

Gainesville City Commission Goes on the Road to Hold an Election Town Hall Meeting

Gainesville, Fla. -- The City of Gainesville City Commission invites city residents to attend and participate in an "Election Town Hall" meeting scheduled at 6 p.m., Monday, September 24, 2012 at the new City of Gainesville/Alachua County Senior Citizens Center, located at 5701 NW 34th Street in Gainesville. The City Commission scheduled the meeting at the Senior Center to encourage greater public participation in a less formal, more welcoming environment.

Commissioners hope to obtain public comment regarding proposed changes to Gainesville's election systems and process as recommended on May 21, 2012, by the City Commission's Audit, Finance and Legislative Committee. Recommendations under consideration by the City Commission include the following:

- *Approve a City Charter ballot initiative for Spring 2013 that would, if approved by the voters, move City Commission elections to the fall of even years and extend the term of office to four years;*
- *Discuss possible changes to city ordinances regarding qualification requirements for City Commission candidates;*
- *Maintain non-partisan elections;*

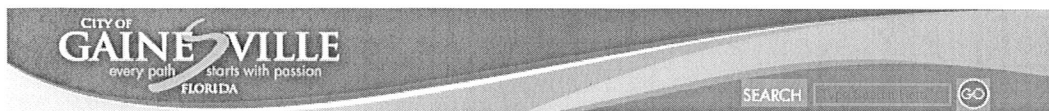
For additional details about the City Commission Election Town Hall Meeting, please visit the City of Gainesville Election Town Hall Meeting web page online at:

<http://www.cityofgainesville.org/GOVERNMENT/MayorCityCommission/TownHallMeetings/tabid/627/Default.aspx>

Please join the City Commission for this important discussion about future City elections at 6 p.m., Monday, September 24, 2012 for an "Election Town Hall" meeting at the new City of Gainesville/Alachua County Senior Citizens Center, located at 5701 NW 34th Street in Gainesville.

For media inquiries, please contact Kurt Lannon, City Clerk of the Commission at telephone number: 352-334-5015 or by email at: clerks@cityofgainesville.org.

###



HOME I WANT TO... GOVERNMENT RESIDENT VISITOR BUSINESS

Wednesday, September 19, 2012 :: GOVERNMENT » Mayor & City Commission » Town Hall Meetings ...

Login

Mayor & Commission

Citywide Strategic Planning
 Election Town Hall Meeting
 Gainesville City Commission
 Mayor Lowe (At-Large)
 Commissioner Hawkins (At-large)
 Commissioner Poe (At-large)
 Commissioner Hinson-Rawls (District I)
 Commissioner Chase (District II)
 Commissioner Bottcher (District III)
 Commissioner Wells (District IV)

The Clerk's Office

Domestic Partnership Registration
 Modifications to the Upcoming Agenda
 Clerk Of The Commission
 Recognition or Proclamation
 Notice of Meetings
 Contingency Policy & Forms
 Municipal Codes & Regulations

Community Issues

Cabot/Koppers Superfund Site
 Prescription Discount Cards

Legislative Insite Portal

Standing Committees & CRA
 Legislative File Search
 Agendas & Minutes
 Office & People

Advisory Boards/Committees

Boards & Committees Membership
 Advisory Boards and Committees
 Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA)

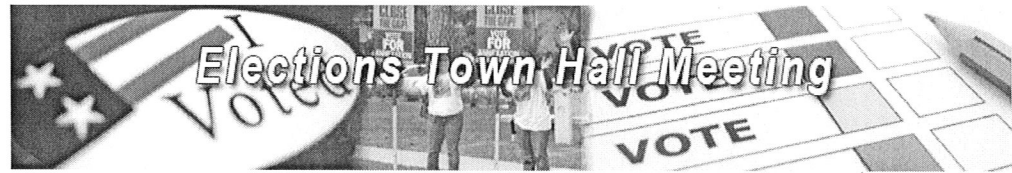
Lobbyist Information

Lobbyist Information
 Lobbying Ordinance
 Lobbyist FAQs
 Lobbyist Form
 Registered Lobbyists

Community Resources

City Charter
 Commission Meetings Online
 Alachua County
 Municipal Code of Ordinances
 Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO)
 Gainesville Airport Authority
 North Central Florida Regional Planning Council

Election Town Hall Meeting



Gainesville residents are invited to meet with their mayor and City Commissioners to share their views and comments during the Election Town Hall Meeting that is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 24 starting at 6 p.m. at the new Senior Recreation Center, which is located at 5701 NW 34th St. (see map below for directions)

For ADA accommodations, please call the Office of Equal Opportunity at 352-334-5051.

RTS Public transportation to the meeting is available using RTS route no. 8. Please visit <http://go-rt.com/schedule.php> for route and schedule details.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who is responsible for the method for reviewing the City Charter and the process for making amendments to the City Charter?

Answer: The City of Gainesville is vested with municipal "home rule" authority. This is the power of a local government to conduct its own affairs. Gainesville operates with a council-manager form of government: all power is concentrated in the elected commission (governing body). The City Charter does not provide a specific process for amending the City Charter. In the past, previous City Commissions have elected to create charter review committees consisting of appointed citizens selected by individual commissioners. The City Commission may also request the legislative delegation to adopt a recommended charter amendment as a special act of the legislature (See City Attorney memorandum, dated July 6, 2011, "Subject: The City Charter...")

2. Why did the City of Gainesville City Commission convene the 2005 Charter Review Committee?

Answer: The City Commission appointed the most recent charter review committee on February 14, 2005 with a sunset date on or before June 30, 2006. The City Commission appointed committee members and directed that the committee "consider the length of terms of City Commissioners; term limits (number of consecutive terms) of commissioners; and election dates and cycles (i.e., every year; every other year)." During its May 23, 2005 meeting, the City Commission expanded the charge to include "election related items and any other matter the Charter Review Committee seeks to add to its charge, with such to be returned to the City Commission for authorization."

3. What actions were taken by the 2005 City of Gainesville Charter Review Committee?

Answer: The committee conducted the following activities to arrive at recommendations for the City Commission:

- Public engagement through the creation of an outreach and participation program
- Review of peer government comparisons
 - Florida Peer Cities
 - Economic Development (ED) Peer Cities
- Review of Relevant and competing Public Policies: Public Perception

4. What were the final recommendations of the 2005 City of Gainesville Charter Review Committee?

Answer: The Committee prepared a Final Report of the City of Gainesville 2005 Charter Review Committee dated October 10, 2005. The report contained the following recommendation: Recommend to the City Commission as a package: 4-year terms of office, retain two term limits, implementation of Model 1, and a consistent date for standalone fall elections in consecutively odd years. In addition, the Committee has been introduced to the concept of 'choice voting,' and would like to have the Commission's permission to explore it.

5. When did the City of Gainesville City Commission refer to the Audit, Finance, and Legislative Committee the issue of examining all facets of the city's election systems and process including dates, terms, term limits and other issues relating to elections?

Answer: The City Commission referred this item to the Audit, Finance and Legislative Committee at its January 19, 2012 regularly scheduled City Commission meeting (click here to view archived meeting).

6. What is the recommendation of the Audit, Finance and Legislative Committee to the City Commission regarding the issue of city election systems and process including dates, terms, term limits and other issues relating to elections?

Answer: On May 21, 2012, the Audit, Finance and Legislative Committee developed the following recommendation for the

School Board of Alachua County

City Commission's consideration:

- Approve a City Charter ballot initiative for Spring 2013 that would, if approved by the voters, move City Commission elections to the fall of even years and extend the term of office to four years;
- Discuss possible changes to city ordinances regarding qualification requirements for City Commission candidates;
- Maintain non-partisan elections;
- Hold a community forum to receive input from the public on the proposed ballot initiative; and
- Refer an overall Charter review process to the Audit, Finance and Legislative Committee.

7. What action has the Gainesville City Commission taken in response to the recommendation of the Audit, Finance and Legislative Committee?

Answer: On June 7, 2012 the City Commission voted to amend the Audit, Finance and Legislative Committee recommendation as follows:

- Receive items 1, 2, and 3 of the recommendation;
- Direct the City Manager and the Clerk of the Commission to work on hosting a Town Hall Forum to receive input from the public in July or August;
- Refer the overall Charter review process to the Audit, Finance and Legislative Committee for further discussion;
- Ask staff to develop a FAQ page.

8. What is the next step in the process to amend the City Charter with respect to the city's election systems and process?

Answer: The next step in the process is to receive additional input from the public. The City Commission has scheduled an "Elections Issues" Town Hall Meeting on Monday, September 24, 2012 starting at 6 p.m. at the new Senior Recreation Center, located at 5701 NW 34th Street in northwest Gainesville (see map below) to provide the public with additional opportunity to comment on proposed changes to the City Charter regarding the issue of city election systems and process.



Disclaimer & Privacy Policy | Email Us | Contact Us
 City Of Gainesville, FL | 200 East University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601 | 352.334-5000
 Copyright © 2002-09, City Of Gainesville, Florida. All rights reserved.