

ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPLICATION FOR BOARD APPOINTMENT

<p style="text-align: center;">It is the applicant's responsibility to keep the information on this form current. To advise the County of any changes please contact Christine Coble by telephone at 606-5300 or by e-mail at CobleC@leoncountyfl.gov</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Applications will be discarded if no appointment is made after two years.</p>		
Name: Richard Benson		Date: 9/25/09
Home Phone (904)446-6300	Work Phone:	Email: rpbenson@gmail.com
Occupation: F.S.U. Student Fundraiser		Employer: Florida State University Foundation
<p>Please check box for preferred mailing address.</p> <p>Work Address:</p> <p>City/State/Zip:</p>		
<p>Preferred Home Address 3162 S Fulmer Cir</p> <p>City/State/Zip: Tallahassee, FL 32303</p>		
<p>Do you live in Leon County? Yes If yes, do you live within the City limits? Yes Do you own property in Leon County? No If yes, is it located within the City limits? n/a</p> <p>For how many years have you lived and/or owned property in Leon County? 3 years</p>		
<p>Are you interested in serving on any specific Committee(s)? If yes, please indicate your preference</p> <p>1st Choice: Charter Review 2nd Choice: _____</p>		
<p>If not interested in any specific Committee(s), are you interested in a specific subject matter? If yes, please check those areas in which you are interested, or describe other areas not listed:</p> <p>Human Services ___ Housing ___ Health Care ___ Science ___ Library Services ___ Growth Management ___ Tourist Development ___ Transportation ___ Bicycle/Pedestrian ___ Parks & Recreation ___ Code Enforcement ___ Other Areas _____</p>		
<p>Have you served on any previous Leon County committees? No</p> <p>If Yes, on what Committee(s) have you served? _____</p>		
<p>How many days per month would you be willing to commit for Committee work? 1 or 2</p> <p>And for how many months would you be willing to commit that amount of time? 5</p> <p>What time of day would be best for you to attend Committee meetings? Day</p>		
<p><i>(OPTIONAL)</i> Leon County strives to meet its goals, and those contained in various federal and state laws, of maintaining a membership in its Advisory Committees that reflects the diversity of the community. Although strictly optional for Applicant, the following information is needed to meet reporting requirements and attain those goals. I choose to decline.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Persons needing a special accommodation to participate in an Advisory Committee should contact Christine Coble by telephone at 606-5300 or e-mail at CobleC@leoncountyfl.gov</p>		

In the space below briefly describe or list the following: any previous experience on other Committees; your educational background; your skills and experience you could contribute to a Committee; any of your professional licenses and/or designations and indicate how long you have held them and whether they are effective in Leon County; any charitable or community activities in which you participate; and reasons for your choice of the Committee indicated on this Application. Please attach your resume, if one is available.

See cover letter and Resume

References (you must provide at least one personal reference who is not a family member):

Name: Dr. Joyce Howard, Director of Student Affairs Telephone: (850)-644-1124

Address: F.S.U. Union A 209 Tallahassee, FL 32313

IMPORTANT LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

AS A MEMBER OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE, YOU WILL BE OBLIGATED TO FOLLOW ANY APPLICABLE LAWS REGARDING GOVERNMENT-IN-THE-SUNSHINE, CODE OF ETHICS FOR PUBLIC OFFICERS, AND PUBLIC RECORDS DISCLOSURE. THE CONSEQUENCES OF VIOLATING THESE APPLICABLE LAWS INCLUDE CRIMINAL PENALTIES, CIVIL FINES, AND THE VOIDING OF ANY COMMITTEE ACTION AND OF ANY SUBSEQUENT ACTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS. IN ORDER TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THESE LAWS AND TO ASSIST YOU IN ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS BELOW, YOU MUST COMPLETE AN ORIENTATION BEFORE YOUR APPLICATION IS DEEMED COMPLETE.

Have you completed the Orientation? Yes

Are you willing to complete a financial disclosure form, if applicable? Yes

Will you be receiving any compensation that is expected to influence your vote, action, or participation on a Committee? No

Do you anticipate that you would be a stakeholder with regard to your participation on a Committee? No

Do you know of any circumstances that would result in you having to abstain from voting on a Committee due to voting conflicts? No Do you or your employer, or your wife or child or their employers, do business with Leon County? No

Do you have any employment or contractual relationship with Leon County that would create a continuing or frequently recurring conflict with regard to your participation on a Committee? No

All statements and information provided in this application are true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Richard Benson

Please return Application to Christine Coble, Agenda Coordinator
Leon County Board of County Commissioners
301 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Richard Benson
3162 South Fulmer Cir.
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(904)-446-6300
rpbenson@gmail.com

August 25th, 2009

Christine Coble, Agenda Coordinator
Leon County Board of County Commissioners
301 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Ms. Coble and Honorable Members of the Leon County Commission:

It is my humble pleasure to submit an application to fill the vacancy on the Leon County Charter Review Commission for the College Student's Seat. It is my hope over the next year to adequately represent the needs of residents and gain critical skills useful in future seasons of my life. I believe a combination of my experiences and my insatiable drive for responsible governance qualify me for this position.

In my time at Florida State, I have been heavily involved in Student Government (FSUSGA). For those not familiar with the current tuition structure of higher education in Florida, students are charged a large per-credit-hour fee which is managed solely by students in the form of a student government association. FSUSGA's budget last year was around 10.3 million dollars. Most students who are elected or appointed to office barely scratch the surface of governance and only debate in the legislative fashion. I am the opposite of them and thrive in the governance by committee scenario; which is why I believe I am meant for a city commission position. While a Senator and later as the acting Student Body Treasurer, I served on several committees, worked with professionals on plans for buildings, bond issues, corporate bid processes, fee (tax) rate changes and did a year long reform and waste control campaign which saved the student body around \$125,000 in wasted money and strengthened SGA's ethics code and disclosure rules to make our student government the most transparent, efficient and ethical in the state. Through the work I did, contract bribery from outside firms in student elections is no longer allowed, and students have a guaranteed right to be present and comment before any of SGA's meetings, whereas; sometimes decisions were made in secret and in violation of our own sunshine law. Our government runs on a statute book of which I re-wrote half and shortened to 300 pages. People often tell me I have a gift with rules, parliamentary procedure, and using them for good. I overcame opposition, name calling and disparaging character assassination, and built a coalition to have a vision for a better university for my constituents. As I

conclude my education, I wish to give back to the city which I have called home for years, and to give a voice to the 60,000 student residents of this city and all others who honestly inform me that they feel excluded from this beautiful municipality.

My experiences did not just come from student government. I had the blessing of being reared by a loving family which believed that being involved in your local government was far more critical to your welfare than state and national decisions, though they certainly deserve their fair attention. As a teenager, I attended a plethora of meetings from school boards to department of energy town halls when the local power plants were expanding and worked with my old county commission on a significant conservation project. I like to think I listened more than acted. I do not want to be or be thought of as a fool who ignorantly screams at his representatives. What youth lacks in experience; it can make up for in energy and courage, and sometimes that courage is needed to be silent and learn.

Courage is a critical characteristic when positive change is needed. The courage can be stopping a colleague from ramming a proposal through without a required public meeting, it could be taking a stand when necessary on an issue; fighting your own bias, and it can also be silencing yourself when ignorant on a particular issue. I know youth may be seen as weakness by some, but I fervently believe in the proverb that one who is faithful with little will be faithful with much. I will certainly make some mistakes as I am only human. However, If you want someone on this commission who hates partisanship and petty politics, has governing experience, and loves to work together for the betterment of those whom he serves, than I am your candidate. I deeply appreciate your time and consideration and look forward to serving this next semester with you.

Sincerely and respectfully yours,

Richard Perry Benson

Richard Benson

3162 South Fulmer Circle
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(904) 446 6300
rpbenson@gmail.com

Objective: to represent superbly and gain public service experience through the County Commission

Educational Experience:

Florida State University

Tallahassee, FL
B.A. History, Finance, Economics, May 2010
Associate of Arts April, 2007

- G.P.A above 3.5
- Dean's list 3 semesters.

Relevant Experience:

FSU Foundation

Student Fundraiser
August 2009-present

- Solicited alumni for support to the University

FSU Student Government

Student Body Dep. Treasurer April 09- Present
Chair of the Student Senate Finance committee
November 08-March 09
Student Senator February 08 –March 09
Parliamentarian- April 07-October 07

- Oversaw expenditures with veto power on requests for public money
- Chaired directly allocating \$100,000 for travel and resources of student organizations
- Regulated and oversaw a \$10.3 million budget
- Voted Senator of the Year for best aiding student Quality of Life

The Florida Bar Association

Public Programs Division
Lawyer Referral Service
May 08- August 08

- Gained an understanding complicated legal situations and problem-solving
- Thrived in a team-environment

The James Madison Institute

Intern/Policy research assistant
January 08-April 08

- Responsible for weekly policy journals
- Lobbied at the Capitol
- Planned and assisted in executing forums and events

The Paradies Shops

Store associate
Jacksonville /Tallahassee Airports
May 07-January 08

- Worked with annual inventory
- Managed supplies in stockroom
- Held responsibilities of an excess of cash

Relevant Volunteer and Extracurricular Experience

Habitat for Humanity

- Build Volunteer
- Fundraised

World Affairs Program

- Won awards in international debate from San Francisco to The Hague

Skills, Points of Interest and Relevant Memberships:

Skilled in Microsoft Excel, Access, Word, and PowerPoint, Eagle Scout, research assistant in Dr. Shatruk's solid state Chemistry Lab in the FSU department of Chemistry, AP scholar with Distinction, Historian and Parliamentarian in Gamma Rho chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity, Chairman of the Student Senate Reform caucus, and co-founder of FSU Biodiesel project.

References available upon request

