



February 2020

Candidate for Election: City of Gainesville Commissioner

Note: Responses Will be Made Public. Please limit your responses to 100 words (the published response will be cut off at the limit).

1. Candidate's Name: Harvey Ward
2. Email Address: hlwardjr@gmail.com
3. Campaign Website: HarveyWard.com
4. Education: Eastside High School, Santa Fe College, University of Florida (BS, Public Relations)
5. Occupation: City Commissioner
6. Employer: City of Gainesville
7. Previous Employment: Holy Trinity Episcopal Foundation, WUFT TV/FM
8. Three Qualities Leaders Must Possess and Why:
 1. Clarity of Purpose - The direction of leadership should be unambiguous and plainly stated.
 2. Perseverance - The best of plans faces adversity. Reaching the final goal requires leaders to maintain the course and keep the end in mind.
 3. Flexibility - There may be more than one road to the final goal, and effective mid-course correction is key to success.
9. Civic Involvement:

In addition to my service on the City Commission I've served on a variety of local boards over the years, including, but not limited to, the Hippodrome Theatre, ElderCare of Alachua County, Early Learning Coalition of Alachua County and the Leadership Gainesville Alumni Association. I've also been active with my church and volunteered in



various political causes, and have always believed that activism and service are not optional, but, as Alice Walker said, “The rent we pay for living on this planet.”

10. Board(s) I’ve Served On and What Prompted Me to Serve On Them: (See number 9)

11. Have you ever served in elected public office? If yes, how many years total have you served in elected public office?

Yes, two and a half (since May, 2017)

12. Why are you running for this office?

I ran for city commission three years ago because I felt I could make a positive difference. With my colleagues I’ve been able to start the process of moving city elections, re-establish up-to-date three-year contracts with our police, fire and bus-drivers’ unions for the first time in many years, restructure the CRA for the better, conserve more than 700 acres of forest and wetlands and do many other things that directly benefit the people of our city. There is much left to be done, and I believe I have the vision, values and experience to continue to serve and lead.



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13. What do you perceive are the three most important concerns facing the City of Gainesville and what would be your top priorities, if elected?

- The Florida Legislature's growing list of preemptions of municipal policy-making authority.
- Growth management - Gainesville will grow, and the way we shape it today - including the new comprehensive plan - will have far-reaching implications
- Equity and affordability. It is critical that every person who chooses to call Gainesville home has an equitable stake in our community and is treated with actual fairness under the law.

I will continue to work on all these things, as well as keeping and making parks available to everyone, protecting our resources and making local government more transparent and accessible.

14. Significant achievement and opportunity gaps exist in our community. Recently, the City Commission and the Alachua County School Board agreed to a county-wide goal to achieve 100% reading proficiency for all children by the end of third grade within three years. Do you support this goal? Do you have other ideas to help close the gap?

I want to be careful to note that the school board and the city commission (and the county commission) are responsible for very different components of government. But we are all three responsible for the ultimate well-being of our community. *All* of our community. Yes, of course I support this goal, and helped write a letter from our commission to the school board asking how we might best assist. A direct way for the city to help is by removing RTS fares for everyone under 18 to ease after-school transportation for children and youth.

15. The City of Gainesville has worked to reduce homelessness by emphasizing rehousing. Soon, Dignity Village will be closed. Do you support the City's recent efforts? Why or why not?



This requires a far longer answer than the 100 word-limit allows. I have spent years personally volunteering with GRACE Marketplace, as well as serving on the joint city/county advisory board for the empowerment center before I was a commissioner and the joint oversight board since. This plan - brought to the city and county by GRACE last year - is a good one. "Permanent Supportive Housing" should be the goal regarding chronic homelessness - but the words "Permanent" and "Supportive" are often missing. There is tremendous need for additional social workers to be jointly funded in the coming fiscal year.

16. The City restructured its Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) last year in its ongoing efforts to revitalize Gainesville's urban core. What steps do you think are necessary to encourage live-work-play downtown?

The restructured CRA required more than a year of negotiation between the city and county, and I was CRA chair for much of that time. It allows far more flexible tax increment funding that will enable the GCRA to fund opportunity in East Gainesville, where it is most needed. There will still be funding available for downtown, and I want to see us fund and implement a downtown master plan. In the near term I believe we need some simple things such as dedicated cleaning crews and a program to incentivize filling empty downtown storefronts.

17. What do you feel the City's economic development priorities should be over the next four years?

I would like to see us focus more on supporting small, homegrown businesses, particularly those owned by women and minorities. I also plan to ask that we refocus our significant business incubation facilities in a more targeted fashion. The best thing the city can do for economic development, however, is continue to create a community where people want to live and where working families can thrive. Business opportunities will follow.

18. Why should members of the business community support your candidacy?

I have met with, listened to and worked with leaders across our community from Pine Ridge to Tigert Hall, from the Chamber to the AFL-CIO and everything in-between. I've



already been endorsed by diverse community and professional groups including the Sierra Club, the Human Rights Council, the Gainesville Professional Firefighters (IAFF Local 2157) and the Democratic Women's Club. I continue to believe that every person of every age in our community deserves great parks and public spaces, clean, abundant water and an open, transparent government they can trust, and I will continue to work toward that end.

I hereby certify to the veracity and completeness of the information herein and that no other party other than myself completed this questionnaire.

Original or Electronic Signature