

RESOLUTION

NUMBER 2026 - _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA, CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM ELECTION RELATING TO THE EXPANSION OF THE ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS PROGRAM, CALLING FOR A CONTINUATION OF 0.20 MILL AD VALOREM TAX FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWENTY-YEAR PERIOD AND FURTHER RELATING TO A BOND REFERENDUM FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$70,000,000, PAYABLE FROM THE 0.20 MILL AD VALOREM TAX; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION TO CONTINUE THE ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS PROGRAM AD VALOREM TAX; PROVIDING FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR A BOND REFERENDUM; CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR POLLING PLACES; PROVIDING FOR ELECTION OFFICIALS; PROVIDING FOR HOURS OF ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR BALLOT QUESTIONS; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE OF ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR REFERENDUM RESULTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR NOTIFICATION BY CLERK; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

- A. On November 7, 2006, the citizens of Charlotte County approved, by referendum, the issuance of bonds associated with the levy of a 0.20 mill ad valorem tax through December 31, 2026 to be used for the acquisition, protection and management of environmentally sensitive lands (the "Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program") and further authorized the Board of County Commissioners (the "Board") to issue bonds, payable from the levy, so as to enable the Board to finance the cost to acquire environmentally sensitive lands, together with other purposes necessary, appurtenant or incidental thereto, including all costs of the issuance of the bonds.
- B. The Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program has been a resounding success, resulting in the County's acquisition of five (5) parcels totaling over 2,500 acres of environmental lands throughout the county for conservation and public recreation.
- C. Aligned with the County's desire to continue acquiring, conserving, managing and restoration of environmental lands, additional goals have

been identified, thereby expanding the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program to include:

- Restoration of degraded lands for environmental quality and functional ecosystem.
 - Mitigating impacts from flooding, storm surge, and improper drainage infrastructure to provide natural protection from extreme weather events.
 - Conservation, management and (when necessary) restoration of the natural environment to provide public access for enjoyment and education.
 - Protecting and preserving natural resources.
 - Acquisition of lands in Repetitive Loss area, FEMA high-risk flood zones, and areas with inadequate drainage.
 - Achieving the Natural Resources, Future Land Use, and Coastal Planning elements of the Charlotte County Comprehensive Plan
- D. The Board desires to continue the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program 0.20 mill ad valorem tax (the "Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program Ad Valorem Tax") for an additional twenty (20) years through December 31, 2046.
- E. In order to provide the Board with the greatest flexibility in financing the acquisition and management of environmentally sensitive lands, the Board desires to submit to voter referendum the question of whether Charlotte County should continue to levy a 0.20 mill ad valorem tax and issue up to \$70 million in general obligation bonds, maturing within 20 years, bearing interest not exceeding the legal rate, payable from ad valorem taxes restricted to these purposes, with annual public audits.

SECTION 2. AUTHORITY OF THIS RESOLUTION. This Resolution is enacted pursuant to Chapters 100 and 125, Florida Statutes, and other applicable provisions of law.

SECTION 3. AUTHORIZATION TO CONTINUE THE ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS PROGRAM AD VALOREM TAX. Subject to referendum and pursuant to the provisions hereof, the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program Ad Valorem Tax authorized by voter referendum through December 31, 2026 shall be continued through December 31, 2046 and the tax proceeds shall be used to finance, acquire, improve, and manage environmentally sensitive lands to protect drinking water sources and water quality, preserve fish and wildlife habitat, reduce flooding, and provide nature-based parks, in accordance with, and related to, the goals as outlined herein.

SECTION 4. AUTHORIZATION OF BONDS. Subject to voter referendum and pursuant to the provisions hereof, Charlotte County, Florida (the "County") shall be authorized to issue bonds in one or more series over the continued life of the

Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program in an aggregate principal amount not-to-exceed Seventy Million Dollars (\$70,000,000), maturing over a period not to exceed twenty (20) years from the date of bond issuance, to finance the acquisition, protection and management of environmentally sensitive lands, together with other purposes necessary, appurtenant or incidental thereto, including all costs of the issuance of the bonds. Such bonds shall be payable from the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Ad Valorem Tax.

SECTION 5. BOND REFERENDUM. A bond referendum of the qualified electors residing in Charlotte County is hereby called to be held on November 3, 2026, to determine whether Charlotte County should continue to levy a 0.20 mill ad valorem tax and issue up to \$70 million in general obligation bonds, maturing within 20 years, bearing interest not exceeding the legal rate, payable from ad valorem taxes restricted to these purposes, with annual public audits, which shall be used to finance, acquire, improve, and manage environmentally sensitive lands to protect drinking water sources and water quality, preserve fish and wildlife habitat, reduce flooding, and provide nature-based parks, together with other purposes necessary, appurtenant or incidental thereto, including all costs of the issuance of the bonds. All qualified electors residing in Charlotte County shall be entitled and permitted to vote in such bond referendum.

SECTION 6. REFERENDUM ELECTION CALLED. A referendum election is hereby called to be held on November 3, 2026, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of Charlotte County the question of whether bonds may be issued pursuant to Sections 4 and 5 herein to finance the cost of acquisition, protection and management of environmentally sensitive lands together with other purposes necessary, appurtenant or incidental thereto.

SECTION 7. POLLING PLACES. The referendum election shall be held at the polling places designated by the Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections.

SECTION 8. ELECTION OFFICIALS. The election officials to conduct said election shall be appointed and certified by the Supervisor of Elections pursuant to applicable general law.

SECTION 9. DATES AND HOURS FOR VOTING. All qualified electors residing within Charlotte County may vote in said referendum election. Absentee voting shall be permitted upon compliance with applicable provisions of general law.

- A. Early Voting: Designated Early Voting sites shall be open Monday, October 19, 2026, through Sunday, November 1, 2026. Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. daily.
- B. Election Day: (November 3, 2026): The polls shall be open on the date of said referendum election from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

SECTION 10. BALLOT QUESTION. The ballot question to be voted upon in said referendum election shall be in substantially the following form:

**CONTINUATION OF WATER QUALITY PROTECTION, WILDLIFE
HABITAT PRESERVATION, AND PARKS AD VALOREM TAX
AND BONDS**

To finance, acquire, improve, and manage environmentally sensitive lands to protect drinking water sources and water quality, preserve fish and wildlife habitat, reduce flooding, and provide nature-based parks, shall Charlotte County continue to levy a 0.20 mill ad valorem tax and issue up to \$70 million in general obligation bonds, maturing within 20 years, bearing interest not exceeding the legal rate, payable from ad valorem taxes restricted to these purposes, with annual public audits?

_____ YES, FOR BONDS

_____ NO, AGAINST BONDS

SECTION 11. NOTICE OF ELECTION. The Clerk to the Board shall publish a notice of said referendum election in a newspaper of general circulation published in Charlotte County, Florida. Said notice shall be published once in the fifth week prior to the week of the referendum election and once in the third week prior to the week of the referendum election with the first publication to be at least thirty (30) days before the date of the referendum election. Said notice shall be in substantially the following form:

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that a referendum election will be held throughout Charlotte County, Florida, on November 3, 2026, at the polling places designated within the voting precincts of the County for the purpose of determining whether Charlotte County should continue to levy a 0.20 mill ad valorem tax and issue up to \$70 million in general obligation bonds, maturing within 20 years, bearing interest not exceeding the legal rate, payable from ad valorem taxes restricted to these purposes, with annual public audits to finance, acquire, improve, and manage environmentally sensitive lands to protect drinking water sources and water quality, preserve fish and wildlife habitat, reduce flooding, and provide nature-based parks.

The polls will be open at the voting places on the date of such referendum election from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. All qualified voters residing within Charlotte County may vote in said election. Absentee voting will be permitted upon compliance with the applicable provisions of general law.

Roger D. Eaton, Clerk of the
Circuit Court and the Ex-Officio
Clerk to the Board of County
Commissioners of Charlotte
County, Florida

SECTION 12. REFERENDUM RESULTS.

- A. If a majority of the votes cast with respect to the ballot question are "FOR BONDS", such proposition shall be approved, and the bonds may be issued for the purposes set out herein. If a majority of the votes cast with respect to the ballot question are "AGAINST BONDS", such bonds shall not be issued.
- B. If a majority of the votes cast with respect to the ballot question are "AGAINST THE BONDS" the existing Environmentally Sensitive Lands Program Ad Valorem Tax shall be continued through December 31, 2046. However, the County would not have increased bonding authority.

SECTION 13. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this Resolution or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the Resolution which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Resolution are declared severable.

SECTION 14. NOTIFICATION BY CLERK. The Clerk to the Board shall immediately notify the Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections of the adoption of this Resolution and transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Supervisor of Elections.

SECTION 15. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon passage and adoption.

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED this 28th day of July, 2026.

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF CHARLOTTE COUNTY, FLORIDA

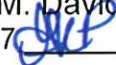
By: _____
Joseph M. Tiseo, Chairman

ATTEST:

Roger D. Eaton, Clerk of the Circuit
Court and Ex-Officio Clerk to the
Board of County Commissioners

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

By:  _____
Thomas M. David, County Attorney
LR26-0627- / GRP