

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA, APPROVING PLACEMENT OF A REFERENDUM ON THE BALLOT FOR THE NOVEMBER 2020 ELECTION FOR THE ELECTORS WITHIN NASSAU COUNTY TO VOTE ON THE AUTHORIZATION OF THE COUNTY TO ISSUE UP TO \$30 MILLION IN GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR A CONSERVATION LAND ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.**

**WHEREAS**, Florida local governments are authorized to issue debt for capital improvement purposes including conservation land, parks, and open space in the form of general obligation bonds; and

**WHEREAS**, beginning in 2018, the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners requested staff to start researching the creation of a Countywide conservation land acquisition and management program; and

**WHEREAS**, in Summer 2018, County staff researched multiple Florida county conservation land programs and presented findings to the Board of County Commissioners; and

**WHEREAS**, in Fall 2018 County staff convened a Technical Advisory Group consisting of land conservation professionals and associated fields to aid in identifying best practices and steps to move forward with a conservation land acquisition and management program; and

**WHEREAS**, in February 2020, the Board of County Commissioners entered into an agreement with the Trust for Public Land to conduct a financial feasibility analysis to consider funding options for a conservation land acquisition and management program; and

**WHEREAS**, the completed Financial Feasibility report was shared with the Board of County Commissioners in August 2019 and the Commissioners requested a workshop to be scheduled in October 2019 to further discuss future funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners held a workshop on October 16, 2019 with Trust for Public Land representation present; and

**WHEREAS**, at the meeting held on October 16, 2019, the Nassau County Board of County Commissioners directed a resolution be created for review to place the conservation land acquisition and management program referendum on the ballot for the November 2020 Election; and

**WHEREAS**, the ballot language discussed on October 16, 2019 asks voters to consider allowing Nassau County to issue up to \$30 million in general obligation bonds, not exceeding lawful interest rates, payable from ad valorem taxes and not to exceed 30 years for a conservation land acquisition and management program; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed conservation land acquisition and management program would be subject to citizen oversight and full public disclosure of all bond spending.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of County Commissioners of Nassau County, Florida, that:

1. The Nassau County Board of County Commissioners hereby directs placement of a referendum on the ballot for the November 2020 election, whereby the electors within Nassau County may vote on the authorizing the County to issue general obligation bonds for a Countywide conservation land acquisition and management program.
2. The substance and title of the referendum shall be as follows:

**BALLOT TITLE: NASSAU COUNTY GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR LAND TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY, WILDLIFE HABITAT, AND RIVERS**

**BALLOT QUESTION:** To acquire land to improve water quality in rivers, creeks, and drinking water sources; to protect natural areas to prevent flooding, the St. Mary's, Nassau and Amelia Rivers, and beaches; and conserve wildlife habitat; shall Nassau County be authorized to issue General Obligation Bonds, not exceeding maximum lawful interest rates, maturing within 30

years, not exceeding 30 million dollars payable from ad valorem taxes, with citizen oversight and full public disclosure of all bond spending?

**DULY ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA

\_\_\_\_\_  
JUSTIN M. TAYLOR  
Its: Chairman

Attest as to Chairman's Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN A. CRAWFORD  
Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

Approved as to form by the  
Nassau County Attorney:

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MICHAEL S. MULLIN