

RESOLUTION R-13-052

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; PROVIDING FINDINGS; CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM ON THE JUNE 18, 2013, SPECIAL ELECTION BALLOT TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE BOARD MAY GRANT AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTIONS TO NEW BUSINESSES AND EXPANSIONS OF EXISTING BUSINESSES; PROVIDING A BALLOT QUESTION; PROVIDING FOR EFFECT OF APPROVAL OF THE REFERENDUM; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Section 196.1995, *Florida Statutes*, and Section 3, Article VII of the Florida Constitution, provide that the Board of County Commissioners (the “Board”) may call a referendum to determine whether the Board may grant economic development ad valorem tax exemptions to new businesses and expansions of existing businesses in Manatee County; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the public health, safety and welfare to promote economic development within the County by providing financial incentives that will encourage new business to relocate to the County and encourage existing businesses to expand in the County, thereby creating employment opportunities that will benefit the entire community; and

WHEREAS, granting economic development ad valorem tax exemptions to qualifying businesses will provide Manatee County with an additional economic development incentive to encourage new businesses to relocate to Manatee County and to encourage existing businesses to expand within Manatee County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS. The Board hereby makes the following findings:

1. The recitals set forth above are true and correct;
2. It is in the best interest of Manatee County, and furthers the public health, safety and welfare of the County, to call a referendum, on the June 18, 2013, Special Election Ballot, to determine whether the Board may grant economic development ad valorem tax exemptions to new businesses and expansions of existing businesses in Manatee County, as authorized in Section 196.1995, *Florida Statutes*, and Section 3, Article VII of the Florida Constitution.

SECTION 2. CALL FOR REFERENDUM. Pursuant to Section 196.1995, *Florida Statutes*, and Section 3, Article VII of the Florida Constitution, the Board hereby calls a referendum of the qualified electors residing in Manatee County, Florida, to be held on June 18, 2013, to determine whether to authorize the Board to grant economic development tax

exemptions to qualifying new businesses and qualifying expansions of existing businesses in Manatee County.

SECTION 3. BALLOT QUESTION. Pursuant to Section 196.1995, *Florida Statutes*, and Section 3, Article VII of the Florida Constitution, the Board hereby directs the Supervisor of Elections of Manatee County, Florida, to place on the June 18, 2013, Special Election Ballot the following ballot question to be voted upon by the electors of Manatee County, Florida:

TITLE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTIONS

QUESTION

SHALL THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF THIS COUNTY BE AUTHORIZED TO GRANT, PURSUANT TO SECTION 3, ARTICLE VII OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION, PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS TO NEW BUSINESSES AND EXPANSIONS OF EXISTING BUSINESSES THAT ARE EXPECTED TO CREATE NEW, FULL-TIME JOBS IN THE COUNTY?

_____ **YES – For authority to grant exemptions.**

_____ **NO – Against authority to grant exemptions.**

SECTION 4. EFFECT OF APPROVAL. If the referendum is approved by a majority of the electors voting at the June 18, 2013, election, the Board may, in its discretion, grant economic development tax exemptions to qualifying new businesses and to qualifying expansions of existing businesses in Manatee County, in accordance with the requirements of Section 196.1995, *Florida Statutes*, as amended from time to time, and other applicable law.

SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY. If any section, sentence, clause, or other provision of this Resolution shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not be construed as to render invalid or unconstitutional the remaining sections, sentences, clauses, or provisions of this Resolution.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

[Execution Page to Follow]

ADOPTED WITH A QUORUM PRESENT AND VOTING THIS THE 12th DAY OF MARCH, 2013.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: Larry Bustle
Larry Bustle, Chairman

ATTEST: R.B. Shore, Clerk of the Circuit Court

By: Cheri Jessner
Deputy Clerk



March 12, 2013 - Regular Meeting
Agenda Item #35

Subject

Tax Abatement Exemption Referendum

APPROVED In Open Session Manatee County Board of County Commissioners
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Briefings

None

Contact and/or Presenter Information

Cheri R. Coryea, Director, Neighborhood Services Department, Ext. 3468

Action Requested

Adoption of Resolution R-13-052 calling for a referendum relating to economic development ad valorem tax exemptions for new business and expansion of existing business as to whether Manatee County may grant economic development ad valorem tax exemptions in Manatee County to be placed on the June 11, 2013, Special Election Ballot.

Enabling/Regulating Authority

Section 3, Article VII, State Constitution, and F.S. 196.1995 - Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption

Background Discussion

- Manatee County has adopted a policy that as a local government we support economic growth by providing incentives for the creation of new quality jobs, at or above 115% of local area median wage.
- Creation of quality jobs can lead to the improvement of the quality of life for County residents, positive expansion of the economy in terms of new quality jobs and improvements to real and personal property that create a sustainable community.
- Section 196.1995, F.S., provides that the Board of County Commissioners may hold a referendum to determine whether it may grant Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemptions under Section 3, Article VII, of the State Constitution.
- The Board of County Commissioners on August 2, 2012 approved Resolution R-12-159 authorizing referendum language to be placed on the November 6, 2012 general election ballot for ad valorem tax exemptions as provided in the statutes as detailed above.
- On August 21, 2012 the Board voted to withdraw the request for a referendum until such time as the business community can provide sufficient public outreach to allow the voters to make an informed decision on the ballot question.
- On another agenda item at this Board Meeting on March 12, 2013, the Board will consider whether to approve a Special Election on June 11, 2013 for a referendum on the imposition of a sales tax for health care.
- If the Board approves that Special Election, we are requesting that the Board also approve a referendum to determine if voters agree that the County should grant conditional economic ad valorem tax exemption to new and expanding businesses.

Manatee County Government Administrative Center
Commission Chambers, First Floor
9:00 a.m. - March 12, 2013

- The Bradenton Area Economic Development Corporation (BAEDC) supports moving forward with the referendum on June 11, 2013 (see attached letter).
- This proposed Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption would be a local option tax incentive for new or expanding businesses, which may be granted at the sole discretion of the Board of County Commissioners.
- Tax Abatement is discretionary, meaning it is not an entitlement program. The County Commission considers each application individually.
- Tax Abatement is being offered in Counties across Florida and in order to stay competitive with economic development, Manatee County wants to have this as an incentive option. .
- Staff has determined that now is the time for the County to move forward with placing this referendum on the June 11, 2013, ballot for consideration by the electors.

County Attorney Review

Other (Requires explanation in field below)

Explanation of Other

Resolution drafted by William E. Clague

Reviewing Attorney

N/A

Instructions to Board Records

Original for Board Records, copy of executed Resolution to Cheri Coryea, Neighborhood Services Department. [SEE EMAIL 3/15/13/PK](#)

Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name

N/A

Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs

N/A

Attachment: [Tax Abatement Referendum Resolution R 13 052.pdf](#)

Attachment: [Letter from BAEDC.pdf](#)



RECEIVED
MAR 07 2013

Board of County Commissioners
Manatee County

all
Adm. - Gumpert - Kellmer
FMD - Seuffert
NSD - Conroy & Stewart

PARTNERS

City of Bradenton
City of Palmetto
Manatee County Government
Port Manatee
Suncoast Workforce
Town of Longboat Key

LEADERSHIP INVESTORS

Benderson Development Company, LLC
Bradenton Herald
Bright House Networks
Cadence Bank
Cambryn Biologics LLC/ Famiglio Companies
Fifth Third Bank of Florida
Herald-Tribune Media Group
IRISS
Manatee Chamber of Commerce
Mauldin & Jenkins, LLC, CPA'S
Schroeder-Manatee Ranch, Inc.
SunTrust Bank
Tropicana Products

TRUSTEE INVESTORS

Anna Maria Island Chamber of Commerce
BB&T Banking, Insurance & Investments
Beall's Inc.
Blake Medical Center
Blalock Walters, P.A.
Bradenton Downtown Development Authority
C1 Bank
DENTSPLY Raintree Essix Glenroe
FPL
Grimes Goebel Grimes Hawkins
Gladfelter & Galvano, PL
Halfacre Construction Company
Hancock Bank
Hobart Ground Systems
IMG Academy
It Works! Global™
JRL Ventures, Inc.
Manatee Healthcare System
Manatee Technical Institute
Mercedes Medical
Miller Enterprises, LC
Palmetto CRA
Pittsburgh Pirates Baseball Club
Porges, Hamlin, Knowles & Hawk, P.A.
Rice's Appliance & TV
Sarasota Bradenton International Airport
Sarasota Memorial Healthcare System
Shinn & Company, LLC
SouthTech
TECO Peoples Gas
The Mosaic Company
Turner Tree & Landscape
UTC Climate, Controls & Security
Vecenergy Resources
ZNS Engineering, L.C.

March 6, 2013

Dear Mr. Chairman and Board of County Commissioners,

At your work session on February 28, you voted to approve the 1/2 cent sales tax referendum for an election in June of this year. In light of this, I respectfully request that you strongly consider an additional referendum to appear on the same ballot, the Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption (EDATE). Additionally, could you please include this as an agenda item for discussion at your next work session on March 19?

EDATE would bolster Manatee County's economy by providing us a critical new job-building tool: assistance for existing business that want to expand, and for new businesses interested in locating in our community. These incentives would certainly help accelerate job creation in Manatee County.

Without EDATE, we are at a significant competitive disadvantage. All counties surrounding Manatee already offer up-front exemptions for jobs and facilities. We are the hole in the doughnut.

Tax incentives for new investment mean "money in the bank" for future revenues.

As you may recall the previous Board voted to approve this referendum at a work session over a year ago. The referendum was postponed. It is now time to educate the business community about this important economic development tool. Since we have a new Board, it is necessary to revisit this issue to seek approval once again.

Thank you very much for your consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Sharon Hillstrom
President & CEO
Bradenton Area Economic Development Corporation

THINK GLOBAL. THINK BRADENTON AREA.

From: [Pati Kopke](#)
To: ["cheri.coryea@mymanatee.org"](mailto:cheri.coryea@mymanatee.org)
Cc: ["nicolette.coetzee@mymanatee.org"](mailto:nicolette.coetzee@mymanatee.org); ["debbie.bassett@mymanatee.org"](mailto:debbie.bassett@mymanatee.org)
Subject: R 13-052
Date: Friday, March 15, 2013 1:19:00 PM
Attachments: [BC20130312DOCA35.pdf](#)
[image002.png](#)

Good Afternoon:

Attached please find the above referenced resolution that was adopted by at the 3/12/13 BCC meeting.

Please note that everybody is Irish on St. Patrick's Day 🍀

It's a beautiful day, go out and enjoy it :)

Pati Kopke
Board Records
For R.B. "Chips" Shore
Manatee County Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller
www.ManateeClerk.com
Pati.Kopke@ManateeClerk.com
941-749-1800 Ext. 4162
"Pride in Service with a Vision to the Future"