



Alachua County Farm Bureau

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Charter Review Committee
Honorable Buddy Irby, Chairman

Alachua County Charter Review Committee:

As the Committee works to complete the final recommendations for proposed changes to the Charter for presentation to the voters of Alachua County, the Board of Directors of the Alachua County Farm Bureau would like to support three issues currently under consideration by the Committee and submit a new, and very important one. The ACFB Board voted unanimously to support the following four changes to the County Charter:

1. Amend the Charter to limit the number of consecutive terms a commissioner can serve on the BOCC
2. Amend the charter to divide the county into five single member districts that provide equal representation to the population groups consisting of the three urban and two rural districts that provide for the rural and agricultural areas. Each district shall be established on the equitable distribution of county population among the districts.
3. Amend the charter to establish salaries for commissioners not to exceed the average wage of the county. Changes to salaries will be voted on by a super majority of the county commissioners. Any increases in the salaries are to be based on the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index, not to exceed 3% annually.
4. Eliminate duplication of government programs and regulatory functions conducted by the County. For example, current EPD programs duplicate existing Water Management Districts, State Department of Environmental Protection, Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Corps of Engineers regulatory and permitting programs. County property owners pay state and federal taxes to support these agencies, and also pay county taxes for a duplication of these programs.

We have not listed these in order of priority. We strongly recommend the CRC seriously consider the importance of these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Roger L. West

Roger West, President
Alachua County Farm Bureau

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