



# ALACHUA COUNTY 2022 NON PARTISAN VOTER GUIDE

## WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THIS GUIDE:

This guide covers **local races and issues** on the November 8, 2022 ballot for Alachua County residents.

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For **statewide races**, please see the LWV of Florida Voter Guide.  
To print your ballot choices for your address: go to [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org)

## VOTING INFORMATION

Have questions on where and how to vote? Please see our website:  
<https://my.lwv.org/florida/alachua/voter-services/how-when-where-vote>  
Or the Alachua County Supervisor of Elections: <https://www.votealachua.gov/>

## IMPORTANT DATES

Last Day to Register for November General Election.....October 11  
Early Voting Dates.....October 24 - November 6  
Election Day.....November 8

## ABOUT THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

*The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

*The League does not take positions or make endorsements in any race for political office, and neither supports nor opposes any particular candidate or party.*

## CIRCUIT JUDGE: EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT: GROUP 12

The Florida Circuit Courts are trial courts of general jurisdiction. Circuit courts hear a wide variety of cases. These cases include criminal felonies, family law matters, civil cases (with more than \$30,000 at issue), probate issues, juvenile cases, and appeals from county courts. There are 20 circuits which have been established by the Legislature. Judges serve a 6-year term and are elected by voters in the circuit they serve.

### CANDIDATES: CIRCUIT JUDGE

**Sean David  
Brewer**

Campaign Website:  
[backbrewer.com](http://backbrewer.com)



**As a prospective judge, what do you consider to be your greatest strengths?**

My greatest strengths are my trial experience, my connection to the community, and my temperament. I have 24 years of trial experience. I have prosecuted and tried multiple murder cases in Levy and Alachua counties. We've raised three boys in our community. I've given back to the community by coaching around 125 youth sports teams. I supervised the Crimes Against Women and Children Unit. I'm aware of the issues facing our kids and families. I strive to treat others with respect and civility.

**In the area of hate crimes, what are some of the issues in balancing free speech rights against the need to control offensive activity?**

The law on what constitutes a hate crime comes from the Florida Statutes and case law. If it is proven that the defendant evidenced prejudice based on one of the categories laid out in the statute, the penalty for the underlying crime shall be reclassified to a higher degree. If it is not proven that the defendant evidenced prejudice based on one of the categories laid out in the statute, the underlying crime still remains for consideration.

**What criteria would you use for deciding whether to impose or affirm sentences outside of standard ranges?**

In the State of Florida, the range of possible sentences in felony cases includes a floor of credit time served to a ceiling of the statutory maximum for the crime(s) being sentenced. A scoresheet is prepared that calculates a recommended sentence. I would consider all relevant factors to determine whether to impose a sentence over or below the recommended scoresheet sentence. This includes the victim's position, the defendant's prior criminal history, and the facts of the crime(s).

**What is your philosophy on diversion and deflection programs?**

Diversion programs are an effective tool in the criminal justice system. Whether a particular case or defendant is appropriate for a diversion program is something that needs to be decided on a case by case basis.

**AuBroncee Starlin  
Martin**

Campaign Website:  
[amartinforjudge.com](http://amartinforjudge.com)



**As a prospective judge, what do you consider to be your greatest strengths?**

My greatest strength is my temperament. Twenty-four years as an assistant public defender has taught me that trust in the justice system begins with the recognition that litigation is inherently stressful, and the injection of unnecessary tension through intemperate behavior is counterproductive. Moreover, a judge that demonstrates courtesy, patience and open mindedness signals that he or she will resolve the matter fairly creating confidence in the outcome regardless of which party prevails

**In the area of hate crimes, what are some of the issues in balancing free speech rights against the need to control offensive activity?**

While the law is constantly evolving, the focus of the legal analysis is not so much a balancing test, rather it is an evaluation of whether the targeted speech is being regulated because of the content of its message or that the speech in question falls under an exception to the First Amendment.

**What criteria would you use for deciding whether to impose or affirm sentences outside of standard ranges?**

Florida law requires a two-step process for a court to sentence below what is dictated by the sentencing statute: First, the judge must examine the underlying facts to evaluate if they logically fit within a list of reasons established by statute which justify a departure. Next, if the court finds that a lawful basis for a departure is present, the court must consider the Defendant's history & characteristics as well as the nature & circumstances of the offense to determine a just sentence.

**What is your philosophy on diversion and deflection programs?**

Diversion programs are a tremendously valuable tool in the fair administration of justice in this state. However, because of the Constitutionally mandated separation of powers between the Judicial, Executive and Legislative branches of government. Courts may not unilaterally use this tool.

For more information on Judges and Judicial Elections,  
please see the Florida Bar Association:

<https://www.floridabar.org/public/faircts/votes010/>

**The Vote's in  
YOUR COURT**

## ALACHUA COUNTY COMMISSION RACES: DISTRICTS 1, 2, 4

The Board of County Commissioners is the governing body for County Government. Commissioners are elected by all voters in the county, but must run for office in the district where they live. The Board makes policy, which includes: setting the County's budget, enacting new laws, and ruling on rezoning applications and other land-use cases. The Board appoints the County Manager and the County Attorney. County Commissioners generally serve a 4-year term, but District 1 will be on the ballot this year due to the resignation of Commissioner Mary Alford, who has re-qualified. The person elected to this position will fill the unexpired portion of the term.

### CANDIDATES: ALACHUA COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT 1

**Mary Alford,  
Democrat**

Campaign Website:  
[www.alfordforalachua.com](http://www.alfordforalachua.com)



**Raemi Eagle Glenn,  
Republican**

Campaign Website:  
[www.RaemiForAlachua.com](http://www.RaemiForAlachua.com)



**What experience, skills and personal qualities do you possess that make you suited to be a county commissioner?**

I am an Alachua County native and have served over the past 18 years on multiple city and county boards and on the boards of environmental, cultural and community service NPO's. I previously served for a year and a half as a county commissioner and during that time I completed the following : ICG Certified and Advanced County Commissioner, NACO High Performance Leadership, UF's Health Policy Fellowship, Work on many local, state, and federal initiatives to help improve our Alachua County.

**What are the three greatest challenges facing Alachua County in the next five years?**

Climate change adaptation and resiliency: We must plan to protect and care for every resident. Home rule threats: We must stop the state from amending our charter and our ability to limit development, define our government structure (single member districts), protect our environment, etc. Infrastructure: We have underfunded roads for over 20 years and we are no in crisis. We have tripled funding recently, but we need more resources to protect our >\$1B investment and keep everyone safe.

**What measures would you support to accelerate the county's climate change and sustainability efforts?**

As an environmental engineer and as a candidate running a carbon neutral campaign, this is a priority issue for me. Sustainability needs to be part of all our decisions and all planning must include climate change in order to: create resilient and energy efficient housing, address the growing flooding issues, address our carbon footprint, reuse buildings rather than build new ones, increase access to public transit, increase community connections, build electric charging stations, etc.

**What issues are best left to Local (or Home) Rule and when do you think the state or federal government should intervene?**

County governments should operate freely and ethically under their charters to provide services and regulate within it's boundaries, as allowed by state and federal law. We should be able to protect our environment, limit development, and to "say gay" in our schools. The state and federal government should operate under their own constitutions, but the federal government should protect women's rights, women's sovereignty over their own bodies, directly fund Medicaid to counties, for example.

**What experience, skills and personal qualities do you possess that make you suited to be a county commissioner?**

I currently serve as Alachua County Commissioner. I have reached consensus with my colleagues on the Board on most issues. I work together with the Board to find areas of agreement, for the good of the whole community. I am a practicing attorney. I've found that I learn and retain important information quickly and this helps me to move board discussion forward succinctly. Government must operate swiftly & in the least burdensome manner possible to serve its public health & safety role.

**What are the three greatest challenges facing Alachua County in the next five years?**

Growth management, public safety, and economic opportunity are my focus. Smart growth includes having conversations with all stakeholders to reach a consensus on how to share our natural and economic resources. I voted with the Board to increase funding for Fire Rescue and advocate for higher salaries to recruit Law Enforcement Officers. I reached a consensus with the Board to continue county tax incentives for economic development in East Gainesville. Private-Public development creates jobs.

**What measures would you support to accelerate the county's climate change and sustainability efforts?**

I will support climate change and sustainability efforts that are widely accepted by the community. I do not support the City of Gainesville's vote to eliminate single-family zoning. City Commission members cited climate change as their reason to push thru this vote against the will of the people. The community sent a clear message that they rejected this effort by the City Commission. I will not accept any national or D.C. agenda that overrides the will of the local community.

**What issues are best left to Local (or Home) Rule and when do you think the state or federal government should intervene?**

Our roads infrastructure is best managed when we partner with the state and federal government. Community planning and zoning under our Comprehensive Plan is a matter of local rule. In matters of education, the state plays a key role in establishing standards for curriculum. We are unified under the American Flag and I disagree with local education that diminishes our shared national identity.

## CANDIDATES: ALACHUA COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT 2

**Ed Braddy,  
Republican**

Campaign Website:  
edbraddy.com



**Marihelen Wheeler,  
Democrat**

Campaign Website:  
MarihelenWheeler.com



**What experience, skills and personal qualities do you possess that make you suited to be a county commissioner?**

2013-2016 Mayor of Gainesville;  
2002-2008 Gainesville City Commissioner;  
2006 Time Magazine's Person of the Year

**What are the three greatest challenges facing Alachua County in the next five years?**

Ending one-party rule in Alachua County Government to ensure new viewpoints are brought to bear on local issues; Fixing infrastructure, including roads, through existing general fund and gas tax revenue; Reducing the tax burden through a millage rate reduction pegged to offset inflationary growth since 2021.

**What measures would you support to accelerate the county's climate change and sustainability efforts?**

Promote, support, and expand agriculture in Alachua County; Ensure budgeting and spending practices are sustainable; Oppose mining that exploits impoverished people in third world countries in order to extract the precious metals necessary for lithium-ion batteries.

**What issues are best left to Local (or Home) Rule and when do you think the state or federal government should intervene?**

Any issue where I can obtain a majority vote should be left at the local level. Counties are subdivisions of the State, so roles and responsibilities are pretty well defined if we just take the time to read the county charter, Florida Constitution and related documents. Where individual rights are concerned, the U.S. Constitution shall have controlling authority. At all levels, leadership should follow the maxim: "That government is best which governs least."

**What experience, skills and personal qualities do you possess that make you suited to be a county commissioner?**

As a retired teacher of 36 years I have taught in a wide range of settings working with families from Connecticut to Kentucky and Tennessee to rural North Florida. I have a MA in Art Education and an MEd in Behavior Disorders and a strong commitment to community building. I can network well with a wide range of problem solvers and look for ways to partner with agencies and individuals who work to address the social and environmental needs of our community.

**What are the three greatest challenges facing Alachua County in the next five years?**

The three challenges that we see now involve inequities in economic wellbeing of our citizens, housing availability and affordability and quicker response to sustainability and climate changes.

**What measures would you support to accelerate the county's climate change and sustainability efforts?**

Water quality and quantity is a major concern. I would change the way we allow water to be used in new developments such as banning inground irrigation systems. Water should be charged according to amounts used and made a crucial focus. Solar should be placed on asphalt for shade and rooftops of businesses and homes where possible. Large tracks of land should be carefully located for solar and electric charge areas should be in place for EVs. Recycling efforts need immediate action at EcoLoop.

**What issues are best left to Local (or Home) Rule and when do you think the state or federal government should intervene?**

Decisions regarding schools, local business practices, environmental concerns and building projects should be left to the decisions of the officials who have to live with those decisions. The Government should intervene in case of an emergency that requires more resources than what is locally available, but only when requested to do so.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF ALACHUA COUNTY**



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to go to our website



# CANDIDATES: ALACHUA COUNTY COMMISSION DISTRICT 4

**Ken Cornell,  
Democrat**

Campaign Website:  
[www.kencornell.com](http://www.kencornell.com)



**What experience, skills and personal qualities do you possess that make you suited to be a county commissioner?**

I am currently serving in my second term as a County Commissioner. Born, raised and educated in the Alachua County public school system, I received my Masters in Accounting from the University of Florida's Fisher School of Accounting, I am trained as a Certified Public Accountant, and I have owned and operated a number of small businesses in this community.

**What are the three greatest challenges facing Alachua County in the next five years?**

There are a number of challenges facing Alachua County in the next five years. Three of these challenges in no particular order are; (1) managing growth and protecting the environment; (2) affordable housing and income disparity; and (3) funding core services like public safety and roads.

**What measures would you support to accelerate the county's climate change and sustainability efforts?**

As a member of the Board of County Commissioners, I supported the board's recent efforts to establish, fund and prepare a climate change vulnerability assessment. This is a three year project that will address our communities most vulnerable areas and prepare specific recommendations that we can implement to better prepare for climate change. I also support the County's heritage tree protection program and wetlands and flood mitigation policies and efforts that protect the natural environment.

**What issues are best left to Local (or Home) Rule and when do you think the state or federal government should intervene?**

The Florida Constitution protects home rule. The Alachua County Charter lays out how this community has elected to govern itself. In November, the citizens will be faced with a single member district initiative placed on the ballot by Tallahassee that would both reduce their voice and reduce their vote. The citizens will have a clear opportunity to vote no on this initiative and send a clear message to Tallahassee that they want all five of their county commissioners to represent them.



**Van Elmore,  
Republican**

Campaign Website:  
[Voteelmore.com](http://Voteelmore.com)



**What experience, skills and personal qualities do you possess that make you suited to be a county commissioner?**

I grew up in District 4 and have seen how it has declined. I believe my attachment to the district makes me a better candidate.

**What are the three greatest challenges facing Alachua County in the next five years?**

Under funded Roads, Law Enforcement, and Fire Rescue

**What measures would you support to accelerate the county's climate change and sustainability efforts?**

We need to take a hard look at what we are doing. With electric cars, how do the batteries affect the environment when they have to be discarded. We need to look deeper into the sustainability.

**What issues are best left to Local (or Home) Rule and when do you think the state or federal government should intervene?**

Each has it's rule in what happens. Issues like our roads, Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement, permits, and other local issues she be handle by the County. School Curriculum would be a state issue.

**Anthony Johnson,  
No Party Affiliation**

Campaign Website:  
[no-tax-tony.com](http://no-tax-tony.com)



**What experience, skills and personal qualities do you possess that make you suited to be a county commissioner?**

I can't list my qualifications in 500 characters. The following link will show you my qualifications.

<https://no-tax-tony.com/no-tax-tony/qualifications>

**What are the three greatest challenges facing Alachua County in the next five years?**

The biggest challenges all evolve around growth. The first is how to keep the influence of money out of our government. Developers have paid their way into county government without conflict. Second is revenue management. Roads, social programs, and salaries all require more as we grow as a county, so it is imperative that the revenue is management side be A1. Third is how do you grow as a county without leaving parts of it behind. The job market will have to keep pace with new growth.

**What measures would you support to accelerate the county's climate change and sustainability efforts?**

The county has a comp plan that addresses climate change and sustainability issues in theory. I would like to take it from theory to reality. The future land use element that calls for certain types of development like TOD which requires some type of mass transit is key. I will support any mass transit initiative that comes before the BoCC. We currently build large parking structures and fund \$20M frontage roads to support an event center in Celebration Pointe which a TOD in theory. Crazy!

**What issues are best left to Local (or Home) Rule and when do you think the state or federal government should intervene?**

Issues that do not infringe upon the rights the State grants its citizens and do not involve taxation can be handled by local Home Rule.

## ALACHUA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Directed by a locally elected five-member Board of Supervisors, Alachua Soil & Water Conservation District promotes and encourages the wise use, management and general conservation of the County's soil, water and related natural resources. The district is a division of the State of Florida. It does not levy taxes or issue bonds or have the means to enforce land use laws. Board members are elected and serve a four-year term. This is a non-partisan race.

### ALACHUA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT GROUP 1 CANDIDATES

**Richard Feagle**



**What experience and work-related knowledge would you bring to this position?**

I grew up in agriculture growing cantaloupes and watermelons while in high school with my Dad. After high school married my Wife, whose Father grew peanuts and cattle. After his passing in 2012, my wife and oldest son purchased the cattle from my mother-in-law and started Simmons Cattle Co. LLC and leased the farm where we currently have a cow / calf operation. I am a Florida Cattleman Member as well as serving on the Alachua County Farm Bureau Board of Directors where I am currently President.

**Do you support or oppose the current structure of the district? Explain your opinion.**

I do not oppose any part of the structure as far as I know. I just want a common sense approach to water and soil conservation and farming operations.

**What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you could make a difference?**

Water conservation and invasive plants.

**How important is maintaining agriculture as a base of the county's economy?**

Very important. Alachua County agriculture employs appr. 39k jobs 280 million in business sales. We have around 40k head of cattle, swine and goats. Agriculture in Alachua County is about 23% of the jobs in the county.

**Jancie Vinson**



**What experience and work-related knowledge would you bring to this position?**

I am a native of Alachua County. I was born and raised on a small farm in the SW section of Gainesville, Florida. While in high school, I was a member of the 4-H Club where I was exposed to the importance of making wise decisions about our soil, water, related natural resources and the environment. I would bring to the position a wealth of knowledge with great respect, dedication and commitment to preserving the quality of life in Alachua County through conservation.

**Do you support or oppose the current structure of the district? Explain your opinion.**

When I filed to run for the position, the current structure of the District changed on or about June 15, 2022. I am opposed to the current structure because of the new criteria limits of local citizens being qualified unless they are actively in, or retired after 10 years of being engaged in agriculture, employed by an agriculture produce, own, lease or actively employed on land classified as agriculture in order to serve on the board.

**What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you could make a difference?**

The most compelling issue to me, will be protecting and using our precious natural resources commodities, soil and water which are vital to our existence and future generations. We have to be good stewards of the environment by promoting and encouraging wise use by protecting wild places, conserving water, preventing soil erosion, land use, keeping our air and water clean. If elected, I will be an advocate to ensure a safe and healthy community for all.

**How important is maintaining agriculture as a base of the county's economy?**

I believe it's important in maintaining agricultural as a base of the county's economy. It's even more important to provide education to the public through administration programs in order to stimulate our youth to make wise decisions in land use in order to implement conservation practices. Also, it's important to provide services to assist or give advice to land owners and growers that will help them to secure financial assistance, develop and update irrigation water management plans.



## ALACHUA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT GROUP 2 CANDIDATES

**Chris Trowell**

No response to questions.

**Archie L. Matthews**

**What experience and work-related knowledge would you bring to this position?**

I have served on this Board for over 30 years. I am aware of Soil and Water Conservation issues state and nationally I am actively engaged in agriculture. I am actively involved with the State Association and assist with training and education.

**Do you support or oppose the current structure of the district? Explain your opinion.**

The current structure has just been established by new law. There has not been enough time to determine if this is beneficial.

**What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you could make a difference?**

I would like to see conservation education expanded into urban/suburban areas. I could assist with compiling a conservation guideline for non-agriculture.

There is a lack of access to fresh food in East Gainesville. I would like to see and would assist with obtaining a grant for urban agriculture. An excellent program exists in Jacksonville that could serve as a model.

**How important is maintaining agriculture as a base of the county's economy?**

It is vital that agriculture remain as an important base of Alachua County's economy. With the increasing cost of production and transportation, it is important that our food supply be produced locally to reduce cost to the consumer and to maintain adequate supply.

## ALACHUA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT GROUP 3 CANDIDATES



**Walt Boyer**

**What experience and work-related knowledge would you bring to this position?**

I enjoy clean water and nature. I am an amateur gardener

**Do you support or oppose the current structure of the district? Explain your opinion.**

- no response -

**What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you could make a difference?**

Protecting our farmers and citizens from overreaching policy

**How important is maintaining agriculture as a base of the county's economy?**

We currently have 1% of our population providing food for 100% of our population. Maintaining agriculture in our county will help keep the rest of the county and country fed.

**Daniel Gordon**

No response to questions.

## VOTING RESOURCES

**KIM BARTON,  
ALACHUA COUNTY  
SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS**

Josiah T. Walls Building · 515 North Main  
Street, Suite 300 · Gainesville, FL 32601  
Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday - Friday  
Phone: 352-374-5252 · Fax: 352-374-5264  
TDD: 352-491-4432  
Toll-Free Spanish Hotline: 833-875-0365  
<https://www.votealachua.gov/>

VOTE 411™

Personalized Voting  
Information  
[www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org)

**ALACHUA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
GROUP 4 CANDIDATES**



**Patrick Sell**

**What experience and work-related knowledge would you bring to this position?**

I serve on the Alachua County Economic Development Advisory Committee, which has given me a greater understanding of the issues facing our county. Through my job at the University of Florida, I work closely with UF/IFAS. These engagements have given me a solid understanding of the agricultural activity in Alachua county. I previously worked for the U.S. Department of State where I oversaw public diplomacy programs related to soil conservation, forestry, and water quality.

**Do you support or oppose the current structure of the district? Explain your opinion.**

I support the current structure of the district, though I think the Soil & Water District should be engaging with a larger number of stakeholders in Alachua who have similar missions. We should not be reinventing the wheel.

**What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you could make a difference?**

I value relationship building. I believe the Soil & Water District should work more closely with stakeholders like GRU, UF/IFAS, City of Gainesville, and others to further the mission of good stewardship of our soil and water. If elected, I believe I can forge these relationships.

The second area I believe I could make a difference is youth education. I have worked with teens throughout my life, and believe they should be taught about stewardship so that they can be great future leaders.

**How important is maintaining agriculture as a base of the county's economy?**

Agriculture is critical to the state of Florida. Just look at the soaring cost of food and the breakdown of supply chains across our country. We need our farmers and we need our food to be sourced locally. In addition, we need to view our farmers as allies in the cause of stewardship. They account for 40% of Florida's water usage, so any improvements to their agricultural practices (such as micro-irrigation) would pay dividends towards maintaining these natural resources for future generations.

**Nevaeh  
Martinez Renwick**

No response to questions.

**ALACHUA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
GROUP 5 CANDIDATES**



**Patricia Lee**

**What experience and work-related knowledge would you bring to this position?**

I have no political experience per se because I am not a politician. I live to serve God and humanity, not build a career in politics. I always focus on collecting relevant information and using critical thinking skills to serve the community for the good of all. My MBA and corporate experience aided this skill. I grew up on a farm. Most of the men in my family were farmers; my father was one of the best and my grandfather was one of the largest African American landowners in Alachua County.

**Do you support or oppose the current structure of the district? Explain your opinion.**

I don't necessarily support or oppose the current structure. However, I am concerned that this current structure seems to be politically motivated to put or keep power in the hands of a few. I find it unconscionable when one party tries to unfairly rob the voting public of equity and fairness in our political system.

It seems this new structure did not get signed into being until less than 48 hours before the qualifying deadline. I believe this is suspect and causes wonder about that urgency.

**What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you could make a difference?**

(1) Protecting our soil and aquifers from over building and chemicals while also helping our farmers, especially small farmers, to learn how to be productive without overuse of harmful fertilizers and pesticides. (2) Protecting our springs from excessive withdrawals by bottled water companies. In addition, the overall protection of the cleanliness and beauty of our environment.

**How important is maintaining agriculture as a base of the county's economy?**

Despite what many, especially outsiders, may think, Florida and Alachua County are agricultural economies. Tourism and buying up farmland to build houses for those rapidly moving into Florida and Alachua County is secondary to maintaining our local agriculture. I don't discourage reasonable development, but I do encourage measures that will help small farmers be profitable enough to continue producing the goods and services that are needed not only locally but by the world.

**Natasha Holt**

No response to questions.



## GAINESVILLE CITY MAYOR

The Mayor is the official head of the city of Gainesville, Florida whose duties include ceremonial purposes, receipt of service of legal processes and the purposes of military law. The Mayor is otherwise a member of, and chair of, the city commission, The Mayor is required to preside at all meetings of the city commission and may vote on all matters thereof, but has no veto power. The Mayor serves a 4-year term, which is renewable once. This is a non-partisan race.

### MAYORAL CANDIDATES

#### Ed Bielarski

Campaign Website:  
[www.voteedformayor.com](http://www.voteedformayor.com)



#### Harvey Ward

Campaign Website:  
[WardForMayor.com](http://WardForMayor.com)



#### **How would you address the issue of systemic racism in the city's long range land use and development plans, particularly with regard to mixed use neighborhoods and affordable housing?**

Experts have informed the city commission that a formal disparity study must be conducted before enduring policies can be implemented. The Commission has ignored that legal advice and plowed ahead willy-nilly towards disparate goals. I believe systematic racism is countered by an equal playing field bolstered with better job opportunities, skills training, and educational equity. The commission's goal of mandating affordable living and racial equity thru zoning is not the answer.

#### **Why are you the best candidate for this position? What skills, experience or competencies qualify you to be Mayor?**

I am the most suitable candidate to be mayor at this time and this place. I had almost completed 7 years at GRU when I was let go by the current commission. I had pulled GRU from the brink of financial disaster from the biomass disaster & restructured the utility. That same type of vision is required of the in-coming mayor. City government is bloated as it has increased its budget from \$105 million in 2016 to almost \$160 million this fiscal year. I am a former CPA, BA in Acc't, w/ an MBA.

#### **Gainesville has committed to 100% renewable energy by 2045. What would you say to residents of Gainesville about their role in reaching the goal?**

GRU's path to 100% renewable must proceed with an overarching eye towards affordability. The ill-advised biomass contract and solar feed-in-tariff deals of the past have saddled the utility with almost 4 times the amount of debt for a similar sized utility. Options inc. expanding our transmission capacity so that we can access other power providers territories to construct commercial solar farms. The city must reduce the excessive \$36 mm transfer from GRU to make that possible.

#### **How will you work to increase job opportunities for your constituents?**

The city needs to establish a much better relationship with the Chamber of Commerce which has talent and resources to sell the city as the type of area businesses would be well-served to relocate to. GRU has some of the lowest natural gas prices in Florida - a welcome opportunity for many manufacturing plants. The Sid Martin Technology Park in Alachua is a prime example of how Gainesville should view economic development. I'd plan to use it as a lessons-learned with an action plan to follow.

#### **How would you address the issue of systemic racism in the city's long range land use and development plans, particularly with regard to mixed use neighborhoods and affordable housing?**

We must continue to invest in efforts like the My Neighborhood and Heirs Property Assistance programs that stabilize and strengthen historically Black neighborhoods and fight gentrification. We must create an efficient process for getting affordable homes - both for rental and purchase - built on lots the city has land-banked over the years. We must also exercise great care to protect existing single-family neighborhoods and the neighbors who live in them across the city.

#### **Why are you the best candidate for this position? What skills, experience or competencies qualify you to be Mayor?**

In addition to being a two-term city commissioner, I am the only candidate for mayor raising a young family and caring for an elderly parent in this city. I've spent most of my professional career helping non-profit organizations in our community raise the resources they need to deliver services to our neighbors. My roots are in East Gainesville - I never lived west of Waldo Road until after I graduated from UF - and I am committed to seeing ALL of our community not only survive, but thrive.

#### **Gainesville has committed to 100% renewable energy by 2045. What would you say to residents of Gainesville about their role in reaching the goal?**

Catching up to the latest and most efficient resources - from LED lighting and insulation to newer and more-efficient appliances - is an important personal and family task. Our city utility should play a part in that as well by offering subsidies and financial incentives to help you make those changes. The most important thing we can all do is to remain flexible as we work together through changes in technology. I am committed to prioritizing affordability as we seek renewable solutions.

#### **How will you work to increase job opportunities for your constituents?**

As a commissioner I asked workers and labor leaders in our community what they needed most, and learned that there was a gap between job training and actual positions for the trained worker. With that in mind, I championed a new ordinance requiring that large city construction contracts include a percentage of positions for apprentices, intentionally expanding the market for program trained apprentices. I will continue to listen to ask workers what they need, and work to meet their needs.

## GAINESVILLE CITY COMMISSION DISTRICT 2

Gainesville's City Commission performs such duties as passing the city's budget, setting the millage rate and approving the ordinances and resolutions. The commission consists of seven members: four commissioners are elected from single-member districts, two commissioners are elected at-large. City commissioners serve a four-year term. This is a non-partisan race.

### DISTRICT 2 CANDIDATES

#### Ed Book

Campaign Website:  
[www.bookforgnv.com](http://www.bookforgnv.com)



#### **Do you believe there is a problem with gun violence in the city and if so, what policies would you support to reduce violence and promote gun safety?**

Yes there is. As a lifelong police officer, initial steps are intervention programs designed to reduce the opportunities to obtain firearms & swift arrest & prosecution for those who use weapons to commit crimes. Address victimization wholistically. Prevention and education programs such as "GREAT," a gang intervention curriculum, should be used comprehensively in K-12 schools. Programs for young adults with previous challenges should offer career development such as those at Santa Fe College.

#### **What characteristics make your district unique in the city? What do you hope to achieve for your constituents?**

District 2 comprises most of West & NW Gainesville. Unique aspects - size, diversity of opinion, heavy mix of business & residential & several large roadway thoroughfares. I hope to provide continued public service, civility, & engagement. I have served Gainesville for over 36 years in both public safety and through non-profit and philanthropic efforts. I oppose the proposed neighborhood rezoning. I have no private agenda, will actively listen & will work to get things done for all residents.

#### **What specific steps do you believe the city and county need to take beyond the initial construction of the east side emergency clinic to close the health equity gaps in Gainesville?**

Expand UF mobile outreach health efforts to impoverished areas & those where residents do not have adequate transportation or multi-transit options. In partnership with the Health Dept, find additional funding for low cost health care for residents. Set up portable community options & events that provide on-site care in neighborhoods at scheduled intervals. Partner with RTS to provide free transit vouchers when someone uses this transportation option to travel to a healthcare facility.

#### **Please state your positions on tax cuts, infrastructure investment, and job training to support economic development in the city.**

A key platform piece for me is budget accountability & responsibility. I do not support increases in fees nor utility transfers. The City already has significant financial challenges so core services such as parks and recreation, improved roads, & services for those in poverty are priorities. For job training, partnership with existing funded SF College job training & scholarships will spur career opportunities & economic development. Lastly leverage grants for non-profits working in this area

#### James Ingle

Campaign Website:  
[Votejamesingle.com](http://Votejamesingle.com)



#### **Do you believe there is a problem with gun violence in the city and if so, what policies would you support to reduce violence and promote gun safety?**

Yes, we do. Ty Loudd, a friend and community activist, said it best "when crime and drugs are more accessible than opportunities and resources, then crime and drugs become opportunities and resources". There is little a city can do to directly regulate guns due to state laws, but GPD has had some success with gun buybacks. We can provide safety equipment and training as a stop-gap, but ultimately, we need to address the poverty and lack of opportunity that breeds gun violence.

#### **What characteristics make your district unique in the city? What do you hope to achieve for your constituents?**

District 2 has large portions of affordable housing compared to other districts, particularly on the north side, where a large majority of working families live. One of the main reasons I am running is because I want to stand up for our working families, so this is one of my main motivators for getting involved. I hope to keep working on expanding affordable housing and protecting the affordable neighborhoods that we have. Our working families need more support and a voice, which I hope to bring

#### **What specific steps do you believe the city and county need to take beyond the initial construction of the east side emergency clinic to close the health equity gaps in Gainesville?**


Our community paramedicine program is successful and needs to be expanded. We need to remove obstacles to care whether those are language, economic, or cultural barriers. Outcomes in healthcare are affected by more than just access. To address health equity, you are going to have to address quality housing, access to healthy food, time off work to take advantage of access to both regular and preventative care. We can't expect equitable healthcare outcomes without addressing underlying problems.

#### **Please state your positions on tax cuts, infrastructure investment, and job training to support economic development in the city.**

The city and our infrastructure needs are funded by a mix of fees, taxes, and the GRU transfer. The current ratio of those elements is tilted against our working families. We need to adjust it by adding impact fees and community agreements. We need developers to pay their fair share while they profit off our communities. I am very experienced with job training programs as a board member of CareerSource and apprenticeship instructor and I have seen them lead to better careers and opportunities.

## GAINESVILLE CITY COMMISSION DISTRICT 3

Gainesville's City Commission performs such duties as passing the city's budget, setting the millage rate and approving the ordinances and resolutions. The commission consists of seven members: four commissioners are elected from single-member districts, two commissioners are elected at-large. City commissioners serve a four-year term. This is a non-partisan race.

| <b>DISTRICT 3 CANDIDATES</b>   |  |
|--|--|
|  <p style="margin-top: 10px;"><b>Dejeon Cain</b><br/>Campaign Website:<br/><a href="http://www.dejeoncain.com">www.dejeoncain.com</a></p> | <p><b>Do you believe there is a problem with gun violence in the city and if so, what policies would you support to reduce violence and promote gun safety?</b><br/>Yes, Gainesville is not exonerated from crime like most cities. It will take a combination of education, working with at grassroot level in the community. Conflict resolution and providing mental health on Community level. Making sure we keep the legislative age requirement of 21 to purchase firearms.</p> <p><b>What characteristics make your district unique in the city? What do you hope to achieve for your constituents?</b><br/>District 3 is a melting pot of ethnicities. Butler plaza and University of Florida. Improve infrastructure, Enhancing parks and recreation. Creating Senior Community Center.</p> <p><b>What specific steps do you believe the city and county need to take beyond the initial construction of the east side emergency clinic to close the health equity gaps in Gainesville?</b><br/>Expand health care on eastside. Provide mental health services and educating citizens on affordable housing opportunities. Partnering with local grocery stores to create a plan to bring grocery stores in the area along with restaurants. Encourage the city to support growth and create policies that support the growth of the east side of Gainesville.</p> <p><b>Please state your positions on tax cuts, infrastructure investment, and job training to support economic development in the city.</b><br/>We don't want to raise tax until we are in dire need. We should exhaust all resources before we raise tax. Work with county to see what resources that can be provided. We need partnerships.</p> |
| <p><b>Casey Willits</b></p>  | <p>No responses to questions</p>   |

## BALLOT QUESTION 1

### WILD SPACES PUBLIC PLACES, ROAD REPAIR, FIRE STATIONS, AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING ONE PERCENT SALES TAX

SHALL ALACHUA COUNTY: ACQUIRE AND IMPROVE LANDS FOR CONSERVATION, WILDLIFE HABITAT, WATER QUALITY, AND RECREATION; OPERATE AND MAINTAIN PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES; REPAIR ROADS AND IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY; CONSTRUCT AND RENOVATE FIRE STATIONS AND OTHER PUBLIC FACILITIES; ACQUIRE LANDS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING; FUND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 212.055(2)(D) (3); PROVIDE CITIZEN OVERSIGHT AND INDEPENDENT AUDIT; BY LEVYING A ONE PERCENT SALES SURTAX FOR TEN YEARS STARTING JANUARY 1, 2023?



**A YES vote** is FOR the one cent sales tax, repeals the current 0.5 cent "Wild Spaces Public Places Uses" ("WSPP Uses") sales tax, and replaces it with a one cent sales tax that will be split 50/50 between WSPP uses and other infrastructure uses.



**A NO Vote** is AGAINST the one cent sales tax, and leaves the current 0.5 cent tax for Wild Spaces Public Places in effect through the end of 2024.

**Key Points about the sales tax:**

- Proceeds from the tax will be shared with all nine of Alachua County's municipalities including Gainesville.
- The 1% (one cent per dollar) sales tax will be levied for ten years and it is estimated the surtax will cost the average Alachua County household \$57 per year over what they are currently paying.
- 50% of surtax revenues will be dedicated to Wild Spaces Public Places projects.
- 50% of surtax revenues will be dedicated to Infrastructure uses including, but not limited to: roads, fire stations (and other public facilities), and affordable housing.
- If approved, the one-cent tax would be in effect through December 31, 2032.

Link to enabling ordinance:  
[www.alachuacounty.us/Depts/LandConservation/wspp/Documents/ADACompliant/16-06\\_WSPP\\_Ordinance.pdf](http://www.alachuacounty.us/Depts/LandConservation/wspp/Documents/ADACompliant/16-06_WSPP_Ordinance.pdf)



Link to enabling ordinance:  
[alachuacounty.us/Depts/Communications/Documents/ADACompliant/SurtaxOrdinance.pdf](http://alachuacounty.us/Depts/Communications/Documents/ADACompliant/SurtaxOrdinance.pdf)

## BALLOT QUESTION 2

### AMENDING THE COUNTY CHARTER TO PROVIDE FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER ELECTIONS IN SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS

SHALL THE FIVE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ALACHUA COUNTY, FLORIDA, BE ELECTED TO OFFICE FROM SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS BY ELECTORS RESIDING IN EACH OF THOSE DISTRICTS ONLY?



**A Yes vote** on the referendum will mean the five (5) members of the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) will be elected by only the voters who reside in the district they represent.



**A No vote** on the referendum leaves the current election process in place. Currently Commissioners must live in the District they represent but are elected by all voters in the county.

#### Background

Florida Statutes describe how county districts are drawn and commissioners are elected. The process for electing commissioners in Alachua County is the default method described in the statute and is used by 41 of the 67 Counties. Currently, the commissioners live in and represent a district but are elected by all the voters in the county. This is referred to as an “at-large” election. The referendum changes the way commissioners are elected to an alternate method permitted by statute. This would result in commissioners being elected by only the voters who live in the district the commissioner represents. This is referred to as a “single-member district” election.

#### Discussion

Use of single-member districts in municipal elections became more common after the passage of the Federal Voting Rights Act. The election of candidates by only voters who live in the district was intended to provide access to political power for people of color, who had historically been unable to elect candidates of their choice. National experience consistently indicates single-member districts increase representation among people of color but, only when the population is geographically concentrated. Since the African American population is dispersed throughout the county, racial equity in Alachua County is achieved by at large voting. For decades Alachua County has had at least one African American County Commissioner. About 20% of Alachua County residents are African Americans, so the representation of one of five commissioners is commensurate with the demographics.

#### PRO

Advantages of single-member districts:

- The smaller number of voters in the target population reduces the cost of campaigning, which broadens the field of potential candidates.
- The number of contacts constituents make with commissioners increases, suggesting more civic engagement.
- Single-member districts are thought to result in members of the governing body who are more attentive to the needs of specific populations.
- Observers suggest office holders of single-member districts are held more accountable and, those who are corrupt or do not perform are voted out of office.

#### CON

Disadvantages to changing to single-member districts:

- The proposed change may limit the ability of African Americans to elect candidates of their choice.
- When municipalities have converted from at-large to single-member districts the representation of females has decreased.
- Governing groups elected from single-member districts experience more conflict and difficulty making decisions.
- The issue of how districts are drawn can become contentious.

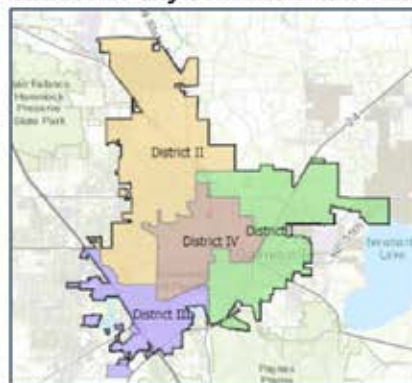
### COUNTY & CITY COMMISSION DISTRICT MAPS

**Alachua County Commission Districts**



<https://www.votealachua.com/Elections/District-Boundaries>

**Gainesville City Commission Districts**



<https://www.gainesvillefl.gov/City-Commission/City-Commission-Districts>