

NEWS RELEASE

Mark Venzke For Gainesville Mayor
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Mark Venzke files to run for Gainesville mayor

Gainesville, Florida, U. S. A.--Mark Venzke, longtime political activist and former candidate for Gainesville city commissioner at large seat one in the last Gainesville election, [filed with the Alachua County Supervisor Of Elections](#) last Friday morning to run for mayor of Gainesville in the next Gainesville municipal election that will occur on March 19, 2013.

Since that last election in which he was a candidate, Mark has continued to keep informed of political matters and has remained politically engaged. He has participated in City Of Gainesville and County Of Alachua citizens' training sessions, attended lectures by eminent political academics, journalists, authors, commenters and opinion leaders at the University Of Florida, attended meetings of the City and County commissions and of boards and committees of the City and contributed his thoughts and comments to the commissions, boards and committees through oral and written communications.

Mark believes that a healthy republic is founded upon strong character and informed involvement of citizens of the republic. He believes that many of the most serious political problems from the local to the national levels are caused by abusive powers and by political and social disengagement by citizens. He believes that those serious problems can be partially addressed by promoting active citizenship, active community involvement and shrewd consumerism at the local level. He believes that elected leaders should encourage citizens to contribute solid information and analysis of public policy issues and share with their elected leaders their past and expected future experiences with public policies. Mark thinks that Gainesville commissioners--including the mayor--and some City and GRU managers and staff members have often discouraged reasonable citizen involvement by denying to them access to public information and by not responding to citizens' articulation of urgent public policy concerns.

Mark's governance objectives include:

- a forward-looking, responsible energy policy for the City Of Gainesville and for the publicly owned utility of the City Of Gainesville, Gainesville Regional Utilities (GRU)

- openness and responsiveness to citizens by commissioners, managers and staff members of the City Of Gainesville and the entities of the City
- critical and creative public policy formulation and implementation

Mark and many other politically engaged citizens think the current and recent past city commissions--that includes and that have included the current mayor--have focused on positive matters while neglecting difficult and negative matters and have been uncritically deferential to senior commissioners or city managers and staff members. Mark and other citizens think that the commissions have been unresponsive to informed and well framed comments and questions by citizens about critical interests of the City. Mark and many other politically engaged citizens think that that lack of responsiveness has resulted in poor public policies in a number of areas. They think that uncritical and uncreative thought and actions have resulted in:

- a very disadvantageous power purchase agreement for biomass-produced electricity
- an unnecessarily slow deployment of highly advantageous privately and publicly owned renewable energy systems
- a very deficient and hazardous remediation of the former Beazer East-Cabbot Carbon Superfund site
- under-redeveloped, struggling neighborhoods
- an unsafe and underdeveloped bicycle route system
- deficient, simple and mostly private-sector accommodations and services for homeless persons

Besides his involvements in Gainesville and Alachua County government, Mark has been working for the past seventeen months to organize his neighbors into a neighborhood association in his Near South Neighborhood that is located immediately southeast of downtown. In that time, Mark and his neighbors have drastically reduced crime and nuisances and are eagerly anticipating clean and balanced, mixed-use redevelopment.

The campaign committee, Mark Venzke For Gainesville Mayor, will formally launch the campaign on New Year's Eve at a place and time that the committee will soon announce. The campaign committee will launch the Internet site for the campaign and distribute campaign materials at that event. Even before that launch, the campaign committee welcomes endorsements, offers to display and distribute campaign materials and offers of labor and financial support.

[Current fellow candidates for mayor](#) in the non-partisan race include incumbent, Craig Lowe; Peter Lars Johnson; Donald E. Shepherd, Senior and Edward Earl Young. As a non-partisan race, candidates may not offer or publicize any political party affiliation or non-affiliation that they may have. However, they may state party affiliation or non-affiliation if a people ask them about any political party affiliation the that candidates may have.

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