

GNV Candidate for Election City of Gainesville Commissioner

1. Gabe Kaimowitz
2. gabrielhillel@gmail.com
3. No website at this time
4. B.S. journalism, U. of Wisconsin, 1955; J.D., NYU Law, 1967; M.A. communication, UCF, 1988; A.A. graphic design, B.A. multi-media development, DeVry U. on line, 2011, 2013.
5. Whistle blowing blogger
6. No employer.
7. Solo private civil rights/public interest law practice, 2009-17; debt collection attorney, Seminole County, 2008; solo private civil rights/public interest law practice, here, 2002-2007; investigator, Alachua County EO, 1999-2001; , solo private civil rights/public interest law practice, in Orange County, 1987-1994; editor, Orlando Times weekly targeted to blacks, 1986-87; director, Greater Orlando Area Legal Services, federally funded legal services program for the poor, 12 attorneys, 12 support staff, three offices, 1985-86; Senior attorney, now Latino Justice, New York, 1981-84; LSC Research law fellow, North Carolina, 1979-80; Attorney, Michigan Legal Services, Detroit, 1972-79; OEO Community Law Fellow (at that program) 1970-71; Attorney, Center on Social Welfare Policy & Law, New York, 1967-70; Editor, Current Monthly Digest Magazine, New York, 1966-67, intern, New York Civil Liberties Union (while in law school); English instructor, summer 1965, Bishop College for Negroes, Dallas, TX, summer 1965; volunteer, Mississippi Summer, New Orleans, Jackson, MS summer 1964; editor-writer, TV Age trade magazine, NYC, 1962-64; editor, Stratford, CT Weekly, 1962; U.N. correspondent, feature writer, Scripps-Howard NEA news feature service to 900 newspapers, NYC 1960-61; editorial writer, Lindsay-Schaub Daily Newspapers, promoted from beat assignment reporter, Morning Herald, Decatur, IL 1958-59; editor, U.S. Army publications, Territory of Hawaii, 1956-57, after six months of basic training and radio-operator school; journalism instructor, U. of Hawaii extension, 1956; menial jobs, Madison, WI and summer menial jobs in NYC, 1950-54.

8. A leader primarily: must a. care for the well-being of followers, be they paid or volunteer; b. A be an innovator, to explore new ideas, to refresh and recharge tasks in which they are involved; c. learn about followers in detail.
9. My civic involvement has been monitoring public agencies in communities where I have lived to expose their rotten apples in New York, Michigan, and Florida; I have monitored Gainesville city governance, 2002-present.
10. I was the only white on the Executive Committee of the Orange County NAACP, to establish trust with the clients I represented there, 1989-91. In 1969-70, I was a board member, secretary for Poverty Lawyers for Effective Advocacy (PLEA), an organization credited with preventing the governors of California (some movie actor) and Florida (a maverick Republican) from vetoing migrant legal service programs at the request of owners of agricultural properties and of promoting a successful targeted strategy for test case and class action litigation.
11. No.
12. The initial reason I ran was to publicize the need for Gainesville, to reclaim its status as the first Butterfly City in the world, 2009-2017; Mayor Lauren Poe's intense dislike for me caused him to gain the support of incumbent Commissioners Harvey Ward and David Arreola who are seeking re-election and two others to dismantle the elements which gave rise to its existence. Commissioner Helen Warren, term-limited out, states that she will now support that effort as part of her program to put Gainesville at the forefront of our community's efforts to limit the harm of human's generated climate change. The Chamber unaware of Poe's action continued to promote us as the First Butterfly City in its 2018 and 2019 Guides. However, I now also seek to publicize this sham election which has been a comedy of errors before, during, and since the qualifying period, which ended noon, Dec. 13, 2019. City employees assisting Arreola, Ward and the latter's protégé Reina Elise Saco disqualified former City Commissioner/Mayor Gary Gordon, solely because he submitted a personal check rather than a campaign account check for the fee. Nowhere in any of the County or City materials about qualifications was that requirement listed. I will be outlining all of the wrongdoing involved not only in this election but last year's when Donald Shepard was disqualified as a candidate for mayor, and the only opposition

- 12 (cont.) Poe had was from three candidates, two of whom were employed, who claimed that it was an undue burden for them to provide a filing fee.
13. The three most important concerns facing the City are not recognized by anyone but me, to the best of my knowledge. First, westward expansion should be inhibited OR the East Side publicly abandoned; in my 27 plus years in Gainesville I have watched prominent local whites maintain white supremacist practices to limit accumulation of wealth in the black community and to avoid criticism by selection and approval of African-American sycophants to further that end. To that end, I would call for the investigation of lending institutions for red-lining practices which have effectively discouraged and denied commercial loans to African-Americans not only here but those seeking to come here. “Buy local” campaigns have discouraged outside black businesses from re-locating here. Finally, I would insist that the City be accountable to show substantial increase in the number of black businesses used as contractors and vendors.
14. I do not support yet another phony program to increase literacy in our schools. I would call for volunteer mentors with credit to UF and Santa Fe students, perhaps stipends to the retirement communities and anyone else to mentor small groups of students, primarily on the East Side where the literacy gap is most acute. I would urge public co-funding of field trips for children throughout Gainesville but starting on the East Side; children there have no ready access to cinema, to the Harn Plaza attractions, to the Bat House and Lake Alice, and even to the Cade Museum, whose admission fees are outrageous. Certainly free access to the RTS bus system for K-12 students is a must.
15. No. The City’s efforts are nonsense to date. Certainly I would seek to involve the VA in any housing program for the homeless, far beyond the limited program they use. I would not attempt to deter the homeless from the downtown area. Instead, I would make the area, particularly Bo Diddley Plaza filled with daytime activity to attract crowds—e.g., allowing local artists to display their works on easels, as is done successfully in San Francisco. City Manager Lee Feldman is of similar mind, to keep downtown busy, with use of buskers—performance artists around the downtown. Certainly RTS must provide and advertise transportation from UF and Santa Fe to such downtown’s coming attractions.

- 15 (cont.) A major economic problem in this community is the intentional disconnect between college students and the rest of the community—except to come in the evening to enjoy events while inebriated. I personally know other college towns which would be shocked by that separation—Madison, Ann Arbor—now even Orlando—the North Carolina Research Triangle Michigan State.
- 16 I have suggested some ways to stimulate downtown activity above. I certainly would replace the Visitor's Bureau with a one-person kiosk at the Bo-Diddley Plaza, akin to what is available at the Airport. However, what is urgently needed are negotiations with landlords who own vacant lots throughout the downtown to find out what is necessary to keep a semblance of activity going in every nook and cranny around downtown. The strange state of Emiliano's in January since it closed is even more confusing than if it were empty. More murals certainly would help. I currently am completing a conceptual art work entitled drunken buildings based on photos I have taken and sculpted around the downtown area over the years.
- 17 The City's economic priority should be commercial development East of Main Street.
- 18 I have no interest in members of the business community supporting my candidacy. What I do want them to do is to pay attention to my ideas here and at the forum which are far more specific than any other. I would urge them to support Commissioner Scherwin Henry to create a commission with three African-Americans. If they support as I would suspect Reina Saco, the most rigid young person I have had the displeasure of meeting, she will assure the continuation of the mindless, white lying Poe administration which has brought this City to a historic low point in morale in the black community. That 20% of Gainesville should be the focus of the Chamber over the next four years. I will be running again for the other at-large seat in 2021. I should be much better prepared.

I specifically do NOT certify to any of the C of C's b.s. phrasing about content that is mostly opinion which y'all describe as "the veracity and completeness of the information."

But I can guarantee that no other party other than me completed this questionnaire.

/s/ ***Gabe Kaimowitz***

Gabe Kaimowitz, candidate for City Commission at large Seat A
(Gainesville ordinance) Seat 2 (county designation to satisfying State
requirements.)