

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 2022 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 2019, 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, on January 25, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners adopted the Nassau County Conservation Lands Acquisition and Management (CLAM) Program; and

WHEREAS, on May 24, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners established the CLAM Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Financial Feasibility report was updated in September 2021 and presented to the CLAM Committee on November 19, 2021; and

WHEREAS, at the meeting held on April 21, 2022, the CLAM Committee held a meeting to consider the ballot language to place the conservation land acquisition and management program referendum on the ballot for the November 2022 Election; and

WHEREAS, the CLAM Committee recommended to accept the ballot language and to recommend that the Board of County Commissioners direct the Supervisor of Elections to place the referendum on the November 2022 ballot; and

WHEREAS, the ballot language discussed on April 21, 2022 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 2022 election, whereby the electors within Nassau County may vote on 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 LANDS TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY, WILDLIFE HABITAT, AND RIVERS

BALLOT QUESTION: To acquire lands that improve water quality in rivers, creeks, and drinking water sources; protect natural areas, beaches and the St. Mary's, Nassau and Amelia Rivers; reduce flooding, conserve wildlife habitat, and provide outdoor recreation, 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 spending?

DULY ADOPTED this 23rd day of May, 2022.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA

AARON BELL
Its: Chairman

Attest as to Chairman's Signature:

JOHN A. CRAWFORD
Its: Ex-Officio Clerk

Approved as to form by the
Nassau County Attorney:

DENISE MAY