



P.O. Box 15285  
Gainesville, FL 32604  
April 2, 2019

Gainesville City Commission  
P.O. Box 490  
Gainesville, FL 32627-0490

Re: Proposed Renters' Rights Ordinance

Honorable Mayor and City Commissioners:

The League of Women Voters of Alachua County endorses the proposed Renters' Rights ordinance submitted to the City of Gainesville by the Alachua County Labor Coalition (ACLC). We believe renters in this community are due basic rights and protections.

This proposed ordinance would offer assistance to landlords improving energy efficiency, lowering utility costs for tenants and conserving precious energy resources.

Renters also deserve a mechanism through which they can resolve disputes over security deposits. We recognize there is a need for all landlords to be licensed so that appropriate inspections of rental properties can be completed to assure the health and safety of renters. Licensing fees, which currently are treated as general revenue, would be better utilized to fund the cost of these inspections and mediation disputes. Lastly, renters should not be subjected to discrimination of any kind, which this ordinance would guard against.

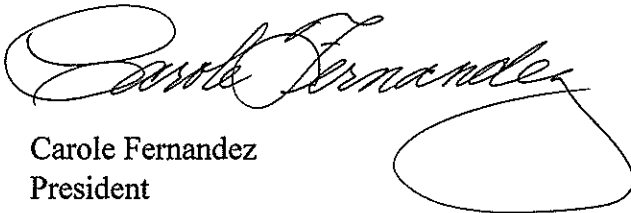
The League of Women Voters of Alachua County is in full support of the ACLC's proposed ordinance. We have been studying affordable housing needs in the city and county only to conclude that too many residents are paying a disproportionate share of their income on housing. At times, utility bills may rival rental costs, with possible unreasonable cost burden on our citizens.

We commend the Alachua County Labor Coalition for its work on behalf of local residents and are in agreement with the key elements of their proposed ordinance, which include:

- 1) Universal, low cost landlord licensing and inspections;
- 2) Lower utility costs by requiring landlords to meet low-cost, high return on investment, energy and water standards;
- 3) Creating a mediation program for rental deposit disputes;
- 4) Disclosure of safety and efficiency ratings as well as defining renters' rights and responsibilities;
- 5) Providing protection from discrimination.

We thank you for all you are doing to make Gainesville a place where all our residents can flourish with dignity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carole Fernandez". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Carole Fernandez  
President  
League of Women Voters of Alachua County