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WHEREAS, the Volusia County Council recognizes the continued need to plan for future growth and desires to provide the electors of Volusia County to decide whether to extend a long-term program, known as Volusia Forever, to continue to acquire and improve environmentally sensitive, water resource and outdoor recreation lands; and

WHEREAS, it remains the goal of Volusia County to conserve, maintain, and, where necessary, restore the natural environment and provide access for the enjoyment and education of the public; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Florida's groundwater, surface waters and springs are under pressure due to
2 population growth and economic expansion and resources are needed to ensure that sufficient
3 quantities of water are available to meet the current and future needs of the natural systems and
4 citizens of the state; and

5 **WHEREAS**, access to public lands supports a broad range of outdoor recreational
6 opportunities and the development of necessary infrastructure, where compatible with the
7 resource values of and management objectives for such lands, promotes an appreciation for
8 Florida's natural assets and improves the quality of life; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the need for high-quality resource based outdoor opportunities, greenways,
10 trails, and open space have not been fully met by previous acquisition programs and additional
11 emphasis on acquiring, protecting, preserving and restoring open space, greenways, and public
12 access is necessary; and

13 **WHEREAS**, acquisition to protect the integrity of ecological systems provide multiple
14 benefits, including preservation of habitat, recreation space for urban as well as rural areas, and
15 water recharge; and

16 **WHEREAS**, a long-term acquisition and improvement program is needed and funding is
17 required; and

18 **WHEREAS**, a long-term financial commitment to managing public lands must
19 accompany any land acquisition program to ensure that the natural resource values of such lands
20 are protected and that the public has the opportunity to enjoy the lands to their fullest potential;
21 and

22 **WHEREAS**, if said funding is again authorized by the voters of Volusia County and the
23 County Council, in its discretion, levies the necessary millage, it is in the public's interest to have

1 any resulting acquisition and improvement program procedurally implemented in a manner that
2 sets specific guidelines for the program to ensure effective and successful completion of the
3 Volusia Forever program.

4
5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF**
6 **VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, IN OPEN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED IN THE**
7 **COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT THE THOMAS C. KELLY ADMINISTRATION**
8 **CENTER, 123 WEST INDIANA AVENUE, DELAND, FLORIDA, THIS 2nd DAY OF**
9 **JUNE, 2020, A.D., AS FOLLOWS:**

10
11 **SECTION I. Findings.**

12
13 It is found and declared that:

14
15 (A) This Resolution is adopted pursuant to the County's Home Rule Charter, Chapter
16 125, Florida Statutes, Chapters 100 and 101, Florida Statutes, and other applicable provisions of
17 law.

18 (B) It is desired to authorize the continued annual levy of an existing ad valorem tax not
19 exceeding 1/5 mill for twenty years to continue to fund the acquisition of water resource and
20 environmentally sensitive land for conservation and public use either from taxes collected and on
21 deposit or from the proceeds of the issuance of short and/or long term indebtedness authorized
22 herein payable from the aforesaid ad valorem tax.

23 (C) The expenditures authorized serve a paramount public purpose.

24 (D) It is in the best interest of the County to issue such Bonds as are necessary or
25 desirable to finance projects payable as heretofore described.

26 (E) The recitations of the preamble are hereby adopted as findings herein.

27
28 **SECTION II. Election Ordered.**

29
30 An election be and is hereby ordered to be held in Volusia County, Florida, on November
31 3, 2020, to determine whether or not to continue the levy of an existing ad valorem tax and

1 issuance of Limited Tax General Obligation Bonds for said purpose shall be approved by the
2 electors of Volusia County.

3 **SECTION III. Voting.**
4

5 The polls will be open at the voting places on the date of such election from 7:00 a.m. to
6 7:00 p.m. on the same day. All qualified electors residing within the County shall be entitled and
7 permitted to vote at such election as hereinafter provided. The bond election shall be held and
8 conducted in the place or places prescribed by law for general elections in the County. The
9 election shall be held and conducted in the manner prescribed by law for holding general
10 elections in the County, and the County Manager and Supervisor of Elections are directed to take
11 all necessary measures to conduct the election in all manner required by law. The returns shall be
12 properly canvassed by a county canvassing board in accordance with law and all procedures and
13 requirements of state law, the Charter and other applicable law shall be complied with for the
14 purpose of conducting the computation of ballots and completion of election procedures.

15 **SECTION IV. Ballots.**
16

17 The ballots to be used in the election shall be on plain white paper with printed
18 description of the proposed levy of the tax and issuance of the Bonds, and which will provide
19 facilities for qualified electors to vote for or against the levy of the tax and issuance of the Bonds
20 as they may choose. Voting equipment shall be used at such bond election or such other means
21 as is deemed appropriate and permitted by law by the Supervisor of Elections. The question
22 appearing on the ballots to be used in the election shall be in substantially the following printed
23 form:

24
25 **BALLOT**
26

1 VOLUSIA FOREVER: ACQUISITION AND IMPROVEMENT
2 OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE, WATER RESOURCE
3 PROTECTION AND OUTDOOR RECREATION LANDS
4

5 SHALL VOLUSIA COUNTY CONTINUE TO FUND THE
6 ACQUISITION AND IMPROVEMENT OF
7 ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE, WATER RESOURCE
8 PROTECTION, FORESTS AND FARMLANDS AND
9 OUTDOOR RECREATION LANDS AND RELATED
10 PROPERTY INTERESTS FOR CONSERVATION AND
11 RESOURCE-BASED RECREATION, INCLUDING ISSUING
12 BONDS NOT EXCEEDING \$60 MILLION, BEARING
13 INTEREST NOT EXCEEDING THE MAXIMUM LEGAL
14 RATE, PAYABLE FROM CONTINUATION OF AN EXISTING
15 AD VALOREM TAX NOT EXCEEDING 1/5 MILL LEVIED
16 FOR 20 YEARS, SUBJECT TO FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE
17 THROUGH ANNUAL AUDITS?
18

19 YES (FOR BONDS) _____

20 NO (AGAINST BONDS) _____
21

22 **SECTION V. Absentee Voting.**
23

24 Adequate provision shall be made for absentee voting. Ballots shall be used suitable for
25 absentee voting at the election. The form of ballots to be used in the election for absentee voters
26 shall be in substantially the form set out above and in accordance with the Florida Election Code.

27 **SECTION VI. Results of Election.**
28

29 Returns of the votes cast at the election shall be made to and canvassed by the
30 Canvassing Board and such Board shall declare the results and certify the same to the County
31 Manager to be recorded in the minutes of the County. If a majority of the votes cast at such
32 election in respect to the levy of the tax and issuance of the Bonds shall be "YES" (For Bonds),
33 such issuance shall be approved, may be issued by the County pursuant to the terms and
34 provisions of the charter and the other provisions of applicable law. Regardless of the results of
35 the election, the County Manager is hereby directed to submit such results to the Department of
36 State pursuant to Section 100.351, Florida Statutes.

1 **SECTION VII. Publication of Resolution and Notice.**

2
3 At least 30 days' notice of the election shall be published in the News Journal, or any
4 other newspaper of general circulation within the County, at least twice, once in the fifth week
5 and once in the third week prior to the week in which the election is held, in the manner provided
6 in Section 100.342, Florida Statutes.

7
8 The notice of election shall be in substantially the following form:

9
10 NOTICE OF TAX AND BOND REFERENDUM
11 COUNTY OF VOLUSIA, FLORIDA,
12 ON NOVEMBER 3, 2020

13
14 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A COUNTY OF
15 VOLUSIA, FLORIDA, TAX AND BOND REFERENDUM will
16 be held on the 3rd day of November, 2020, in the County of
17 Volusia, Florida, for the purpose of determining whether or not an
18 existing ad valorem tax not exceeding 1/5 mill shall continue to be
19 levied annually for 20 years and Limited Tax General Obligation
20 Bonds of the county issued in one or more series, payable
21 therefrom shall be issued in the aggregate principal amount of not
22 exceeding \$60 million, bearing interest, payable at such interest
23 rate or rates not exceeding the maximum rate permitted by law and
24 redeemable as shall be determined at or before the time of sale
25 thereof, maturing over a period of not to exceed twenty years from
26 the date of the bonds, to finance acquisition and improvement of
27 environmentally sensitive, water resource protection, forests and
28 farmlands and outdoor recreation lands and purposes incidental
29 thereto and subject to full public disclosure through annual audits.

30
31 The polls will be open at the voting places on the date of
32 bond election at 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the same day, all as
33 provided in Resolution No. 2020-80 adopted by the County
34 Council of the County of Volusia, Florida, on June 2, 2020, which
35 is a matter of public record.

36
37 All qualified electors residing within the County of Volusia
38 shall be entitled qualified and permitted to vote at such election.

39
40
41 The County of Volusia, Florida

SECTION IX. Oversight Committee.

In order to implement a program to finance negotiations, acquisition, protection, restoration, access, and management costs, the County Council shall create an advisory oversight committee, by June 1, 2021, to conduct an ongoing review of all projects under consideration and to make recommendations to the Council.

SECTION X. Policies and Procedures.

The oversight committee shall recommend a land acquisition program with policies, procedures, standards and criteria for the purchase of endangered and conservation lands, and water resource areas. Each project must state a public purpose for the restoration, conservation, or preservation of environmentally sensitive lands and water areas and for providing public use opportunities. It is the intent of the program to achieve maximum impact by partnering with other entities through award or acceptance of grants, joint projects and other cooperative efforts. It is the intent of the county to use the funds approved herein to apply for matching grants awarded under the Florida Forever Program, set forth in Florida Statute § 259.105, et seq. and any amendments thereto and any similar federal funding program, to maximize the use of public monies to benefit Volusia County. The goals and criteria of the Florida Forever Program will provide the basis for the adoption of the policies utilized in the implementation of the Volusia Forever program.

SECTION XI. Acquisition Goals.

Acquisition projects must contribute to the following goals:

- Increase in the level of protection, and increase
in the population of, listed species
- Restoration of land areas
- Completion of projects begun under previous

1 land acquisition programs
2 Increase in the amount of forest land for sustainable natural resources
3 Increase in resource-based public use opportunities
4 Improvement of water recharge rates on public lands
5 Protection of natural flood plain functions and prevention of
6 or reduction in flood damage
7 Restoration of degraded water bodies
8 Restoration of wetlands
9 Preservation of strategic wetlands
10 Preserving of, or reduction of contaminants in, aquifers and springs
11 Greenways and open space and improving natural systems corridors
12 Water resource development
13

14 **SECTION XII. Acquisition Priorities.**
15

16 Priority will be given to acquisitions which achieve a combination of conservation goals,
17 including improving water resources and natural groundwater recharge, provide resource based
18 recreation opportunities.

19 **SECTION XIII. Public Access.**
20

21 Lands shall be managed and maintained to the extent practicable in such a way as to
22 ensure a balance between public access and restoration and protection of their natural state and
23 condition. Public access, as well as public use, will be determined in the management plans.

24 **SECTION XIV. Effective Date.**

25 This Resolution shall go into effect immediately upon its passage and adoption.
26

27 **DONE AND ORDERED IN OPEN MEETING.**
28

29
30 ATTEST:

COUNTY COUNCIL
VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

31
32 
33
34
35 George Recktenwald
36 County Manager


Ed Kelley
County Chair

