

**LEGISTAR NO.**

**160876**

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT,  
CITY OF GAINESVILLE, FL**

An election will be held in the City of Gainesville, Florida on Tuesday, November 6, 2018 to amend Sections 2.03 and 2.04 of the City Charter. The full proposed Charter Amendment is as follows:

**Section 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, excluding filling a term created by vacancy. The mayor may not serve as mayor for more than two (2) consecutive ~~three-year~~ terms, excluding filling a term created by vacancy. For purposes of this section, service as the elected mayor shall not be considered to be service as a commissioner.

**Section 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~~ four (4) years.
- (c) For the purposes of establishing municipal elections every other year in even-numbered years, and changing regular terms of office from three (3) years to four (4) years, the transitional terms of office filled by elections in the years following this change shall be as provided in this subsection. The election held in 2019 for the mayor and district 4 commission seat shall be for terms of office ending when successors in office are elected and qualified after the election held in 2022. The election held in 2020 for the district 2 and 3 commission seats shall be for terms of office ending when successors in office are elected and qualified after the election held in 2022. The election held in 2020 for the at large commission seat shall be for a term of office ending when a successor in office is elected and qualified after the election held in 2024. The election held in 2021 for the district 1 and at large commission seats shall be for terms of office ending when successors in office are elected and qualified after the election held in 2024, 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~~ Commencing with the regular election held in 2022, the terms of office for said the newly-elected seats shall be ~~3~~ four (4) 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. For the regular elections held in 2019, 2020, and 2021, ~~C~~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 in 2019, 2020, or 2021, 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. For the regular elections held in 2022 and thereafter, commissioners hold office from 12 o'clock noon of the second Tuesday following the general election in which such commissioner is 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 election, 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.

CODE: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

