

The unsigned School Board Resolution and the duplicate School Board Transmittal Letter were removed from this resolution, and a "Supporting Documents" title page was added.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-350**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF A RESOLUTION OF THE ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD THAT CALLS FOR A REFERENDUM TO BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT OF THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024, GENERAL ELECTION TO DETERMINE IF THE DULY QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT APPROVE THE LEVY AN ADDITIONAL AD VALOREM TAX OF ONE MILL ANNUALLY FOR FOUR YEARS AS AUTHORIZED UNDER SECTION 1011.71(9) AND SECTION 1011.73, FLORIDA STATUTES; PROVIDING FOR THE FORM OF THE BALLOT TITLE AND SUMMARY; PROVIDING FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD TO PUBLISH NOTICE OF THE REFERENDUM; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the School Board of St. Johns County, Florida (the "School Board") determined the funding available to the School District of St. Johns County, Florida (the "District") is insufficient to meet the District's normal operating expenses; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Board of St. Johns County, Florida (the "School Board") anticipates further decreases in available funding for operating expenses; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Board determined available funding is insufficient for the District to recruit and retain teachers and instructional staff, paraprofessionals, school nurses, mental health professionals, food service employees, bus operators and attendants, and safety, security, and other support staff; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 1011.71(9) and Section 1011.73, Florida Statutes, authorize a school board to levy ad valorem taxes of up to one mill for up to four years for school operational purposes, subject to approval by the electors of the county voting in a referendum; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Johns County continues to experience significant population and public-school enrollment growth; and

**WHEREAS**, if such ad valorem tax levy is approved, the School Board will provide funding for the purposes it described to traditional public and charter schools throughout the District, and such expenditures will be monitored by a citizen advisory committee; and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Johns County School Board desires to submit to the qualified electors of St. Johns County the question as to whether or not to authorize the school board to levy ad valorem taxes of up to one mill for up to four years for school operational purposes pursuant to Section 1011.71 and Section 1011.73, Florida Statutes; and

**WHEREAS**, at a regular meeting on August 13, 2024, the St. Johns County School Board duly adopted a resolution calling for a referendum on the to authorize the school board to levy ad valorem taxes of up to one mill for up to four years for school operational purposes, and pursuant to the specific authority of Section 1011.71 and 1011.73, Florida Statutes, calling for the Board of County Commissioners to place such question on the November 5, 2024, general election ballot (“the School Board Resolution”). A copy of the School Board Resolution is attached as *Appendix A*; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the Board of County Commissioners’ statutory duty pursuant to Section 1011.71 and 1011.73, Florida Statutes to place on the referendum question as presented by the School Board Resolution, and to submit the question to the electors of St. Johns County on the November 5, 2024, general election ballot.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida:

Section 1. Authority for this Resolution. This resolution is adopted pursuant to Sections 1011.71 and 1011.73, Florida Statutes, as amended, and other applicable provisions of law.

Section 2. School District Referendum. The School Board Resolution shall be placed on the ballot of the general election on November 5, 2024, for submission to the electors of the St. Johns County School District.

Section 3. Ballot. The form of ballot to be used shall be in substantially the following form:

**OFFICIAL BALLOT (ENGLISH)**

**ONE MILL OPERATING MILLAGE TO INCREASE  
TEACHER PAY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Shall the School Board of St. Johns County levy additional operating millage of one mill annually for four years beginning July 1, 2025, to provide funding to: (a) recruit and retain high-quality teachers and staff by paying competitive compensation as compared to surrounding school districts, (b) continue to invest in school safety and student welfare, including school nurses and special education, and (c) preserve and enhance educational programs, including science, technology, art, music and athletics?



**BOLETA OFICIAL (ESPAÑOL)**

**IMPUESTO OPERATIVO DE UNA “MILESIMA DE DOLAR” PARA AUMENTAR EL SALARIO DE LOS MAESTROS Y PARA OTROS FINES**

¿Debe The St. Johns County School Board recaudar un impuesto operativo adicional de una “milesima” anualmente durante cuatro años a partir del 1 de julio de 2025, para: (a) reclutar y retener maestros y personal de buena calidad pagándoles compensación competitiva en comparación con distritos escolares circundantes, (b) invertir en seguridad y bienestar estudiantil, incluyendo enfermeras y educación especial, y (c) mejorar los programas educativos, incluyendo ciencia, tecnología, arte, música y atletismo?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES/SÍ  
\_\_\_\_\_ NO/NO

Section 4. Notice of Referendum Election. The Superintendent of St. Johns County School District shall be responsible for placing a notice of the referendum in a newspaper of general circulation published in the District. The publication shall be made at least thirty (30) days prior to the referendum and shall be made at least twice, once in the fifth week and once in the third week prior to the week in which the referendum is deemed to be held. The notice of referendum shall be in substantially the form provided in the attached *Exhibit A*.

Section 5. Places of Voting; Inspectors and Clerks. The polls will be open at the voting places on the date and times of the General Election. All qualified electors residing within the District shall be entitled and permitted to vote at the referendum election on the proposition provided in the School Board Resolution. The places of voting and the inspectors and clerks of the referendum election shall be those designated by the Supervisor of Elections of St. Johns County in accordance with the law.

Section 6. Vote-by-Mail. Adequate provision shall be made by the Supervisor of Elections for voting by mail in accordance with the law. The form of ballots to be used in the referendum election for absentee voters shall be the same as used in the polling places for the election.

Section 7. Early Voting. Adequate provision shall be made by the Supervisor of Elections for early voting in accordance with the law. The form of ballots to be used in the referendum election for early voting shall be the same as used in the polling places for the election.

Section 8. Printing of Ballots. Vote-by-Mail, early voting and election day ballots are printed as necessary by the Supervisor of Elections of St. Johns County.

Section 9. Referendum Election Procedure. The Supervisor of Elections of St. Johns County shall hold, administer, and conduct the referendum election in the manner prescribed by law for holding elections in the District. Returns shall show the number of qualified electors who voted at the referendum election on the proposition and the number of votes cast respectively for and against approval of the proposition. The returns shall be canvassed in accordance with law.

Section 10. Severability. In the event that any word, phrase, clause, sentence, or paragraph of this Resolution shall be held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect any other word, clause, phrase, sentence, or paragraph.

Section 11. Repealing Clause. All Resolutions in conflict or inconsistent with this Resolution are repealed insofar as there is conflict or inconsistency.

Section 12. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, State of Florida, this 22nd day of August, 2024.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Arnold, Chair

ATTEST: Brandon J. Patty, Clerk  
of the Circuit Court and Comptroller

By: Crystal Smith  
Deputy Clerk

Rendition Date: AUG 22 2024

Effective Date: AUG 22 2024



**EXHIBIT A**

**NOTICE OF REFERENDUM ELECTION IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT A REFERENDUM ELECTION** will be held with the November 5, 2024 General Election, in the School District of St. Johns County, Florida, for the purpose of determining whether or not the electors in the School District approve the levy of an ad valorem property tax of one mill annually for four years from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029, to provide funding to: (a) recruit and retain high-quality teachers and staff by paying competitive compensation as compared to surrounding school districts, (b) continue to invest in school safety and student welfare, including school nurses and special education, and (c) preserve and enhance educational programs, including science, technology, art, music and athletics, for the benefit of traditional public and charter schools; all as more specifically described and provided in a Resolution of the School Board of St. Johns County, Florida, adopted \_\_\_\_\_, 2024, and published below.

The polls will be open at the voting places from 7 am until 7 pm on November 5, 2024. Mail-in-voting will be available for the referendum election. Adequate provisions shall be made by the Supervisor of Elections for early voting in accordance with law.

All qualified electors residing within the School District shall be entitled, qualified, and permitted to vote at the referendum election.

[Insert form of Resolution]

**SCHOOL BOARD OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY,  
FLORIDA**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, The School Board of St. Johns County,  
Florida [SEAL]

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, The School Board of St. Johns County,  
Florida

Approved as to form and legality:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank D. Upchurch III  
School Board Attorney

**APPENDIX A**  
**SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION**



**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-6**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, CALLING FOR A REFERENDUM TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 5, 2024, TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE DULY QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA, SHOULD LEVY ADDITIONAL OPERATING MILLAGE OF ONE MILL ANNUALLY FOR FOUR YEARS BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, TO ENSURE CONTINUED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT BY PROVIDING FUNDING TO: (A) RECRUIT AND RETAIN HIGH-QUALITY TEACHERS AND STAFF BY PAYING COMPETITIVE COMPENSATION AS COMPARED TO SURROUNDING SCHOOL DISTRICTS, (B) CONTINUE TO INVEST IN SCHOOL SAFETY AND STUDENT WELFARE, INCLUDING SCHOOL NURSES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION, AND (C) PRESERVE AND ENHANCE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, INCLUDING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ART, MUSIC AND ATHLETICS, FOR THE BENEFIT OF TRADITIONAL PUBLIC AND CHARTER SCHOOLS; AND PROVIDING FOR PROPER NOTICE OF SUCH REFERENDUM.**

WHEREAS, the funding available to the School District of St. Johns County, Florida (the "District") is insufficient to meet the District's normal operating expenses; and

WHEREAS, the School Board of St. Johns County, Florida (the "School Board") anticipates further decreases in available funding for operating expenses; and

WHEREAS, available funding is insufficient for the District to recruit and retain teachers and instructional staff, paraprofessionals, school nurses, mental health professionals, food service employees, bus operators and attendants, and safety, security, and other support staff; and

WHEREAS, in general, the State's funding formula does not permit the use of capital funds for operating expenses; however, Section 1011.71(9) and Section 1011.73, Florida Statutes, authorize a school board to levy additional operating millage of up to one mill for up to four years for school operational purposes, subject to approval by the electors of the county voting in a referendum; and

WHEREAS, if such additional operating millage levy is approved, the School Board will provide funding for the purposes described above to traditional public and charter schools throughout the District, and such expenditures will be monitored by a citizen advisory committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Referendum. The School Board hereby calls for a referendum to be held throughout St. Johns County, Florida, on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November, which is November 5, 2024, for the purpose of submitting to the duly-qualified electors of St. Johns County the question of whether to increase the operating millage by one mill for four years beginning July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029 to provide funding to: (a) recruit and retain high-quality teachers and staff by paying competitive compensation as compared to surrounding school districts, (b) continue to invest in school safety and student welfare, including school nurses and special education, and (c) preserve and enhance educational programs, including science, technology, art, music and athletics for the benefit of St. Johns County traditional public schools and charter schools. The School Board hereby requests the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners to: (i) approve the date for the referendum and (ii) direct the St. Johns County Supervisor of Elections to place on the ballot the ballot question set forth in Section 4 and conduct the election pursuant to the provisions of Florida's Election Code.

Section 2. Term of Levy: Charter Schools. If the one mill increase shall be approved by vote of a majority of the duly qualified electors of St. Johns County, Florida, voting thereon, the School Board shall levy the one mill for the foregoing purposes for four years beginning July 1, 2025. As authorized by Section 1011.71(9), Florida Statutes, the revenue from the one mill levy will be shared with eligible charter schools based on their proportionate share of District school enrollment.

Section 3. Notice of Election. A notice of the referendum election shall be published in conformity with Florida law.

Section 4. Official Ballot. The official ballot to be used in the election to be held on November 5, 2024, shall be in full compliance with the laws of the State of Florida and shall be substantially in the following form:

**OFFICIAL BALLOT (ENGLISH)**

**ONE MILL OPERATING MILLAGE TO INCREASE  
TEACHER PAY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Shall the School Board of St. Johns County levy additional operating millage of one mill annually for four years beginning July 1, 2025, to provide funding to: (a) recruit and retain high-quality teachers and staff by paying competitive compensation as compared to surrounding school districts, (b) continue to invest in school safety and student welfare, including school nurses and special education, and (c) preserve and enhance educational programs, including science, technology, art, music and athletics?



**BOLETA OFICIAL (ESPAÑOL)**

**IMPUESTO OPERATIVO DE UNA "MILESIMA DE DOLAR"  
PARA AUMENTAR EL SALARIO DE LOS MAESTROS Y  
PARA OTROS FINES**

¿Debe The St. Johns County School Board recaudar un impuesto operativo adicional de una "milesima" anualmente durante cuatro años a partir del 1 de julio de 2025, para: (a) reclutar y retener maestros y personal de buena calidad pagándoles compensación competitiva en comparación con distritos escolares circundantes, (b) invertir en seguridad y bienestar estudiantil, incluyendo enfermeras y educación especial, y (c) mejorar los programas educativos, incluyendo ciencia, tecnología, arte, música y atletismo?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES/SÍ

\_\_\_\_\_ NO/NO

Section 5. Severability. It is declared to be the intent of the School Board that, if any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Resolution is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof.

**ADOPTED** at a Special Meeting of the School Board of St. Johns County, Florida the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024, with a quorum present and voting.

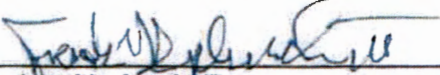
**SCHOOL BOARD OF ST. JOHNS  
COUNTY, FLORIDA**

By: Beverly Slough  
Beverly Slough, Chair

[SEAL]  
ATTEST:

Tim Forson  
Tim Forson  
Superintendent of Schools  
St. Johns County School District

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank D. Upchurch III  
School Board Attorney  
St. Johns County School District

## **Supporting Documents**

1. Transmittal Letter dated August 20, 2024 from St. Johns County School Board
2. Minutes from Special St Johns County School Board Meeting, Tuesday, August 20, 2024





Tim Forson  
Superintendent of Schools

40 Orange Street  
St. Augustine, Florida 32084  
(904) 547-7500  
[www.stjohns.k12.fl.us](http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us)

August 20, 2024

**SCHOOL BOARD**

Beverly Slough  
District 1

Anthony E. Coleman Sr.  
District 2

Bill Mignon  
District 3

Kelly Barrera  
District 4

Patrick Canan  
District 5

**VIA HAND DELIVERY**

Sarah Arnold, Chair  
Saint Johns County Board of County Commissioners  
500 San Sebastian View  
St. Augustine, FL 32084

Re: School Board Resolutions 2025-05 and 2025-06

Dear Ms. Arnold:

The purpose of this letter is to transmit to you, the Commission and relevant staff two referendum ballot initiatives that the School Board wishes to place in front of the general electorate of St. Johns County in November.

To that end, enclosed please find a copy of School Board Resolution 2025-05 calling for a referendum election to consider the adoption of a continuation of the current one-half cent sales surtax for the purpose of funding new school facilities, renovations/reconstruction at existing facilities, school safety and technology upgrades. The resolution was duly adopted by the School Board at its special purpose meeting on August 20, 2024.


In addition, also enclosed is a copy of School Board Resolution 2025-06 calling for a referendum election to consider the adoption of an additional operating millage of one mill for school district operational purposes to include: 1) recruiting and retaining high quality teachers and staff, 2) continued investment in school safety and student welfare, and 3) the preservation and enhancements to certain educational programs.

Furthermore, for your records, you will also find enclosed a draft copy of the minutes of that special purpose meeting held on August 20, 2024.

Finally, this is a formal request for the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners to place the resolutions on a special called meeting agenda to properly approve the School Board's request as stated above, duly provided for in both resolutions and place both referendum questions on the November 5, 2024 ballot for the voters of St. Johns County to decide.

Thank you for your courtesy and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Beverly Slough, Chairman  
St. Johns County School Board

*The St. Johns County School District will inspire good character and a passion for lifelong learning  
in all students, creating educated and caring contributors to the world.*

**Enclosures**

**cc's via e-mail:**

**Joy Andrew, County Administrator**

**Lex Taylor, County Attorney**

**County Commission Members**

**Tim Forson, Superintendent**

**School Board Members**

**Frank D. Upchurch III, School Board Attorney**

**BAS/mt**





Mrs. Barrera and Mr. Coleman thanked everyone.  
Mrs. Slough apologized for being detained in traffic and thanked both teams.  
Mr. Forson spoke about setting a target for where we want to go.

**B. ADJOURNMENT - 5:03 pm**