

26-18

LEON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA, PLACING ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026, GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT A QUESTION REGARDING AN AD VALOREM OPERATING MILLAGE PROPOSED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LEON COUNTY; PROVIDING CERTAIN OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, at a regularly scheduled meeting held on May 26, 2026, the school district of Leon County, Florida, acting by and through the School Board of Leon County (the “School Board”), adopted a resolution, a copy of which is attached hereto as (Exhibit “A”); and

WHEREAS, Exhibit “A” provides for a referendum to be held on November 3, 2026, to determine whether or not the School Board may levy an ad valorem operating millage of one mill annually for school operating purposes; and

WHEREAS, section 1011.71(9), Florida Statutes, as may be amended from time to time, authorizes a school district to levy additional millage for school operational purposes by local referendum or in a general election, subject to the limitations set forth therein; and

WHEREAS, section 1011.73(2), Florida Statutes, as may be amended from time to time, provides that the district school board, pursuant to resolution adopted at a regular meeting, shall direct the county commissioners to call an election at which the electors within the school district may approve an ad valorem tax millage authorized under section 1011.71(9), Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the School Board has requested the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County to place the question of whether or not the School Board may levy an ad valorem operating millage of one mill annually on the ballot.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

Section 1. Place Question on the General Election Ballot as Proposed by the School Board.

1. In accordance with the request of the School Board, the question of whether or not the School Board shall be entitled to levy an ad valorem operating millage of one mill annually in accordance with Exhibit “A” is hereby placed on the November 3, 2026, General Election ballot.

2. The Board's adoption of the Resolution is a procedural requirement and is not an endorsement for the operating millage or any specific expenditure.

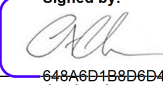
3. A copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Supervisor of Elections of Leon County.

Section 2. Effective Date.

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

DONE, ADOPTED AND PASSED by the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, this 9th day of June 2026.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

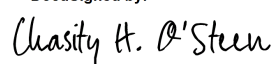
Signed by:
By: 
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Christian Caban, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners

ATTESTED BY:
Gwen Knight, Clerk of Court
& Comptroller, Leon County, Florida

DocuSigned by:
By: 
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APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Chasity H. O'Steen, County Attorney
Leon County Attorney's Office

DocuSigned by:
By: 
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THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION 2026-2

A RESOLUTION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA, DIRECTING THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY FLORIDA TO PLACE A REFERENDUM ON THE BALLOT FOR THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026 GENERAL ELECTION, FOR THE ELECTORS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA TO APPROVE THE LEVY OF AN AD VALOREM OPERATING MILLAGE OF ONE MILL ANNUALLY FROM JULY 1, 2027 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2031, FOR SCHOOL OPERATING PURPOSES PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 1011.71(9) AND 1011.73(2), FLORIDA STATUTES, WITH CHARTER SCHOOLS RECEIVING A PROPORTIONATE SHARE PURSUANT TO FLORIDA LAW; WITH ANNUAL REPORTING FOR TRANSPARENCY OF THE USE OF FUNDS; PROVIDING CERTAIN OTHER MATTERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY FOR RESOLUTION. This resolution is adopted pursuant to Sections 1013.73(2) and 1011.71(9), Florida Statutes, and other applicable provisions of law.

SECTION 2. FINDINGS. It is hereby found and determined that:

(A) The School Board of Leon County, Florida (the "Board") is charged with the constitutional and statutory responsibility of operating, supervising and controlling public schools within the school district ("District") in Leon County, Florida.

(B) The national teacher shortage and increase in the number of resignations and retirements have created a significant vacancy rate in the District, and national exit interviews indicate that higher wages elsewhere is one of the primary reasons for departures from the classroom.

(C) The education funds available to the Board through traditional means, such as the state funding formula and the required local millage, do not provide the Board with sufficient resources to continue providing and improving the excellence in education that students deserve. As a result, the District has experienced shortfalls in funding to employ and retain high quality teachers and staff. The District further faces a shortage of various support services positions, primarily due to pay significantly lower than the private sector for similar services.

(D) Section 1011.71(9), Florida Statutes, authorizes school boards, such as the School Board of Leon County, Florida, to levy an ad valorem tax millage for school operational purposes subject to certain limitations in Florida law. Such levy is subject to approval by a majority vote of the electors in Leon County, shall be levied for a period not to exceed 4 years and shall be proportionately shared with public charter schools based upon student enrollment, as prescribed by the Florida Legislature.

(E) It is in the best interest of the School District of Leon County, Florida and its students, teachers and staff to levy the ad valorem millage authorized by Sections 1011.71(9) and 1013.73(2), Florida Statutes, in an amount equal to one mill.

(F) The Board intends that the revenues generated by the additional millage for operational purposes shall be used to retain, employ and recruit teachers and staff to make their compensation competitive with other comparable Florida school districts and educational institutions; improve safety and security and fortify and enhance arts and athletic programs districtwide, all of which is permitted by Sections 1011.71(9) and 1011.73(2), Florida Statutes.

SECTION 3. LEVY OF AD VALOREM MILLAGE FOR OPERATING EXPENSES. Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 1011.71(9) and 1011.73(2), Florida Statutes, there is hereby levied and imposed one mill of ad valorem taxes for operating expenses to enhance funding to increase compensation to recruit, employ and retain high quality teachers and staff, improve safety and security, and fortify and enhance arts and athletic programs districtwide. The revenues collected shall be shared with eligible charter schools based on their proportionate share of the total school district enrollment.

SECTION 4. TERM OF LEVY. The one mill levy of ad valorem taxes for operating expenses shall commence July 1, 2027, and shall remain in full force and effect for up to four (4) years ending June 30, 2031, unless repealed or reduced prior to that time by resolution of the School Board, which repeal or reduction may be effectuated without referendum.

SECTION 5. ELECTION ORDERED. A referendum election is hereby ordered to be held in Leon County, Florida on November 3, 2026, to determine whether or not the Board may levy the ad valorem millage. Pursuant to Section 1011.73(2), Florida Statutes, the School Board hereby directs the Leon County Board of County Commissioners to direct the Leon County Supervisor of Elections to place on the ballot the statement contained in the "Notice of Election" set forth in Section 6, below, and to conduct said election pursuant to the provisions of the election laws of the State of Florida. The vote at said referendum shall be by the voting devices provided by the Supervisor of Elections for the general election, as approved by the Florida Department of State pursuant to Chapter 101, Florida Statutes, and in each polling place, there shall be at least one such device.

SECTION 6. NOTICE OF ELECTION. The Superintendent, in connection with the Supervisor of Elections, shall publish notice of the referendum in the manner and at the times required by Florida law.

SECTION 7. PLACES OF VOTING; INSPECTORS AND CLERKS. The polls will be open at the voting places on the date of such referendum election from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. All qualified electors residing within Leon County, Florida shall be entitled and permitted to vote at such referendum election on the proposition provided herein. The places of voting and the inspectors and clerks of the referendum election shall be those designated by the Supervisor of Elections of Leon County in accordance with law. The inspectors and clerks at each polling place and the Supervisor of Elections shall canvass the vote and make due returns of same without delay to the Board. Such returns shall show, separately, the number of qualified electors who voted at such election on such question and the number of votes cast respectively for and against approval of such question. The returns of the inspectors and clerks shall, as soon as practicable after the close of the polls, be canvassed by the Supervisor of Elections, who shall declare and certify the results of such referendum.

SECTION 8. OFFICIAL BALLOT The ballots to be used in the referendum election on November 3, 2026, shall contain a statement relating to the levy of the Ad Valorem Millage, and shall be in substantially the following form:

OFFICIAL BALLOT

**School Board Ad Valorem Levy to Improve Teacher Compensation,
School Safety and School Enrichment Programs**

To increase compensation for teachers and staff, enhance school security operations, and fund essential school programs including arts education and athletics, shall the Leon County School Board authorize an annual ad valorem operating millage of one mill annually from July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2031, with revenues collected to be shared with eligible charter schools pursuant to Florida law, and with expenditures reviewed by a citizen's advisory committee?

Instruction to Voters

Yes = For the 1 mill levy

No = Against the 1 mill levy

If the question shall be approved by a majority of the duly qualified electors of Leon County, Florida, voting thereon, the School Board shall levy one mill to provide educational excellence for student learning by ensuring competitive salaries to retain and recruit high quality teachers and staff, implementing and preserving academic programs, and distributing proportional funds pursuant to Florida law with charter schools.

SECTION 9. ABSENTEE VOTING. Absentee electors participating in said referendum shall be entitled to cast their ballots in accordance with the provisions of the laws of the State of Florida with respect to absentee voting which shall have printed thereon the question herein above set forth, with proper place for voting either "Yes" or "No" following the statement of the

question aforesaid.

SECTION 10. PRINTING OF THE BALLOTS. The Supervisor of Elections of Leon County is authorized and directed to have printed on plain white paper a sufficient number of the aforesaid ballots for use of absentee electors entitled to cast such ballots in such referendum election and shall also have printed sample ballots and deliver them to the inspectors and clerks on or before the date and time for the opening of the polls for such referendum election for the voting places; and, further, is authorized and directed to make appropriate arrangements for the conduct of the election at the polling places specified.

SECTION 11. ELECTION PROCEDURE. The Supervisor of Elections shall hold, administer and conduct the referendum election in the manner prescribed by law for holding elections in the county. Returns shall show the number of qualified electors who voted at such referendum election on the proposition and the number of votes cast respectively for and against approval of the proposition. The returns shall be canvassed in accordance with law.

SECTION 12. STATUTORY REFERENCES. All statutory references herein shall be to said statutes as they exist on the date of adoption of this Resolution and as they may be from time to time amended or renumbered, except to the extent contractual commitments would preclude application of a subsequent statutory revision or repeal.

SECTION 13. SEVERABILITY. It is declared to be the intent of the School Board that, if any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Resolution is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.

SECTION 14. REPEALING CLAUSE. Any resolution or part thereof in conflict with this Resolution or any part hereof is hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

SECTION 15. EFFECTIVE DATE. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption. However, the millage levy authorized hereunder shall only be effective upon approval by a majority vote of the electors of Leon County.

ADOPTED at a Regular Meeting of the School Board of Leon County, Florida this 26th day of May, 2026.

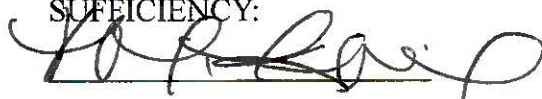
SCHOOL BOARD OF LEON COUNTY,
FLORIDA,
ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF
THE LEON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT:

By: 
Dr. Marcus Nicolas, Chair

ATTEST: 
Rocky Hanna, Superintendent

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL

SUFFICIENCY:


Opal McKinney-Williams, School
Board Attorney

Motion By: School Board Member Smith

Second By: School Board Member Jones

Alva Smith YES

Rosanne Wood YES

Darryl Jones YES

Laurie Lawson Cox NO

Marcus Nicolas, YES