



2011 *Community Conversations*

Participant Idea Board Question:

What specific idea(s) do you have for spending reductions that the Commission could address?

Participants Submitting Suggestions = 106

Total Suggestions = 156

REDUCTIONS – 7/25/2011 Meeting

1. Quit gold plating projects. 91st St. does not need curbs and culverts. We don't need a LEED Platinum Fire Station. We don't need perfection, we need good enough.
2. Reduce duplication of services between the City, County, & State.
3. Privatize jail management and medical care.
4. Reduce spending....privatize jail.
5. If we beefed up business regulation, we would have more discretionary income that comes in the form of business tax revenue. This would not discourage businesses from coming to the area. We can't keep favoring development and industry over the direct needs of the citizens.
6. Substantial deduction in county provided social services.
7. Jail & police services could be reduced.
8. During lean times, stop low-priority spending (bike paths, land acquisition (for "wild Spaces", etc). During good times, save some money for the next crisis/rainy day/economic downturn.
9. We don't need all the new development. Stop looking for ways to grow the area...help the people who are here. Cut the waste.
10. Cut/Reduce – tax incentives/credits.
11. Investigate the County Housing Authority Management & Commissioners and make changes.
12. Reduce staff in Growth Management and reduce regulations.
13. Reduce Library costs – 6% of budget. Reduce jail costs – 22% of budget...contract out if you must.
14. Review services county is providing that are being done by other NGO's. Ensure the duplication provides some essential benefit.
15. Cut public infrastructures and tax incentives.
16. Consolidation of administrative duplication (with cities I realize it would be dependent on cities agreeing)
17. Reduce inmate population by releasing non-violent offenders.
18. Review jail procedures to increase efficiency.
19. Convince the Sheriff to voluntarily end all ASO service within Gainesville City Limits and put saving to jail expenses.
20. Privatize the jail.
21. Tax incentives to attract new businesses.
22. Reduce % of non-road capital projects.
23. Reduce Government chosen economic development programs.
24. Aggressive drop program staff.

REDUCTIONS – 7/25/2011 Meeting

25. Streamlining government regulations in various departments. Some would benefit from privatization, but some can only be managed by the public sector.
26. Combined City and County government.
27. Be careful with how much you spend on trees and flowers that quickly die. Our city can be beautiful for less amounts.
28. Reduce jail management.
29. Cut non-essential social programs that do not affect life, safety or welfare of the citizens.
30. Re-pave poor roads in the same width – no bike lanes or 4' shoulders – just maintain existing capacity.
31. Reduce the money spent on buying property we do not the money to develop.
32. Read Howard Schultz's book about Starbucks – "Onward". They cut costs by streamlining and consolidating operations and eliminating duplication.
33. We have several non-profit animal "protection services" (Humane Society, etc.). I believe we could cut funding to the Animal Shelter.
34. Reduce Sheriff's Office budget and jail population.
35. Let Water Management do their job---DEP needs to be reduced.
36. Cut bus transportation. Most of the time there are only 5 or 6 people on a bus.
37. Reduce spending on environmental stewardship. Do we value land/wildlife or the people who live here?
38. Budget for the worst possible scenario in terms of tax revenue. Use this low figure to fund ONLY core services. Only fund additional projects with tax dollars above this bottom baseline.

REDUCTIONS – 7/28/2011 Meeting

1. Take money from Jail Management
2. Reduce health and hum svcs
3. Cut donations to non-profits
4. Cut Homeless One Stop
5. Look at outsourcing jail inmates to someone who is under capacity
6. Cut fairground project
7. Eliminate use of outside consultants
8. Bring CHOICE funding collected back for a vote –
 - a. Use the funding collected to create a more efficient, comprehensive service package to address Health and Human Service programs in the county
9. Pass 1 cent sales tax to support most valued amenities (parks etc)
10. Fewer buses
11. Kill fairground
12. Out of: Jail Management To: Jail diversion
13. Add: roads Reduce: fairground expansion
14. It is time to consolidate fire services between the county and all municipalities
15. Cut jail spending -> divert to jail diversion
16. Cut road patrols
17. Mowing less, water less
18. Cut jail
19. Cut county focus on urban redevelopment
20. For urbanized/suburbanized areas of the county (i.e. by Oaks Mall), pursue annexation into the City of Gainesville with the Urban Reserve Area
21. Drop Fairground Development
22. Take money out of jail management and invest it into jail diversion programs
23. Cut down law enforcement road patrol units
24. Jail
25. Merge GDP and Alachua Cty Sheriffs Dept.
26. Do not allow the sheriff to dictate funding decisions that impact the entire county and all other functions 48 additional employees! – in an environment where crime calls are down & a prevailing social movement is to reduce incarceration, arrests for minor and victimless crimes.
27. While I agree that we need to plan for growth, I think the amount spend on planning is a bit excessive
28. Hold off on expansion issues until there is a surplus
29. Less regulation on business and more incentives to bring in new forms of business

REDUCTIONS – 7/28/2011 Meeting

30. Decrease the regulations on business eliminate the sign police
31. Cut fairground project, sell it to a private developer
32. Consolidated city/county government - only 1 commission
33. Consolidate fire/rescue w/in county
34. Consolidate city/county law enforcement
35. Review internal department efficiencies and cut where overlap
36. Smaller government
37. Use non-union employees
38. Remove duplicate services, inspections and regulations. If the state or federal regulations cover the issue, the county does not need to duplicate the service
39. Think function, not frill
40. No outside consultants
41. Hire local, use local expertise
42. Re-center you perspective on what the county (not just Gainesville) needs versus what they/we want.
43. Incentivize performance, which increases efficiency, then reduce staffing to match the actual need by who want to be there and perform – (if you do no performance or have purpose – you need not be employed)
44. Spend fist on the core services of a county government

REDUCTIONS – 7/30/2011 Meeting

1. Eliminate the Fairgrounds (new)
2. Eliminate (new) Fairgrounds
3. Cut fairgrounds
4. Keep as much human services expenditures as possible. In the long run, this will be a reduction in costs in other areas like the jail, Road resurfacing etc. Think long term please home values will eventually increase and thus the tax base
5. Cut community assistance programs – let private charities handle –
6. Stop buying “wild spaces” Land – not a function of govt. – if this is important, let the private sector support it.
7. Use \$40,000,000 CHOICES money to fund Road Repair.
8. Use most of gas tax money for road repairs
9. Sheriff’s office staff increases
10. Eliminate new fairgrounds
11. Don’t pay 2% increase in salaries because of retirement
12. Stop taking on outside Gainesville Vets we can’t afford to pay for outside our county
13. Check salaries of other county position & pay accordingly
14. Stop double dipping with AC School Board, and other doubledipping
15. Forget the fairgrounds – use land for industrial park
16. Unification
17. Reduce the Sheriff’s budget request.
18. I think there is a substantial savings to be gained by eliminating the requirement to use TSX machines for “disabled” voters. The usage is extremely low. The costs for machines, training, + staffing is substantial with little cost benefit.
19. Address commission salaries – compare to similar counties.
20. Cut Sheriff funding as crime falls
21. Begin making progress in driving down jail population this requires reduction in non-violent inmates
 - a. Drug related
 - b. Incarceration age
 - c. Mostly a waste of tax \$ and do little to promote the common good
22. Jail is too good – need to be not as good as being outside!!
23. Prioritize capital facilities based on use or potential use – Roads, parks,
24. Combine City/County functions Fire, homeless, Human Svcs.
25. Global approach to governance –
 - a. Libraries in schools combine w/ public
 - b. Co-locate parks, bike paths, schools

REDUCTIONS – 7/30/2011 Meeting

26. Tower Road Get Off You A**
27. Make more use of volunteers where can citizens help?
28. Children in school now need to do community service – give them real jobs
29. Identify & pick up location for water samples to be tested at the ACHD. Most private wells in AC have not been tested.
30. Establish an on-line clearing house for tutoring. Would list times, location, ages of students, & how to volunteer.
31. Move depts. to county-owned bldgs.
32. Solicit volunteers for county positions. Establish an online site to list background, qualifications, availability.
33. Stop spending money on “growth” related programs.
34. Reduce the size of the Sheriff’s Office.
35. Stop paying for road signs promoting the Sheriff
36. No dues for ICLEI (how much do we pay?)
37. Reduce \$ spent on Health & Human Services (due to graft)
38. Reduce Nothing

REDUCTIONS – 8/1/2011 Meeting

1. Reduce incarceration.
 - a. Shift funding to lower cost punishment alternatives
2. Cut farmers market
 - a. Many non-subsidized exist
3. Cut fairgrounds
4. Have favorable zoning laws + practices
5. Do not fund Fairground development
6. Cut out Law Enforcement Patrol Unit and excess Sheriff's budget.
7. Put jail under New Management!
8. Delay the development of the fairgrounds for at least 5 years.
9. Jail – focus on services that decrease - prevention
10. Cut Sheriff's budget!
11. Delay fairgrounds/industrial park.
12. Limit CRA to existing structures.
13. Increase spending on jail diversion, disadvantaged youth programs, which will result in reduced need for jail space.
14. Review non-violent drug-related offenses to determine how much \$ could be saved by either decriminalizing or reducing penalties + providing more house arrest options
15. Decrease mounted patrol units downtown
16. Decrease planting of crepe myrtles all over town – they recently planted a bunch of trees on our street (SE 35th St) & I wondered why in the world we were spending money on these (plus fences) on a dead end street.
17. Cut fairgrounds \$, let private biz operate
18. Make jail more efficient – reduce costs through better management, education
19. Work on efficient gov – use volunteers where appropriate
20. Encourage local biz to participate in county projects (e.g. local “bond” issues)
21. Shorter work week for employees (4 days)
22. Reduce spending by releasing more nonviolent offenders from county jail, thus freeing up bed space
23. ↓ Road Paving
24. ↓ Jail Funding ↑ Jail Diversion

REDUCTIONS – 8/15/2011 Meeting

1. With CRA 1/7th was cut because it is questionable what areas are “blight” and would offer the best reward.
2. I favor increase revenue by taxing land owned by churches other than the church.
3. Cut animal services – but only after creatively facilitating a strategy to replace it with an even better program
 - a. Community based combining organizations, grants, taxes, etc
4. Adjust public safety budget to reflect lower #s of calls relative to population, i.e. cut there
5. Don’t send fire truck to fender benders
6. Institute Instant Runoff Voting to reduce costs associated w/ runoff elections.
7. More decriminalization + diversion for nonviolent offenders
8. Bike Paths/Sidewalk
9. Public Works: Reduce road construction spending per mile to match average FDOT recommendations. Simply mill and resurface more roads for less money per mile. Base sidewalk and bike paths on projected use based on adjacent land uses and demographics. Build narrow facilities that don’t require ditch regarding which can be expensive.
10. Law Enforcement: Reduce staffing levels. I have seen very large responses to very small problems.
11. Social Services: Ensure programs are set up not to over incentivize unnecessary use, for example, some people will avoid getting their own health insurance if they qualify for public services.
12. \$ to county jails. Reduced \$\$ causes innovation. Must have increase on education + younger age/family programs “Idle hands...”