

ALACHUA COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Citizen's Academy 2018

Sylvia E. Torres
Interim County Attorney



County Attorney's Office Role

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



County Attorney's Staff

- Currently 10 FTEs
 - 6 attorneys
 - 3 assistants & 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
 - worker's comp brought in-house



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 and Resolutions drafted and/or reviewed	128	149	147
Lawsuits with Alachua County named as defendant or plaintiff	106	108	98

NOTE: Numbers are approximate.

Efficiency Indicators

Efficiency	Fiscal Year 2017
Actual expenditure*	\$1,107,894.67
Cost per citizen**	\$4.20
Average hourly rate per attorney <i>(based on 10,356.75 total atty hrs in FY17)</i>	\$106.97

NOTES: **Includes pay of Interim Co Manager from Aug 8-Sep 30.*

***Based on US census population estimate of July 1, 2016 (263,496).*

Entities Represented

- Board of County Commissioners
- County Manager & Staff
- Supervisor of Elections & Tax Collector
- Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization (MTPO)
- Miscellaneous Boards & Committees
- Library District



Areas of Practice

- Tort Claims
- Labor & Employment and Worker's Comp
- Public Finance
- Code Enforcement
- Public Records/Sunshine Law
- Bidding & Public Procurement Process
- Drafting & Review of Contracts,
Ordinances & 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's 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



Constitutional Officers

- Elected
- 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 Charter

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





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www.alachuacounty.us

