

# City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Lauren Poe  
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Gainesville is a community rich in diversity and multicultural history, with a shared sense of inclusiveness and civic participation where Pride Days have been celebrated since 1991, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer/Questioning and Others (LGBTQ+) pride events continue to be celebrated across the nation and internationally every year, as they have been since the birth of the modern LGBTQ+ civil rights movement at Stonewall in 1969; and

WHEREAS, Pride Days raises awareness for the equal rights and full participation of each member of our society, both locally and globally; and

WHEREAS, a celebratory parade through beautiful and historic downtown Gainesville will further foster a sense of unity, while raising awareness of the inequalities still faced by the LGBTQ+ community; and

WHEREAS, members of the LGBTQ+ community are actively involved in every area of Gainesville's economic growth, including healthcare, retail, education, and hospitality; and

WHEREAS, Pride Community Center of North Central Florida creates, schedules, and hosts programs and events open to all of Gainesville's residents and visitors, and these programs are instrumental in fostering personal growth and pride in individuals who have historically been marginalized from society; and

WHEREAS, conversion therapy, which aims to change a person's sexual orientation has been proven to cause long-term detrimental effects that are an ongoing threat to LGBTQ+ youth in Gainesville and across the country. And celebrating LGBTQ+ Pride Days instills pride, dignity, and self-esteem to LGBTQ+ youth and adults.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lauren Poe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim October 12 - 21, 2018 as

*Gainesville Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual  
Transgender, Queer/Questioning and Others  
Pride Days*

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me in promoting understanding, care and respect for all individuals, making us all proud of our community as a center of progress, diversity and education in the State of Florida.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October, A.D., 2018.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lauren Poe", is written over a horizontal line.

Lauren Poe  
Mayor