

ALACHUA COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Michele L. Lieberman
County Attorney



Role of the County Attorney's Office

- County Attorney advises Board – the entity
- Obligation to defend Board's decisions
- Objective advice to Board
- Does not address policy issues



County Attorney's Office

- Currently 8 FTEs
 - 6 attorneys
 - 3 assistants and 1 registered paralegal
- Wide range of legal practice areas
- Combined total in excess of 50 years local government law experience



Historical Staffing Levels

- Four attorneys in 1985
- Four attorneys in 2002
- Five attorneys in 2003
- Six attorneys in 2017
- Outside attorney's time is expensive – expertise



Performance Indicators

Performance Indicator	Actual Calendar Year 2013	Actual Calendar Year 2014	Actual Calendar Year 2015
BOCC meetings	70	63	83
Agenda items reviewed	673	361	692
Contracts drafted and/or reviewed	393	502	386
Ordinances drafted and/or reviewed	17	23	18
Resolutions drafted and/or reviewed	111	126	129
Lawsuits with Alachua County named as defendant or plaintiff	106	108	98

NOTE: Numbers are approximate.



Efficiency Indicators

Efficiency	Fiscal Year 2014	Fiscal Year 2015	Fiscal Year 2016
Adopted budget	\$1,024,949	\$889,364	\$952,264
Actual expenditure	\$947,380	\$864,597	\$884,704
Annual cost of service per citizen*	\$3.70	\$3.37	\$3.45
Average hourly rate per attorney**	\$91.09	\$83.13	\$85.07

* Based on US census population estimate of July 1, 2014 (256,380).

** FY2014 includes payout for long-term employee and one-month overlap of exiting county attorney and replacement; FY 2015 includes payout for long-term employee.



Entities Represented

- Board of County Commissioners
- County Manager and Staff
- Constitutional Officers
- Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization
- Miscellaneous Boards and Committees
- Library District



Areas of Practice

- Tort Claims
- Labor and Employment
- Public Finance
- Code Enforcement
- Public Records/Sunshine Law
- Bidding and Public Procurement Process
- Drafting and Review of Contracts, Ordinances and Resolutions



Powers of Charter County

- Charter County – expansive home rule power
- All powers not inconsistent with general law or special law approved by vote of electors
- County Charter can alter form of County government (Status of Constitutional Officers)
- Provide for relationship with municipalities



Alachua County Home Rule Charter

- Approved by the electors – effective 1/1/87
- Elected five-member Commission – at-large
- Commissioners reside in Districts
- Municipal ordinances prevail over county ordinances to the extent of conflicts
- Commissioner/Manager form of government
- Appointed County Manager and County Attorney
- Board affirms department directors



Elected Constitutional Officers

- 5 Constitutional Officers
- No change to constitutional powers and duties
- Sovereign status



Amendments Since Adoption

- Regulations prohibiting air or water pollution – more stringent standards prevail – both are enforceable - preemption
- Conservation lands - registry
- Campaign finance regulation
- Dual referenda
- Amending voter-approved ordinances



Amending the County Charter

- Proposed by petition – 10% of electors
- Charter Revision Commission – every 10 years
- BOCC – ordinance – majority plus one
- Special Act - Legislature





COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

352-374-5218
www.alachuacounty.us



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