

Attachment #1

Charter Review Committee Background

During late Spring 2004, Mayor Hanrahan, several Gainesville City Commissioners, City staff and members of the public attended a Norfolk, Virginia - New Haven, Connecticut "inter city" trip. Of six committees formed to follow-up on experiences and observations, the Economic Development and City Government subcommittees each recommended a change in City Commission terms of office and election cycles. The City Commission Economic Development/University Community Committee (Commissioner Nielsen, Chair; Mayor Hanrahan and Commissioner Braddy, members) received these recommendations, and referred them to the full Commission for discussion.

During its December 13, 2004 meeting, the City Commission approved a motion to: "convene a Charter Review Committee to look into this issue (Commission terms and elections), and bring back to the Commission." On February 14, 2005, the 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)." [citation: *Official meeting minutes*]

The Committee "shall sunset on or before June 30, 2006", and consists of one member appointed by the Mayor and each Commissioner. Commissioner Donovan -- elected to the City Commission after the February 14, 2005 appointment of Committee members -- did not appoint a Committee member. Members of the Committee are:

- Mathew Cole, Vice-Chair;
- Charles Grapski (appointed June 13, 2005 to serve for former member Odetta MacLeish-White, who resigned);
- Beverly Hill;
- Horace N. Moore, Sr.;
- Larry Vettel;
- Penny Wheat, Chair
- Janet Woods (appointed February 27, 2006 to serve for former member Bruce Delaney, who resigned);

The Committee met a total of 12 times in regular meetings and in one public hearing to consider ideas and suggestions, and to formulate recommendations. During its deliberations on "choice" voting, the Committee heard presentations from Santa Fe Community College Professor Alan Beck and UF Professor Michael Martinez. (vitas and presentations enclosed in appendix.)

Committee recommendations included in the October 10th, 2005 final report were:

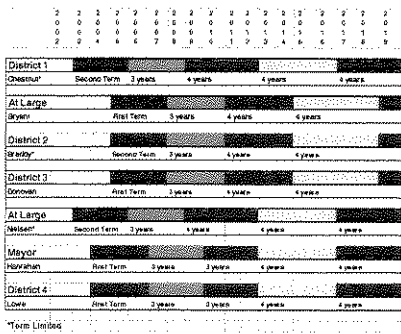
(1), Recommend to the City Commission as a package: 4 year terms of office, retain 2-consecutive term limits, implementation of Model 1, and a consistent date for standalone fall elections in consecutively odd years; and

(2), The Committee has been introduced to the concept of 'choice voting', and would like to have the Commission's permission to explore it.

Objectives

1. To move elections to odd-numbered years as soon as possible;
2. Move to all 4-year terms as soon as possible;
3. To stagger elections as much as possible (4/3 vs. 5/2)
4. To allow incumbent Mayor and City Commissioners, eligible to run again, to run for a second 3- or 4-year term.

Implementation - Model One



- Meets All Four Objectives
 - Elections held on 2011 and thereafter provide for 4-year terms and odd-year elections;
 - Staggering: results in either 4 or 3 seats up for election;
 - All incumbents (not term limited) treated equally