

The Florida Times-Union

Friday
JULY 1, 2016
\$2

159 NEW LAWS NOW IN EFFECT IN FLORIDA

Metro, B-1

Vote planned to keep suspected terrorists from buying guns
Nation, C-3



BOUND FOR RIO

Caeleb Dressel earns Olympic spot in close finish

Sports, D-1

Ex-staffer, Corey still at odds on complaints

State attorney: No employee pressed to give or campaign

By Larry Hannan
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For 16 years Doug Dorsey was an assistant state attorney who was usually out of the limelight.

That time is over for Dorsey.

Thursday afternoon Dorsey defended himself seven weeks after resigning as a prosecutor after he accused his former co-workers of politicking for the re-election of State Attorney Angela Corey during work hours at the office. He came to the Times-Union hours after Corey met with the editorial board and expressed confidence that no one on her staff had done anything wrong.

Corey said she was satisfied no campaigning for her re-election went on and no one felt compelled to contribute to her campaign or was working for her re-election during work hours.

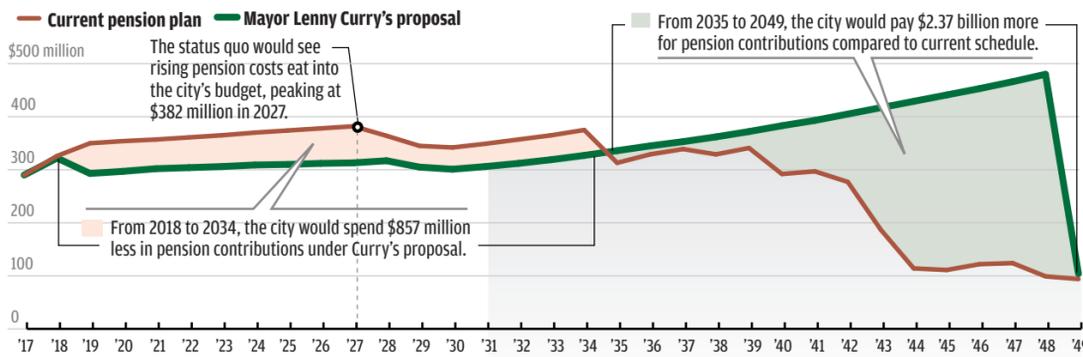
The day before, one of Corey's top aides called Dorsey a disgruntled, underperforming employee who was in danger of

COREY continues on A-4

Pension report fuels half-cent tax debate

Pay less now, pay more later

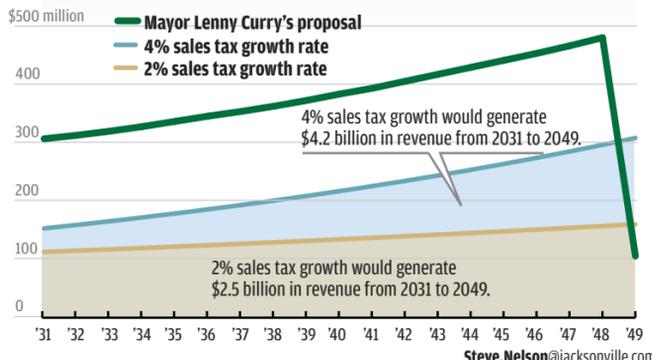
If nothing changes, the annual cost of paying for Jacksonville's pension plans will rise sharply over the next decade. Mayor Lenny Curry's proposal would counter that trend by paying less into the plans from 2019 to 2034 than the status quo schedule. From 2035 to 2039, the city would pay more into the pension plans than if the city stuck to its current schedule. A proposed half-cent sales tax would begin around 2031 and it could help the city cover the higher pension costs in Curry's proposal.



Using sales tax to help cover higher pension payments

If approved by voters in an Aug. 30 referendum, a half-cent sales tax for pension costs would begin around 2031. Based on a 2 percent annual growth rate in sales tax collections, the pension tax would generate \$2.5 billion from 2031 to 2049, which would help cover the higher pension contribution amounts in Curry's proposal. Under any scenario a sizable portion of the money would have to come from the city's general fund.

Source: City of Jacksonville



Financial breakdown shows how, when plan would help the city

By David Bauerlein
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The multibillion-dollar question comes from the audience whenever Mayor Lenny Curry goes to town hall meetings and touts a half-cent sales tax for the city's massive pension

costs. How can a sales tax that wouldn't start until after 2030 help the city before then with budget problems that Curry says are sending the city down the same road as Detroit?

An analysis released this week by the mayor's office puts some hard

numbers to Curry's financial strategy, which essentially would defer a big chunk of the city's pension contributions until after the sales tax begins, thereby creating some budget relief for the city in the coming years.

PENSION continues on A-4



Alex Brandon Associated Press

Defense Secretary Ash Carter said "we don't want barriers unrelated to a person's qualification to serve."

Pentagon lifts transgender ban in military

Procedures, guidelines for leaders to be phased in over the next year

By Lolita C. Baldor
Associated Press

WASHINGTON | Transgender people will be allowed to serve openly in the U.S. military, the Pentagon announced Thursday, ending one of the last bans on service in the armed forces.

Saying it's the right thing to do, Defense Secretary Ash Carter laid out a year-long implementation plan declaring that "Americans who want to serve and can meet our standards should be afforded the opportunity to compete to do so."

"Our mission is to defend this country, and we don't want barriers unrelated to a person's qualification to serve preventing us from recruiting or retaining the soldier, sailor, airman or Marine who can best accomplish the mission," Carter said at

MILITARY continues on A-4

Bright spot: Antarctic ozone hole starts to heal

Results from banning harmful chemicals weren't expected so soon

By Seth Borenstein
Associated Press

WASHINGTON | Antarctica's ozone hole finally is starting to heal, a new study finds.

In a triumph of international cooperation over a man-made environmental problem, research from the

United States and the United Kingdom shows that the September-October ozone hole is getting smaller and forming later in the year. And the study in Thursday's journal Science also shows other indications that the ozone layer is improving after it was being eaten away by chemicals in aerosols and refrigerants. The ozone molecule is a combination of three

OZONE continues on A-4



A Chilean Navy ship moves off the Antarctic coast. The ozone hole above the continent is starting to heal, according to a study.

Natasha Pisarenko Associated Press

Weather
Similar pattern
Forecast on A-2

92 Today's high

75 Saturday morning's low

DAILY DEAL! Tutoring Club: \$99 assessment, four hours tutoring and more Details, A-2

Classified C-4 Jack
Comics E-6 Legals D-5
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OZONE

Continued from A-1

oxygen atoms; high in the atmosphere, the layer shields Earth from ultraviolet rays.

The hole has shrunk by about 1.7 million square miles in the key month of September since 2000 — a decline of about one-fifth, the study found. That difference is more than six times larger than the state of Texas. It also is taking about 10 days longer to reach its largest size.

The hole won't be completely closed until mid-century, but the healing is appearing earlier than scientists expected, said study lead author Susan Solomon of MIT.

"It isn't just that the patient is in remission," she said. "He's actually starting to get better. The patient got very sick in the '80s when we were pumping all that chlorine" into the atmosphere.

"I think it's a tremendous cause for hope" for fixing other environmental problems, such as man-made climate change, said Solomon, who led two U.S. Antarctic expeditions to measure the ozone layer in the 1980s and has also been a leader in studying global warming.

In the 1970s, scientists suggested the ozone layer — about 6 to 30 miles high in the stratosphere — was thinning because of chemicals called chlorofluorocarbons from aerosols and refrigerants.

Those chemicals would break down into chlorine that attacked ozone, which at that level protects people from ultraviolet rays linked to skin cancer. Then in early 1980s, a hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica started appearing in October — and then, September and October — making the problem more urgent. Ozone thinned elsewhere on Earth and already has begun healing in the middle section of the planet, but the Antarctic hole was the gaping wound.

The Montreal Protocol, a 1987 global treaty to phase out many of the ozone-depleting chemicals, led companies to develop new products that didn't eat away at the ozone layer. Still, scientists said it would take time before the problem would heal.

"There is a sense of 'mission accomplished,'" emailed University of California San Diego's Mario Molina, who shared the 1995 Nobel Prize for chemistry for his characterization of the ozone problem. He praised the study, in which he played no part.

"The paper is quite convincing. To me at least it resolves the mystery of the 2015 Antarctic ozone hole," University of Maryland atmospheric scientist Ross Salawitch, who wasn't part of the research, wrote in an email. "So, 28 years after the Montreal Protocol was agreed upon, we have strong evidence that the ozone hole is getting smaller. I'd say this is a remarkable achievement, particularly in the instant gratification world in which we live."



Mayor Lenny Curry kicked off a series of meetings hosted for City of Jacksonville employees in early June about his view on the city's pension crisis. He faces an uphill battle selling the plan ahead of August's vote.

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PENSION

Continued from A-1

To supporters of the proposed pension fix, the report by Milliman, an actuarial firm hired by the city, shows Curry's strategy is a workable blueprint whose numbers add up.

"I think he has some solutions," City Councilman Tommy Hazouri said. "You've got to give credit where credit is due for making the tough decisions. That's what leadership is about."

Opponents of the half-cent sales tax referendum argue the report shows the city would absorb an unacceptably high cost for spreading pension contributions over a longer period of time.

"I would no longer call that kicking the can down the road," said John Winkler, president of Concerned Taxpayers of Duval County. "I would call that a true punt."

Here are some key takeaways of the report:

- From 2018 through 2034, the city would spend \$857 million less on contributions to its three pension plans compared to the current schedule of projected contributions.

- On an annual basis, the reductions would range from \$40 million to \$68 million. That would give the city some financial flexibility in its general fund budget, which totaled about \$1.14 billion this year.

- From 2035 to 2049, the city would spend \$2.37 billion more in pension contributions than if it sticks with the current schedule. The higher cost stems from the pay now or pay more later aspect of financing pension plans — a reduction in contributions means pension plans have less money for their investment portfolios, so higher contributions are needed later to make up for the plans generating less investment income.

- The Milliman report does not calculate how much money the city would generate from the proposed half-cent sales tax starting in 2031, but a separate analysis by the city shows if sales tax revenue grows at a 2 percent annual rate, the city would generate about \$2.5 billion from 2031 to 2049.

That would be enough to cover the additional cost for pension payments over that period.

- If the city makes no changes and continues on its current path, annual pension costs will keep rising in the next decade, peaking at \$382 million in 2027. The city's cost this year is \$260 million, so pension costs would continue to choke the city's budget.

DELAYING INCREASES

Former City Council President Greg Anderson, a supporter of the half-cent sales tax, said the combination of spreading pension costs over a longer period and enacting a half-cent sales tax dedicated to pension costs will give the city budget relief in the coming years and ultimately eliminate the \$2.85 billion pension debt.

"Over the last five years, we've pinched every penny where we could," Anderson said. "Where we could invest, we've invested, but there are so many needs that this community has. ... This is about making a decision so our children and grandchildren are not faced with these problems in the future, and this plan does that."

He said he's confident the future sales tax revenue will handle the increase in pension costs from 2035 to 2049.

"From a broad-bush standpoint, it does what the administration says it would do, which is to try to match the cash flows of the sales tax with the cash-flow requirements in the out years," Anderson said.

Historically, sales tax growth in Jacksonville has exceeded 2 percent annually. For instance, revenue from the Better Jacksonville Plan's half-cent sales tax grew at an annual average rate of about 2.6 percent between 2002 and 2015, a period that included the Great Recession.

The proposed half-cent sales tax for pension costs would begin after the Better Jacksonville Plan's tax ends in 2030.

While Anderson calls it a solid financial plan, Winkler said deferring the contributions comes at too steep a price for the city.

He said reducing pension costs by \$857 million through 2034 and then seeing higher costs triple that amount of \$2.38 billion from 2035 to 2049 "isn't the best long-term use of public resources."

"This is the best they can come up with — telling us we need to extend our mortgage?" Winkler said, referring to how the city would refinance its pension debt by paying it off over 30 years instead of 24 years.

He said the proposal would only result in a "modest lowering" of the city's annual pension costs. The city's pension costs would still rise in the coming years, just not as fast as under the status quo.

Instead of a half-cent sales tax starting in 2031, Winkler said, the city should look at other options to tackle the problem sooner, such as increasing the property tax rate, which stands at 11.44 mills for the city's portion of a tax bill, excluding the school dis-

trict and other taxing entities. Under state law, the city could increase its rate to as high as 20 mills.

"The most serious problem I have with the 'Yes for Jacksonville' campaign is doing things like raising the specter of Detroit when we have almost nine more mills of ad valorem taxation (available)," Winkler said.

A mill produces \$47.6 million in property taxes. The Milliman report shows that under Curry's proposal, the city would reduce its pension contribution by \$57 million in the 2018-19 fiscal year, so generating a similar amount through a property tax rate increase would translate to 1.2 mills.

OTHER OPTIONS

When Curry first unveiled his plan in January, he said it would free up \$60 million to \$100 million a year in money that otherwise would be going to pension costs.

The reduced costs identified in the Milliman report are on the low end of that range. But if voters don't approve the half-cent sales tax, other options for the city to get budget relief include borrowing against the future sales tax revenue. Curry has said he is "not inclined" to use that alternative.

The city also could try to count the future sales tax revenue as current asset for accounting purposes, which would further lower the contribution amounts between now and 2031, shifting more of the cost to later years. No other city has used that approach, which would require approval by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

The report released this week by Milliman does not examine the financial impact of that strategy.

Beth McCague, interim director of the Police and Fire Pension Fund, said she is digesting the report and wants to discuss it with the city's financial staff.

"Who can argue that a dedicated source of revenue is not a good thing for a pension fund, but it's still the details that will be the challenge," she said.

Hazouri said getting voter approval Aug. 30 won't be easy. He said if the city does nothing, that also comes at a cost because there is a backlog of work that will just get more expensive if the city lacks money to do it.

"It's tough to ask right now for what we're asking for with the climate the way it is across the country," he said. "I want to see it (the sales tax) passed, not because I'm in love with it, but because it's tough love and that's the only way I can address it."

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TRANSGENDER FIGURES DOUBLE OVER 2011

About 1.4 million adults in the U.S. identify as transgender, double the estimate from a decade ago, a team of experts reported Thursday.

Their survey, calculating that 0.6 percent of U.S. adults are transgender, was released at a time when several issues related to transgender rights are in the spotlight. The military is moving to allow transgender service members to serve openly, and there is intense debate nationwide over transgender people's access to public bathrooms.

The new survey was conducted by four scholars and analysts affiliated with the Williams Institute, a think tank at the UCLA School of Law that specializes in research on issues affecting lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgender people.

One of the experts, demographer Gary Gates, had come up with the previous estimate of 700,000 in a report issued in 2011 that used data from the previous decade.

The new estimate, he said, resulted from the availability of much more comprehensive data, as well as the increased willingness of people to be open about their gender identity.

The new survey used data from the 2014 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, a 50-state survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In 2014, a question about transgender identity was asked in 19 states; the Williams Institute experts used those responses to estimate the transgender population in all 50 states. States with the highest percentage of transgender adults — almost 0.8 percent of all adults — included Hawaii, California, New Mexico and Georgia.

Associated Press

MILITARY

Continued from A-1

a Pentagon news conference.

Under the new policy, by Oct. 1, transgender troops already serving should be able to receive medical care and begin formally changing their gender identifications in the Pentagon's personnel system.

A year from now, he said, the military services will begin allowing transgender individuals to enlist, as long as they meet required standards and have been stable in their identified genders for 18 months.

STABLE FOR 18 MONTHS

Carter's announcement comes despite concerns from senior military leaders that the department is moving too fast and that more time is needed to work through the changes. He said he discussed the plans extensively with his military leaders and that, based on their recommendations, he made adjustments to the timeline. He said he has been told that the services now support the timeline.

Under the new policy, transgender troops would receive any medically necessary care including surgery, Carter said.

The new rules also give military commanders flexibility, noting that not all transition cases are the same. Commanders will have the discretion to make decisions on a case-by-case basis, including on job placement, deployments, training delays and other accommodations, based on the needs of the military mission and whether the service members can perform their duties.

For people coming into the military, the plan says that those with gender dysphoria, a history of medical treatments associated with gender transition and those who have had reconstruction surgery may be disqualified as military recruits unless a medical provider certifies that they have been clinically stable in the preferred gender for 18 months, and are free of

significant impairment. And transgender troops receiving hormone therapy must have been stable on their medications for 18 months.

The policy provides broad guidelines for transgender service members currently in the military. They will be able to use the bathrooms, housing, uniforms and fitness standards of their preferred gender only after they have legally transitioned to that identity, according to officials.

'POLITICS OVER POLICY'

Over the next year, the military services will develop and distribute training guidelines, medical protocols and other guidance to help commanders deal with any issues or questions about transgender troops.

Last July, Carter said he intended to rescind the ban, calling it outdated. He has long argued that the military must be more inclusive to bring in the best and brightest.

At the time, he ordered a six-month study to include extensive medical and scientific research and discussions with other nations and companies with experience in the process. He extended the study because the military wanted more time.

Officials said he wanted to ensure there was no impact on military readiness, but over time, he became frustrated with the slow progress.

Rep. Mac Thornberry, R-Texas, the House Armed Services Committee chairman, called the announcement another example of the administration "prioritizing politics over policy." He questioned whether the change would affect military readiness and said the committee will push for answers.

Others praised the move as historic. The decision, said Aaron Belkin, director of the California-based Palm Center think tank, enhances "readiness as well as core values of honesty and integrity, an enormous accomplishment with a durable impact on all service members."

COREY

Continued from A-1

being fired when he made his accusations. Dorsey strenuously disputed that characterization Thursday.

"To say I wasn't doing my job was probably the most unfair thing they said," Dorsey said.

He said he drew the ire of his superiors because he complained that elder abuse cases were not being prosecuted. Then the efforts to re-elect Corey in the office became so blatant that he felt he had to take a stand against it.

The situation has still been a nightmare for him, Dorsey said.

"I loved every minute of being a prosecutor," he said. "I was really proud to be one."

He said he is now working for a divorce and family law firm run by his father.

In a May 6 email to Pa-

tricia Dodson, the managing director of the State Attorney's Office, Dorsey complained there was "significant politicking" for Corey on work time in the state attorney's building. He says he was told to start collecting petitions for her re-election and encouraged to get more involved in the campaign.

"It was the right thing to send that email," Dorsey said. "I felt it didn't matter if I lose my job. It was my responsibility to take a stand."

He gave \$250 in July 2015 to Corey's re-election and now says he felt pressured to give that donation for fear he could be punished or lose his job.

Dorsey resigned on May 9. Thursday he said Corey herself never did anything wrong and never told anyone it was OK to campaign in the office. A headline on Page A-1 of Thursday's Times-Union erroneously

stated he was personally accusing Corey.

Corey said no one who works for her should think they will be rewarded for taking on a role in the campaign or giving money to her, or think they will be punished if they decline to donate or participate in the campaign.

About 17 percent of Corey's fundraising — \$49,925 — came from people who either listed the State Attorney's Office as their address or specifically identified themselves as assistant state attorneys.

Under Florida law, elected officials are not allowed to pressure their employees to donate to their campaigns or order them to help in their re-elections. The city of Jacksonville also prohibits any election campaigning in city-owned buildings — the office on Monroe Street is owned by the city.

Wednesday, Dodson said



Corey



Dorsey

Dorsey's performance had been below average since she joined the office over two years ago, and she met with him the day before he sent his email to express her unhappiness and make it clear that he was in danger of losing his job.

Dorsey had a completely different account of his meeting with Dodson. They met to discuss his concerns over elder abuse cases and he was told to drop his complaining about the lack of prosecutions, he said.

Dorsey was the division chief in the courtroom of Circuit Judge Tatiana Salvador until he was demoted in 2015. Dodson said he was not going to court, not

communicating with the people who served under him, showing up late and refusing to fill out his time card.

He was demoted to the special assault/repeat offender unit where he wouldn't supervise anyone, but his bosses still had problems with tardiness and his refusal to work with other lawyers, Dodson said.

Dorsey acknowledged there were complaints about how he was filling out his time card but disputed the suggestion that he was tardy or wasn't working well with other lawyers.

"My performance was always among the best," he said. "But Angela and her team have an overreliance on time sheets."

Dorsey received an endorsement from Corey's predecessor, Harry Shorstein, who called the Times-Union to say Dorsey

was a good employee when he worked for Shorstein.

"He was an excellent attorney with highest moral and ethical standards," Shorstein said.

Dorsey said he was not supporting anyone in the state attorney election.

"But I do feel it's time for a change," he said.

Corey is running against two of her former subordinates, Wesley White and Melissa Nelson.

Dorsey filed a complaint with Florida's inspector general but that complaint was dismissed because the office doesn't take complaints against elected officials. Dorsey said he has now filed another complaint with the Florida Commission on Human Relations, saying he was wrongfully discharged from his job because he was a whistleblower.

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