

CITY OF ARCHER

November 13, 2015

Charles Chestnut, IV, Chair
Alachua County Commission
P.O. Box 5547
Gainesville FL 32627

Dear Chair Chestnut,

Thank you for your letter of September 22nd 2015 asking for the position of the Commission of the City of Archer on the proposed referendum ballot language regarding the funding for land conservation and recreation improvements.

The City of Archer Commission feels the city should have the right to decide which infrastructure projects to fund from any tax dollars generated by a sales tax referendum. We specifically would like to fund recreation and road repairs as our priorities.

The City of Archer Commission also feel that, especially for the small communities, such as Lacrosse, Micanopy, Hawthorne, Archer and Waldo that a minimum of funding be set. We suggest \$2 million per municipality. This distribution mechanism suggested will establish a regional benefit unique to each area throughout the county.

I want to thank the Alachua Board of County Commissioners for establishing a line of communication early in this process.

John Glanzer, Interim City Manager
City of Archer
P.O. Box 39
16870 SW 134th Ave
Archer FL 32618
352-495-2880 (office)
352-353-5172 (cell)
jglanzer@cityofarcher.com

Received: Commission Office

Date: 11/24/15

From: Chair

To: BoCC, County Manager,
County Attorney, Agenda

LADOMA GAINES

JIM HARRIOTT

STEVE LACHNIGHT

16870 SW 134TH AVE., P.O. BOX 39 - ARCHER, FLORIDA 32618-0039

Tel: (352)495-2880

Fax (352)495-2445

City of Gainesville

Edward B. Braddy, Mayor

October 19, 2015

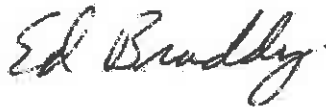
Charles Chestnut, IV, Chair
Alachua County Commission
Post Office Box 5547
Gainesville, FL 32627

Dear Chair Chestnut,

We are in receipt of your letter dated September 22, 2015 requesting the City's position on proposed referendum ballot language regarding funding for land conservation and recreation improvements. On October 15th, the Gainesville City Commission met to discuss the letter and proposed ballot language. The City Commission found the ballot language acceptable with the exception of the number of years. The City Commission recommends that the sales tax be proposed for five years rather than ten. The City Commission believes a 5 year sales tax would be more acceptable to voters.

Thank you for seeking the City Commission's input on the ballot language. The City Commission representatives on the Joint County/City Task Force can elaborate on the discussion and rationale for the City's recommendation for a 5 year one-half percent sales tax starting January 1, 2017 at the upcoming Task Force meeting. Please let us know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Ed Braddy
Mayor

cc: Gainesville City Commission
Board of County Commissioners
Joint County City Task Force Members
Russ Blackburn, City Manager
Dr. Lee A. Niblock, County Manager
Paul Folkers, Assistant City Manager
Cina Peebles, Assistant County Manager
Steven R. Phillips, Parks Recreation and Cultural Affairs Director

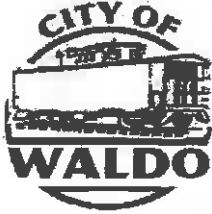
Received: Commission Office

Date: 10/22/15

From: Chair

To: BoCC, County Manager,
County Attorney, Agenda

RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY



P.O. Drawer B
Waldo, FL 32694-0802
Established 1859

Received: Commission Office

Date: 10/26/15

From: Chair

To: BoCC, County Manager,
County Attorney, Agenda

Gina Peebles

Mark Sexton

Office: 352-468-1001
Fax: 352-468-2482

October 14, 2015

The Honorable Charles Chestnut, Chair
Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
P.O. Box 5547
Gainesville, Florida 32627

Dear Chair Chestnut,

In response to your letter dated September 22, 2015, the City of Waldo City Council voted unanimously to accept the referendum ballot question for land conservation as presented:

“Shall Alachua County be authorized to extend the Alachua County Forever Program to acquire and improve environmentally sensitive lands to protect drinking water sources, water quality, and wildlife habitat, and to create, improve, and maintain park and recreational facilities in all cities and the County, with citizen oversight and independent audit, by the levy of a one-half percent sales tax for ten years starting January 1, 2017?”

If you have any questions or need further information please feel free to contact myself or Manager Kim Worley.

Sincerely,

Louie Davis
Mayor

CITY OF HAWTHORNE

6700 SE 221st Street, PO Box 1270 Hawthorne, FL 32640 • (352) 481-2432 • cityhall@cityofhawthorne.net



November 17, 2015

Honorable Robert E. Hutchinson
Alachua County Board of County Commission
12 S Main Street
Gainesville, Florida 32601

Re: Proposed referendum ballot funding for land conservation and recreational improvement

In response to your September 22, 2015 letter seeking input on the proposed referendum ballot language regarding funding for land conservation and recreational improvement, the Hawthorne City Commission asked me to relay that, while they do not take any position on the sales tax at this time absent any information about the particulars of the proposal and how it will be implemented, they do support the general process by Alachua County of reviewing and discussing the proposed referendum. As the process moves forward, Hawthorne looks forward to learning more about the specifics included in the proposal.

Sincerely,

Matthew Surrency
Mayor
Cc: Dr. Lee Niblock

Received: Commission Office
Date: 11/18/15
From: Chair
To: BoCC, County Manager,
County Attorney, Agenda

RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY



City of Alachua

MAYOR GIB COERPER

Vice Mayor Ben Houkari, Jr.
Commissioner Shirley Green Brown
Commissioner Gary Hardacre
Commissioner Robert Wilford

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

October 29, 2015

Charles S. Chestnut, IV, Chair
Alachua County Board of County Commissioners
P.O. Box 5547
Gainesville, FL 32627

Dear Chair Chestnut:

The City of Alachua Commission, during its regular City Commission meetings on Oct. 12, 2015 and Oct. 26, 2015, discussed the proposed referendum ballot language referenced in your Sept. 22, 2015 letter. Thank you for your correspondence and the opportunity to discuss this proposal.

The City of Alachua requests clarification regarding the proposal: specifically, how the proposed sales tax would be administered, if approved by voters. This includes the citizen oversight process, eligible project development/approval process, and funding splits and methodologies. The City recognizes that the County is in the exploratory phase of this initiative; however, having clarity on these matters will provide for a better understanding for the City.

This correspondence is not to be construed as the City of Alachua Commission taking a position on the proposed initiative, either for or against. I look forward to receiving additional information and clarity on the matter.

Sincerely,

Gib Coerper
Mayor

Cc: City of Alachua Commissioners
Board of County Commissioners
Traci L. Gresham, City Manager
Marian B. Rush, City Attorney
Lee A. Niblock, County Manager
Michele Lieberman, County Attorney

Received: Commission Office

Date: 11/19/15

From: Chair

To: BoCC, County Manager,
County Attorney, Agenda

RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY

Devin Dissell

From: Tim Marden <Tim.Marden@ci.newberry.fl.us>
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2015 9:57 AM
To: Latoya T. Gainey
Cc: bboukari@cityofalachua.com; tcain@cityofalachua.us; gcoerper@cityofalachua.com; jparham@highsprings.us; sweller@highsprings.us; ebooth@highsprings.us; jpevans@highsprings.us; gjames@highsprings.us; bwilliams@highsprings.us; sgreenbrown@cityofalachua.com; ghardacre@cityofalachua.com; rwilford@cityofalachua.com; administration@cityofarcher.com; citymanager@cityofarcher.com; Rick Coleman; Bill Conrad; Amy Dalusio; Monty Farnsworth; Jordan Marlowe; Jason McGehee; Mike New; Judy Rice; pbouie@cityofhawthorne.net; jfloyd@hawthorne.net; decheat826@gmail.com; msurrency@cityofhawthorne.net; evause@cityofhawthorne.net; BOCC (Only Commissioners); Devin Dissell; Lee Niblock; Mark Sexton; Gina Peebles
Subject: Re: Possible November 2016 Ballot Measure Information Request

I am not in favor of this referendum.

We should not promote taxing all of our families based on a majority vote. Where in this equation are we protecting the minority like a Constitutional Republic is suppose to. It's like asking 3 wolves and a chicken to vote on what is for dinner.

These sales tax related initiatives hurt those with these least ability to pay in two ways:

1. Directly at the register.
2. Inflated pricing of lands due to decreased supply.

By the government buying land and taking it off the tax roles it decreases the supply of land driving up pricing, again hurting those on lowest income scale.

I don't buy the argument the increased prices of lands around these areas increases their taxes and offsets the decrease of taking those protected lands off the roles. If it were true again, this is only helping the select few who own property around those areas with an increase in property values.

Those who wish to support these efforts should write their owns checks. Buy the land privately and pay taxes on it.

I think we also have plenty of land already stuck in these trusts. Benefiting a few at the cost of the many a/k/a redistribution of wealth.

If you have any questions give me a call.

Sincerely,
Tim Marden
(239) 331-0327 cell

On Nov 18, 2015, at 9:20 AM, Latoya T. Gainey <lgainey@alachuacounty.us> wrote:

Dear Commissioners and City Managers,

Back in late September, the Chair of the Alachua County Commission sent you the attached letter requesting your position on proposed referendum ballot language regarding funding for land

Devin Dissell

From: Rick Coleman <Rick.Coleman@ci.newberry.fl.us>
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2015 11:34 AM
To: Latoya T. Gainey; bboukari@cityofalachua.com; tcain@cityofalachua.us; gcoerper@cityofalachua.com; jparham@highsprings.us; sweller@highsprings.us; ebooth@highsprings.us; jpevans@highsprings.us; gjames@highsprings.us; bwilliams@highsprings.us; sgreenbrown@cityofalachua.com; ghardacre@cityofalachua.com; rwilford@cityofalachua.com; administration@cityofarcher.com; citymanager@cityofarcher.com; Bill Conrad; Amy Dalusio; Monty Farnsworth; Tim Marden; Jordan Marlowe; Jason McGehee; Mike New; Judy Rice; pbouie@cityofhawthorne.net; jfloyd@hawthorne.net; decheat826@gmail.com; 'msurrency@cityofhawthorne.net'; evause@cityofhawthorne.net
Cc: BOCC (Only Commissioners); Devin Dissell; Lee Niblock; Mark Sexton; Gina Peebles
Subject: RE: Possible November 2016 Ballot Measure Information Request

Commissioner Rick Coleman here. I am 100% against this! Sell the land you got, back to the private sector.

Sent from Samsung Mobile

----- Original message -----

From: "Latoya T. Gainey"

Date: 11/18/2015 9:20 AM (GMT-05:00)

To:

bboukari@cityofalachua.com,tcain@cityofalachua.us,gcoerper@cityofalachua.com,jparham@highsprings.us,sweller@highsprings.us,ebooth@highsprings.us,jpevans@highsprings.us,gjames@highsprings.us,jparham@highsprings.us,bwilliams@highsprings.us,sgreenbrown@cityofalachua.com,ghardacre@cityofalachua.com,rwilford@cityofalachua.com,administration@cityofarcher.com,citymanager@cityofarcher.com,Rick Coleman ,Bill Conrad ,Amy Dalusio ,Monty Farnsworth ,Tim Marden ,Jordan Marlowe ,Jason McGehee ,Mike New ,Judy Rice ,pbouie@cityofhawthorne.net,jfloyd@hawthorne.net,decheat826@gmail.com,"msurrency@cityofhawthorne.net",evause@cityofhawthorne.net

Cc: "BOCC (Only Commissioners)" ,Devin Dissell ,Lee Niblock ,Mark Sexton ,Gina Peebles

Subject: FW: Possible November 2016 Ballot Measure Information Request

Dear Commissioners and City Managers,

Back in late September, the Chair of the Alachua County Commission sent you the attached letter requesting your position on proposed referendum ballot language regarding funding for land conservation and recreational improvements. We respectfully request your input no later than Friday, November 20th. Please send your responses to bocc@alachuacounty.us.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Sexton, Communications and Legislative Affairs Director at 352-374-5204 or msexton@alachuacounty.us.

Latoya Gainey
Alachua County

Devin Dissell

From: Latoya T. Gainey on behalf of Charles S. Chestnut IV
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2015 4:06 PM
To: BOCC (Only Commissioners)
Subject: FW: Alachua County Forever Proposed Language

FYI

From: Debbie Gonano [mailto:townhall@micanopytown.com]
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2015 1:42 PM
To: Charles S. Chestnut IV
Subject: Alachua County Forever Proposed Language

Dear Commissioner Chestnut,

Titled "Wild Spaces and Roads Measure"

"Shall Alachua County be authorized to extend Alachua County Forever to acquire and improve natural lands to protect drinking water sources, water quality and wildlife habitat and to create, improve and maintain parks, recreational facilities including early childhood centers, transportation and road maintenance projects in all cities and the County, with citizen oversight and public audits shall Alachua County be authorized to levy a one half percent sales tax for ten years starting January 1, 2017?"

The ballot language suggested by the county titled "Wild Spaces Only" (which didn't mention the childhood centers or road projects) tested support at 67%. The more transparent verbiage titled "Wild Spaces and Roads Measure" and presented above tested support at 64%. The Micanopy Commission suggests that the ballot language be as transparent as possible and, with the almost equal polling results, the latter seems preferable.

Thank you for allowing us input on this Ballot Question.

Ginny Mance

Mayor

From: Robert Hutchinson [mailto:hutch@alachuacounty.us]
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2015 10:59 PM
To: Debbie Gonano
Subject: Re: Alachua County Forever Proposed Language

Mayor Mance,

I appreciate you providing me with Micanopy's concerns. If you have any suggestions on how to improve the ballot language within the 75-word limit, or specific phrases that are misleading, please let me know.

Best wishes,

Hutch

Hello Commissioner Hutchinson,

As requested, the Micanopy Commission read and discussed the proposed *Alachua County Forever* ballot language. The Micanopy Commission voted not to approve the presented ballot language, as the Commissioners unanimously felt that the language was misleading as to the intended use of the entire amount of funds collected from the taxpayers and, furthermore, that the ballot language should reflect as much information as is known regarding the proposed tax increase by the proposer.

Regards,
Ginny Mance
Mayor

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