

Jacksonville's Government



Politics . . . correctly defined . . . is the organization, science and management of Government. In the vast complexities of today's world, government must, by its very nature, become the administrative body of municipal business, and . . . again, in today's world . . . particularly where it involves a city the size of Jacksonville and a city which owns as many revenue-producing departments as it does, it is very BIG business.

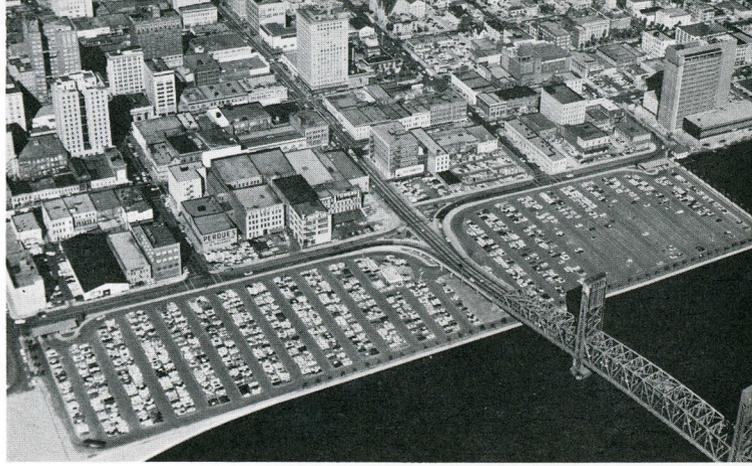
Successful business must be given progressive management and Jacksonville's voters are the people who elect this management. Without good municipal government, a city cannot prosper . . . business, in general, cannot prosper . . . and its citizens cannot have the security which is essential to their peace of mind and contentment.

In addition, a city's governmental charter must have a good, democratic structure. Jacksonville has one.

Its Mayor-Commissioner-Council form of government is closely patterned after our State government. The Mayor-Commissioner is its executive head, and he holds the authority to recommend legislation and has the power of veto over the City Council. The City Commission, over which the Mayor is the permanent chairman, is the 5-member administrative and management branch . . . and the nine-member City Council is the legislative and law-making body. This provides an almost perfect system of democratic checks and balances, . . . one against the other.

Although the Commission prepares and recommends the yearly fiscal budget, operates and administers all the City Departments and appoints such independent boards as the Library Trustees, Recreation and Civil Service Boards, and others. The Council must pass and approve this budget and appropriates all City funds and many of the Commission appointments are subject to Council confirmation.

The City Government is completed with four other elective posts: the City Treasurer, who has the large task of handling all moneys taken in by the City; the Tax Assessor, who values all city property, land, buildings



An aerial view of the City-Owned Waterfront Parking Project. The City Hall is seen at extreme right.

Elevated 1,000,000 gallon capacity water storage tank is included in aerial view of Expressway interchange.

