



2019 Candidate Questionnaire

Jennifer Reid

1. Do you support the City of Gainesville setting Zero Waste goals and implementing a Zero Waste plan to not only increase recycling rates but also reduce per capita waste generation? Yes/No. Please explain why.

Yes, I do support the Zero Waste goal. It will need to be a collaboration between the city commission and the University of Florida to achieve. Both styrofoam and plastic bags are harmful to the environment and to animals. We need to do what we can to protect the environment and keep the city of Gainesville beautiful within our means.

2. Now that the city has passed a plastic bag and expanded polystyrene ban, would you support funding for a reusable takeout container program? Yes/No. Please explain why.

Although I believe it is a great idea and something we can strive for in the future, I do not believe it is a priority right now. I believe we should start with consumer education while we focus on the core needs for the city. Once the budget and city debt are under control with correct management, we can discuss further funding for a reusable takeout container program to be able to reach our 100% zero waste goal in 2045.

3. Following the example of other cities who are leading the way to zero waste, would you support mandatory residential recycling? Yes/No. Please explain why.

Yes, I would support mandatory residential recycling. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the city of Griffin, Georgia have implemented mandatory residential recycling. The city invested in supplying every residential home using city waste with a recycle container. The residents were also instructed with a paper attached on what and what not to recycle. If the residents did not utilize the recycle bins then the waste trucks would not pick up their trash and a warning would be issued to the residence. The city would not fine the residents for not recycling but this reduced waste, increased recycling by 19%. The city also saved an initial \$35,000 in landfill and hauling costs in the first year. I believe this is something we should strive for in the city of Gainesville.

4. Diverting the excess waste from restaurants and grocery stores will significantly improve recycling rates for the city. Do you support a business food waste ordinance that would require businesses that generate a certain amount of food waste to source separate and recycle/compost it? Yes/No. Please explain why.

Yes, I do support a business food waste ordinance. According to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the city of Orlando implements a commercial food waste collection program



that reduces garbage collection, reduces waste, and turns food waste into beneficial usage. To implement such a program, it will require a great amount of collaboration and teamwork from the city commission and businesses. However, I do believe we should receive the input from the businesses in our community to determine if this is something they would want to implement and invest in.

5. To incentivize small businesses to improve their recycling and not require them to have an individual commercial dumpster, will you support a change in city's recycling ordinance to allow small businesses in or near residential areas to use residential bins for collection? Yes/No. Please explain why.

No I do not support allowing small businesses in or near residential areas to use residential bins for collection. I support incentivizing businesses to improve recycling however I do not believe it is fair to the residents to allow businesses to utilize their bins.

6. One of the largest areas of waste within a city is through construction and demolition. Would you support a change in our recycling ordinance to incentivize all construction and demolition activities and ask developers to source separate, reuse materials, and recycle the remaining waste? Yes/No. Please explain why.

Reducing construction and demolition materials can be beneficial. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), reducing the disposal of such materials can create employment and economic activities in recycling industries and provide increased business opportunities within our community. It can reduce the overall building project expenses by avoiding disposal costs. By donating or recycling recovered materials to appropriate charities, businesses may be provided a tax benefit. I support an incentive to developers. Most businesses want to do the right thing but need help to do it.

7. One of the areas that requires the most improvement with recycling in Gainesville is multi-family units. Currently Multi-family complexes only see 3-4% participation in recycling. Would you support requiring multi-family properties to provide each housing unit with recycling bins that will allow them to separate paper and plastic recyclables as well as transporting the recyclables to the community dumpster in a more efficient manner? Yes/No. Please explain why.

Yes, I support requiring multi-family properties to provide recycling bins. We must explore the question on infrastructure first. Most properties do not provide enough parking spaces to spare. We must figure out how to accommodate the recycling dumpster enclosures. We must have a well-implemented plan to ensure the maximum benefit for all involved.

8. Would you support a change to the city's recycling policy that requires publicly provided trash cans to be accompanied by appropriate recycling receptacles? Yes/No. Please explain why.



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Yes, I fully support requiring recycling bins next to all trash bins and composting bins. If we are to encourage zero waste, these must be provided for citizens.

9. Currently, there is no regulation on bin colors leading to many private companies using their own colors. By designing dumpsters and bins to have specific colors with proper messaging, individuals will be more likely to participate. Would you support establishing uniform messaging on all dumpsters and recycling containers to assist individuals and businesses recycling (ZWG recommends [Recycle Across America](#))? Yes/No. Please explain why.

Yes, I support establishing uniform messaging on all dumpsters and recycling containers. Inconsistent colors of bins and dumpsters can cause confusion. By using standardized labels you can solve the mistakes and confusion. I support and agree with Recycle Across America.