Connected Gainesville

Candidate Questionnaires

Election Day: March 14, 7 am - 7 pm
Early Vote
March 6, 2017 through March 11, 2017
Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday: 9 AM - 5 PM
Tuesday & Thursday: 10 AM - 6 PM

Locations
Supervisor of Elections: 515 N Main Street, Suite 100, Gainesville, FL 32601
Millhopper Branch Library: 3145 NW 43rd St, Gainesville, FL 32606
Cone Park Library: 2801 E University Ave, Gainesville, FL 32641

Races

Learn more about the upcoming election

Helen Warren	Jenn Powell
HelenKWarren.com	Jennpowell4gainesville.com
Do you believe affordable, reliable Broadband internet connectivity is a key driver of economic development, education, and quality of life? Please explain why. If yes, what would you do as city commissioner to improve residents access to affordable and reliable broadband internet?	
Yes, I do understand how important good reliable internet service is for every student to connect with their learning experience. The advancements in technology are dependent on high quality of services. I think that the city should be encouraging other fair market competition to bring more options to the public. The technology is changing so quickly that a competitive arrangement might provide cutting edge services and fair competitive pricing. The city may be able to provide an incentive to get affordable service in low income areas.	Yes, affordable access to the internet is a basic service and should be available to homes served by the Gainesville Regional utility. The City's communications company, GRUcom was started in the '80s and has expanded fiber optics to suburban areas and to high density developments but not to older and inner city neighborhoods. As a bulk service to apartments the cost per month is low and is included in the rent. The city commission is in a position to expand competitive service to inner city homes via GRUcoms' fiber optic network.
Gainesville has the highest broadband internet prices in Florida, and only has one city-wide broadband provider for residential customers. Compared to St. Petersburg, which has numerous competitors, Gainesville residents pay over $450 more per year for broadband internet. Do you believe our city faces a lack of competition in internet service providers, leading to higher rates, lower connectivity, and lower quality internet access? Please explain why or why not.	
Even though there are some options for internet services, the quality of reception varies and I hear from residents that they find many problems with each company. The possibility of getting better service if the companies competed seems likely as this would be one of the main issues customers would base their selection and choice, along with what I said for first question.	Yes we are way behind the curve and have not attempted to encourage or provide competition except for a few free mobile experiments downtown. The city commission is in a position to use GRUcom to provide a free wifi open network in urban areas using small pole mounted transmitters and if the utility is not able or interested, city commission can make the pole attachments available to other companies, as well as stimulating the expansion of 4 and 5G networks for public use.

Would you support a City of Gainesville funded study on how to make our community into a 21st century city, finding solutions to improving internet access, bridging the digital divide, and making high-speed broadband internet more affordable for residential and business consumers? Please explain why.	
I would support a third party study that could assess the quality of services and cost to customers with the goal of solving the problem you have listed in your question. As a government operation, the city needs to have the best information on how to encourage and attract businesses that can provide the best of services with changing technology.	Yes because without affordable high speed digital access there is little hope for lower income families who are isolated from full participation as citizens.

A 1TB data cap was recently introduced by our internet provider, where you are charged $10 for each 50GB over that amount. Data caps have been shown to stifle innovation and disproportionately impact families, low income users, and student users. With increasing use of new data heavy technologies like 4K televisions, the amount of data used by families is projected to increase considerably in the next few years, causing them to go over their data cap and spend more on their broadband internet bills, which are already the highest in Florida. Do you support data caps? Please explain why.	
I would need more information	Cox franchise renewal negotiations must address data caps to determine the impact on users. I believe the city and county can create a better policy outside the franchise renewal process and should invite competition for internet services to homes and public places.

Net neutrality is a principal that all internet providers should treat internet traffic equally, regardless if they're a large company like Google or a small startup like Gainesville's own Mindtree, Sharpspring or Feathr. Some internet service providers have lobbied against net neutrality policies in order to create artificial toll lanes on the internet. Removing these policies would hurt Gainesville's small businesses and stifle innovation. Are you in favor of the City of Gainesville continuing to advocate for net neutrality policies and why?	
Yes, the city can be an advocate but we, the city needs to figure out what our seat at the table looks like. We have many issues on the table and need to figure out what we can do to support community involvement to solve these problems. The city can not solve everything.	Net neutrality is critical to free, affordable open exchange and use of the internet. I would stand up as a commissioner to actions that threaten net neutrality.

Internet service providers currently pay the cost of laying wired infrastructure in return for access to customers. The costly process of tearing up roads and poles gives the service providers a "natural monopoly". A dig once policy and a "one touch make ready" policy would simplify access to infrastructure, improving consumer choices and lowering the cost of internet connection. Would you support a dig once and "one touch make ready" policy and why?

The cost saving and time management benefits provide strength to the argument for cooperation among service providers. The process to build a win/win attitude among the providers will require many conversations among the companies.	Yes. The city and county own the right-of-ways in and on which all communication utilities and businesses depend. With a simple resolution the govt. can make this infrastructure available to all who meet basic standards of performance. Plans for most trenching and digging up streets and right-of-ways are made well in advance so all qualified users may be notified of the availability in advance,

Gainesville is currently serviced primarily through cable copper internet lines. Cable is the standard due to it being used in television, but it is slower, more costly, and shares bandwidth between neighbors. Gainesville currently has 650 miles of city owned fiber, one of the largest city owned fiber networks in the U.S., but is only accessible to a small number of businesses and apartment complexes. Would you support a public private partnership that would expand fiber to the home using municipal broadband and why?

I think that an approach like this is similar to what questions the City asked when they made the decision to build their own utility plant about a hundred years ago.	Yes and no. The city owns GRUcom so unless it is irreversibly dysfunctional, our publicly owned utility should be able to provide the services without private investment or control.

Many cities, such as Chattanooga, Tennessee and Lafayette, Louisiana have expanded their municipal fiber networks city-wide with positive results. A study by the University of Tennessee found that Chattanooga's fiber expansion brought in up to $1.3 billion in economic benefit and created up to 5,200 jobs over 4 years. Would you support expansion of municipal fiber to provide high speed broadband internet access to residential customers and why?

I would want to see how an independent study recommends city to proceed based on cost for construction and installation and suggested rates needed to recover those costs.	Yes and no. The city owns GRUcom so unless it is irreversibly dysfunctional, our publicly owned utility should be able to provide the services without private investment or control.

According to the FCC, 15 percent of Alachua County residents don't have access to high speed broadband internet. This disproportionately impacts low income residents, and research has shown it drastically reduces students' education outcomes,

wages, and chances of going to college. Do you support a program that would provide free or subsidized broadband internet service to low income neighborhoods in Gainesville and why?

I would need to see what the costs would be and how this would be shared with the county. It's a great concept.	Yes and the reasons are well articulated within the question - the digital divide is a form of discrimination and our city can bridge the unacceptable digital divide for its residents.

Would you support expanding wireless broadband internet to city public places such as Depot Park, McPherson Park, West Side Park and other public places to increase accessibility, innovation, and connectivity, and why?

Depends on what the cost would be. Could private business interest be brought to the funding with sponsorships.	Yes, depending on costs of service and need.

Would you support a resolution that states that broadband internet is not a luxury, but a necessity, that is critical for economic development, workforce development, and education, and that every Gainesville resident deserves access to broadband internet at an affordable rate? Please explain why.

This is an emotional plea. Every citizen deserves to have food on their table too. How does the city solve all these problems without finding balance in their budget. Lets work on keeping an active and passionate conversation on what the people need, and how the people will help the people get what they need.	Yes for the reasons stated in the question.

According to a GRU survey in 2010, 40 percent of households in Hawthorne, Micanopy, and Waldo do not have access to broadband internet service in their homes. Would you support expanding community owned broadband internet to residential and commercial consumers in underserved Alachua County rural municipalities such as Hawthorne, Micanopy, Waldo and others? Please explain why.

Yes, but seem most of my previous comments related to how we get the funding to pay for this service.	As a city commissioner I would encourage the county commissioners to improve and or provide service to these communities and would use our utility and franchise negotiations to advance service to these areas.

District 3

David Arreola	Craig Carter
www.davidarreola.com	www.reelectcarter.com

Do you believe affordable, reliable Broadband internet connectivity is a key driver of economic development, education, and quality of life? Please explain why. If yes, what would you do as city commissioner to improve residents access to affordable and reliable broadband internet?	
Yes, I would join my fellow Commissioners in exploring municipal broadband expansion. I work for a company that supplies satellite internet and broadband internet services in the surrounding 13 county area. The need for broadband internet is out there and people need modern internet service in 2017.	Yes, affordable, reliable broadband internet is a key driver of economic development because commerce and education are definitely web-based now. I would continue to work with GRU, which has a fiber-based, and outside companies to encourage competitive broadband for all of the city's areas/residents. We need to be creative in certain areas for wi-fi availability.

Gainesville has the highest broadband internet prices in Florida, and only has one city-wide broadband provider for residential customers. Compared to St. Petersburg, which has numerous competitors, Gainesville residents pay over $450 more per year for broadband internet. Do you believe our city faces a lack of competition in internet service providers, leading to higher rates, lower connectivity, and lower quality internet access? Please explain why or why not.	
In my experience in the Broadband internet industry, I have found that less options translates to hiked rates that ding customers pockets. Broadband internet must be affordable to working people. Some companies have price stratification as a policy. When they are the only company in town they charge a higher rate and when they are in competition they offer reduced rates.	Yes. Competition always drives the price down and is good for the consumers. Gainesville has a lack of competition.

Would you support a City of Gainesville funded study on how to make our community into a 21st century city, finding solutions to improving internet access, bridging the digital divide, and making high-speed broadband internet more affordable for residential and business consumers? Please explain why.	

Yes I would support this study and closely follow its results. 25mbps is a reasonable benchmark and I frequently read FCC studies as it relates to directing sales and marketing at my business.	I would need to know the cost and parameters of the study before I could support it but I do believe that having that information would be essential to helping move our city forward in the digital era and reducing costs to the consumers.

A 1TB data cap was recently introduced by our internet provider, where you are charged $10 for each 50GB over that amount. Data caps have been shown to stifle innovation and disproportionately impact families, low income users, and student users. With increasing use of new data heavy technologies like 4K televisions, the amount of data used by families is projected to increase considerably in the next few years, causing them to go over their data cap and spend more on their broadband internet bills, which are already the highest in Florida. Do you support data caps? Please explain why.

I do not support data caps. Satellite internet, for example, has data caps (for now) and it is a constant source of frustration for our customers. If people are going to pay for internet let them have unlimited data with no caps and no overages.	City government has no control over what private companies do; however, the implementation of the data cap may open the door for new companies to come in and market their products here. Residents' discontent with the data cap could cause that vital competition and reduction of costs.

Net neutrality is a principal that all internet providers should treat internet traffic equally, regardless if they're a large company like Google or a small startup like Gainesville's own Mindtree, Sharpspring or Feathr. Some internet service providers have lobbied against net neutrality policies in order to create artificial toll lanes on the internet. Removing these policies would hurt Gainesville's small businesses and stifle innovation. Are you in favor of the City of Gainesville continuing to advocate for net neutrality policies and why?

I support net neutrality. The basic principle of the internet is openness and connectedness, come what may. If we're being honest, it is likely the CIA, FBI, and NSA operate in the fast lines looking for Russian hackers, but why would we allow our citizens to be sold stratified internet speeds based on the services they pay for. It would stifle innovation and do to internet programs what radio did to popular music. Ruin it.	I do know enough about the pros and cons of this to have an opinion on this. On the surface, it seems that everyone whould have the same access.

Internet service providers currently pay the cost of laying wired infrastructure in return for access to customers. The costly process of tearing up roads and poles gives the service providers a "natural monopoly". A dig once policy and a "one touch make ready" policy would simplify access to infrastructure, improving consumer choices and lowering the cost of internet connection. Would you support a dig once and "one touch make ready" policy and why?

Yes, digging infrastructure is costly. Sustainable infrastructure and manageable costs should be a top priority for Gainesville over the next 40 years. I support a dig once policy and one touch make ready policies.	The less labor costs anyone has to incur, the better. The City of Gainesville and GRU currently coordinate with as many stakeholders/entities as possible to get the most bang for our buck but I support furthering this.

Gainesville is currently serviced primarily through cable copper internet lines. Cable is the standard due to it being used in television, but it is slower, more costly, and shares bandwidth between neighbors. Gainesville currently has 650 miles of city owned fiber, one of the largest city owned fiber networks in the U.S., but is only accessible to a small number of businesses and apartment complexes. Would you support a public private partnership that would expand fiber to the home using municipal broadband and why?

I believe citizens would stand to benefit from broadband internet on the city owned fiber lines at a price that will drive down internet prices for everyone in Gainesville regardless of which service they are still free to choose from.	Yes I would support it because if we are going to be in the fiber business, we should encourage use of it, which would have a positive effect on our utility and our citizens at the same time.

Many cities, such as Chattanooga, Tennessee and Lafayette, Louisiana have expanded their municipal fiber networks city-wide with positive results. A study by the University of Tennessee found that Chattanooga's fiber expansion brought in up to $1.3 billion in economic benefit and created up to 5,200 jobs over 4 years. Would you support expansion of municipal fiber to provide high speed broadband internet access to residential customers and why?

I support the expansion of municipally owned broadband internet to residential and commercial customers. If Gainesville is to truly develop into a city with information economy infrastructure like broadband internet, we can provide lots of jobs, reduce the cost of living, and invest in our own city's infrastructure.	It is not feasible for the city to run fiber optics in every neighborhood. We could do a trunk line and then encourage private companies to do connections into the neighborhoods. Everything would be a case-by-case basis and would require study.

According to the FCC, 15 percent of Alachua County residents don't have access to high speed broadband internet. This

disproportionately impacts low income residents, and research has shown it drastically reduces students' education outcomes, wages, and chances of going to college. Do you support a program that would provide free or subsidized broadband internet service to low income neighborhoods in Gainesville and why?

I believe access to the internet should be made a fundamental right accessible to everyone. Free and subsidized broadband internet service would not be expensive for the city so I promote it. Ultimately, the question will be posed as to whether we regard internet as a utility and not just a service. I believe it is.	There would need to be a cost study done. We would need to come up with creative ways, maybe through wi-fi, to help neighborhoods that do not have access to broadband. It's the same scenario as neighborhoods in the city that do not have access to other utilities; we need to address all these issues at the same time.

Would you support expanding wireless broadband internet to city public places such as Depot Park, McPherson Park, West Side Park and other public places to increase accessibility, innovation, and connectivity, and why?

Wherever there is broadband access there will be people coming with devices to continue to enjoy the lifestyle afforded by modern technology. Some will come with the next big idea in the park or another will be a family enjoying a live streaming birthday party. This is a great idea and I fully support it.	Yes; the biggest reason would be for people to be able to conduct business and/or classwork while enjoying the amenities with their families our city has to offer.

Would you support a resolution that states that broadband internet is not a luxury, but a necessity, that is critical for economic development, workforce development, and education, and that every Gainesville resident deserves access to broadband internet at an affordable rate? Please explain why.

Absolutely. For the reasons stated in this questionnaire, I unequivocally support expanding internet access and lowering prices for Gainesville residents.	No because once government states something is a necessity, the city could end up paying for all broadband for everyone, which is not economically feasible. I would definitely encourage and work towards getting more competition thereby allowing citizens choices and better product/costs.

According to a GRU survey in 2010, 40 percent of households in Hawthorne, Micanopy, and Waldo do not have access to broadband internet service in their homes. Would you support expanding community owned broadband internet to residential and commercial consumers in underserved Alachua County rural municipalities such as Hawthorne, Micanopy, Waldo and others?

Please explain why.	
These are areas my company services. Often we find consumers only have access to satellite internet technology which does not meet the FCC's requirement for broadband internet. I believe the City of Gainesville and our neighbor cities must unite Alachua County in making broadband internet accessible to all.	No because I do not think we are doing a sufficient job in the city of Gainesville yet so it would be hard for me to back going out into other cities in the county.

District 2

Perry Clawson	Sheryl Eddie	Harvey Ward
www.Vote4Clawson.com	www.ElectSherylEddie.com	www.harveyward.com

Do you believe affordable, reliable Broadband internet connectivity is a key driver of economic development, education, and quality of life? Please explain why. If yes, what would you do as city commissioner to improve residents access to affordable and reliable broadband internet?

Perry Clawson	Sheryl Eddie	Harvey Ward
Yes. Internet access has become a necessity in today's modern world just as a phone was over 60 years ago. The burgeoning software development industry in Alachua County along with other existing businesses rely on internet connectivity to conduct their business whether it be in product development or something as simple as receiving on line orders. As our education system moves toward more on line classes ALL of our students deserve to have the required access to do research and to complete their required course work. I would advocate for a joint effort amongst the Gainesville City Commission, the Alachua County Commission, the Alachua School Board, and to pursue both State and Federal grants to fund the requested study to determine the feasibility of providing reliable, high speed, and affordable internet service throughout	I believe accessible and affordable internet is critical for all citizens and part of making Gainesville a premiere city. It is key for quality of life. Applying for just about any services from veteran's services, Medicare, unemployment, and jobs, internet is required. It is critical for education and must be accessible for everyone. This is a major project, and as a city commission we must continue to work with our partners on Bridging the Digital Divide which the NAACP, the City and Cox began about 4 years ago.	Yes. Since the early stages of my campaign last October I have advocated for the city commission to initiate a study to discern the best practices and costs of offering various levels of broadband service to the greater Gainesville community through GRU. Our public utility owns fiber optic lines that span the city and beyond. It seems wasteful not to put those lines to the people's use.

Gainesville and Alachua County. Once we have identified potential courses of action and their associated cost we can then move on to the second stage of resourcing the selected course of action.		

Gainesville has the highest broadband internet prices in Florida, and only has one city-wide broadband provider for residential customers. Compared to St. Petersburg, which has numerous competitors, Gainesville residents pay over $450 more per year for broadband internet. Do you believe our city faces a lack of competition in internet service providers, leading to higher rates, lower connectivity, and lower quality internet access? Please explain why or why not.

I agree the city of Gainesville does not have adequate competition for internet service as the market is primarily dominated by Cox Cable. As ATT moves more into the area and becomes more reliable hopefully this will bring about much needed competition and the associated price reductions normally seen in a competitive market. Inviting other broadband internet providers to enter the market in Gainesville, even in only the high demand areas of town, may also help to increase competition and foster more competitive pricing in those areas while leaving open the possibility for future expansion to adjoining areas.	It is an internet infrastructure/population density issue. There are 3 high speed internet providers: AT&T, GruCom and COX. COX, as the cable provider has the fiber in more areas. AT&T offers DSL but DSL is at capacity in areas. GRUCom is not available to enough. The investment for updating older neighborhoods is large. Other cities face the same issue but population density dictates investment, therefore more dense cities are upgraded quicker. We need to speak to the service providers and see what their plans are and how we as a city can assist in updating the infrastructure for broadband.	Yes. Most of Gainesville's residential and commercial internet service is provided by Cox Communications, and primarily through aging lines originally intended for cable television. Some neighborhoods are served by AT&T DSL lines, but neither of the two offers consistently high data speeds. Gainesville's internet needs are, for all practical purposes, served by a monopoly. Due to the relatively small size of the market and the lack of competition, it is unlikely that rates will fall or that either Cox or AT&T will invest in the infrastructure necessary to improve service and availability.

Would you support a City of Gainesville funded study on how to make our community into a 21st century city, finding solutions to improving internet access, bridging the digital divide, and making high-speed broadband internet more affordable for residential and business consumers? Please explain why.

Yes I would support as a City Commissioner the funding for such a	As study might be the right choice but we need to bring the players to the table.	Yes. Internet access is a necessary utility, not an optional luxury. Working families

study for the same reasons I previously provided in Question 1.	Cox, GruCom and AT&T and find out their plans for growth.	are paying too much for too little service, children without access are being left behind educationally and business growth is significantly hindered in the current environment. This is unacceptable.

A 1TB data cap was recently introduced by our internet provider, where you are charged $10 for each 50GB over that amount. Data caps have been shown to stifle innovation and disproportionately impact families, low income users, and student users. With increasing use of new data heavy technologies like 4K televisions, the amount of data used by families is projected to increase considerably in the next few years, causing them to go over their data cap and spend more on their broadband internet bills, which are already the highest in Florida. Do you support data caps? Please explain why.

No, I do not support data caps. When cell phones first came out users were charged for minutes and text/data with different "rate" plans based on usage. This approach had the same negative effect on families and businesses that a data cap now has on internet use and we have seen how competition amongst cell phone providers has significantly reduced or eliminated these caps and gone to an unlimited use approach. Discontinuing the use of data caps allows for the removal of artificial constraints on business use of the internet in product development and testing, allows families to fully benefit from the expanding data technologies that are now present and coming on to the market every year, and not discriminate against low income households.	There is only so much capacity available. The demand is more than capacity in areas. Charging more is a way to limit or reduce usage. This is complex, won't happen overnight but we need to address the capacity, infrastructure and make it a priority because demand is only going to go up. Data caps are what companies need to do with demand higher than their ability to provide similar to rolling blackouts when electricity demand peeks during certain months in areas who could not handle demand.	No. I understand the arguments that certain heavy users increase usage across the system, but those same users are also often most likely to unlock the greatest innovation. I prefer a one-price system.

Net neutrality is a principal that all internet providers should treat internet traffic equally, regardless if they're a large company like

Google or a small startup like Gainesville's own Mindtree, Sharpspring or Feathr. Some internet service providers have lobbied against net neutrality policies in order to create artificial toll lanes on the internet. Removing these policies would hurt Gainesville's small businesses and stifle innovation. Are you in favor of the City of Gainesville continuing to advocate for net neutrality policies and why?

I am in favor of maintaining net neutrality policies so internet providers are not allowed to show favoritism to "special" customers to the detriment of smaller businesses thus stifling the competitiveness of those small companies.	I would need to research more thoroughly, however, on the surface, yes because the equity for such a critical service is important.	Yes. Net Neutrality, while poorly-named and often misunderstood, is in the best interest of nearly everyone but the largest corporations. Tiered internet access hinders an innovation economy and does not serve the people. The City of Gainesville should actively advocate for Net Neutrality.

Internet service providers currently pay the cost of laying wired infrastructure in return for access to customers. The costly process of tearing up roads and poles gives the service providers a "natural monopoly". A dig once policy and a "one touch make ready" policy would simplify access to infrastructure, improving consumer choices and lowering the cost of internet connection. Would you support a dig once and "one touch make ready" policy and why?

Yes I would support such a policy as it would allow natural competition in the market along with all of the associated benefits in cost reduction and improved products (such as in the is case improved reliability and internet speeds) to the customers.	This would take more research on my part, the monopoly in certain areas is why we have the situation today of limited competition. Uverse from AT&T is on its way but will not help for a long time in less population dense and older areas for some time. This is complex and needs more research and conversations with providers.	Yes. Modern development requires different policies to maintain competitiveness. These are necessary to modern infrastructure.

Gainesville is currently serviced primarily through cable copper internet lines. Cable is the standard due to it being used in television, but it is slower, more costly, and shares bandwidth between neighbors. Gainesville currently has 650 miles of city owned fiber, one of the largest city owned fiber networks in the U.S., but is only accessible to a small number of businesses and apartment complexes. Would you support a public private partnership that would expand fiber to the home using municipal broadband and why?

I would support this initiative of a public private partnership. The citizens of Gainesville all equally own the existing fiber network and should all share equally in the benefits derived from this capability both in their homes and their businesses.	Yes, we need to modernize now. City owned fiber is tax payer owned and access should be available to everyone possible and if it takes partnering with a company then so be it. But I prefer to have more than one partner and/or make it a city run utility.	Yes, although we need to be clear what is meant by "public private." My objective, unless an exhaustive study proves it unfeasible, would be for our public utility, GRU, to provide the service.

Many cities, such as Chattanooga, Tennessee and Lafayette, Louisiana have expanded their municipal fiber networks city-wide with positive results. A study by the University of Tennessee found that Chattanooga's fiber expansion brought in up to $1.3 billion in economic benefit and created up to 5,200 jobs over 4 years. Would you support expansion of municipal fiber to provide high speed broadband internet access to residential customers and why?

Yes I would support the expansion of the municipal fiber network in the city. Rather than spending tax dollars to incentivize businesses to move to Gainesville I would rather spend those same dollars on expanding our resource capabilities to make doing business here more attractive to prospective companies looking to relocate or establish themselves. The added benefit would be residential customers would also be able to take advantage of this fiber expansion in their homes making Gainesville a more desirable place to relocate to and live. No one today wants to live where there is no or spotty cell phone coverage and the same applies to reliable, affordable, high speed internet access. The associated rise in jobs, home construction and home sales, and the corresponding increase in tax revenue from those improved tax	Yes, it is critical for citizens in the 21st century.	Yes. My primary focus is working families. While I understand and support the expansion of service for commercial use, residential needs are my first priority. Current residential service is expensive and inadequate.

base sources of income and stimulation of the local economy would more than justify and pay back the initial investment.		
According to the FCC, 15 percent of Alachua County residents don't have access to high speed broadband internet. This disproportionately impacts low income residents, and research has shown it drastically reduces students' education outcomes, wages, and chances of going to college. Do you support a program that would provide free or subsidized broadband internet service to low income neighborhoods in Gainesville and why?		
I would support a subsidized broadband internet service to low income neighborhoods in Gainesville. As a Guardian ad Litem court appointed advocate for children in Dependency Court I have seen the difficulties those children encounter in trying to achieve normalcy in their lives. Not having reliable and affordable internet access puts them at a further disadvantage in their educational pursuits. This expands when entire neighborhoods are left behind and cannot "compete" with other the students living in more affluent areas and ultimately results in a negative impact on the entire community in terms of lower education, lower qualified workers, and increased divisiveness.	We already have such programs but they need to be expanded.	Yes. When we offer equitable access across the community we will all benefit. Reaching equity will require a system of subsidies in several neighborhoods. However, I believe there is a level of installations which will bring economies of scale to bear and drastically reduce cost system-wide.
Would you support expanding wireless broadband internet to city public places such as Depot Park, McPherson Park, West Side Park and other public places to increase accessibility, innovation, and connectivity, and why?		
Yes I would support this expansion. As we see more and more businesses using	Yes, I believe hot spots should be available at bus stops, parks etc.	Yes. The more open access we can offer the better. There are no examples of

free internet access (think Starbucks as an example) to attract customers the same concept applies to increasing the use of our public places. The citizens of Gainesville would get a better return on their investment from those public places through greater utilization of them.	Partnering with providers is a way to make that happen.	municipalities offering too much service. Access feeds innovation and innovation improves quality of life.
Would you support a resolution that states that broadband internet is not a luxury, but a necessity, that is critical for economic development, workforce development, and education, and that every Gainesville resident deserves access to broadband internet at an affordable rate? Please explain why.		
Yes I would support such a resolution. A cell phone is no longer a luxury like it was 20 years ago but is now almost a necessity to everyday life. Internet access is no different. And access at an affordable rate is a companion requirement or else we continue to further the gap between the haves and the have nots in terms of education, job opportunities and quality of life.	Not sure a resolution will do much. I do believe access to high speed internet to conduct business, homework, apply for services etc. is a necessity, for multiple tv's, gaming etc. not so much a necessity. Proper wording is important.	Yes. I'd like to think I've made the reasons clear already, but I will restate. Internet access is required for work and for education. There are no options – either citizens have access or they fail. Either businesses have access or they fail. It is economically, socially and morally wrong-headed to ignore this reality of modern life, and doing so will leave our city unable to compete.
According to a GRU survey in 2010, 40 percent of households in Hawthorne, Micanopy, and Waldo do not have access to broadband internet service in their homes. Would you support expanding community owned broadband internet to residential and commercial consumers in underserved Alachua County rural municipalities such as Hawthorne, Micanopy, Waldo and others? Please explain why.		
Yes I would for the same reasons I previously stated in Question 1. The City of Gainesville does not exist in a vacuum but is part of a broader base of our local area.	I am not sure we would be able to do that. As non-expert in this field, this is difficult to answer. We must first talk to experts in the field regarding broadband before most of this discussion can move forward.	Yes. Serving the smaller cities that comprise Metro Gainesville is the right thing to do. Those municipalities and unincorporated areas should have the same access for the same reasons as Gainesville neighborhoods. Additionally,

| | | and perhaps more importantly, increasing the service area is likely to improve the overall competitiveness of the system, which should lower rates system-wide. |