

District 1 Candidates



Armando Grundy

Office sought: Gainesville City Commission – District 2

Email: vote4armando@gmail.com

Website: www.vote4armando.com

Educational Background: University of West Florida, Voyages Leadership Program; Saint Leo University, BS Political Science (In Progress)

Public offices held or which you were a candidate for: Gainesville City Commission, District 3 (2007-2008)



Yvonne Hinson-Rawls

Office sought: Gainesville City Commission – District 1

Email: Yvonne@yvonnehinsonrawls.com

Website: YvonneHinsonRawls.com

Educational Background: University of Florida, 1971, Bachelor of Arts in Education; University of Florida, 1972, Master of Arts in Education

Public offices held or which you were a candidate for: None



Ray Washington

Office sought: Gainesville City Commission – District 1

Email: vote4district1@gmail.com

Website: VoteRayWashington.com

Educational Background: A.B. Duke University (magna cum laude) 1976; J.D. University of Florida 1991

Public offices held or: District 13 Florida House of Representatives, 1978

Bio: Ray Washington is a 6th generation Floridian who has lived in the City of Gainesville's

District 1 for more than a dozen years. He is a practicing attorney in Gainesville, with degrees from the University of Florida and Duke University.

At Large 1 Candidates



Dejeon Cain

Office sought: Gainesville City Commission – At Large 1
Email: caincampaign2012@gmail.com
Website: None
Educational Background: Gainesville High School, 2003
Public offices held or which you were a candidate for: None



James Ingle

Office sought: Gainesville City Commission – At Large 1
Email: electjamesingle@yahoo.com
Website: electjamesingle.com



Donna Lutz

Office sought: Gainesville City Commission - At Large 1
Email: donnalutzrealtor@gmail.com
Website: www.electdonnalutz.com
Educational Background: Bachelor of Education, with Spanish Major
Public offices a candidate for: DeLand City Commission



Darlene Pifalo

Office sought: Gainesville City Commission – At Large 1
Email: Darlene@darleneandlucky.com
Website: www.electdarlene.com
Educational Background: CRS Certified Residential Specialist
Public offices held or which you were a candidate for: None
Bio: - I'm running with experience of 38 years in the real estate profession and understand what it takes to get jobs in the city and cut taxes through privatizing city businesses that the city doesn't have to do.

At Large 1 Candidates



Lauren Poe

Office sought: Gainesville City Commission - At Large 1

Email: votelaurenpoe@gmail.com

Website: laurenpoe.com

Educational Background: BA History, University of Florida 1993; M.Ed. Education 1998

Public offices held: City Commission, District 2: 2008 - 2011

Bio: Lauren Poe moved to Gainesville in 1982, attended Westwood MS, Gainesville HS and UF for his BA and Master's Degrees and currently teaches at Santa Fe College. Lauren is married to Emily, a teacher at JJ Finley and has one adorable four month old daughter, Elizabeth.



Richard Selwach

Office sought: Gainesville City Commission - At Large 1

Email: bestpawn@bellsouth.net

Website: www.voteselwach.com

Educational Background: Associate of Arts, University of Florida 1983; UF Business School

Public offices a candidate for: Gainesville City Commission, Districts 4, At Large 1 and At

Large 2, Mayor



Nathan Skop

Office sought: Gainesville City Commission - At Large 1

Email: vote4skop@gmail.com

Website: www.vote4skop.com

Educational Background: UF Levin College of Law, JD; Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, MBA University of Florida, BS Aerospace Engineering

Public offices held or which you were a candidate for: Commissioner, Florida Public Service Commission (April 1997 - January 2011)

Bio: Former Commissioner on the Florida Public Service Commission, attorney, and multi-disciplined executive (JD, MBA, BS Engineering) with extensive financial management, engineering, operations, and program management experience working for Fortune 500 corporations. Extensive power generation experience includes renewable energy (wind and solar), fossil fuel (combined cycle, gas turbine, co-generation, and coal), and nuclear power.



Mark Venzke

Office sought: Gainesville City Commission - At Large 1

Did not respond to Chamber questionnaire*

Contents

1. Why are you running for City Commission?
2. What are the three most important challenges facing the City, and how do you plan to address them?
3. The City budget continues to be an area of concern. What steps would you take to increase revenue and/or reduce expenses for the City?
4. The final report on Plan East Gainesville was delivered in February 2003. Since that time do you feel significant progress has been made on the plan? Why or why not? What roles do you foresee the City taking in Plan East Gainesville under your leadership?
5. According to the City of Gainesville's projected pavement condition information, only five percent of the city roads are expected to be in "Good" condition by 2013 and thirty-two percent will be in "Worse" or "Poor" condition. How do you plan to address the need for quality road infrastructure?
6. What are your top three priorities within the MTPO 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)?
7. What are the top initiatives/policies you would support or bring forth for the City of Gainesville to attract, retain and support businesses?
8. Please describe the role of economic development in our community and what you would like to see developed during your term if elected.
9. The City's Community Development Review Committee was introduced to provide input on the City's development review process as provided in the Land Development Code and the Comprehensive Plan. What specific issues within the process would you like to see the Committee address?
10. Do you support the Innovation Gainesville (iG) Economic Development Initiative to establish Gainesville as an Innovation Hub, particularly focused on green technology and health science? If so, what does that mean to you and what role would you expect the city to play?

District 1

1. Why are you running for City Commission?



Armando Grundy

I plan to work toward improving the quality of life for both District 1 and the city. Issues that are affecting quality of life are the lack of good quality paying jobs and a lack of small business in District 1. We should address matters to improve revenue by fostering...



Yvonne Hinson-Rawls

Small and family owned businesses across the city are struggling through the worst economy since the Great Depression. These businesses are the backbone of the community and pivotal to creating jobs to help grow the middle class and get us back on the right track.



Ray Washington

To assure that the 1st District is represented by a commissioner who will take clear positions on behalf of the voters of District 1, and stand up for those positions in the face of the groupthink practiced by some sitting commissioners.

At Large 1 Candidates

1. Why are you running for City Commission?



Dejeon Cain

The people of the city of Gainesville need someone who can see the shortcomings of everyday people. I want to represent the true meaning of "for the people;" to encourage, motivate, empower and support the City of Gainesville, students and local business men and women. I am also running because...



James Ingle

I am running for office because I am worried about the future of Gainesville. After talking to many friends and neighbors in town and finding that most people I talked to felt the same way I felt a personal responsibility to try to make things better.



Donna Lutz

I am running because I am tired of the hyperpartisanship and gridlock in politics. The interests of the citizens of Gainesville need to be put above party interest. The Gainesville City races are non-partisan-Vote for the best person, not the party. No Labels, no left, no right, just FORWARD. I will be a consensus builder and bring a big picture view to problem solving.



Darlene Pifalo

I think that the city needs to be more business friendly and understand what's best to have more jobs and less unemployment for all.

At Large 1 Candidates

1. Why are you running for City Commission?



Lauren Poe

We are at a critical juncture in the City of Gainesville. We have an opportunity to become one of the most economically exciting cities in America. In order to realize this potential, Gainesville needs leadership able to work with our entire community and act as an advocate for our city.



Richard Selwach

I am running because I am not getting the representation I need.



Nathan Skop

Like many other citizens in Gainesville, I am tired of wasteful spending, the lack of accountability, and lack of transparency from our elected officials who blatantly disregard the citizens that they were elected to represent. I am committed to restoring the public trust and confidence in local government.

District 1

2. What are the three most important challenges facing the City, and how do you plan to address them?



Armando Grundy

The greatest challenges facing both the city as well as District 1 are the increasing cost of providing services and the shrinking revenues to provide those services. Also we should address matters to improve revenue by fostering an atmosphere that will encourage business development in District 1 and throughout our city. I would work toward simplifying the land development code and creating a “one-stop shop” when dealing with our planning department.



Yvonne Hinson-Rawls

The challenges of this city are familiar to other cities: how we do grow our economy, increase job availability, and build on this to ensure that the future generations continue to grow? We must address these issues by working to ensure that our City government is operating efficiently, that our businesses have a clear sense of regulations, and that job training and childhood education allow us to jumpstart growth now and maintain growth later.



Ray Washington

((1) Economic stagnation in District 1; (2) Opportunities for District 1 children; (3) Crime and assault on family stability in District neighborhoods. The answers will not come from top down. To help the community overcome these and all challenges it is essential that city commissioners as a first order of business really listen to what their constituents are trying to tell them. It is not enough to occasionally scheduled structured commission-orchestrated forums that seem designed...

At Large 1 Candidates

2. What are the three most important challenges facing the City, and how do you plan to address them?



Dejeon Cain

The growth of the economy in the City of Gainesville, job creation and availability, and the budget for the city. To inspire growth of the local economy we need to concentrate on local activities, and the level of interest the general public will have in them. Another way to increase growth is to ensure that more external businesses, including new chain establishments, will want to build and expand locally by advertising the extent of consumers...



James Ingle

The lack of decent jobs is by far the biggest challenge facing our city. We can address this issue through a local hiring preference, and supporting local responsible businesses. The second biggest challenge facing the city is the disconnect felt between the local government and the people of the city. The cure for this and the city's other issues will take much more than the space allowed here.



Donna Lutz

Fiscal Responsibility - The City's limited dollars need to be matched with realistic priorities. Assess each department of operation of service to make sure they make economic sense.

Wages and Benefits - Need to adjust and make equitable. Everyone needs to make concessions in hard times.

Make Gainesville a business-friendly City. Streamline the development process and ensure that it is fair and consistent for all applicants.



Darlene Pifalo

1) GRU Biomass, this needs to be looked into to see how much I really will cost all citizens especially those that can't afford it and what will happen also businesses that will have much higher utility bills and may have some businesses going out of business which hurts the city in tax basis.

At Large 1 Candidates

2. What are the three most important challenges facing the City, and how do you plan to address them?



Lauren Poe

Economic disparity: We need to facilitate quality job growth so our citizens have more opportunities to pursue a greater diversity of employment.

Transportation: We need to make long-range transportation planning a priority and fund those plans adequately.

Quality of Life: We need to support a community that is safe, welcoming and attractive to families and young professionals. This includes outstanding parks, recreational and cultural opportunities, a professional and engaged police force and a healthy environment.



Richard Selwach

Keeping taxes low, keeping utility rates low and balance the budget. Focus on essential services, stop the biomass plant, end Solar Feed in Tariff.



Nathan Skop

Public Safety: Ensure that law enforcement and the fire department have adequate resources to protect our community.

Economic Development: Promote and capture economic investment to attract business, create jobs, address wage disparity, retain graduates, and reduce taxes. Business is friendly to the city, but City Hall is not friendly to business. Prior commitments to taxpayers of East Gainesville must be honored.

Fiscal Responsibility / Open Government: Stop wasteful spending; reduce taxes; require transparency; encourage participation.

District 1

3. The City budget continues to be an area of concern. What steps would you take to increase revenue and/or reduce expenses for the City?



Armando Grundy

The City of Gainesville has cut nearly \$15 million dollars out of the budget over the past five-six years. As stated in question(s) 1 and 2, I would work toward addressing matters to improve revenue by fostering an atmosphere that will encourage business development in District 1 and throughout our city by simplifying the land development code and creating a “one-stop shop” when dealing with our planning department. I would also work with

the business community...



Yvonne Hinson-Rawls

Gainesville needs to make sure that we take a balanced approach to keeping City operating effectively. We cannot continue to pile on the backs of small businesses and the middle class families they support. One key way to help growth is to streamline regulations without reducing their intent to maximize safety. This can help keep more money in citizens' pockets, which will create more revenue and growth.



Ray Washington

The city is headed for a fiscal nightmare as a result of the group-think GRU-GREC-biomass-at-any-cost posture of most members of the current city commission. Along with Commissioner Chase and other like minded commissioners -- ideally including a new vision commissioner elected the At-Large 1 seat -- I would demand information from GRU's unelected leaders sufficient to allow the commission to determine the worst case scenario for

Gainesville businesses and property owners who beginning in 2013 will...

At Large 1 Candidates

3. The City budget continues to be an area of concern. What steps would you take to increase revenue and/or reduce expenses for the City?



Dejeon Cain

As previously stated, by increasing external sources of business we can create a base of increased local interest of citizens to spend. Also these external sources will bring outside interest from those familiar with the establishments, leading new consumers to the area.



James Ingle

This is always a difficult question. We have a recent history of generating revenue from those who can least afford it; with increased fees, cutting services, and so on. I would like to encourage new revenue by development of small local businesses in many of the vacant buildings in our city. This will increase our tax base and economic opportunities. In the event that additional revenues are needed, we want to focus on untapped resources...



Donna Lutz

Increase revenue - Since there is so much that is tax-free, we need to work with the business community to help them maintain, and expand, and attract new businesses to improve our tax base.

Reduce expenses - Reduce the amount of "studies" that are being done by outside sources. Eliminate the practice of having internal and outside auditors for GRU. Bargain in good faith with all people and sectors of government. Way too many lawsuits. We need consensus building.



Darlene Pifalo

I'd like to study the budget more and find out where we can out source work to the private sector and see where waste is too.

At Large 1 Candidates

3. The City budget continues to be an area of concern. What steps would you take to increase revenue and/or reduce expenses for the City?



Lauren Poe

I served on the city commission during the worst economic climate in generations. During that time, we were able to keep tax rates flat, cut over \$14 million from the city budget and \$30 million from the GRU budget. I have the proven leadership to balance our budget.



Richard Selwach

Keeping taxes low, keeping utility rates low and balance the budget. Focus on essential services, stop the biomass plant, end Solar Feed in Tariff.



Nathan Skop

Fiscal responsibility starts with ending wasteful spending. Expenditures of taxpayer funds must be necessary, prudent, and justified. Reduced property values have caused revenue to decline while expenses are increasing. Additionally, the biomass contract impairs GRU's ability to maintain existing revenue transfer levels without substantial rate hikes. Economic development is critical to increasing revenue to fill the budget gap while avoiding additional taxes and fees. Spending must be prioritized and reduced to maintain a balanced budget.

District 1

4. The final report on Plan East Gainesville was delivered in February 2003. Since that time do you feel significant progress has been made on the plan? Why or why not? What roles do you foresee the City taking in Plan East Gainesville under your leadership?



Armando Grundy

Since Plan East Gainesville's inception it has appeared to flounder and has remained a "plan." We need to move toward inception of Plan East Gainesville and just begin by moving forward rather than continued discussion. Commissioner Henry has not really followed Plan East Gainesville and yet has managed to encourage economic development in District 1. As someone who understands his blueprint I look forward to following the path he has laid out for the District...



Yvonne Hinson-Rawls

I believe progress has been made, even in the face of tough challenges. Increasing public transit is a major factor in implementing Plan East Gainesville. My opinion has always been that we are only as strong as our weakest link. We must implement Plan East Gainesville in a way that is smart, effective, and helps strengthen not only East Gainesville, but the entire City as well.



Ray Washington

Some progress has been made, but what I take to be the most important purpose of the plan has not been achieved, as evidenced by the recent census report that shows a 68 percent increase in the poverty rate of this community's children, most heavily felt in District 1. Plan East Gainesville needs to be re-examined. It is nine years old, much has changed, and the underpinnings of the plan should be rethought in light...

At Large 1 Candidates

4. The final report on Plan East Gainesville was delivered in February 2003. Since that time do you feel significant progress has been made on the plan? Why or why not? What roles do you foresee the City taking in Plan East Gainesville under your leadership?



Dejeon Cain

Many of the plans aspects have not been adequately completed in proper time restraints. The timeline has been listed in aspects of multiple years instead of annually with a lacking view as to when and how certain parts of the project can be completed efficiently and which ones deserve priority to make the most progress for the project. Under my supervision more aspects of the project with be given attention in a timely manner to...



James Ingle

No one is happy with the state of East Gainesville. Any real long term improvement in east Gainesville will require a greater degree of involvement from the community. That won't happen until the residents of East Gainesville have a plan and a process they believe in.



Donna Lutz

Plan East Gainesville is pages of projections, projects and problems. There are environmental conditions, conservation elements, future land-use elements and transportation elements. This plan was not a part of the comprehensive plan which made implementation difficult. It is up to citizens to determine our success or failure, so I would use the example of the problem solving and moving-forward ability of the Black-on-Black Task Force. We would evaluate, then form new goals and methods of achievement.



Darlene Pifalo

For the past 7 years there has been some change with the east side. I sat on the Community Development committee and saw that business will only go where there is a way to make a profit and this is hard to do also for development there is a lot of wet lands and this is hard to develop since a lot of the land can't be built on and this also costs the developer money.

At Large 1 Candidates

4. The final report on Plan East Gainesville was delivered in February 2003. Since that time do you feel significant progress has been made on the plan? Why or why not? What roles do you foresee the City taking in Plan East Gainesville under your leadership?



Lauren Poe

Improvements have been made, but not nearly enough to bring East Gainesville to parity with the rest of our city. Considerable CRA investment, the opening of Wal-Mart, and the evolution of the SEGRI vision are all steps in the right direction. The city needs to reinvest in historically neglected infrastructure in East Gainesville, continue leveraging CRA dollars to help improve economic opportunity and ensure that the area is safe and hospitable for our residents.



Richard Selwach

Free market will come when ready. No attraction on the East Side.



Nathan Skop

The answer to this question depends upon who you ask. While progress appears to have been made with respect to several aspects of the plan, other aspects of the plan have not been fulfilled. Under my leadership the city would be to continue to execute the plan, promote economic investment, and honor the promises made to East Gainesville taxpayers. Priorities would include transportation and development of the Waldo Road Corridor and old fairgrounds.

District 1

5. According to the City of Gainesville's projected pavement condition information, only five percent of the city roads are expected to be in "Good" condition by 2013 and thirty-two percent will be in "Worse" or "Poor" condition. How do you plan to address the need for quality road infrastructure?



Armando Grundy

In District 1 we have an aging infrastructure and a majority of those roads are in our district. We must continue to follow forward and insure that the pavement management program is well funded and addresses these needs in a timely manner. Roads throughout our city are a major concern...



Yvonne Hinson-Rawls

In April of last year, AASHT officials released a report saying poor road conditions cost Floridians each \$126 a year. This is money that Gainesville consumers then can't inject into our local businesses. Road maintenance must be a priority if we plan on focusing on bolstering jobs and middle class strength.



Ray Washington

I tend to mistrust these sorts of metrics, but, in any event, do not know the standards of measurement and significance of these figures relative to comparable statistics from other locations. It is obvious, without looking at subjective and possibly politically motivated studies that some city roads are in great...

At Large 1 Candidates

5. According to the City of Gainesville's projected pavement condition information, only five percent of the city roads are expected to be in "Good" condition by 2013 and thirty-two percent will be in "Worse" or "Poor" condition. How do you plan to address the need for quality road infrastructure?



Dejeon Cain

It would be inefficient to tax city individuals to balance future needs for similar projects. It would be beneficial to apply for federal funding projects if possible as well as incorporate local construction establishments input on ways to refurbish roadways locally in a cost effective manner. Also we must establish...



James Ingle

Maintaining infrastructure is a fundamental responsibility of our government. It can be tempting to put off maintenance to save money in the short term, but cutting corners on maintenance today will inevitably cost us far more in repairs in the future.



Donna Lutz

\$200,000,000 have gone to RTS instead of pavement. Plus, the City uses additional tax revenue that goes to RTS - 38 percent from the County 5-cent gas tax. Good government needs to operate like a business, not sleight of hand. Put the money where it belongs.



Darlene Pifalo

We need to find dollars that are wasted and misused in the budget and have a priority with regards infrastructure and the most used roads and there should never be an "F" on any of our city roads and I plan to investigate it myself with help from people I know...

At Large 1 Candidates

5. According to the City of Gainesville's projected pavement condition information, only five percent of the city roads are expected to be in "Good" condition by 2013 and thirty-two percent will be in "Worse" or "Poor" condition. How do you plan to address the need for quality road infrastructure?



Lauren Poe

I was instrumental at bringing this deficit to light while on the commission. As a result, I was able to increase funding for roads by 50 percent during my final year in office. This will continue to be a priority for me if elected.



Richard Selwach

Monies should go to essential services first, non-essential services would get cuts.



Nathan Skop

Quality road infrastructure is critical to attracting economic investment in our community. Road resurfacing and improvements must be prioritized and implemented to address pavement degradation. Funding will be an issue. Public trust and confidence in local government must be restored prior to addressing this problem through a dedicated funding source.

District 1

6. What are your top three priorities within the MTPO 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)?



Armando Grundy

- I. Insuring we have equitable access and funding of Transportation dollars being allocated to District 1 and East Gainesville.
- II. Improvement of Mass Transit in District 1 and East Gainesville with respect to access, headways, facilities and funding.
- III. Improvement of Infrastructure



Yvonne Hinson-Rawls

We must ensure that the transportation plan adheres to the basic principles of sound economic growth: 1) help maintain roads in excellent condition, 2) expansion of public transits to support local business, and 3) keeps in line with our City's environmental standards and protections.



Ray Washington

I haven't developed three top priorities. The city commission is the most important component of the MTPO process, and the city commission, in my opinion should be driving this process. If elected I would consider it an obligation of the office to carefully review what has gone before, what has...

At Large 1 Candidates

6. What are your top three priorities within the MTPO 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)?



Dejeon Cain

First, to make sure we execute the plan in its entirety, cost effectively, by ensuring we have full funding for all aspects of the project. Second, to complete the project in a more timely manner than previously scheduled by forming focal groups to diminish oversights as the project progresses. Finally...



James Ingle

Again, this is not a question that can be answered in 50 words or less. The top priority for the MTPO should be to maintain a high level of citizen involvement.



Donna Lutz

My top priority in the MTPO Long Range Transportation Planning for the city of Gainesville is to address the very real problems that exist now with our roads, and the lack of maintenance. NW 22nd Street between University and 16th Avenue is a great example of ignoring the present to...



Darlene Pifalo

1) Study what has been happening through the country on Mass Transit and other forms of transportation. 2) It's important to see how much all this will cost the citizens of Gainesville as to how many use public transportation and have better roads and for the city "free" parking for...

At Large 1 Candidates

6. What are your top three priorities within the MTPO 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)?



Lauren Poe

My three priorities include the SR 121 project, the Waldo Road Boulevard project and the development of the BRT preferred route.



Richard Selwach

Good roads, no gridlock, transportation connectivity.



Nathan Skop

Road Resurfacing: Existing road infrastructure must be properly maintained to enhance public safety.

Road Improvement: Roads and traffic signal devices must be improved to increase capacity and reduce congestion.

Transportation: Enhanced RTS routes and services. Reduce headways and extend hours of service to increase ridership on a case-by-case basis.

District 1

7. What are the top initiatives/policies you would support or bring forth for the City of Gainesville to attract, retain and support businesses?



Armando Grundy

Some initiative(s) I would work toward would be simplifying the land development code, creating a “one-stop shop” for businesses, and working with our CRA to foster more economic developmental opportunities in District 1.



Yvonne Hinson-Rawls

As I mentioned, we must streamline regulations. I have heard countless accounts of it taking longer to acquire permits than to build structures. As a former principal, I understand running any organization or business is not easy, and so we must make it as easy as possible to ensure maximum...



Ray Washington

I don't agree with the premise of the question. Government policy is not the answer to our problems, and government is not the engine of our future happiness. As a general proposition, to the extent consistent with public welfare, I believe that government should not be in the business of deciding...

At Large 1 Candidates

7. What are the top initiatives/policies you would support or bring forth for the City of Gainesville to attract, retain and support businesses?



Dejeon Cain

The best way to initiate ideas for new business is to use models of other cities that have maintained the levels of consumer support that we wish to reach for many years; as well as soliciting ideas from local businesses to determine if they have new ideas in their own...



James Ingle

The most direct, immediate, effective action the city can take is to enact a local hiring preference. Making an effort to see that the money we as a city spend is spent on responsible businesses that hire locally will encourage the type of job growth we need, support our local businesses.



Donna Lutz

Bring the national Main Street Program to Gainesville. As a founder of DeLand, Florida's top-ranked program, I know it works. Most of the current businesses feed off UF and government. We need to diversify. We need to attract small sustainable businesses that are of use to the residents. We need...



Darlene Pifalo

As above it's very important to have parking for customers not just for 2 hours, when people come to enjoy dinning and other things. I think that the city employees should park in the parking lots at a discount price and customers can enjoy the square and other things the...

At Large 1 Candidates

7. What are the top initiatives/policies you would support or bring forth for the City of Gainesville to attract, retain and support businesses?



Lauren Poe

I strongly support Innovation Gainesville as a community initiative to encourage a growing business environment. I support the City/Chamber partnership in GTEC. I believe we need to reform our permitting process and evaluate the options for more form-based codes.



Richard Selwach

Tax Incentives for businesses that locate here and create jobs.



Nathan Skop

Business is friendly to the city, but City Hall is not friendly to business. A paradigm shift is necessary to attract, retain, and support businesses. Filling the CRA director vacancy is a priority, followed by retention of businesses incubated through Innovation Square. Economic investment must be actively promoted and captured.

District 1

8. Please describe the role of economic development in our community and what you would like to see developed during your term if elected.



Armando Grundy

The most important part(s) of “economic development” are to have economic development in the areas where we already have existing infrastructure and the greatest need. Economic Development is vital and one of the most important factors holding back District 1 right now. The city has a duty to foster economic development...



Yvonne Hinson-Rawls

Economic development is tied to the ideas I've discussed so far. Improving our roads, streamlining regulation, and taking a balance approach to investing in our community are all crucial to short and long term economic development.



Ray Washington

Economic development follows on the heels of successfully businesses. Successful businesses relocate to and expand in locations where the free market brings them (the free market including not only the market for goods and services, but the quality of life market). If we truly believe in the free market we...

At Large 1 Candidates

8. Please describe the role of economic development in our community and what you would like to see developed during your term if elected.



Dejeon Cain

I would like to see a larger focus on youth programs that can spark their consumer interest. Particularly on the collegiate level, we can expand the cities after hours experience by refurbishing buildings that have become trapped by their local designs, as well as challenging community hot spots to reach...



James Ingle

The economic development in the city has been poorly focused and has only benefited a very narrow segment of Gainesville. We must better utilize the resources that we have to encourage the type of economic development that benefits all the people of Gainesville.



Donna Lutz

Economic development means jobs and revenue. The Depot Avenue and Cade Museum projects need to be embraced and completed. Small businesses that support UF - education, hospitals, ancillary businesses, light manufacturing. One of the best examples of a sustainable business is Ward's Market. These are the kinds of businesses and projects...



Darlene Pifalo

We will never have economic development until we work with the businesses in the city with regards to their taxes and in the near future their GRU bills that will be going up with this bio-mass too. Business is the life of the city and not government employees, planning should...

At Large 1 Candidates

8. Please describe the role of economic development in our community and what you would like to see developed during your term if elected.



Lauren Poe

Economic development is critical in order to have a healthy community. Gainesville has a competitive advantage in the innovation economy. We need to focus our efforts on first retaining the innovators and creators who grow from within Gainesville. I would like to see an increase in retention of these people.



Richard Selwach

I would like to see vertical growth with walkability a priority. Transportation connectivity.



Nathan Skop

Economic development is critical to increasing revenue to fill the budget gap while avoiding additional taxes and fees. Accordingly, the city must promote and capture economic investment to attract business, create jobs, address wage disparity, and reduce taxes. Development opportunities include downtown, the old fairgrounds, and the Waldo Road Corridor.

District 1

9. The City's Community Development Review Committee was introduced to provide input on the City's development review process as provided in the Land Development Code and the Comprehensive Plan. What specific issues within the process would you like to see the Committee address?



Armando Grundy

The City of Gainesville has already begun to explore a process by which to simplify the language of the Land Development Code (LDC). I would like to see that process expedited and also simplifying or creating a "one-stop shop" for those who wish to create or start new business in our community. This would create good will and repair the image of our city being unfriendly toward business.



Yvonne Hinson-Rawls

Sound economic growth is dependent upon efficient city planning. The Committee must make sure we are protecting Gainesville's natural resources and beauty while growing our City in a sustainable way that promotes local businesses both now and in the future. This should include planning future transportations projects in a way that adheres to our standards.



Ray Washington

My untutored sense is that every bureaucratically mandated review, unless carefully checked, can be breeding grounds for hidden agendas that are never aired openly and honestly to the community. Special interests tend to infest these processes to the detriment of the public, which often learns, too late, that an well-planned agenda has been pushed through. I would like to see this committee explain, first, why, very specifically, its members believe it is needed, and what...

At Large 1 Candidates

9. The City's Community Development Review Committee was introduced to provide input on the City's development review process as provided in the Land Development Code and the Comprehensive Plan. What specific issues within the process would you like to see the Committee address?



Dejeon Cain

The process I would like to see in the area, is a better way of communicating land zoning areas that effect the businesses and people in that zone.



James Ingle

I have more to learn from the committee than I have to teach it. The land development code and comprehensive plan are areas I don't feel well educated enough about to speak intelligently on.



Donna Lutz

Would like the Committee to unravel the red tape that leads to planning and development delays. The City needs to provide a reasonable and accountable timeframe for development. Time is money. Improve City's responsiveness and customer service. Get Staff to work together better. Create an ombudsman position in the planning department. Don't treat small and large projects the same. Tie together the City's computer systems relating to planning and development.



Darlene Pifalo

This is to many hoops to jump through if we want businesses to come to the city. The regulations are toooooo long and the LDC should be taken another look to see what should be taken out this is also with regards to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, which is really a "taking" of property when to many regulations are in place. This is also against the Bert Harris Act of 1991.

At Large 1 Candidates

9. The City's Community Development Review Committee was introduced to provide input on the City's development review process as provided in the Land Development Code and the Comprehensive Plan. What specific issues within the process would you like to see the Committee address?



Lauren Poe

I would like to see a comprehensive review of the permitting process. I would like them to look at the culture of the department to see how we can make it more customer-friendly. I would like to ensure that all clients are dealt with in a fair and consistent manner. I would like to look at where we can implement a form-based code other than Innovation Square.



Richard Selwach

Get rid of the Development Review Committee.



Nathan Skop

A paradigm shift is necessary to attract continued economic investment in our community. The Committee should address the proper role of staff in the development review process, encourage constructive revision to the LDC in accordance with best practices, seek to minimize development review time and costs, and ensure a level playing field for all applicants.

District 1

10. Do you support the Innovation Gainesville (iG) Economic Development Initiative to establish Gainesville as an Innovation Hub, particularly focused on green technology and health science? If so, what does that mean to you and what role would you expect the city to play?



Armando Grundy

The Innovation Gainesville (IG) Economic Development is in District 1 and I am a staunch supporter of it as well as sustainable technology and health science. The role of Innovation Square for District 1 and our city is huge and cannot be understated. That said I also understand that we must not put all our eggs in one basket, and WE must diversify our local economy especially in District 1.



Yvonne Hinson-Rawls

I completely support this. The future of this City, State, and nation depend on building an innovation economy. Gainesville has a leading resource in the University of Florida and must work hard to keep our best and brightest in the City. Doing this requires we create jobs that cannot be exported and I believe an innovation economy that is reliant upon green technology and health sciences is how we do that.



Ray Washington

No. I find it interesting that, even more than the previous questions, this question is drafted in a way that will virtually ensure a pre-determined answer. The sentence "Do you support . . ." is followed by the sentence "If so, what role would you expect the city to play." There is no follow up requested to the proposition "If not . . ." The idea that Gainesville is not already a health...

At Large 1 Candidates

10. Do you support the Innovation Gainesville (iG) Economic Development Initiative to establish Gainesville as an Innovation Hub, particularly focused on green technology and health science? If so, what does that mean to you and what role would you expect the city to play?



Dejeon Cain

I support the Innovation of the Hub, and the green technology and health sciences. These are areas of business and study that will help in the future for our economic growth, and it will help to create jobs for those individuals in that field, and around the city. The backing of the people for these fields are important for new jobs, and keeping our community in line with new ways of exploring new forms on.



James Ingle

The idea of the city as a hub for green technology fits very well into the culture of Gainesville. The city's role in encouraging this to provide the type of infrastructure that will make that possible.



Donna Lutz

Whole-heartedly support. University of Florida along with its education and innovation partners should be encouraged to create new and cutting-edge development to focus in these areas. The efforts should be consolidated and the creation of ancillary businesses and workforces should be an important component. The City should not have a financial role, but stick to the business of providing normal governmental service.



Darlene Pifalo

I think that this county is not all "green" and there should be other ways to have people working in the city. The U of F is a stable with the city but we also need small businesses that are the back bone to our county and this city. There are many cities in this country that have made this mistake and have spent a lot of tax payer dollars in the wrong way...

At Large 1 Candidates

10. Do you support the Innovation Gainesville (iG) Economic Development Initiative to establish Gainesville as an Innovation Hub, particularly focused on green technology and health science? If so, what does that mean to you and what role would you expect the city to play?



Lauren Poe

The innovation economy is Gainesville's competitive advantage. The city has several roles to play in this community initiative. First of all, we must make sure that we have a safe and vibrant city that is an attractive place for people to life, work and play. We need to help facilitate the location of these businesses, whether it is in one of our incubators, in an accelerator or assisting a company in building their own facility.



Richard Selwach

Yes, I would support these types of initiatives. It will attract jobs.



Nathan Skop

Yes. As an engineering graduate of the University of Florida, I am proud to say that the University of Florida has a rich history of innovating and commercializing research technology in the areas of engineering and health science. Innovation Gainesville builds upon this tradition in collaboration with the marketing of Innovation Square. It is incumbent upon the city to encourage and facilitate the economic development necessary to support this initiative and make it a success.