



July 21, 2025

Dear Mayor Ward,

Over the last four years, the taxpayers of Gainesville have watched as your city government has increased annual burdens on property owners by over \$30 million dollars in additional ad valorem tax collections – an increase of over 80%. Simultaneously, Gainesville's annual budget has expanded by nearly \$90 million per year, over \$600 per resident.

Having entrusted their governments with the power to tax, the citizens of Florida have a right to expect that their elected officials will spend the collected funds responsibly, not recklessly, and on truly necessary programs. Governor DeSantis has charged us, through Florida's DOGE effort, to identify and report on this type of excessive spending at the city and municipal level. In follow-up to our July 11, 2025 letter requesting information linking your city's sources of revenue to its expenditures, the DOGE team has identified additional information needed for our review.

In exercise of the Governor's authority under the Article 4, Section 1(a) of the Florida Constitution, the Chief Financial Officer's authority under 2025 Florida Statutes 17.04 and 17.05, and the Office of Policy and Budget's authority under the Laws of Florida, chapter 2025(199), Section 124, we hereby request access to your city's physical premises, data systems, and responsive personnel, as detailed below our signatures, on July 31, 2025 and August 1, 2025 at the city offices and such other locations that you identify as necessary to comply with these requests.

You may reach out to the Florida DOGE team and OPB regarding this request at 850-759-2440 or EOGDOGE@laspbs.state.fl.us.

Responses to the information requests may be provided at the time of the requested access, or may be provided electronically in advance by contacting us for access to a secure electronic portal to which documents and other types of data may be uploaded.

You should note that financial penalties may accrue for your failure to comply with each of the following requests for access on those dates.



Sincerely,

Eric Soskin
Senior Advisor to the
Governor and DOGE
Team Lead

Executive Office of
Governor Ron DeSantis

Blaise Ingolia
Chief Financial Officer
State of Florida

Leda Kelly
Director, Office of Policy
and Budget

Executive Office of
Governor Ron DeSantis