

RESOLUTION 26-R_____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION
COUNTY, FLORIDA AUTHORIZING REFERENDUM ON
THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA CONTINUING
ONE MILL AD VALOREM TAX FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATING
EXPENSES, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, Section 1011.71(9), Fla. Stats. (2025), authorizes a school district to levy by local referendum additional millage for school operating purposes up to an amount that, when combined with the nonvoted millage levied, does not exceed the 10-mill limit established in s. 9(b), Art. VII of the State Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the additional one mill ad valorem tax approved by referendum in 2022 for necessary operating expenses expires June 30, 2027; and

WHEREAS, The School Board of Marion County, Florida (School Board) has determined that the continuation of the one mill ad valorem tax to be used for necessary operating expenses, levied effective July 1, 2027, for a period of 4 years, subject to referendum approval, is to fund necessary operating expenses including safe schools, reading, physical education, art, music, early learning, library/media, and vocational programs; retaining State Certified teachers and paraprofessionals with oversight of these expenditures by an independent citizens financial oversight committee, as described in the copy of the School Board's Resolution 26-04 levying such ad valorem tax, (subject to referendum approval), attached hereto and incorporated herein as an exhibit; and

WHEREAS, in and by the above Resolution, the School Board has directed that the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida (County Commission), place a measure on the ballot for the November 3, 2026, General Election; and

WHEREAS, the County Commission, acting upon the direction of the School Board, authorizes and requests the Supervisor of Elections of Marion County, Florida, to place a measure on the ballot for the November 3, 2026, General Election for the electors within the School District to vote on the approval to continue a one mill ad valorem tax for four years pursuant to section 1011.73(2), Fla. Stats. (2025).

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the County Commission that:

SECTION 1. A referendum will be set for Tuesday, November 3, 2026, in conjunction with the General Election scheduled for that date for the purpose of permitting a vote by the qualified electors of Marion County, Florida, on the question of the levy by the School Board of the continuation of the one mill ad valorem tax for necessary operating expenses. The ballot for the referendum will be substantially as follows:

BALLOT TITLE: Approval of continuing one mill ad valorem tax for School District operating expenses

BALLOT QUESTION: Shall the Marion County School District's one mill ad valorem millage be continued, beginning July 1, 2027, and ending June 30, 2031, for necessary operating expenses including safe schools, reading, physical education, art, music, early learning, library/media, and vocational programs; and retaining State Certified teachers and paraprofessionals with oversight of these expenditures by an independent citizens financial oversight committee?

_____ Yes

_____ No

SECTION 2. A copy of the Resolution must be furnished to the Supervisor of Elections of Marion County, Florida.

SECTION 3. This Resolution will take effect immediately upon adoption.

DULY RESOLVED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Gregory C. Harrell, Clerk of Court

Carl Zalak, III, Chairman