



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: Jennifer Reid
2. Email Address: reidforgainesville@gmail.com
3. Campaign Website: reidforgainesville.com
4. Education:  
High School Diploma from Newberry High School, Bachelor's degree in Legal Studies.
5. Occupation:  
Legal Assistant and Realtor
6. Employer:  
Law Office of Ramona M. Chance and Team Dynamo of Keller Williams
7. Previous Employment:  
Esthetician
8. Three Qualities Leaders Must Possess and Why:
  1. Accountability
  2. Collaboration and Inclusiveness
  3. Transparent

Accountability. A leader should be held accountable for their actions and the people they lead. As a leader, you must be responsible to delegate, perform what needs to be completed, and use resources to meet the needs of the citizens. Collaboration and Inclusiveness A leader should collaborate with the people and other leaders. It is important to build shared knowledge with other leaders and with the people to provide a better organization. Transparent. A leader should be transparent and open to the people they lead. Accountability, collaboration and transparency are crucial to run a safe, affordable and



sustainable community.

9. Civic Involvement:

I am a Guardian Ad Litem Volunteer. Many children need someone to stand up for them and be an advocate, a voice for a chance at a better life. I am their voice.

10. Board(s) I've Served On and What Prompted Me to Serve On Them:

PTA board member, a School Advisory Council Member, and a member on the City of Gainesville Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development. I joined the PTA and SAC because I am a very involved mother and believe our children deserve the best in education and in our community. I joined the CAACD board because I want the very best for the families in our community and I wanted to help make a positive and lasting impact in their lives.

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

No

12. Why are you running for this office?

I have always taught my children that if you believe in something so much you should fight for it. I believe in my city. People tend to complain about issues and never do anything about it. I was tired of just complaining. I believe there are solutions to mitigate the concerns of the citizens of Gainesville and I have the grit to find them. I am running to make a difference in our community.



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

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?

1. Accountability
2. Affordability
3. Transparency

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 do support this goal. I am a member of the School Advisory Council for Littlewood Elementary School and this is a goal we discuss at every meeting. As a mother of a third grader with high-functioning Autism, this goal is very important to me. I do not know of any single program that, on its own, is sufficiently powerful to close the reading proficiency gap. I believe our community and many of our programs (WIC, Head Start, Libraries, Museums) should become stakeholders in this campaign. Focusing on readiness, attendance and summer learning can help bridge that gap.

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?

A little over 200 residents must leave when Dignity Village closes, increasing the possibility of an influx of homeless people in the downtown area. Among business owners, this leads to the rising concern of safety. The City has allowed, and continue to allow, campers from Dignity Village and other homeless people from off the street, coming from all over the state and country, to go inside the gate and receive free services (meals, showers, laundry etc.), without conducting any police clearances. Their failure to implement responsible and appropriate rules continues to place everyone's safety at risk - the homeless people living inside who are working on their recovery, the staff and the public. I believe our community should be our priority and it is time to sit down as a fluid unit and tackle the hard questions of working towards fixing this problem and protecting all our citizens.



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 Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) is a taxpayer-funded organization established in 1979 with the idea of revitalizing and repairing four regions of the city: Downtown, Fifth Avenue/Pleasant Street, College Park/University Heights and Eastside. The CRA changes are not beneficial to addressing the unincorporated community. We are asking taxpayers to fund this organization yet the funding is not benefitting the residents of those communities. Before we focus on taking steps to encourage live-work-play downtown, I think we should focus on the necessary steps to make those struggling communities a priority. We should ask the residents of the Eastside what they would like, I can tell you they don't want a live-work-play downtown, they want a grocery store, they want an urgent care facility, they want more bus routes. They want to be heard.

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

The keys to successful economic development is the attitude that investors and businesses are the city's clients and we as a city must do what we can to help them thrive. It needs to be a dialogue between the parties, not an outcome dictated by any single party. Opportunities to all residents, seeks to reduce inequalities, and protect the vulnerable. Besides make the best use of taxpayers' contributions, cost efficiency is key to prudent budgeting. Zero-based budgeting ensures every line item of the budget must be approved.

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

I am running with the passion to enhance and improve our community. Businesses understand the dynamic of our community. Through clients and customers, businesses have an understanding of public needs. In order for our community and businesses to thrive economically, we as a city must create a setting where entrepreneurs want their business and their families to be. I was born and raised in this city, I am raising two little boys in Gainesville. The future of Gainesville affects my family personally. I want nothing more than a thriving community.



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*

*Jennifer Crystal Reid*