



Legislation Text

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Early Voting Site on the University of Florida (UF) Campus (B)

The City Commission on May 17, 2012, based on a motion by Commissioner Wells, referred to the Audit, Finance and Legislative Committee the issue of supporting an early voting site on the UF campus, and one additional site within the City.

The Audit, Finance and Legislative Committee discussed this issue on August 29, 2013 and September 25, 2013, receiving input from Commissioner Susan Bottcher, Commissioner Todd Chase, Alachua County Supervisor of Elections Pam Carpenter, the Clerk of the Commission, the City Attorney, the City Auditor and numerous interested citizens. The Committee agreed to recommend that the City Commission approve moving forward with actions necessary to expand early voting sites for the Spring 2014 municipal elections to include the Supervisor of Elections site, the Millhopper Branch Library and a yet to be determined location on the UF Campus, taking into account any legal or logistical barriers, which could include for the 2014 election cycle, that the Reitz Union is currently undergoing major construction and that early voting for the March 11th election date would be during the University of Florida Spring Break unless the usual early voting dates were modified.

At its October 3, 2013 meeting, the City Commission: 1) directed the City Attorney to draft and the Clerk to advertise revisions to City ordinances to allow for additional early voting sites for municipal elections in accordance with state laws; 2) directed the City Attorney to request an advisory opinion from the State Division of Elections regarding whether the Reitz Union would meet the requirements of recently enacted State laws allowing expanded early voting sites, and 3) directed the Clerk of the Commission to work on securing locations and addressing logistical issues regarding utilizing the Millhopper Branch Library and a yet to be determined location on the UF Campus, as additional early voting sites for the Spring 2014 municipal elections.

Ordinance 130397, providing for additional early voting sites, was adopted on first reading by the City Commission on November 7, 2013.

The City Commission authorize the Mayor to draft a letter to the Alachua County Library District and the University of Florida requesting access to the Millhopper Branch Library and the Reitz Union or an allowable alternative for early voting sites for municipal elections beginning in spring 2014.