

## 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

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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.

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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.

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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. Assume office May 15 <sup>th</sup>	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		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

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## 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

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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

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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

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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 limits 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.*

**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,



**PENNY  
WHEAT**

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

## **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@citizencomment.org](mailto:charterreview@citizencomment.org)).

## **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.