

CITY OF GAINESVILLE CHARTER AMENDMENT 2

Shall the City Charter be amended to require elections for mayor and commissioners every other year in even-numbered years coinciding with statewide elections, rather than every year, beginning with the regular election in 2022; and to change the terms of office of the Mayor and City Commissioners from the current 3-year terms commencing in May to 4-year terms commencing in January 2023; and to provide transitional terms of Office; as proposed by Ordinance No, 160876?

Proponents of this proposed amendment argue that, if it passes, municipal races will receive the same media attention and voter consideration as statewide races, since the election cycles will coincide. They also argue that, due to the higher voter turnout in statewide elections, special interest groups will have much less influence in municipal elections, since the candidates they promote will no longer be able to win with a relatively small number of votes, and that the result will be a more representative elected commission.

Opponents assert that having the municipal races separate from the statewide races allows candidates to run with limited financing and be able to win, resulting in a more diverse commission. They also argue that separate elections allow voters to focus specifically on local municipal races, which might receive less attention if statewide races are on the ballot.

If you vote YES

- The City's municipal elections, beginning in 2022, will be held concurrent with statewide elections.
- The City will save approximately \$200,000 each year by not having to pay for a separate municipal election.
- The voting participation is likely to rise significantly, since turnout for municipal elections is typically low (11.9 percent in 2017); whereas, 73.6 percent of registered voters in Alachua County voted in the general statewide election in November of 2016.

If you vote NO

- The City of Gainesville will continue to hold special municipal elections and will spend approximately \$200,000 each year for these elections.
- Voter participation in municipal elections likely will continue to remain low, based on turnout in previous municipal elections.
- With special elections limited to municipal races, the focus will be on local issues, and there should be more opportunity for discussion of local issues.