



Task Force on Consolidated Government
Jacksonville City Council
Council Member Lori Boyer, Chair

September 19, 2013

PANEL QUESTIONS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS

Central Service Type Activities

Recently, the Task Force has heard suggestions about consolidating central service type activities (legal, IT, procurement, fleet management, personnel, copy services, legal, janitorial, building maintenance, marketing, etc.). With that understanding, please advise the Task Force on the following questions.

Please discuss which of these services your organization has in house and why it is beneficial. Please go beyond simple preference to have it in house.

1. Is it to improve the quality of service, reduce cost, etc.?
2. What central services are you currently using? Why? Or why have you chosen not to utilize the service?

Specifics as to number of employees and budget engaged in each subject area above do not need to be discussed but *should* be given to the Task Force as a hand out.

Financial Impact

The Task Force recognizes that your office receives most of its revenue, or at least a substantial contribution, from the City of Jacksonville's General Fund. With that understanding, please advise the Task Force on the following questions.

1. What percentage of your budget comes from the general fund and what from other sources? Please explain those sources.
2. How are the financial decisions of your office evaluated for their impact on the City of Jacksonville's General Fund? Are decisions made on how best to provide the service you are charged to provide, without regard to cost savings, as long as within your budget?
3. What suggestions do you have to avoid end of year expenditures or similar decisions that run up your budget in order to justify an increased or equal budget the following year?
4. What should be the consequence, penalty or mechanism to prevent spending or hiring in excess of budget?
5. It has been argued that your office has an advantage over internal City departments when it comes to budget negotiation with the Council because you are not "part of the team" that must give and take to arrive at the final budget. How do you respond?

Interaction with the City of Jacksonville

1. Besides the situations discussed under the Central Service and Financial Impact sections, are there any other situations in which your office interacts with the COJ? Please list and describe.
 - a. Are there any situations that are unique to your office?

Unity of Purpose

1. What is the stated mission of your office?
2. Do you feel there is a clear, consistent mission & goal for the City of Jacksonville?
 - a. How does your office fit in?
3. How could the City of Jacksonville have one clear, consistent mission & goal that ensures cooperation and focus between the city, independent authorities, and constitutional officers?

Consolidation

1. What are the pros and cons of your office NOT being consolidated into the City of Jacksonville?

Elected Officials

1. Do you feel it is important for your position to be elected?
 - a. Why/why not?
2. Is independence as an elected official an adequate check and balance?
 - a. Why/why not?
 - b. How is it a check and balance?