

RESOLUTION NO. R-26-095

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE IN ONE OR MORE SERIES OF NOT EXCEEDING SEVENTY FIVE MILLION DOLLARS AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND THE LEVY OF ADDITIONAL AD VALOREM TAX NOT TO EXCEED 0.16 MILLS, TO PAY ALL OR A PORTION OF THE COST OF ACQUISITION, IMPROVEMENT, AND MAINTENANCE AND MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THIRD PARTIES FOR THE ACQUISITION OF ANY AND ALL LANDS, EASEMENTS, AND OTHER PROPERTY INTERESTS WITHIN MANATEE COUNTY WITH THE SPECIFIC PURPOSES TO PROTECT DRINKING WATER SOURCES, TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY, TO PRESERVE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, TO PROTECT NATURAL AREAS AND OTHER ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LANDS FROM OVERDEVELOPMENT, AND PROVIDE PUBLIC PRESERVES, SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT A BOND REFERENDUM HEREIN CALLED; PROVIDING FOR AND CALLING A BOND REFERENDUM OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS RESIDING IN THE COUNTY TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Constitution and the laws of the State of Florida, including, without limitation, Chapter 125, Florida Statutes, as amended, authorizes and empowers Manatee County, Florida, a political subdivision of the State of Florida, (the "County") to adopt this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida (the "Board"), as the governing body of the County, has determined that it is necessary and desirable for the promotion of various public purposes and for the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of, and visitors to, the County that it undertake the acquisition, improvement, maintenance and make contributions to third parties for the acquisition of any and all lands, easements, and other property interests within the County, to protect drinking water sources, to protect water quality, to preserve fish and wildlife habitat, to protect natural areas and other environmentally sensitive lands from overdevelopment, and provide public preserves; such lands and interests therein to be identified in subsequent proceedings of the Board (herein, collectively, the "Environmental Preservation Projects"); and

WHEREAS, in order to pay all or a portion of the costs of such Environmental Preservation Projects, it is necessary to issue general obligation bonds of the County as hereinafter described (the "General Obligation Bonds"); and

WHEREAS, in connection with the Environmental Preservation Projects and the General Obligation Bonds, the County will levy an additional ad valorem tax not to exceed 0.16 mills (herein, "Additional Ad Valorem Tax"); and

WHEREAS, in addition to the Additional Ad Valorem Tax used to pay principal and interest on the General Obligation Bonds, such Additional Ad Valorem Tax may be used to pay for improvements and maintenance of such Environmental Preservation Projects and other environmentally sensitive lands already owned by the County as public preserves or for which the County has an interest therein;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 100.201, Florida Statutes, as amended, prior to the issuance of the General Obligation Bonds by the County, the question of the issuance thereof must be approved by a majority of the votes cast at a bond referendum in which the qualified electors residing in the County shall participate; and

WHEREAS, it is deemed advisable and necessary to provide for the submission to the qualified electors of the County, at a bond referendum to be scheduled in conjunction with the regular general election of the County on November 3, 2026, the question of whether the County should issue its general obligation bonds for the purpose of providing funds, together with other available funds of the County, to enable the County to pay all or a portion of the costs of the Environmental Preservation Projects.

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

SECTION 1: INCORPORATION OF RECITALS. The recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

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

SECTION 3: AUTHORIZATION OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS. Subject and pursuant to the provisions hereof, General Obligation Bonds of Manatee County, Florida, are authorized to be issued in one or more series in an aggregate principal amount of not exceeding Seventy-Five Million Dollars, for the purpose of financing all or a portion of costs of the Environmental Preservation Projects which shall include the acquisition, improvement, maintenance and making contributions to third parties for the acquisition of any and all lands, easements, and other property interests within the County with the specific purposes to protect drinking water sources, to protect water quality, to preserve fish and wildlife habitat, to protect natural areas and other environmentally sensitive lands from overdevelopment, and provide public preserves, subject to approval at a bond referendum herein called. Such General Obligation Bonds shall be payable from ad valorem taxes levied in an additional amount not exceeding 0.16 mills on all

taxable property in the County. None of such General Obligation Bonds shall be issued for a term longer than twenty (20) years from their date or dates of issuance and such General Obligation Bonds shall bear interest at such rate or rates, not exceeding the maximum rate permitted by law at the time of the issuance of the General Obligation Bonds. In addition to the Additional Ad Valorem Tax used to pay principal and interest on the General Obligation Bonds, such Additional Ad Valorem Tax may be used to pay for improvements and maintenance of such Environmental Preservation Projects and other environmentally sensitive lands already owned by the County or for which the County has an interest therein.

SECTION 4: BOND REFERENDUM. A bond referendum of the qualified electors of the County is hereby called to be held on November 3, 2026 (herein the "Bond Referendum"), to determine whether or not General Obligation Bonds in one or more series in an aggregate amount of not exceeding Seventy-Five Million Dollars, for the purpose of financing all or a portion of the costs of Environmental Preservation Projects shall be approved by such qualified electors to finance such acquisition, improvement, maintenance, and contribution costs.

SECTION 5: OFFICIAL BALLOT. Voting machines or electronic or electromechanical voting equipment shall be used at such Bond Referendum and the ballot to be used shall be in substantially the following form and contain the following question:

WATER QUALITY PROTECTION, OVERDEVELOPMENT PREVENTION, NATURAL LANDS PRESERVATION, AND PUBLIC PRESERVES GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND REFERENDUM

To acquire, improve, maintain, and contribute to the acquisition of lands and other property interests to protect drinking water sources, water quality, wildlife habitat, natural and environmentally sensitive lands from overdevelopment and provide public preserves, shall Manatee County levy an additional 0.16 mill ad valorem tax and issue general obligation bonds not exceeding \$75,000,000, maturing within 20 years, bearing interest not exceeding the legal rate, payable from ad valorem taxes, and provide annual public audits?

FOR BONDS _____

AGAINST BONDS ____

SECTION 6: SELECTION PROCEDURE AND RESULTS. The Bond Referendum shall be held and conducted in conjunction with the general election to be held on November 3, 2026, in accordance with the requirements of Section 100.221, and Chapters 101 and 102, Florida Statutes, and in the manner prescribed by law for holding general elections in the County. Polling locations or places shall be determined by the

Supervisor of Elections for Manatee County, Florida, and all qualified electors of the County who vote in said election shall vote at said designated polling places. The polls shall be opened on the date of said Bond Referendum in accordance with Florida law, and, in the case of early voting, at such times, on such days prior to the date of said Bond Referendum, and at such polling locations or places as determined by the Supervisor of Elections for Manatee County, Florida. Only the duly qualified electors of the County will be permitted to vote in said Bond Referendum. The returns shall be canvassed by the County Canvassing Board, and the County Canvassing Board shall declare the results of the Bond Referendum, record such results in the minutes of the County Canvassing Board and certify the same to the Board.

SECTION 7: PREPARATION OF BALLOT. The Supervisor of Elections is authorized and directed to have printed a sufficient number of the aforesaid ballot for use by absentee electors entitled to cast such ballot in such election, and shall also have printed sample ballots and deliver them to Inspectors and Clerks on or before the date and time for the opening of the polls for such Bond Referendum for the voting places at which voting machines or electronic or electromechanical voting equipment are to be used. The Supervisor of Elections is further authorized and directed to make appropriate arrangements for use of such voting machines or equipment at the polling places specified herein and to have printed or cause to have printed and delivered the official ballots in accordance with law. The Supervisor of Elections is hereby instructed and directed to place the County Bond Referendum question set forth in this Resolution on the election ballot immediately following any statewide ballot questions and before any ballot questions that originate from any other local governments, including, but not limited to, any question originating from or concerning the School District of Manatee County, any municipality, or any special district.

SECTION 8: NOTICE OF BOND REFERENDUM. The Clerk of the Circuit Court, ex-officio Clerk of the Board (the "Clerk") shall prepare a notice of the Bond Referendum by causing a copy of the notice in substantially the form attached hereto (the "Notice") to be published in accordance with the provisions of Section 100.342, Florida Statutes, in The Bradenton Herald, a newspaper of general circulation in the County, and/or on the County's official website. The Clerk shall secure from the publishers of said newspaper and official website appropriate affidavits of proof that said Notice has been duly published, as herein set forth, and said affidavits shall be made a part of the record of the Board. The following Notice of Bond Referendum shall be published on the County's official website and/or in The Bradenton Herald at least twice, once in the fifth (5th) week and once in the third (3rd) week prior to the week in which the Bond Referendum is held, provided the first publication shall take place at least thirty (30) days before the date fixed for such Bond Referendum:

"NOTICE OF BOND REFERENDUM

A bond referendum of the qualified electors of Manatee County, Florida, will be held on November 3, 2026, to determine whether or not the

issuance of general obligation bonds for the purpose stated in the ballot question set forth below shall be approved by such qualified electors.

All qualified electors residing in the County shall be entitled to and permitted to vote in such bond referendum.

The polls will be open at the voting places from Seven (7) o'clock A.M. until Seven (7) o'clock P.M. on the same day or as otherwise determined by the Supervisor of Elections.

The places of voting and the Inspectors and Clerks for the polling places for the bond referendum shall be determined in the same manner as for general elections.

Voting machines or electronic or electromechanical voting equipment will be used at such bond referendum and the ballot to be used shall be in substantially the following form and contain the following question:

WATER QUALITY PROTECTION, OVERDEVELOPMENT PREVENTION, NATURAL LANDS PRESERVATION, AND PUBLIC PRESERVES GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS REFERENDUM

To acquire, improve, maintain, and contribute to the acquisition of lands and other property interests to protect drinking water sources, water quality, wildlife habitat, natural and environmentally sensitive lands from overdevelopment and provide public preserves, shall Manatee County levy an additional 0.16 mill ad valorem tax and issue general obligation bonds not exceeding \$75,000,000, maturing within 20 years, bearing interest not exceeding the legal rate, payable from ad valorem taxes, and provide annual public audits?

FOR BONDS _____

AGAINST BONDS ____

With respect to the foregoing question, if a majority of the votes cast at such bond referendum on the issuance of the general obligation bonds shall be in favor of the issuance of the general obligation bonds, the general obligation bonds shall be declared approved and may be issued by the County as provided by law. In the event less than a majority of those voting on the issuance of the general obligation bonds shall be in favor of the issuance of the general obligation bonds, the issuance of the general obligation bonds shall be deemed to have failed, and the County will not issue such general obligation bonds.

Angelina "Angel" Colonnese

Clerk of the Board of County
Commissioners of Manatee County,
Florida”

SECTION 9: SEVERABILITY. In the event that any word, phrase, clause, sentence or paragraph hereof shall be held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect any other word, clause, phrase, sentence or paragraph hereof.

SECTION 10: REPEALING CLAUSE. All resolutions in conflict or inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency.

SECTION 11: EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED WITH A QUORUM PRESENT AND VOTING THIS THE 28th DAY OF JULY, 2026.

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

By: _____

Chairperson

ATTEST: ANGELINA COLONNESO
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER

By: _____

Deputy Clerk

