

RESOLUTION NO. R24-007

RESOLUTION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF HERNANDO COUNTY, DIRECTING THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF HERNANDO COUNTY TO CALL AN ELECTION AT WHICH THE ELECTORS WITHIN THE COUNTY WILL BE ASKED FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE ONE MILL AD VALOREM TAX MILLAGE FOR SCHOOL OPERATIONAL PURPOSES FOR FOUR ADDITIONAL YEARS; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTION TO CALL AN ELECTION ASKING THE VOTERS TO CONTINUE THE ONE MILL AD VALOREM TAX FOR SCHOOL OPERATIONS: PROVIDING FOR APPROVAL OF THE REFERENDUM QUESTION AND BALLOT TITLE

WHEREAS, the School Board of Hernando County (the “Board”) is charged with operating the public schools within Hernando County, Florida; and,

WHEREAS, the Board has as its primary goal the continued improvement of the education provided to the students attending its public schools; and,

WHEREAS, the education funds available to the Board through the state funding formula and the Required Local Effort do not give the Board adequate resources to create the standard in education that its students require; and,

WHEREAS, Section 1011.73(2), Florida Statutes, authorizes the qualified electors of the Hernando School District to approve additional millage for operational purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Board is aware that voters in some Florida school districts have approved additional millage for school operations and have seen gains in student results; and,

WHEREAS, some Florida school districts have used the additional revenue generated by the increased millage to recruit and hire additional instructional personnel, including teachers, school support staff, and certified school mental health counselors, creating a challenging competition for Hernando County's limited pipeline of qualified personnel; and,

WHEREAS, the Board intends that revenues generated by the additional millage shall be used to attract and retain high-quality teachers and staff with competitive salaries and provide additional staff to support student needs; and,

WHEREAS, the Board further intends to use additional millage funds to maintain and increase school safety measures, increase mental health services for students, provide students and staff with devices, resources and support, and to maintain and increase educational opportunities for students; and,

WHEREAS, a Citizens Volunteer Millage Committee shall be appointed and continue to review annual spending; and,

WHEREAS, charter schools are public schools and therefore shall receive a proportionate share from the additional funding source; and,

WHEREAS, millage rates for the Required Local Effort in Hernando County have steadily decreased over the past 10 years, reducing the impact on property owners and creating ample space for an increase without nearing the cap allowed by law; and,

WHEREAS, all of the funds collected from this 1 mill increase will stay in Hernando County, thus improving local economic conditions; and,

WHEREAS, the Board finds that it is in the best interest of students to give qualified electors the opportunity to approve additional millage for school operations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Hernando County, Florida, in a public meeting duly called and assembled:

1. That pursuant to Section 1011.73(2), Florida Statutes, the Board of County Commissioners of Hernando County is hereby directed to call an election on November 5, 2024, for the qualified electors of Hernando County to vote on whether to continue the increase of ad valorem millage by one mill. Collections for the additional millage shall begin January 2026, and shall terminate after four years from its enactment, as authorized by Section 1011.71(9), Florida Statutes, unless renewed by said voters.

2. The substance of the millage referendum question and the ballot title shall read:

HERNANDO SCHOOL DISTRICT

MILLAGE ELECTION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

Shall the School Board of Hernando County renew the levy of ad- valorem operating millage of 1 mill annually to 1) attract and retain high-quality teachers and staff with competitive salaries and provide additional staff to support student needs, 2) maintain and increase school safety measures and increase mental health services for students, 3) provide students and staff with devices, resources and support, 4) maintain and increase educational opportunities for all students, and 5) appoint a Citizens Volunteer Millage Committee for the continued review of annual spending.

_____ YES, for millage

_____ NO, against millage