

# Alachua County Board of County Commissioners



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**Administration**  
 Dr. Lee A. Niblock, CM  
 County Manager

March 9, 2015

The Honorable Mayor Ed Braddy  
 and City Commissioners  
 City of Gainesville  
 P.O. Box 490, Station 19  
 Gainesville, FL 32627-0490

Dear Mayor Braddy and City of Gainesville Commissioners,

On behalf of the Board of Alachua County Commissioners (BoCC), I want to thank you, the other Alachua County League of Cities members, Representative Perry, and all of our delegation members for engaging in a very substantive and productive discussion on the Boundary Adjustment Act (BAA).

We understand the BAA and Rep. Perry's HB 1215 bill to repeal is on the City of Gainesville's March 19, 2015 agenda. In light of that, please allow me to share the most recent recommendations of the BoCC.

The good news is that through a great deal of time and effort, elected officials and staffs have made great progress on the issues relating to the BAA. As a result of this process, the BAA would be much improved, and the concerns of the municipalities addressed through the following four changes to the BAA and related processes:

1. To shorten and simplify the voluntary annexation process by about 2 months by streamlining the process for Urban Services Reports prepared by Cities:
  - Eliminate requirement for adoption by City ordinance, and instead allow for approval by cities as informational items with the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the voluntary annexation ordinance.
  - Reduce from 60 to 30 days the timeframe between the Urban Services Report and adoption of the annexation ordinance by the City.
2. To facilitate elimination and reduction of enclaves and similar enclave-like areas by:
  - Providing for identification of strategies to improve delivery of services to enclaves and enclave-like areas, and to authorize annexations to eliminate or reduce such areas that might not meet general requirements such as contiguity or not creating an enclave.
  - The City of Newberry, which has both the largest number of enclaves and the most acreage in enclaves, has stated its support for these amendments.

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**Items 3 and 4 are new amendments as of the last BoCC meeting:**

3. Support establishment of an advisory committee with representatives of all nine municipalities and the County to provide input on the five-year review and update of Reserve Areas (next due in 2016).
4. Offer technical assistance to cities on preparation of Urban Services Reports.
  - This could include things such as professional planning assistance and Geographic Information Systems-based information to assist cities in determining service and facility impacts of annexations.

Mayor Bill Conrad, speaking for the City of Newberry Commission, has stated that they support the BoCC's position on the BAA. He went on to say that the BAA has functioned very well for Newberry over the years. He said that there has been a strong collaborative process with the County and that they especially appreciate the recent work done on reducing enclaves.

Should HB 1215 pass and the BAA be repealed, we will lose the benefit of the years of work that have gone into the Reserve Areas, and be left with the uncoordinated and often litigious annexation process we see in many other areas around the State. We ask you and other municipalities to join us in asking Rep. Perry to withdraw the repeal-bill. The BoCC will support a bill during next year's session to facilitate the four changes outlined above and welcome further dialogue between now and then.

We believe that we all win with this solution. Thank you for your involvement in this process.

Respectfully,



Charles S. Chestnut, IV, Chair  
Alachua County Commission  
chr15.032

CSC/MS/lg

cc:

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Michele Lieberman, County Attorney  
Steve Lachnicht, Growth Management  
The Honorable Senator Rob Bradley  
The Honorable Representative Keith Perry  
The Honorable Representative Clovis Watson  
The Honorable Representative Elizabeth Porter  
Alachua City Commission

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