

RESOLUTION

of the

ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

regarding

RESOLUTION OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTING THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO CALL AN ELECTION FOR A REFERENDUM TO BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT OF THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026, GENERAL ELECTION

Resolution No. 2026- _____

WHEREAS, the School Board of Orange County, on May 19, 2026, passed a Resolution Providing for the Holding of a Referendum Election to Determine if the Electors of the School District of Orange County, Florida Authorize the School Board to renew the current One Mill for Four Years for essential operating expenses (Exhibit A); and

WHEREAS, the School Board Resolution directs the Orange County Board of County Commissioners to call for the election, as provided under Section 1011.73(2), Florida Statutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA:

Section 1. Referendum. That a referendum is hereby called pursuant to section 1011.73(2), Florida Statutes, on the question set forth in the attached Resolution of the School Board of Orange County and the Orange County Supervisor of Elections is hereby directed to place such question on the ballot of the November 3, 2026, general election.

Section 2. Effective Date. This resolution shall become effective upon the date of its adoption.

ADOPTED THIS 2nd DAY OF JUNE, 2026.

ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
By: Board of County Commissioners

By: _____
Jerry L. Demings
Orange County Mayor

ATTEST: Phil Diamond, CPA, County Comptroller
As Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

A RESOLUTION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, ORDERING AND PROVIDING FOR THE HOLDING OF A REFERENDUM ELECTION TO DETERMINE IF THE ELECTORS WITHIN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZE THE SCHOOL BOARD TO CONTINUE THE ONE MILL FOR FOUR ADDITIONAL YEARS FOR ESSENTIAL OPERATING EXPENSES.

WHEREAS, beginning in the 2007–08 fiscal year, economic conditions prompted the Florida Legislature to implement significant reductions to the state’s education funding formula; and

WHEREAS, despite periodic increases in nominal funding levels, state education funding, when adjusted for inflation, has remained below 2007–08 per-student funding levels over the past eighteen (18) years; and

WHEREAS, this long-term erosion of inflation-adjusted funding has reduced the District’s capacity to sustain academic programs and provide competitive compensation for teachers and essential support staff who serve Orange County students and schools; and

WHEREAS, while the Florida Legislature has provided targeted funding increases to support beginning teacher salaries and to meet the \$15-per-hour minimum wage requirement for the District’s lowest-paid employees, it has not provided sufficient recurring funding to address compensation for experienced teachers and support staff; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County School District relies in part on local taxable property values to generate supplemental operating revenue necessary to meet the educational needs of its students; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature establishes the maximum millage rates that school districts may levy for operational purposes; and

WHEREAS, in the most recent three (3) years has the Legislature maintained the millage rate without further reductions, and, in the previous eight (8) consecutive years prior, the Florida Legislature reduced the Required Local Effort (RLE) millage rate for the Orange County School District; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County School District has experienced a decline in student enrollment since the pandemic due to factors including declining birth rates, changes in immigration policy, housing trends, and the expansion of universal school choice vouchers, resulting in reduced state revenue tied directly to student enrollment; and

WHEREAS, Section 1011.71(9), Florida Statutes, authorizes a school district, through voter approval at referendum or general election, to levy additional millage for school operational purposes, provided the total millage does not exceed the ten (10) mill limit in the Florida Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the electors of Orange County first approved a local referendum in 2010 authorizing an additional ad valorem millage for operating purposes for a four (4)-year period

pursuant to Section 1011.73(2), Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, the electors of Orange County subsequently approved renewals of the additional ad valorem millage in 2014, 2018, and 2022, each for four (4)-year periods, demonstrating ongoing community support for maintaining stable funding for public schools; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County School District requires sufficient and stable operating revenues to maintain and enhance high-quality educational programs and services for its students; and

WHEREAS, the additional one (1) mill ad valorem millage for operating purposes has helped preserve essential academic programs, retain highly qualified teachers, compensate teachers and educational support employees, protect arts, athletics, and student activities over the past fifteen (15) years; and

WHEREAS, the continued levy of the one (1) mill ad valorem millage will allow the District to sustain these programs and retain the teachers and support staff necessary to deliver them; and

WHEREAS, renewal of the one (1) mill ad valorem millage does not constitute a new tax or a tax increase, but rather a four (4)-year continuation of the current voter-approved millage rate; and

WHEREAS, renewal of the additional ad valorem millage for operating purposes is projected to generate approximately \$261 million per year over the four (4)-year period beginning July 1, 2027, and ending June 30, 2031; and

WHEREAS, the School Board has determined that it is in the best interests of all Orange County students, including those attending charter schools, to submit to the voters the question of approving a continuation of the additional one (1) mill ad valorem millage for essential operating expenses for a four (4)-year period.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Orange County, Florida, in a public meeting duly called and assembled this 12th day of May, 2026, that the Board of County Commissioners of Orange County, Florida, is hereby directed to call an election in conjunction with the general election on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, at which the electors within the school district of Orange County may vote on approving the continuation of the additional ad valorem millage of one mill for four (4) years as authorized under Section 1011.73(2), Florida Statutes, and the substance of the measure and ballot title shall be as follows:

BALLOT TITLE:

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
AD VALOREM MILLAGE ELECTION**

BALLOT QUESTION: Shall the School Board of Orange County, Florida, continue the current one mill ad valorem millage for essential operating expenses, including compensating teachers and educational support employees, preserving academic programs, arts, athletics, and student activities, beginning July 1, 2027, and ending four fiscal years later on June 30, 2031, shared proportionately with charter schools as legally required, with annual reporting to ensure proper fiscal stewardship of these funds to the citizens of Orange County?

_____ YES FOR APPROVAL

_____ NO FOR REJECTION

PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2026.

ATTEST:

Maria F. Vazquez

Maria F. Vazquez,
Ex-Officio Secretary

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF ORANGE
COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: *Teresa Jacobs*

Teresa Jacobs,
School Board Chair