



## Legislation Text

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### **Contract for Federal Lobbying Services (NB)**

The City of Gainesville originally entered in a contract with Marilyn Berry Thompson through the law firm of Jorden Burt et.al. to provide federal lobbying services and related government liaison services in April 1992. In 2008 the contract was amended to reflect Ms Thompson and the Jorden Burt Federal Government Relations Team's move to MWW Group, Inc. Through the years, the contract has been renewed and currently involves both General Government as well as Gainesville Regional Utility lobbying services. The City Commission last entered into a contract with MWW Group, Inc. on October 1, 2010.

City staff is pleased with the services provided by Marilyn Berry Thompson (MBT) and her staff. Through the twenty years of the contract, the City of Gainesville has secured over \$75 million in incremental federal support up to and through the FY 2012 Congressional appropriations and grant cycle. Based on previous performance, staff is recommending a new two-year contract.

Staff is proposing the City contract with MWW Group, Inc. for two years, FY 13 to FY 14. The fee for General Government for FY 13 and FY 14 will be \$113,000. The fee for Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU) will be \$30,000 annually. The MWW Group, Inc. will continue to pay all expenses without reimbursement. Also, staff is recommending that the professional services by Marilyn Berry Thompson be considered as a specified source or non-competitive contract under the City's Purchasing Policies for the following reasons:

- \* Extensive history with the City of Gainesville, negating an extensive learning curve relating to past legislative initiatives.
- \* Established relationships with existing elected officials and staff involved in legislative processes are already in place.
- \* Established track record and knowledge of the Washington legislative process, which has led to successful outcomes for the City of Gainesville.
- \* Firm's current activities handling certain existing initiatives for the City of Gainesville and in researching new ones already authorized by staff and the City Commission. Such ongoing work could be adversely impacted if a change in vendors were to be made at this time.

The City Commission authorize the City Manager and the General Manager for Utilities to enter into a contract for fiscal years 2013-2014 with Marilyn Berry Thompson to provide professional federal legislative lobbying and related government liaison grant services through MWW Group, Inc. at a fee of \$113,000 for FY 13 and FY 14 for General Government's portion of the services and \$30,000 annually for Gainesville Regional Utility's portion of the services, subject to approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality.