

**RESOLUTION NO. R-21-085**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, REGARDING ELECTIONS; PLACING THE PROPOSED REFERENDUM FOR A LEVY OF ONE MILL OF AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX BY THE SCHOOL BOARD ON THE BALLOT IN A SPECIAL ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, as authorized pursuant to Section 1011.73(2), Florida Statutes, the School Board of Manatee County has adopted a resolution directing the Board of County Commissioners to call a special election at which the electors within the School District may approve the levy of one mill of ad valorem property taxes for operating expenses; and

**WHEREAS**, the ballot question is contained in a copy of the School Board's Resolution attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and is hereinafter referred to as the "Ballot Question"; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section 1011.73(2), Florida Statutes, the Board of County Commissioners must place the Ballot Question on a ballot in a special election.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Placement of Ballot Question on Ballot. The Ballot Question as set forth in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, shall be placed on the ballot for a special election on November 2, 2021, or on such other date set by the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections, the cost of which shall be borne by the School Board.

Section 2. Delivery of Copies. Certified copies of this Resolution shall be promptly delivered by the County Administrator to the Manatee County Supervisor of Elections and the Manatee County School Board.

Section 3. Revisions to Ballot Question. The County Administrator, with the concurrence of the Chairman of the School Board and the Superintendent of Schools, may make such revisions to the Ballot Question which may be necessary or required to accomplish the purposes of this Resolution, including revisions which may be mandated by the Supervisor of Elections, without further action by the Board of County Commissioners.

Section 4. 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 5. Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective upon its adoption.

ADOPTED, with quorum present and acting, this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021.



**MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

ATTEST: ANGELINA COLONNESO  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT  
COURT AND COMPTROLLER

By: Lidia Jesner

"Exhibit A"

**SCHOOL BOARD OF MANATEE COUNTY**

**RESOLUTION 2021-03**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MANATEE COUNTY, AMENDING RESOLUTION 2021-01 TO DECREASE THE NUMBER OF YEARS OF THE ADDITIONAL 1 MILL FROM 4 TO 3 YEARS, AND FUTURE AD VALOREM MILLAGE ELECTIONS SHALL APPEAR ON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION BALLOTS BEGINNING IN 2024; DIRECTING THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY TO CALL AN ELECTION AT WHICH THE ELECTORS WITHIN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL BE ASKED TO APPROVE THE CONTINUATION OF THE ADDITIONAL ONE (1) MILL AD VALOREM TAX FOR SCHOOL OPERATIONAL PURPOSES FOR THREE YEARS; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS OF FACT; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTION TO CALL AN ELECTION ASKING THE VOTERS TO APPROVE THE CONTINUATION OF THE ONE (1) MILL AD VALOREM TAX FOR SCHOOL OPERATIONS; PROVIDING FOR APPROVAL OF THE REFERENDUM QUESTION AND BALLOT TITLE**

**WHEREAS**, the School Board of Manatee County (the "Board") is charged with operating the public schools within Manatee 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 goal of the Board is to make the education received by students in Manatee County the best in the State of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, the education funds available to the Board through traditional means such as the state funding formula and the required local effort do not maximize the resources needed to create the excellence in education that its public students deserve; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2017 the Board in accordance with Section 1011.71(9) Florida Statutes passed Resolutions 2017-06 and 2017-11( the "Resolution") that called on the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County to hold an election for the qualified electors of the Manatee County School District in accordance with Section 1011.73 Florida Statutes to vote whether to increase the ad valorem millage by one (1) mill per year for three (3) years to be used to increase student achievement through more

instructional time, after-school tutoring, to recruit and retain teachers and staff with competitive salaries, expand Career and Technical Education and STEM programs, and to support charter schools, and the voters approved that referendum; and

**WHEREAS**, the Citizens' Financial Oversight Committee which has been monitoring the use of the revenues generated by the additional Mill has reported that the funds are being properly used as directed by the Resolutions and approved by the voters. Student achievement measured by school performance has continued to rise since the additional mill was approved by the voters; and

**WHEREAS**, the referendum funds are utilized to add 30 more minutes of instructional time for students daily, or one full year of additional instructional time during a student's K-12 career, and after the first year of use of the referendum funds, the school district ranking state-wide increased from 33<sup>rd</sup> in the state to 28<sup>th</sup> in the state and went from 6 schools with a Grade of D to 0 schools with a grade of D; and

**WHEREAS**, the additional millage funds were used to create a salary supplement of \$5,201 for teachers, making the starting teacher salary in Manatee County of \$51,630 one of the highest in the State of Florida; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board asserts the revenues generated by the one (1) mill have resulted in increased student achievement and a higher state ranking of the District overall and should again be placed before the voters in Manatee County for renewal for three (3) more years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board intends that the revenues generated by the one (1) mill shall continue to be used to increase student achievement through more instructional time, additional support for students, to recruit and retain teachers and staff with competitive salaries, to maintain and expand Career and Technical Education, STEM and visual/performing Arts programs, to prepare students for the workforce, to support Charter Schools as required by law, and that the funds shall only be used for the purposes listed above; and

**WHEREAS**, the referendum funds generated by continuation of the one (1) mill must be spent in accordance with the Board's annual budget priorities and Strategic Plan and shall comply with appropriate Board Policy on maintaining adequate fund balance; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the Board finds that it is in the best interest of the students in the public schools that the qualified electors be given the opportunity to approve the continuation of the one (1) mill currently in place for an additional three (3) years to continue to improve student performance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the School Board of Manatee 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 Manatee County is hereby directed to call an election for November 2, 2021 for the qualified electors of the Manatee County School District to vote whether to continue the current additional ad valorem millage of one (1) mill for three (3) additional years. That should the qualified electors of Manatee County elect to continue the additional school ad valorem millage of one (1) mill, the use and expenditure of the additional millage revenues shall be limited to operating expenses of the School District used to increase student achievement through more instructional time and additional support for students, to recruit and retain teachers and staff with competitive salaries, to maintain and expand Career and Technical Education, STEM and visual/performing Arts programs to prepare students for the workforce, and to support charter schools as provided by law. The continuation of the additional one (1) mill shall begin on July 1, 2022, and shall expire on June 30, 2025, as authorized by Section 1011.71(9), Florida Statutes.

2. Future ad valorem millage elections shall appear on Presidential Election ballots beginning 2024.

3. Millage funds shall be shared with the charter schools based on each charter school's proportionate share of the districts total unweighted full-time equivalent student enrollment and used by the charter schools in the manner consistent with the purposes herein, as provided by Section 1011.71(9) Florida Statues.

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

SCHOOL BOARD OF MANATEE COUNTY FLORIDA

AD VALOREM MILLAGE ELECTION

Shall the School Board of Manatee County continue the current one (1) mill ad valorem millage from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025, as overseen by the Citizens' Financial Oversight Committee, to increase student achievement through more instructional time and support; recruit and retain teachers and staff with competitive salaries; expand Career and Technical Education, STEM and Visual/Performing Arts programs; and to distribute proportional funds to Charter Schools pursuant to Florida Statute 1011.71?

YES, for continuation

NO, against continuation

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED this 25th day of May 2021.

ATTEST:

By: 

Cynthia Saunders, Superintendent  
Date: May 28, 2021

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF  
MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: 

Charlie Kennedy, Chair  
Date: May 28, 2021