



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

September 5th, 2013

MAYORAL PANEL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Consequences of Consolidation**
 - a. What negative consequences of consolidation, if any, did you encounter in your tenure as Mayor? Do you have any suggestion as to how we might resolve or improve that situation?

- 2. One of the goals of consolidation was to reform hiring practices, through changes to Civil Service to create a more professional workforce.**
 - a. Do you believe that our current system insures that the most qualified employees serve in positions for which they are best suited?
 - b. What could be improved?

- 3. Another goal of consolidation was to ensure more professional appointments through the imposition of stringent qualifications for appointed positions.**
 - a. Do you believe that our current system insures that the most qualified employees serve in positions for which they are best suited?
 - b. What could be improved?
 - c. Does the current system adequately insure the need for continuity between administrations?

- 4. One of the goals of consolidation was to eliminate duplicative services and expense through utilization of central services such as legal services, personnel, building maintenance, IT, etc. Over the years, many authorities, offices and departments have opted out on various services.**
 - a. Please discuss any circumstances where we should require Central Service use that is currently decentralized, or vice versa where it makes more sense to decentralize.

(over)

5. **The strong mayor form of government was chosen to help citizens pinpoint responsibility for the operation of City government and the delivery of City services. Many citizens still look to district Council Members as their point of contact and responsibility for City services within their district, something the original study commission was trying to eliminate.**
 - a. How can we better accomplish the goal of pinpointing responsibility for operation and services?

6. **The current structure of a strong mayor as the executive branch and City Council as the legislative branch relies on the concept of separation of powers.**
 - a. Did you encounter a situation in which the legislative branch overstepped its role, and what happened?
 - i. What should be the boundary and who should make that decision?
 - b. Did you encounter a situation in which adopted legislation was ignored, and what happened?
 - i. Who should enforce or require implementation of legislative policy?

7. **The combination of the Sunshine Law and term limits have resulted in a shift of knowledge and power from elected officials to staff in the Office of General Counsel, Council Auditor's Office, and Departments as well as to lobbyists. Those individuals have continuity, access to information, and knowledge of past practices, and elected officials must rely on these individuals and the information that these individuals give to the elected officials. Term limits keep elected officials from acquiring a large amount of knowledge on a subject and the Sunshine laws prevent Council Members from sharing the knowledge they have gained with other Council Members.**
 - a. Do you have any thoughts as to how we might address this unintended consequence?

8. **The Local Government Study Commission cited an "apathetic electorate" as a problem prior to consolidation and stated Jacksonville needed a structure which increased "the value and effectiveness of the citizen's vote" and was "responsive to the needs of the TOTAL citizenry."**
 - a. Is our current structure responsive to the needs of the total citizenry?
 - b. Is the total citizenry given adequate access to local government?