

Roads: The roads are a “driving” issue for Springs County. People are fed up with promises. The roads are deadly. Springs County gas taxes will be used for roads! They will not be diverted to Gainesville-centric pet projects any more. As mentioned in the taxes question, the reserve will be the funding source to jump start repaving projects. All roads will be classified A,B,C. We will create a prioritized resurfacing program and work a portion of each classification on an annual basis with a dedicated budgetary funding source.



Property Taxes:

Eliminating property taxes and replacing it with a Countywide sales tax would be preferred, as it will allow a person to actually OWN their property and never have to worry about it being sold on the courthouse steps for unpaid taxes. The actual sales tax would have to be calculated once the State decides on the boundaries and initial budget is formed. Since our original FAQs printing it has become obvious, this goal is a little ahead of its time. There are multiple statutes and provisions which would prevent this from happening immediately if ever. While zero property taxes may not ultimately be achievable, getting them as low as possible still is. Businesses with lower taxes can charge less, which may reduce prices, offsetting some or all of the inclination to live in Springs but jump to another County to buy good and/or services.

Board of County Commissioners: In an effort to reduce cost of government, increase representation, and improve citizen engagement, we are proposing that the Mayor and/or other elected official, of their choosing, from each of the included incorporated cities, serve as a Board Member, along with a number of elected representatives from the unincorporated areas sufficient enough to A. ensure responsible representation and B. ensure an odd number of elected officials of the Board to avoid tie votes. Should an area like Jonesville or Western Gainesville choose to incorporate, they would have a dedicated member of the Board.

Freedom and Liberty: Government has become too expensive, too big, and too intrusive. Springs County will be based on individuals knowing what is best for themselves and their families. No longer will the government be used as leverage, pitting one person or group against another. America is not great because of what government does; it is great because of what government is prevented from doing. When government takes from one to give to another, it controls both. Springs County will be the opposite. Springs will be based on free market principles, not government regulation and taxes controlling you, the free citizen of these United States. “Springs will also be based on volunteerism and not coercion by force or fear of your freedom being taken away if you do not comply with a government mandate.”

★ Sign the petition at ★

www.springscounty.com

For more information contact us at:
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Springs County FAQ's

- ♦ A business should not have to compete against its own government.
- ♦ A city should not have to worry about being sued by the BOCC and have its citizens' taxes used against them in a court of law.
- ♦ A citizen should not be forced to choose between food and taxes.
- ♦ Springs County is about **Better Living through Smaller Government, Lower Taxes, and More Freedom**

Background: Dating back to 1925, Gilchrist County was created from western Alachua County for many of the same reasons as today. Gilchrist was the last County formed in Florida, though lines have been changed here and there over the years since. Back then, Governor Gilchrist saw the need to preserve citizens' property rights, freedom, and proper representation. He agreed the best opportunity to preserve those rights was establishing a new County. Springs County seeks to preserve those rights for citizens, home rule authority for cities, and an entrepreneur-centric business climate, just like Gilchrist County.

Most recently, the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) allowed the City of Gainesville unwarranted influence in the affairs of the entire County. Smaller Cities were completely shut out of discussions, lending no voice to all other citizens. This is regulation without representation. Save for a few projects and efforts when convenient, the BOCC has been this way for some time. The events of Spring 2020 and 2015 indicate logical and data-driven collaborations are not possible.

The voices of western Alachua County will continue to go unheard unless a political divorce becomes reality.

It is time. It is better for all parties involved: Businesses, Municipal Government, and most importantly CITIZENS.

Boundary: The current County boundaries North of Alachua and High Springs, South of Archer, and West of Newberry stay the same. The new Eastern boundary is proposed to be 34th Street aka SR 121. It was chosen arbitrarily—a road running through the entire County in a North-South direction. State Legislature ultimately determines the boundaries.



Citizen Votes: The Alachua BOCC nor the citizens have a direct say about it. Nor a special vote regarding the creation of Springs County per the State Constitution. HOWEVER, organizers advocate for petitions to give citizens a needed voice in the process. Petitions can be found at www.springscounty.com/petition

Taxes: Our hope is to drive down the scope and scale of the County government, focusing on core services of, but not limited to: Roads, Public Safety, Utilities, Courts. The individual, families, businesses, civic groups, and churches will be responsible for social programs and charities. Keeping taxes the same for a period of time and driving down costs will create a reserve used for addressing the infrastructure Alachua County has neglected for so long, namely ROADS.

Schools and Teachers: Schools will largely stay the same per State requirements. Students attending magnet programs will hopefully benefit from a grandfather clause in legislation creating Springs County. Teachers are not test administrators, referees, psychologists, parents, social engineers, or disciplinarians. Teaching is a prestigious profession, and conviction and commitment to children should be held in high esteem. Current contracts can and should be honored.

Fire/LEO: Retirements of these professions transfer within the Florida Retirement System. There will be those who wish to remain with Alachua County. However, the remaining area of Alachua County will be geographically smaller, and less staff will be needed. Springs County will strive to retain the best and brightest for the new positions created serving Springs County. The public safety communities can expect a supportive environment of professionalism where training and expertise will be highly valued.

Public Buildings: Per the State Constitution, all assets and liabilities are divided. The public buildings belong to the tax payers, not the government, and therefore buildings like schools, fire houses, and ambulance bays go with the respective areas. The same goes for roads and infrastructure. Power lines are owned by the respective utility providers, and they do not change.