



# Alachua County Board of County Commissioners

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Mary C. Alford, *Chair*  
Charles S. Chestnut, IV, *Vice Chair*  
Ken Cornell  
Anna Prizzia  
Marihelen Wheeler

**Administration**  
Michele L. Lieberman  
*County Manager*

March 26, 2024

Carolyn Spooner – Bradford County Chair  
[Carolyn\\_spooner@bradfordcountyfla.gov](mailto:Carolyn_spooner@bradfordcountyfla.gov)

Jamie Storey - Dixie County Chair  
[jamie.storey@dixie.fl.gov](mailto:jamie.storey@dixie.fl.gov)

Rocky Ford - Columbia County Chair  
[rford@columbiacountyfla.com](mailto:rford@columbiacountyfla.com)

William Bill Martin - Gilchrist County Chair  
[bmartin@gilchrist.fl.us](mailto:bmartin@gilchrist.fl.us)

Channing Dobbs - Union County Chair  
[District2@unioncounty-fl.gov](mailto:District2@unioncounty-fl.gov)

Dear Chairs Spooner, Ford, Storey, Martin, and Dobbs:

On behalf of the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners, we value our continued partnership in a number of mutually agreeable areas. As you are aware, the State asked us to work together to transition to a consolidated workforce area to maximize efficiencies and improve the delivery of services for the benefit of our region's employers and job seekers. Please know that Alachua County did not request consolidation, but rather is acting in good faith to honor the state's request.

We drafted the attached Interlocal Agreement for your review for the consolidated CareerSource Regions 7 and 9, which aligns with Region 9's current business model developed in conjunction with, and endorsed by, the State of Florida. Alachua County staff have been meeting regularly with representatives of the State, including both Vantage Partners and CareerSource Florida. These meetings have been productive and many of the State's suggestions are reflected in this draft Interlocal Agreement. Among the items suggested by the State, which we understand were either requested by you or intended to address your concerns, include the following:

1. Each county will have a representative on the new Council of Elected Officials and will have voting rights. We propose creating a new six-county local workforce development area that would be governed by a six-member Council comprised of the Chair of each county commission or another commissioner appointed by that county's Chair.
2. The votes on the Council will be weighted to account for population and grant funding calculations. Accordingly, Alachua County's member will have five votes and all other counties' members will have one vote each to ensure that Alachua County does not have a majority of the voting rights on the Council.
3. Since voting rights are based loosely on population, we thought it fair for Alachua County to take on the lion's share of the liability. So, we propose that liability for disallowed costs would be as follows:
  - i) Alachua County 66%
  - ii) Bradford County 6%
  - iii) Columbia County 16%
  - iv) Dixie, Gilchrist, and Union Counties each 4%

4. The Interlocal is adaptable to allow for continued operations if all counties do not join.
5. Items coming before the Council require a 51% majority vote of the quorum of members present.
6. Quorum requirements are three members, which must include the Alachua County member.
7. Each county will have the authority to make a specific number of appointments to the Local Workforce Development Board ("LWDB") that would not be subject to the approval of the Council. Therefore, you will have the discretion to appoint whomever you want to the LWDB that meets the Federal and State LWDB membership requirements.
8. Alachua County staff will serve as the Administrative Entity and Fiscal Agent to the Council and LWDB.
9. The Chief Executive Officer shall serve at the pleasure of the Council and shall report directly to the Council, even though the Chief Executive Officer will be an employee of Alachua County.
10. The Council may hire its own attorney that will serve at the pleasure of the Council and report directly to the Council.

The Target Effective Date of the new Interlocal Agreement is July 1, 2024, contingent upon:

1. Approval and execution of the new Interlocal Agreement by all participating counties;
2. The State of Florida designating/consolidating the six-county area into a new LWDA;
3. Termination of the current Interlocal Agreement between Alachua and Bradford counties and termination of the current Interlocal Agreement between Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, and Union counties; and
4. Filing of the new, fully executed Interlocal Agreement with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Alachua County.

Please provide proposed changes to [acboccstaff@alachuacounty.us](mailto:acboccstaff@alachuacounty.us) by Tuesday, April 30 so a final Interlocal agreement can be developed and approved by all six counties before the State's June 30 deadline. We look forward to working directly with you and your County staff to address any outstanding issues and to bring this matter to a successful resolution.

Thank you and please feel free to contact our staff at [acboccstaff@alachuacounty.us](mailto:acboccstaff@alachuacounty.us) should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mary C. Alford, Chair  
Alachua County Commission  
Chr24.XXX

cc: Board of County Commissioners  
Michele L. Lieberman, County Manager  
Sylvia Torres, County Attorney  
Adrienne Johnston, CareerSource Florida President