

26-08

LEON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA, PLACING A NONBINDING, COUNTYWIDE ADVISORY REFERENDUM ON POTENTIAL CITY-COUNTY CONSOLIDATION ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT; PROVIDING BALLOT TITLE AND BALLOT SUMMARY LANGUAGE; DIRECTING TRANSMITTAL TO THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, Leon County is a charter county and political subdivision of the State of Florida, operating under Article VIII of the Florida Constitution and the Leon County Home Rule Charter; and

WHEREAS, Section 125.01(1), Florida Statutes, provides that the Board of County Commissioners “shall have the power to carry on county government,” subject only to limitations in general or special law; and

WHEREAS, Section 125.01(1)(y), Florida Statutes, authorizes the Board to “place questions or propositions on the ballot at any primary election, general election, or otherwise called special election” to obtain an expression of voter sentiment on matters of substantial concern within the county, and further provides that no special election may be called for the purpose of conducting a straw ballot; and

WHEREAS, potential consolidation of the governments of Leon County and the City of Tallahassee is a matter of substantial concern to the citizens of Leon County within the meaning of Section 125.01(1)(y), Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, at its November 18, 2025 meeting, the Board directed staff to provide an analysis of county-city consolidation in Florida, including the legal process and additional information for the Board’s consideration regarding potential consolidation of Leon County and the City of Tallahassee; and

WHEREAS, at its December 9, 2025 meeting, the Board received a comprehensive status report on county-city consolidation that reviewed the national and Florida experience, recounted the local history of four prior consolidation referenda (1971, 1973, 1976, and 1992), and outlined the legal and procedural framework for consolidation under Article VIII, Section 3 of the Florida Constitution; and

1 **WHEREAS**, on December 9, 2025, the Board directed staff to prepare ballot language for
2 Board consideration to proceed with a non-binding referendum on the November 3, 2026 General
3 Election Ballot, to gauge public interest in the possibility of consolidation; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, Section 106.113, Florida Statutes, imposes specific limits on how local
6 governments may use public funds to communicate about ballot issues, while expressly preserving the
7 ability of local governments to report on official actions, post factual information on government
8 websites and in printed materials, host and provide information at public forums, provide factual
9 information in response to inquiries, and provide information as otherwise authorized or required by
10 law; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the proposed referendum would be advisory and nonbinding under Section
13 125.01(1)(y), Florida Statutes, and would not, by itself, create a consolidated government, amend the
14 Leon County Home Rule Charter, or change any existing powers, responsibilities, or revenue structures
15 of Leon County or the City of Tallahassee; and
16

17 **WHEREAS**, Article VIII, Section 3 of the Florida Constitution requires that any consolidation
18 of a county and one or more municipalities into a single government be set forth in a special act of the
19 Legislature and approved by a vote of the voters; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the Board desires to place a nonbinding, countywide advisory question on the
22 November 3, 2026 General Election ballot to gauge voter sentiment on whether the County should
23 pursue development of a proposed plan for potential consolidation of Leon County and City of
24 Tallahassee governments, and to direct that the ballot title and ballot summary set forth herein be
25 transmitted to the Leon County Supervisor of Elections.
26

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY
28 COMMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:
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30 **Section 1. Recitals Adopted.**
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32 The foregoing recitals are hereby adopted and incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth in
33 this Resolution.
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35 **Section 2. Nonbinding Advisory Referendum Authorized.**
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37 Pursuant to Section 125.01(1)(y), Florida Statutes, the Board hereby authorizes the placement of a
38 nonbinding, countywide advisory question on the November 3, 2026 General Election Ballot to obtain
39 an expression of voter sentiment regarding potential consolidation of the governments of Leon County
40 and the City of Tallahassee.

Section 3. Ballot Title and Ballot Summary.

The following ballot title and ballot summary are hereby approved for placement on the November 3, 2026, General Election ballot, in compliance with the requirements of Section 101.161, Florida Statutes:

Ballot Title:

Advisory Referendum to Pursue County-City Consolidation Plan Under Leon County Government Structure and Leadership

Ballot Summary:

Shall Leon County pursue development of a plan to consolidate the governments of Leon County and the City of Tallahassee into a single consolidated government, under the Leon County government structure and leadership, through the constitutional process requiring a special act of the Florida Legislature and voter approval? This nonbinding referendum only gauges voter sentiment and does not create a consolidated government.

☐ YES – For the advisory proposal

☐ NO – Against the advisory proposal

1 **Section 4. Advisory Nature.**

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3 The referendum authorized by this Resolution is nonbinding and advisory only under Section
4 125.01(1)(y), Florida Statutes. The results of the referendum shall not, by themselves, create a
5 consolidated government, amend the Leon County Home Rule Charter, or change any existing powers,
6 responsibilities, or revenue structures of Leon County or the City of Tallahassee. The Board retains
7 full discretion to determine whether and how to proceed following the referendum, including whether
8 to pursue special legislation under Article VIII, Section 3 of the Florida Constitution.
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10 **Section 5. Transmittal to Supervisor of Elections.**

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12 The County Administrator, or designee, is hereby directed to transmit a certified copy of this
13 Resolution, including the ballot title and ballot summary set forth in Section 3, which shall also be
14 translated into Spanish, to the Leon County Supervisor of Elections within the deadlines established by
15 the Supervisor of Elections and the Florida Election Code for ballot layout, coding, and logic and
16 accuracy testing, for placement of the advisory question on the November 3, 2026, General Election
17 ballot.
18

19 **Section 6. Notice.**

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21 The County Administrator, or designee, in coordination with the Supervisor of Elections, shall ensure
22 that notice of the referendum is provided in accordance with Section 100.342, Florida Statutes,
23 including publication at least twice, once in the fifth week and once in the third week before the week
24 of the election.
25

26 **Section 7. Public Information.**

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28 The County Administrator, or designee, is authorized to develop and implement a neutral public
29 information effort regarding the advisory referendum, consistent with the requirements and limitations
30 of Section 106.113, Florida Statutes, and in consultation with the County Attorney's Office.
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32 **Section 8. Severability.**

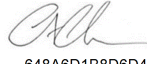
33
34 If any provision of this Resolution or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held
35 invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Resolution which can be
36 given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this
37 Resolution are declared severable.
38

39 **Section 9. Effective Date.**

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41 This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

DONE, ADOPTED AND PASSED by the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County,
Florida, this 10th day of March, 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

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By: 
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Signed by:


APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Chasity H. O'Steen, County Attorney
Leon County Attorney's Office

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By: 
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