified for use in Florida.

election. The San Francisco Department of Elections is responsible for conducting all federal, state and local elections in the City and County of San Francisco.⁸

Figure 4. Population and voting statistics

San Francisco, California			
	2006	2004	2000
Population	N/A	774,230	776,773
Registered voters†	421,094	486,937	486,636

**2000 population and estimates for 2004: <http://www.census.gov/> No estimates are listed for 2006.*

† 2000 and 2004 registration data are for November elections; 2006 data are for election held 06/06/06:

http://www.sfgov.org/site/election_index.asp?id=7027; <http://www.sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/election/results.htm>

The cost for implementation was \$1.6 million, not including voter education. A vendor (ES&S) was paid to develop, design, test and certify all the equipment necessary to hold IRV municipal elections. San Francisco's 600 Eagle machines are used only for the city's IRV elections; the Eagle equipment is not used in state or national elections, and does not have the ability to tabulate plurality voting and IRV ballots. A sample San Francisco IRV ballot is shown in Attachment #6.

Election Solutions also provided a voter education program, which continues today. The Public Research Institute at San Francisco State University conducted a number of studies and exit polls to survey voters about IRV and how well they understood it.⁹

Proportional Representation with Preference Balloting

Republics of Ireland and Australia

The CRC did not discuss at length proportional representation, or preference-voting election systems used outside the United States. **Proportional representation** (PR) electoral systems are used to elect candidates in multi-member electorates. Under PR, parties, groups and independent candidates are elected to the Parliament in proportion to their support in the electorate.

In Ireland, the system of voting in all Dáil, Seanad, Presidential, European and local elections is proportional representation with a single transferable vote in multi-seat constituencies (3-, 4- and 5-seat constituencies at Dáil elections). Preference ballots are used so that a voter can indicate on the ballot her/his first and subsequent candidate choices.¹⁰

Proportional representation electoral systems and preference ballots are also used in Australia to elect candidates to the Senate, the upper houses of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia, the Lower House of Tasmania, the Legislative Assembly and many local government councils.¹¹

⁸ See San Francisco's website at: http://www.sfgov.org/site/election_index.asp

⁹ http://pri.sfsu.edu/reports/SFSU-PRI_RCV_final_report_June_30.pdf

¹⁰ http://www.oasis.gov.ie/government_in_ireland/elections/proportional_representation.html

¹¹ http://www.eca.gov.au/systems/proportional/proportion_rep.htm

Discussion

Instant runoff voting allows for a winning candidate to be elected without the need for a separate run-off election. Voters elect officials by marking a ballot for a first-choice candidate, a second-choice candidate, and so on. A voter can rank as many or as few as candidates as s/he desires. If no candidate receives a majority of "first" votes in a tabulation round, the candidate with the lowest vote total is eliminated, and her/his votes are transferred to remaining candidates until a candidate receives a majority of votes in a round.

Instant runoff voting (IRV) is currently not certified for use in Florida, and cannot be used until it receives State certification.

In a runoff election, candidates who lost in the primary have the opportunity to influence supporters to vote for one of the remaining candidates. In an IRV election, there is no runoff -- and no ability to influence supporters. Thus, losing candidates (and political parties) may have less influence in IRV elections. Supporters of losing 'first-choice' candidates may still feel that they had a say in an election, because they were able to vote for their preferred candidate, and rank the others -- instead of voting (or not voting) for the perceived 'lesser of two evils'. Because a candidate can be elected with less than a majority of "first" votes, candidates will seek to garner "second" as well as "first" votes. Thus, the tone and tactics of campaigns may change.

For the foreseeable future, county, state and federal elections will continue use of plurality voting. There may be potential for voter confusion if both plurality and IRV systems are listed on the same ballot. If voters do not have enough information about the IRV electoral system, use of IRV may result in more ballots cast that are not machine-readable (for example, ranking two candidates in the same row.¹²⁾

Use of IRV eliminates the need for a runoff election. However, a portion (or all) of cost savings would need to be invested in a new City Commission budget item for ongoing voter information programs. The goal to be achieved should be publicly transparent and accountable IRV elections and tabulation of results. An intensive education and training program would inform of the new system; provide voter and elections staff training; and explain the method to calculate votes and determine results. This is especially important for poll workers, who are required to answer voter questions at polling places. The British Columbia (Canada) Citizens Assembly has an example of interactive voter training on an extensive website at: <http://www.citizensassembly.bc.ca/public>¹³

Another public policy issue to consider is the potential for a delay in tabulating ballots and certifying the election. To certify voter turnout, the Supervisor of Elections will need to report all combinations of votes. Compared to the rapid election results experienced today, use of IRV will require more effort to tabulate, and may cause a delay in counting ballots (and recounting, if necessary). Depending on one's perspective, additional tabulation time could be viewed as either positive (more time to 'get it right'), or negative (more time for possibility of error).

¹² To assess possible confusion, see the Burlington ballot in Attachment #5.

¹³ The Assembly proposed 'proportional representation' using the single-transferable vote system. The May 17, 2005 provincial vote failed just short of passage.

Civic Learning and Voter Participation

In an April 23, 2006 letter [Attachment #7], Sandra Day O'Connor (former Supreme Court Justice) and Roy Romer (former Colorado governor and current superintendent, Los Angeles Unified School District) wrote,

“Research shows that the better people understand our history and system of government, the more likely they are to vote and participate in the civic life. Most young people today simply do not have an adequate understanding of how our government and political system work, and they are, thus, not well-prepared to participate as citizens.” A healthy democracy, they wrote, “depends on the participation of citizens, and that participation is learned behavior; it doesn't just happen.”

In the Alachua County school system, U.S. History is taught in 8th and 10th grades. U.S. Government, required for high school graduation, is usually taken in the 12th grade.¹⁴ Many people seem unaware or misinformed about the actual operation of elections. Might the lack of more recent, focused information on voting rights and responsibilities play a part in low voter turnout?

O'Connor and Romer also wrote,

“...civic learning has been pushed aside. Until the 1960s, three courses in civics and government were common in American high schools, and two of them ("civics" and "problems of democracy") explored the role of citizens and encouraged students to discuss current issues. Today those courses are rare. What remains is a course on "American government" that usually spends little time on how people can -- and why they should -- participate.”

A survey by the McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum released in March 2006 revealed that Americans are “woefully unaware” of rights protected by the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment. The survey showed that more Americans could name main characters in “The Simpsons” animated television show, than could describe the First Amendment's five rights.¹⁵ According to a museum press release, 22% of those surveyed could name all five of members of the cartoon family, but only one of the 1,000 people surveyed was able to name all five freedoms protected by the First Amendment. The McCormick study also revealed that many Americans misidentified rights emanating from the First Amendment: about one in five respondents said the right to own a pet was protected there. Might a lack of knowledge equate to distrust in the ‘system’, and a reluctance to vote?

Over time, Gainesville voter population and election precinct lines have changed, and commission seats have increased from 5 to 7. Under the current single-member district system, all registered Gainesville voters cannot vote for all commission seats. Because of these alterations, historical voter turnout data cannot be easily correlated, interpreted or understood.¹⁶ There is a higher voter turnout in some elections than in others: some candidates, races and/or issues engender more interest than others. Is less interest in local elections and lower voter turnout an unintended result of creation of single-member districts?

¹⁴ Staff conversation with Charles Wise - Supervisor of social studies curriculum, Alachua County School Board.

¹⁵ http://www.freedommuseum.us/assets/pdf/e4/pressrelease/survey_results_report_final.pdf

¹⁶ Detailed, precinct-by-precinct data of previous years' elections is available in hard copy at the Supervisor of Elections (SOE) office. Final election results from 1996 to present are available on the SOE website at: <http://elections.alachua.fl.us/>

The CRC discussed that the City Commission could invest in continued civic learning that highlights voter rights and responsibilities -- rather than occasionally advocate that voters cast ballots on specific issues (perceived to 'benefit' City government, e.g. the 2004 recreation tax and annexations.) Supervisor of Elections staff could be 'shadowed' as they plan for and conduct elections; and the general public could view the critical 'behind the scenes' details, as well as the difference between local, state and federal election requirements. A concise and easy to understand wallet card or pamphlet might enumerate a Gainesville voter's 'Bill of Rights and Responsibilities'.

Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations

1. Instant runoff voting affords voters the opportunity to mark one ballot for a preferred candidate and to rank all (#1, #2, #3, etc.), instead of voting (or not voting) for one of two candidates. A voter can rank as many or as few candidates as s/he desires. Use of IRV eliminates the need for, and costs of, a run-off election.

2. Currently, IRV is not certified for use in Florida. Most, but not all, significant IRV implementation issues involve matters outside the City Commission's control. The Committee assumed that the City Commission was unlikely to: (1), contract with a vendor to develop IRV software and submit an application to the Florida Department of State for certification; (2), purchase its own elections equipment for use only in Gainesville elections; and/or (3), create a new City department to conduct Gainesville elections.

3. Once it is State-certified, the CRC recommends that the City Commission consider Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) for future use in City elections. Any change in election method requires voter approval of a Gainesville Charter change.

4. The CRC cautions that public confidence in the integrity of any election system is critical, and notes that all election and tabulation systems should be certified and operated using software completely transparent to the public. In particular, the IRV tabulation method should be easy to understand and frequently communicated to the public

5. It is possible for a candidate in an IRV election to win with less than a majority of "first" votes. Voters who favor a 'straight up or down' system may be uncomfortable with any system in which the winning candidate receives less than a majority of first-place votes.

Prior to any decision to move forward, the CRC recommends that the City Commission first engage the public in conversation about the current 'one person, one vote, most votes wins' system (plurality voting with sequential run-off) and alternatives. Use of mock IRV elections could be included in this community conversation.

6. The Committee concluded that new Florida legislation could encourage vendors to create IRV software for use with current State-certified equipment, and to submit applications for Florida certification of IRV software.

The City Commission could add to its State legislative agenda a request for new legislation to (1), authorize use of IRV in Florida elections, and (2), require the Florida Division of Elections to certify IRV voting equipment and software. To accomplish this outcome, the Commission could collaborate with the Florida Supervisors of Election and Florida League of Cities, as well as the Alachua County Commission (and Florida Association of Counties). The CRC notes that funds may need to be set aside for advocacy efforts.

7. City and state election laws differ throughout the U.S, and comparisons are difficult to quantify. The cost to implement IRV appears to vary based on the size of the city that implements it and requirements of state election laws. The base cost to implement IRV in San Francisco (city and county) was at least \$1.6 million (excluding voter education), while in Burlington (city) it was \$8200. Costs for Gainesville IRV implementation and voter information (paid by the City to the Supervisor of Elections) are dependent on effort and are difficult to measure, but are expected to be closer to that of Burlington than San Francisco.

If IRV is to be used in future elections, the City Commission -- in concert with the Alachua County Supervisor of Elections -- will have to determine the methods and length of time to provide various forms of voter information.

8. The Committee concluded that the City Commission should consider producing a series of in-depth features that show the actual preparation for, and operation of, local elections. Local government Channel 12 is a natural outlet for broadcast. This would provide important civic information, could serve as an invaluable public engagement tool, and could establish more trust in our local election system. It could also result in added interest in local elections, candidates, and/or issues, which could increase voter turnout.

A civic learning initiative could at some point include partners (e.g., League of Women Voters, Alachua County School Board and Alachua County Commission.) The civic learning initiative could include summer “workshops” especially for secondary school social studies teachers, with local governments conducting special sessions that include staff and representatives of political parties and community organizations, advisory board members, neighborhood advocates, etc. The CRC encourages the use of the eCivis grants program for possible funding assistance. The McCormick Tribune Foundation (<http://www.rrmtf.org/>) is another resource.

Additional Recommendations

9. Currently, the transition period between election and ‘swearing-in’ of Commissioners-elect is about 2 months. The Committee recommends that the City Commission direct the Attorney to provide options to reduce this transition period. [Attachment #8]

The City Commission could minimize the period of time between an election and the commencement of term of office by simply selecting an election date closer in time to the first or third Thursday in May. The practical limitation would be to ensure that there is sufficient time for a run-off election and resolution of any legal challenges.

10. Without more accurate data, any assumptions about voter turnout may well be flawed. The Committee recommends that the City Commission undertake a project (perhaps in partnership with a UF or SFCC political science professor and class) to obtain historical Gainesville election results and ‘norm’ the data. It would be useful to contrast the total Gainesville voting age population with the smaller portion actually registered to vote, and with the normed voter turnout statistics in different elections over time.

Once developed, this accurate information could be maintained and used in future City Commission and public decisions about civic learning and Gainesville voting issues.

The CRC also recommends that, as part of this project, the City Commission consider Gainesville voter turnout with, and without, UF and/or SFCC registered voters. This would be similar to removing UF and/or SFCC students from county census data to obtain more refined poverty figures.

11. The CRC recommends that the City Commission discuss with the Supervisor of Elections methods and opportunities to accomplish an early voting location on the University of Florida campus, as well as in other Gainesville locations. There are legal, staffing, and other budget issues associated with implementing the recommended outcome.

Additional Resources

Of the documents listed below, some are academic in nature, and some advocate specific issues. They are not listed in any order, and all but the first two are Internet-accessible.

“Redistricting Gainesville in the Wake of the 2000 Census”. Wald, Dr. Kenneth D. and Comenetz, Dr. Joshua. Prepared for the Charter Review Committee. August 27, 2001

Vita of Professor Alan Beck, Santa Fe Community College – Gainesville, Florida.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voting_system
Election systems and electoral methods

http://wiki.electorama.com/wiki/Main_Page
Electowiki! Site includes explanations of election methods.

http://www.spur.org/documents/021101_article_02.shtm
“Instant Runoffs”, Election Timing and Voter Turnout.” San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association, 2002.

http://pri.sfsu.edu/reports/SFSU-PRI_RCV_final_report_June_30.pdf
“An Assessment of Ranked-Choice Voting in the 2004 San Francisco Election: Final Report”. Neely, Francis; Blash, Lisel; and Cook, Corey. Public Research Institute, San Francisco State University. May 2005

<http://www.aceproject.org/main/english/index.htm>
Administration and Cost of Elections (ACE) project. The International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES), the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) worked together to produce the comprehensive materials on this site.

<http://www.stanford.edu/dept/news/pr/03/dill25.html> *“Computerized voting systems pose unacceptable risks unless they provide a voter-verifiable audit trail, technologists warn.”*
Stanford University, 2003.

<http://www.nytimes.com/ref/opinion/making-votes-count.html?pagewanted=all>
Making Votes Count: An archive of editorials on the flaws in the mechanics of our democracy.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/06/13/opinion/13SUN1.html?ex=1147924800&en=674caa6b35924513&ei=5070> *“Gambling on voting: If election officials want to convince voters that electronic*

voting can be trusted, they should be willing to make it at least as secure as slot machines...
New York Times editorial, June 13, 2004.

<http://www.verifiedvoting.org/>

To increase public confidence and participation in our political process, two separate organizations – a 501c(4) lobbying non-profit, and a 501c(3) educational non-profit – are dedicated to ensuring that our election systems are reliable and publicly verifiable.

<http://www.votetrustusa.org/>

A national network of state-based organizations working for secure, accurate and transparent elections.

http://www.pewtrusts.org/pdf/electionline_022006.pdf

“What's Changed, What Hasn't and Why: Election Reform 2000-2006”. The Pew Charitable Trusts. February 2006

<http://reform.house.gov/UploadedFiles/GAO-05-956.pdf>

“Federal Efforts to Improve Security and Reliability of Electronic Voting Systems Are Under Way, but Key Activities Need to Be Completed.” GAO# 05-965. United States Government Accountability Office. September 2005

<http://www.electoral-reform.org.uk/>

Founded in 1884, (as the Proportional Representation Society) the Electoral Reform Society is probably England's oldest organization concerned with electoral systems and procedures.

http://www.fairvote.org/media/documents/FairVote_Doug_Amy_Book.pdf

“Full Representation: The Case for a Better Election System,” by Douglas J. Amy, ed. by Fair Vote, The Center for Voting and Democracy. 1997.

Acknowledgements

The CRC again extends its appreciation to the City Attorney's Office for staff support during this committee's existence. In particular, Charlie Hauck (Assistant City Attorney), SuAnn Williams (Legal Assistant/Staff Liaison), Libby Illsley (Intern), Natalie Duguid (Paralegal), and Angelique Knox (Intern) were of invaluable assistance.

Professor Alan Beck (Santa Fe Community College) and Professor Michael Martinez (University of Florida) graciously agreed to engage the CRC in conversation about elections and voting methods. We are indeed fortunate to have in our community these two professors, whose actual political experience and significant academic research illuminated the issues of study. Without their presentations and participation, the CRC would not have been able to complete its task.

The Committee also expresses its gratitude to City Manager Russ Blackburn for his commitment to support the CRC's development of the City of Gainesville's first unmoderated, public listserve. The CRC forum can be found on the advisory board webpage, which is located at:

<http://www.cityofgainesville.org/crc/> .