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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2018 City of Gainesville Regular Election Vote-by-Mail Ballots to Be Mailed by Feb. 15

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (Feb. 15, 2018) — More than 9,000 vote-by-mail ballots for the 2018 City of Gainesville Regular Election will be mailed by Feb. 15.

Voters signed up to receive a vote-by-mail ballot should expect to receive their ballots no later than Thursday, Feb. 22. Any voter who does not receive their vote-by-mail ballot by Feb. 22 should contact the elections office at 352-374-5252 or email Vote-by-Mail Coordinator Mike Bruckman at mbruckman@alachuacounty.us.

The deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot is 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 14. Vote-by-mail ballots can be requested online, in person, or by phone, fax, mail or email. Until the deadline, vote-by-mail ballot requests will be filled as they are received. Any voter can sign up to vote by mail.

The Supervisor of Elections must receive all vote-by-mail ballots by 7 p.m. on Election Day (Tuesday, March 20). Voters who vote by mail are encouraged to have their completed ballots mailed by Tuesday, March 13, to ensure ballots arrive by the deadline. Voters should also make sure that their voter information and signature are updated before they return their ballot if they have moved or their signature has changed.

Additionally, voters are encouraged to be attentive when filling out and mailing a vote-by-mail ballot. Advice from the Supervisor of Elections includes:

- Completely color in the oval next to your choice on your ballot
- If you make a mistake on your ballot, call the Supervisor of Elections at 352-374-5252
- Be sure to sign your own mail ballot certificate envelope
- Return your mail ballot in the official envelope provided
- Remember to put a stamp on the envelope

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Any voter who does not sign their ballot or whose signature on the vote-by-mail ballot certificate does not match the signature in their voter record will be contacted by the Supervisor of Elections and provided the opportunity to correct the ballot. Voters will have until 5 p.m. Monday, March 19, to complete an affidavit to correct a vote-by-mail ballot that does not have a signature or has a signature that does not match the person's voter record signature.

Starting Thursday, March 15, voters may authorize another person to pick up a vote-by-mail from the Supervisor of Elections' office. A designee must have a note signed by the voter and a picture ID. They must also complete an affidavit, which is available online at <http://dos.myflorida.com/media/693274/dsde37.pdf>. Designees may not pick up more than two mail ballots per election, excluding their own ballot and ballots for their immediate family.

Voters can drop off completed vote-by-mail ballots at the Supervisor of Elections office, located in Gainesville at 515 N. Main St., during normal business hours — 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday — or can use the white afterhours drop-box located outside of the office's main entrance. Voters have until 7 p.m. on Election Day to deliver vote-by-mail ballots to the Supervisor of Elections.

For more information, contact the Supervisor of Elections at 352-374-5252.

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