

## MUNICIPAL ELECTION CYCLES – ALACHUA COUNTY

Municipality	Date of Election	Conducted by Supervisor of Elections	Self-Conducted <sup>1</sup>
Alachua	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. in April; 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues. in April (Run-off)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Archer	1 <sup>st</sup> Tues. in Nov.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gainesville	March or April each year (Set each year by City Commission)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Hawthorne	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. in June; 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues. in June (Run-off)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
High Springs	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. in Nov		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
LaCrosse	March of each year.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Micanopy	March 2005		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Newberry	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. in Oct.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Waldo	1 <sup>st</sup> Tues. in Dec.; 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues. in Dec. (Run-off)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

*Source: Alachua County Supervisor of Elections.*

<sup>1</sup> According to the Alachua County Supervisor of Elections (SOP) on July 14, 2005, all municipalities other than the City of Gainesville conduct their own elections. However, the SOP prints their ballots, trains their poll workers, and provides the election and related equipment. The Archer election is on the November County ballot. Archer does qualifying, but the race is printed on the County ballot and absentees are issued by the SOE. Archer only has elections every other year. However, Archer does have a run-off, if necessary, which is conducted by Archer, two weeks after the General Election. High Springs is the same as Archer in the even years. In the off years, when there is no County election, High Springs does its own election except for printing the ballot and training poll workers. High Springs does not have a run-off.

(2) Population of 110,000 and over. At any time the population within the City reaches or exceeds 110,000 persons, as ascertained as of the effective date of any annexation under either: 1) the most recent decennial census of the population produced by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, or 2) the most recent estimates of populations of municipalities produced by the State of Florida, Office of the Governor, or the designated agency thereof, whichever number is greater, then the commission shall adopt a resolution which ratifies the number of persons in the City and authorizing the increase in the number of commissioners as provided in subsection (3). Until such time as the additional commissioners are elected and placed in office, however, the legislative power of the city shall remain vested in a commission of five members.

(3) The legislative power of the city shall be vested in a city commission of seven members including the mayor (when the population within the City reaches or exceeds 110,000 persons as provided in Subsection (2) above) elected in accordance with Sec. 2.04 of this Charter. Four members shall be elected by the qualified voters of each of four districts and two members and the mayor shall be elected by the qualified voters of the city at large as provided in Sec. 2.04. (Ord. No. 3752, § 1, 12-16-91, referendum of 3-10-92; Ord. No. 4053, § 1, 1-23-95)

## 2.02. Districts.

(1) For the purpose of electing three members of the commission (as long as the population within the City remains under 110,000 as provided in Sec. 2.01(1)), the commission shall, by ordinance, apportion the city into three consecutively numbered districts and shall adjust the boundary lines of the districts by subsequently enacted ordinances whenever, in its judgment, the districts are not ratably or equally proportioned in accordance with the State Constitution and the Constitution of the United States, but not less frequently than within the second year following each decennial census.

(2) For the purpose of electing four members of the commission (when the population within the City reaches or exceeds 110,000 as provided in

Sec. 2.01(2)), the commission shall, by ordinance, apportion the city into four consecutively numbered districts and shall adjust the boundary lines of the districts by subsequently enacted ordinances whenever, in its judgment, the districts are not ratably or equally proportioned in accordance with the State Constitution and the Constitution of the United States, but not less frequently than within the second year following each decennial census.

(Ord. No. 3752, § 1, 12-16-91; referendum of 3-10-92; Ord. No. 4053, § 1, 1-23-95)

## 2.03. Eligibility.

Each candidate for a district seat must be a qualified voter who is a resident of the district from which the person seeks to be elected for a period of not less than 6 months prior to the date the person qualifies to run for office. Each commissioner elected from a district shall continuously reside in the district during the commissioner's term of office, except that any commissioner who is removed from a district by redistricting may continue to serve during the remainder of the commissioner's term of office. Each candidate for an at-large seat, including the mayor's seat, must be a qualified voter of the city for at least six (6) months prior to the date the person qualifies to run for office. Each at-large commissioner and the mayor shall continuously reside within the city during their terms of office. Candidates for the commission shall, at the time of qualifying, designate the district seats, the mayor's seat, or at-large seats for which they intend to run. A commissioner may not serve on the commission for more than two (2) consecutive three-year terms. The mayor may not serve as mayor for more than two (2) consecutive three-year terms. For purposes of this section, service as the elected mayor shall not be considered to be service as a commissioner.

(Ord. No. 4053, § 1, 1-23-95)

## 2.04. Election and terms.

- (1) (a) Candidates for election to the commission shall qualify in the manner prescribed by ordinance.
- (b) Except as provided in Subsection (1)(c) herein, each commissioner shall be elected for a term of 3 years.

- (c) For the purpose of providing more evenly staggered terms of office, in the regular municipal election held in 2003, the district seat added pursuant to Sec. 2.01(3) of this Charter shall be elected for an initial term of office of one year, and the at-large seat added pursuant to Sec. 2.01(3) of this Charter shall be elected for an initial term of two years. Thereafter, the terms of office for said seats shall be 3 years.
- (d) The regular municipal election shall be held on the date as prescribed by ordinance.
- (e) Upon the occurrence of a vacancy on the commission, a special election may be held to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term as may be prescribed by ordinance.

(2) The district candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast in a particular district shall be elected. The at-large candidate and the candidate for mayor receiving a majority of the votes cast within the city at large for such seat shall be elected. If a candidate does not receive a majority of the votes cast for a particular seat, as applicable, a runoff election shall be held between the two (2) candidates for that seat receiving the highest number of votes cast. In the case of a tie, the candidates shall be selected for the runoff election in the same manner as provided for other offices by general law. The candidate receiving more votes in the runoff election shall be elected.

(3) The terms of office of commissioners shall be staggered so that the terms of office of all commissioners do not expire the same year. Commissioners hold office from 12 o'clock noon of the Thursday following the first Tuesday in May of the year in which they are elected until their successors in office are elected and qualified or until recalled as provided by law. If a runoff election is necessary, commissioners hold office from 12 o'clock noon of the Thursday following the third Tuesday in May of the year in which they are elected.

(4) Vacancies in office shall be filled in one of the following ways:

- (a) If less than 6 months remain in the unexpired term or until the next regular elec-

tion, the commission by a majority vote of the remaining members shall choose and appoint a successor, who is otherwise eligible under section 2.03 of this act, to serve until a newly elected commissioner is qualified.

- (b) If more than 6 months remain in the unexpired term and a general election is not scheduled within 6 months, the commission shall fill the vacancy by a special election to be held not more than 60 days after the occurrence of the vacancy.

(Ord. No. 4053, § 1, 1-23-95; Ord. No. 020289, § 1, 8-27-02)

**2.05. Recall of commissioners.**

Commissioners including the mayor are subject to recall as provided by law.

**2.06. Commission as judge of qualifications of members; election of mayor-commissioner pro tempore; rules of procedure; punishment of members for misconduct; and quorum.**

The commission shall be the judge of the qualifications of its own members, subject to review by the courts, and shall elect one member as the mayor-commissioner pro tempore. The commission may determine its own rules of procedure and may punish its own members for misconduct. A majority of all the members of the commission constitutes a quorum to do business but a smaller number may adjourn.

(Ord. No. 4053, § 1, 1-23-95)

**2.07. Commission actions; majority vote necessary for adoption of ordinances and resolutions.**

The commission shall act by motion, proclamation, resolution, or ordinance. Unless otherwise provided in this act or by law, a motion or a proclamation is adopted when approved by the votes of a majority of the members present, and an ordinance or resolution is adopted when approved by the votes of four or more members of the commission.

(Ord. No. 4053, § 1, 1-23-95; Ord. No. 020749, § 1, 2-10-03)

REPORT OF BOARD OF CANVASSERS  
CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA  
ELECTION HELD MARCH 10, 1992

The City Commission  
City of Gainesville  
Gainesville, Florida

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 9 of the Gainesville Code of Ordinances and Chapter 90-496 Special Acts, Laws of Florida, as amended by Chapter 91-382 Special Acts, Laws of Florida, the undersigned, constituting the Board of Canvassers for the election of the City of Gainesville City Commission, At-large, the referendum election concerning Annexation and the election referendum concerning City of Gainesville Charter Amendments, did meet on March 10, 1992, and continued thereafter in session and completed the canvassing of the absentee voter ballots and the ballots and returns of the Clerks and Inspectors, for the elections held on March 10, 1992.

The results of the at-large election are as follows:

<u>At-Large</u>	<u>City Commission</u>
<u>Jack Carter</u>	<u>355</u>
<u>Charles S. "Chuck" Chestnut, IV</u>	<u>1,975</u>
<u>Bruce Delaney</u>	<u>2,384</u>
<u>Paula M. DeLaney</u>	<u>6,970</u>
<u>Clayton Proulx</u>	<u>374</u>
<u>Rick Trachsel</u>	<u>2,703</u>

As indicated by the foregoing, a run-off election will be required as provided in Article II of the Gainesville Charter for the two candidates At-large receiving the highest number of votes which are as follows:

<u>At-Large</u>	<u>City Commission</u>
	<u>PAULA M. DeLANEY</u>
	<u>RICK TRACHSEL</u>

ANNEXATION

The results of the annexation referendum election is as follows:

For annexation of property described in ordinance number 3745 of the City of Gainesville

5,978

Against annexation of property described in ordinance number 3745 of the City of Gainesville

6,186

Total vote of registered electors in property described in ordinance number 3745

12,164

As indicated by the foregoing, annexation of property described in ordinance number 3745 of the City of Gainesville ~~failed~~/passed by referendum on March 10, 1992.

CHARTER AMENDMENT 1

The results of the referendum election concerning City Charter Amendment Number 1 which relates to Article II, Sections 2.01 and 2.02, providing for an increase in number of commissioners under certain circumstances, is as follows:

For approval

10,612

For rejection

3,978

Total votes cast on Charter Amendment No. 1 - Number of Commissioners

14,590

As indicated by the foregoing Charter Amendment Number 1 has ~~failed~~/passed by referendum on March 10, 1992.

CHARTER AMENDMENT 2

The results of the referendum election concerning City Charter Amendment Number 2, which relates to Article II, Sections 2.03 and 2.04 providing for an increase in length of terms and scheduling of municipal elections is as follows:

For approval

5,108

For rejection

9,388

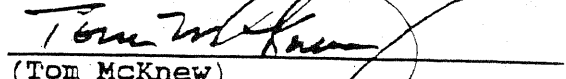
Total votes cast on Charter Amendment No. 2 - Length of Terms and Scheduling of Elections

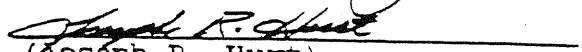
14,496

As indicated by the foregoing Charter Amendment Number 2 has failed/~~passed~~ by referendum on March 10, 1992.

Respectively submitted,  
BOARD OF CANVASSERS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Rodney J. Long)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Tom McKnew)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Joseph R. Hurt)

## Peer Cities Comparisons Nationwide (Economic Development Study)

City	Population	Mayor <sup>ABC</sup>	Number of Commissioners <sup>D</sup> including the Mayor	Term Limits	Length of Term	Time b/w Election and Commencement of Office	Dates of Election	College/University
Gainesville, FL	113,025	B	7 Commissioners including the Mayor	2 consecutive terms	3 years	Thurs. following the 1 <sup>st</sup> Tues. in May of the year in which they are elected	March or April of each year	UF, Santa Fe CC
Lansing, MI	119,128	A, C	8 City Council members plus the Mayor	None.	4 years	Terms end at 12 noon on January 1 <sup>st</sup>	First Tuesday after first Monday in November	Lansing CC, Thomas M. Cooley Law School
Madison, WI	208,054	A	20 City Council members plus the Mayor	None.	2 years	Council members are sworn in at noon on the third Tuesday in April.	First Tuesday in April	University of Wisconsin - Madison
Champaign, IL	67,518	B	9 City Council members including the Mayor	None.	4 years	Assume office first regular council meeting in May after election.	First Tuesday in April	University of Illinois
Ann Arbor, MI	114,024 + 40,000+ students	A, B, C	10 City Council members plus the Mayor	None.	2 years	Term begins on Monday next following the regular city election at which officers are elected.	First Tuesday after first Monday in November.	University of Michigan, Washtenaw CC, Concordia Univ., Cleary Univ., Ave Maria School of Law, Eastern MI Univ.
Bloomington, IN	69,291	A, C	9 City Council members plus the Mayor	None.	4 years	January 1 <sup>st</sup> following the election.	November	Indiana University
Tampa, FL	303,447	A, C	7 City Council members plus the Mayor	2 consecutive terms.	4 years	Terms expire March 31 <sup>st</sup>	March	USF, Hillsborough CC, University of Tampa

A - Has veto power.

B - Voting member

C - Has ability to hire/fire.

D - Data on columns 2-9 gathered from municode.com, city charters, Wikipedia.org, and supervisors of elections.

E - In 1995, parishioners voted to limit the council and mayor to three consecutive terms.

F - In 1994, voters imposed a two-term limit.

City	Population	Mayor <sup>ABC</sup>	Number of Commissioners <sup>D</sup>	Term Limits	Length of Term	Time b/w Election and Commencement of Office	Dates of Election	College/University
Orlando, FL	196,370	B, C	6 Commissioners, including the Mayor	None.	4 years	1 <sup>st</sup> day of June following election	Every two years, second Tues. in March – Runoff – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. in April	Barry Univ. Law School, Brevard CC, DeVry Univ., FAMU Law School, FIT, FL Metropolitan Univ., Nova S.E. Univ., Rollins College, Seminole CC, Stetson Univ., UCF, Valencia CC
Tallahassee, FL	155,122	B	5 Commissioners including the Mayor	None.	4 years	17 <sup>th</sup> day following election	1 <sup>st</sup> Tues. in Nov. every even year	FSU, FAMU, Tallahassee CC
Athens-Clarke County, GA	100,266	A, B, C	10 Commissioners plus the Mayor	None.	4 years	1 <sup>st</sup> regular Commission meeting in January following the election.	November	University of Georgia, DeVry University
Baton Rouge, LA	227,818	A, C	12 City Council members plus the Mayor-President	3 consecutive terms <sup>E</sup>	4 years	Commences January 1 <sup>st</sup> following the election.	April	Louisiana State Univ., Southern Univ.
Raleigh, NC	276,093	B	8 City Council members including the Mayor.	None.	2 years	Term begins when officers take oath of office at first council meeting after election.	November	Meredith College, NC State Univ., Peace College, Shaw Univ., St. Augustine's College, Wake Technical CC
Ft. Collins, CO	118,652	B	6 City Council members plus the Mayor.	2 consecutive four-year terms.	4 years	First regular or special council meeting after election.	First Tues. in November in odd-numbered years.	Colorado State Univ.

A – Has veto power.

B – Voting member.

C – Has ability to hire/fire.

D – Data on columns 2-9 gathered from municode.com, city charters, Wikipedia.org, and supervisors of elections.

E – In 1995, parishioners voted to limit the council and mayor to three consecutive terms.

F – In 1994, voters imposed a two-term limit.



City	Population	Mayor <sup>ABC</sup>	Number of Commissioners <sup>D</sup>	Term Limits	Length of Term	Time b/w Election and Commencement of Office	Dates of Election	College/University
Chapel Hill, NC	48,715	<b>B</b>	8 City Council members plus the Mayor	None.	4 years	First regular meeting in December following November election.	November in odd years.	University of North Carolina
Tucson, AZ	486,699	<b>A</b>	7 City Council members including the Mayor	None.	4 years	First regular meeting in December following November election.	November.	University of Arizona
Austin, TX	656,562	<b>B</b>	7 City Council members including the Mayor	2 consecutive terms <sup>F</sup>	3 years	Assume office May 15 <sup>th</sup>	May – Runoff in June if necessary	University of Texas – Austin, Austin CC, Concordia University, Huston-Tillotson Univ., St. Edwards Univ.
Charlottesville, VA	39,162	<b>B</b>	5 City Council members including the Mayor	None.	4 years	First regular meeting after November general election.	November of odd-numbered years.	Univ. of Virginia, Piedmont Virginia CC, Institute of Textile Technology

A – Has veto power.

B – Voting member.

C – Has ability to hire/fire.

D – Data on columns 2-9 gathered from municode.com, city charters, Wikipedia.org, and supervisors of elections.

E – In 1995, parishioners voted to limit the council and mayor to three consecutive terms.

F – In 1994, voters imposed a two-term limit.

**Peer Cities for Florida  
(2004 Management Administrative Professional Pay Study Survey)**

City	Population	Mayor <sup>ABC</sup>	Number of Commissioners <sup>D</sup>	Term Limits	Length of Term	Time between Election and Commencement of Office	Dates of Elections	College/University
Tallahassee	155,122	B	5 commissioners, 1 of whom is Mayor	None	4 years	17 <sup>th</sup> day following election	Eff. 5/04, 1 <sup>st</sup> Tues. in Nov. every even year	FSU, Fla. A&M, Tallahassee CC
Gainesville	113,025	B	7 commissioners, 1 of whom is Mayor	2 consecutive 3-year terms	3 years	Thurs. following the 1 <sup>st</sup> Tues. in May of the year in which they are elected	March or April of each year (non-partisan)	UF, Santa Fe CC
Clearwater	109,737	B	5 council members, 1 of whom is Mayor	2 consecutive terms	3 years	1 <sup>st</sup> meeting following election	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. in March	Nothing within City limits
St. Petersburg	250,157	A, C	Strong Mayor 8 Commissioners	2 terms	Eff. 3/01, increased to 4 years	2 <sup>nd</sup> day in January following election	November General Election (non-partisan)	St. Pete Coll. Eckerd Coll. USF St. Pete Pinellas Tech. Stetson Univ. School of Law
Orlando	196,370	B, C	6 commissioners, one of whom is Mayor	None	4 years	1 <sup>st</sup> day of June following election	Every 2 years, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. in March (non-partisan)	UCF Valencia CC
Lakeland	87,110	B	7 commissioners, 1 of whom is Mayor	None	4 years	1 <sup>st</sup> meeting in January	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. in Nov.	Florida Southern Southeastern
Pembroke Pines	144,269	B	5 commissioners, 1 of whom is Mayor	None	4 years	1 <sup>st</sup> meeting following election	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. in March even years	Barry Univ. Broward CC
Port St. Lucie	96,430	B	5 council members, 1 of whom is Mayor	None	Eff. 11/02, Increased from 2 years to 4 years	1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting following election	November General election	Nothing within City limits

Prepared by SuAnn Williams, Legal Assistant, July 7, 2005

A - Has veto power.  
 B - Voting member.  
 C - Has ability to hire/fire.  
 D - Data on columns 2-9 gathered from municode.com, amlegal.com and supervisors of elections.

City	Population	Mayor <sup>ABC</sup>	Number of Commissioners <sup>D</sup>	Term Limits	Length of Term	Time between Election and Commencement of Office	Dates of Elections	College/University
Cape Coral	113,223	B	8 council members, 1 of whom is Mayor	No more than 2 consecutive terms	4 years	1 <sup>st</sup> meeting after election	1 <sup>st</sup> Tues. in April (odd years)	Nothing within City limits
West Palm	86,248	A, C	Strong Mayor and 5 commissioners	Mayor-No more than 2 consecutive terms	Mayor - 4 yrs. Comm's - 2 yrs.	1 <sup>st</sup> meeting following election	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. in March (non-partisan)	Palm Beach Atl. Northwood Univ. South Coll.
Pompano Beach	85,862	B	6 commissioners, 1 of whom is Mayor	None	Mayor-3 years Comm.-2 years	1 <sup>st</sup> meeting following election	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. in March (non-partisan)	Nothing within City limits
Sunrise	86,914	B	5 commissioners, 1 of whom is Mayor	None	4 Years	No later than the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues. in March	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. in March	Nothing within City limits
Plantation	83,630	A, C	Strong Mayor and 5 council members	None	4 years	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday following election	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. in March	Nothing within City limits
Ft. Lauderdale	155,720	B	5 commissioners, 1 of whom is Mayor	Eff. 3/2000, 3 consecutive terms	3 years	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues. in March following election	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. in March (non-partisan)	Broward CC
Hollywood	141,070	B	7 members, 1 of whom is Mayor	None	4 years	8 calendar days following the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. in March	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. in March	Nothing within City limits
Coral Springs	122,687	B	5 commissioners, one of whom is Mayor	Eff. 1996 - 8 consecutive years	Mayor-2 years Commissioners-4 years	3 <sup>rd</sup> day following election	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. in Nov. (eff. 2008) ea. even year (non-partisan)	Nothing within City limits
Miami Gardens	103,918	B	7 council members, 1 of whom is Mayor	Mayor & Comm. - 2 consec. terms Combo of Mayor/comm. - 4 consec. terms	4 years	1 <sup>st</sup> meeting following election	State Primary - even # <sup>d</sup> years or 1 <sup>st</sup> Tues. in Sept. (non-partisan)	Nothing within City limits

Prepared by SuAnn Williams, Legal Assistant, July 7, 2005

A - Has veto power.  
B - Voting member.  
C - Has ability to hire/fire.  
D - Data on columns 2-9 gathered from municode.com, amlegal.com and supervisors of elections.

City	Population	Mayor <sup>ABC</sup>	Number of Commissioners <sup>D</sup>	Term Limits	Length of Term	Time between Election and Commencement of Office	Dates of Elections	College/University
Miami Beach	88,972	B	6 commissioners, 1 of whom is Mayor	Eff. 1997, Mayor-6 consecutive years Comm- 8 consecutive years	Mayor-2 years Commissioners-4 years Vote failed 8/04 to increase Mayor's term from 2-4 years	1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting after general election	1 <sup>st</sup> Tues. in November Vote failed 8/04 to change election date from odd years to even years 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues. in November	Nothing within City limits
Hialeah	231,270	A, C	Strong Mayor 7 Commissioners	Mayor - 2 consecutive terms. Eff. 1998 Comm.- 3 consecutive terms (prior to 1998, no term limits)	4 years	3 <sup>rd</sup> day following election		Nothing within City limits

A - Has veto power.  
B - Voting member.  
C - Has ability to hire/fire.  
D - Data on columns 2-9 gathered from municode.com, amlegal.com and supervisors of elections.

Press Release:

The City of Gainesville Charter Review Committee will hold a public hearing regarding the City Charter on Tuesday, June 7, 2005 at 7:00 p.m., at the Commission Chambers in the auditorium of City Hall, located at 100 East University Avenue, Gainesville, Florida. The City Commission has specifically charged the Charter Review Committee to consider the following matters:

1. Length of terms of city commissioners;
2. Term limits (number of consecutive terms) of commissioners
3. Election dates and cycles of commissioners (i.e., elections every year; every other year)

The Charter Review Committee invites the public to attend the scheduled hearing and participate by providing their comments. For more information, please contact the Recording Secretary to the Charter Review Committee in the Office of the City Attorney by telephone at (352) 334-5011, or you may write to the Committee in care of the Office of City Attorney at P.O. Box 1110, Gainesville, FL 32602. You may also submit comments directly to the Charter Review Committee by email at: [CharterReview@citizencomment.org](mailto:CharterReview@citizencomment.org). Information about the Charter Review Committee is also available at [www.cityofgainesville.org/crc](http://www.cityofgainesville.org/crc).

# Reviewing terms for City Commission

Gainesville Charter Review Committee is inviting the public to share comments and suggestions

*Penny Wheat is chair of the Gainesville 2005 Charter Review Committee.*



**PENNY WHEAT**

**S**hould the length of a Gainesville city commissioner's term of office be three years — or more? Should there be term limits — or none?

Should there be a spring or fall date for Gainesville elections?

What would be in the best interests of the public — and why?

The 2005 Gainesville Charter Review Committee (CRC) invites the public to share comments and suggestions about City Commission length of terms, term limits and elections. We hope you will attend the June 7 CRC public hearing,

## FYI: Public hearing

■ **What:** The CRC will hold its first public hearing on City Commission term limits.

■ **When:** 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, June 7.

■ **Where:** Gainesville City Hall; the meeting will also be televised on Cox Channel 12. Comments may also be phoned in (334-5028), or e-mailed ([charterreview@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:charterreview@cityofgainesville.org)).

scheduled from 7-9 p.m. in the Gainesville City Commission chambers. In addition, you can email your comments to [charterreview@cityofgainesville.org](mailto:charterreview@cityofgainesville.org).

The City Charter is the document that describes the purpose of Gainesville's government. The current Charter was

adopted in 1990 by special act of the Florida legislature. Any change in the Charter must be by ballot and approved by Gainesville's voters, or authorized by the Legislature.

Currently, the Charter specifies that: 1) the length of a City Commission term shall be three years; and 2) those elected may serve two consecutive terms. The City Commission can (and does) adopt an ordinance to set the date of city elections.

Each city commissioner appointed one member of the Charter Review Committee; members are Matthew Cole, vice-chair; Bruce Delaney, Beverly Hill, Horace Moore, Larry Vettel and Odetta MacLeish-White. Prior to June 30, 2006, when the CRC must sunset, our findings and recommendations will be forwarded to the City Commission.

In addition to the e-mail address listed above, there are other ways that you can stay informed and we can stay

**SPEAK** on Page 9A

## SPEAK: CRC meetings scheduled monthly

*Continued from 8A*

in touch:

■ **Attend a regularly scheduled CRC meeting** on the third Thursday of each month, from 1-3 p.m. in City Hall, Room 16 (basement).

■ **Attend the CRC's first public hearing** on Tuesday, June 7, from 7-9 p.m. at Gainesville City Hall. The meeting will also be televised on Cox Channel 12, and you can phone in your comments (334-5028) during the

meeting.

■ **Keep track of the CRC's meeting dates, time and location, as well as agenda, backup documents and meeting minutes.** Check the CRC Web site at [www.cityofgainesville.org/crc](http://www.cityofgainesville.org/crc).

■ **Send a letter, reports or other documents to the CRC, in care of:** City Attorney, PO Box 1110, Gainesville, FL 32602.

Please join us in this conversation. We look forward to your comments and suggestions.

**Charter Review Committee**

**Election Schedule Models**

**September 15, 2005**

# Objectives

1. To Move Elections to Odd-Numbered Years As Soon as Possible;
2. Move to all 4-year Terms as Soon as Possible;
3. To Stagger Elections As Much As Possible; (4/3 vs. 5/2)
4. To Allow Incumbent Mayor and City Commissioners, Eligible to Run Again, to Run for a Second 3- or 4-year Term.



Model One – All Incumbents (Not Term-Limited)  
Eligible for 3-year Second Term

- Elections held on 2011 and thereafter provide for 4-year terms and odd-year elections;
- Staggering: results in either 4 or 3 seats up for election;
- All incumbents (not term limited) treated equally.



Model Two – All Incumbents (Not Term Limited) to  
have 4-year Second Term

- Elections held on 2013 and thereafter provide for 4-year terms and odd-year elections;
- Staggering: results in either 5 or 2 seats up for election;
- All incumbents (not term limited) treated equally.



## Model Three – Mayor (Hanrahan) and District 4 (Lowe) With 4-year Second Terms

- Elections held on 2011 and thereafter provide for 4-year terms and odd-year elections;
- Staggering: results in either 5 or 2 seats up for election;
- Of incumbents, permits only the Mayor (Hanrahan) and District 4 (Lowe) to run for a second 4-year term.



Model Four – At Large (Bryant) and District 3  
(Donovan) With 4-year Second Terms

- Elections held on 2013 and thereafter provide for odd-year elections for 4-year terms;
- Staggering: results in either 4 or 3 seats up for election;
- Permits only one at large (Bryant) and the District 3 (Donovan) to run for a second 4-year term.

