

# Save The Estates

## Could Golden Gate Estates Become a Town?

### What would we gain?



As a municipality, Golden Gate Estates citizens would experience the benefits of a unified local voice, the power to make decisions that directly impact our community, and a guaranteed seat at the table of local governance.

### How does the process work?

A feasibility study commissioned by a steering committee of concerned residents is submitted through our local delegation as a local bill. When approved in Tallahassee, the referendum will return to rural Golden Gate Estates electorate for a vote. The study is being revised with 2022 data.

### Who gets to decide?

Registered voters within the proposed boundaries vote to determine their future.

### When could this happen?

On the current time-line, the vote would occur in the November 2024 election. Golden Gate Estates could become a town before 2025.

### What is "Government Lite?"

It is a model of municipal government that limits government size and taxes while providing citizens with local control of issues. Its efficiency minimizes costs and produces excellent results through responsiveness and accountability.

### What would it mean to me?

Becoming a municipality is having a seat at the table you would otherwise not have and a voice at meetings to which you would have never been invited. It is having town officials, local citizens, your friends, your neighbors, attend intergovernmental conversations with a united voice for the residents. A municipality is government at the level closest to the people, the most local form of representation, therefore, the most directly beneficial to a local community.

### Another layer of bureaucracy?

No, quite the opposite. Bureaucracy, by definition, is an excessively complex government. The government lite model works to create efficiency and provides citizens with intuitive interaction and access to their government.

The government lite model has been proven successful with many municipalities having between 5 to 10 FTE for tens of thousands of residents.

SAVE THE ESTATES

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# Save The Estates

## Facts and Myths

### What would we gain?



By incorporating as a municipality, we can ensure that our voices are heard loud and clear. We will have the ability to advocate for our specific needs and concerns and make decisions that align with the best interests of Golden Gate Estates.

### Fact (IS)

- The desire to remain low density
- 5 citizen local part-time council members elected at large who have “Skin in the Game”
- Government Lite: staff is a small FTE footprint, outsourcing where fiscally or strategically beneficial.
- A Town Manager and Town Attorney speaking with the force of 35000 voices.
- Control of the Golden Gate Area Master Plan (rural element).
- Changes to the Master Plan requires unanimous approval of all 5 council members.
- Embraces the “Code of Ethics for Public Officials and Employees”.
- Implements caps on government spending and borrowing
- Implements caps on election campaign spending.

### Myth (IS NOT)

- Increased Density
- Home-Owners Association (HOA)
- Out of control taxes
- Bloated government
- Full time politicians
- Run-away spending
- Superseding individual property rights

### How Much Will It Cost?

The state of Florida reserves all taxing authority unto itself and only through legislation can the municipality receive taxes.

The Feasibility study proposes a 1.50 mill ad valorem tax for a property owner in the Town of Golden Gate Estates. *Note: This would replace the 0.8069 mill unincorporated tax rural GGE pays.*

1.5 mill is the minimum threshold to partake state revenue sharing. By leveraging the government lite model, we anticipate a reduction of this rate.

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## Distribution of Services

### What would we gain?



No longer will we have to rely solely on external authorities to make decisions for us. Instead, we can take charge of our own future and actively participate in shaping the policies and initiatives that affect our daily lives.

### What will change

- 5 Council people elected at large from rural Golden Gate Estates
- Control of Zoning, Planning and Enforcement.
- Develop and control of the Golden Gate Area Master Plan, rural element
- Ensure approval of new developments are aligned with the town Master Plan
- Stop Collier water and sewer expansion to private homes.
- Prioritize infrastructure expenditures to address deficiencies in telecommunications (cell, internet) stormwater management and local public roads.

### What won't change

- Sheriff
- Clerk of Courts
- Property Appraiser
- Supervisor of Elections
- Tax Collector
- Board of County Commissioners
- Fire Departments
- EMS/Ambulance
- Schools
- Waste Management
- Mosquito Control



Sign the Petition

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## How Can I Help



### What would we gain?



Let's seize this opportunity to establish Golden Gate Estates as a strong, self-governing municipality, united in our vision and working together towards a prosperous future.



### Donate

This is a volunteer grass roots effort, resources to carry on this effort are significant @ <https://SaveTheEstates.org/donate>



### Sign a Petition, Let us vote for our Town.

Our legislators need to know there are sufficient numbers to pass the bill on a referendum @ <https://savetheestates.org/petition/>



### Volunteer

This is a herculean effort, volunteers are the key to success @ <https://savetheestates.org/volunteer/>



### Get Involved. Make a Positive Change.

Take the Survey, let us know what's important to you @ <https://savetheestates.org/incorporation-poll/>



### Talk to your neighbours and friends

Point them to <https://SaveTheEstates.org>  
Tell them to help by signing a petition



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## 5



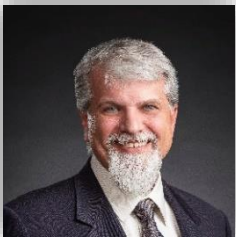
# Save The Estates

## Save The Estates Team

What would we gain?



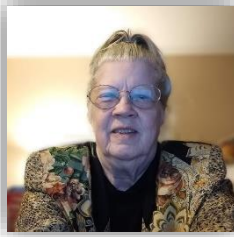
What do we gain? A stronger community. A united voice. A brighter future!



Aaron Zwiefel



Jill Rosenfeld



Rae Ann Burrton



Angie Birks



Marc Mccollaum

# WE WANT YOU



[Save the Estates](#)



SaveTheEstatesGGE @save\_gge\_now



<https://www.youtube.com/@SaveTheEstates>



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Ver: 6/3/2023

